

# Winkfield, Cranbourne and Chavey Down Parish Magazine



## January 2024 CONTENTS

A happy New Year to you all	2
From the Parish Registers	3
Notices	3
Local reports and events	3
Services in the Parish	10
Thoughts of all sorts	12
Puzzles	18
Children's Corner	20

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

For correspondence with the Editors please write to [ae@xdotd.co.uk](mailto:ae@xdotd.co.uk) and include the words 'parish mag somewhere in the subject.

# Winkfield, Cranbourne and Chavey Down Parish Magazine – January 2024

## A happy New Year to you all!

**Canon Paul Hardingham considers the year ahead.**

Last year (2023) 30 million people in the UK made New Year resolutions, with health (28%), money (27%), family (24%) and self-improvement (21%) topping the charts for the most common resolutions. However, surveys suggest that most people lasted seven weeks before giving them up and 21% only lasted for a month before giving up.

What resolutions can we make that will last beyond January? At the start of a new year, let's remember Paul's words: 'I want to know Christ – yes, to know the power of His resurrection and participation in His sufferings' (Philippians 3:10). Like Paul, our resolution should be to know Christ deeper in this coming year.

'But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.' (Phil 3:13,14).

Paul sees following Christ like an athlete running a race in the stadium. As any good runner, we mustn't look back. We cannot live on past successes, get bogged down by past sins and failures, or be bitter over past wrongs we've done, or had done to us!

An athlete strains every muscle to win the race. Like Paul, let's be single-minded in making Jesus our focus during the coming year in everything we do. What practical steps are needed if we are to go deeper in our prayer life and Bible reading? How can we more effectively see Christ working in our workplace and career, or family and children?

In the film Chariots of Fire, Eric Liddell says: 'I believe God made me for a purpose, but He also made me fast. And when I run, I feel His pleasure.' In this New Year, let's find our pleasure in the pursuit of knowing Christ better!



# *From the Parish Registers for November 2023*

## **Weddings & Blessings**

Judy and Mike Milner were married in St Mary's Church, Winkfield, on Saturday 18th November 2023.

No Baptisms or Funerals have been reported.

## *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](mailto: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](mailto:safeguarding@winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk) (please begin message with 'SAFEGUARDING').

## *Local reports and events*

### **Christmas Tree Festival**

Our third Christmas Tree Festival opened on Saturday 9 December. There were 20 trees in total – 18 inside the church and two outside – all beautifully decorated.



There were several stalls also available on the day including a delicious cake stall, and a great collection of useful and attractive items at the 'pre-loved' stall. There was a magnificent Christmas Hamper which was a wonderful raffle prize along with another raffle table. Refreshments included mulled wine with mince pies.

We are very grateful and send thanks to all who sponsored a tree. For some, it was for the first time, for others it was the third time. The church looked

beautiful. Thank you all.

We are also very grateful to all who came to enjoy the Christmas trees, and who bought food and items at the stalls. The Festival is part of the active fund-raising work of St Mary's, so necessary to keep our beautiful church in good order, so the support of everybody who came to the church while the Festival was open is so much appreciated.



**St Mary's Handbell ringers at the Music and Merriment Concert (see page 7)**

## **Music and Merriment 2023**

The Music and Merriment concert that took place on 2 December at St Mary's Church was truly amazing. Despite taking place on a dank cold evening, we had a very enthusiastic audience, far broader than St Mary's church community; smaller than we would have liked but very supportive.

More than 50 people took part in putting on the concert, most of them being performers, but we must also recognise the parking supervisors, the kitchen team, and of course the St Mary's Women's Guild, who supplied the mince pies. We must add to these the highly supportive parents of junior performers, who did all they could to make the evening special.

Thank you, all who contributed to this great event, and here we recognise with gratitude this the generous sponsors who full covered the very significant costs of putting on the concert, including the cost of heating and lighting for rehearsals & performances. They helped us make more than £2,000 towards fund-raising for renovation of St Mary's ageing electrical systems.

To underline this, here are some comments received after the concert:

- "Five neighbours came to the concert. They all said they enjoyed every minute."
- "My daughter was extremely proud to be involved in such a wonderful concert."
- "It was a pleasure to come to Winkfield and to be part of such a musical occasion with so much local talent."
- "I was blown away by the performances of those two young soloists. For me, they were the star acts of the evening."
- "It was brilliantly organised."
- "It illustrated a wonderful coming together of and for the community."

As ever, the concert started with the Junior Choir of eight excited children processing up the aisle, glow sticks in hand, singing Once in Royal David's City in a darkened church.

After Sue Bish's delightful reading about a stocking for a tiny baby, the 5T's Brass Quintet launched forth with two Christmas pieces composed by their talented leader Len Tyler, based on Christmas themes adapted by ingenious variations.

Lucy Head, conducted the junior choir with three contrasting Christmas pieces, finishing with 'Caribe Noel', a lively Caribbean carol. With words celebrating the joy of Christmas, they achieved this brilliantly with hand-clapping and dance movements over the bouncy Caribbean rhythm.

This was followed by the senior choir, the Winkfield Chorale, with Saint John Singers augmented by St Mary's singers. They sang the lovely 'Sans Day Carol', which was followed by a performance of Anthony Hodson's new anthem 'Christmas hath a darkness': much enjoyed.

After that we were introduced to our first soloist, Darcey Fryer-Bovill, making her first Winkfield appearance (her mother had sung in the concert many years previously). She started with a very sensitive performance of 'Some things are meant to be' – a real tear-jerker, from the musical 'Little

Women'. She then gave a performance of Liszt's well-known romantic classic *Liebestraum #3*, capturing the mood beautifully and executing the difficult corners of the piece with confident and impressive technique.

The Winkfield handbell ringers then performed three Christmas pieces with grace and skill, taking us to the interval's mince pies and mulled wine, and this was a great time to catch up with others in the community.

After an audience carol to start the second half, our young virtuoso violinist Sarah Aizawa played the prelude from Bach's *Partita #3*. This is a piece full of rhythmic fast semiquavers, with relentless demands on accurate technique. Sarah showed that she was completely up to the challenges and her sensitive musicality used contrasts to convert the piece into an amazing performance that mesmerised her listeners.

A well-known-audience carol followed, 'I saw three ships'. Darcey used her marimba, (now moved to the top of the chancel steps) to add bell-like interjections to the piano accompaniment. The Junior Choir sang the verses about all the bells ringing, and all the angels singing.

This was followed by a special musical entertainment by John and Caroline Kimbell, with Henry Smith on the piano; they told the humorous tale, to Mozart music, of a mythical misdemeanour of Mozart as a child when he converted a boring harpsichord into a much-more-fun go-kart!

After that, Darcey then performed a lively and exotic marimba piece 'Rimpartido Alto' by Michael Grossman, demonstrating her mastery of this difficult instrument, using two mallets per hand. She is truly multi-talented!

The Winkfield Chorale then sang again with more delightful and fairly well-known pieces. *Joy to the World* (Handel) was brought to a climax in the last verse by John Sayer's soaring trumpet descant that seemed to reach for heaven. Rutter's charming *Nativity Carol* followed, and their recital concluded with the beautiful *Sussex Carol*.

Caroline Loveys then read the tale of the Grinch who, seeking to destroy Christmas, was frustrated by finding that Christmas was about far more than receiving the Christmas presents that he had wickedly destroyed.

Henry Smith concluded the recitals with a brilliant performance of Leroy Anderson's Christmas favourite, 'Sleigh Ride', on the organ. Normally a wind-band piece, Henry used well the musical resources of our recently restored organ. We were reminded of the sad death of Jonathan Holl this last summer; Jonathan had been a principle local organist and musical leader for many years.

The evening closed with an enthusiastic audience singing 'The Holly and the Ivy' and demonstrated their appreciation of an excellent and varied evening by a magnificent retiring collection. Thank you, everybody who attended, braving unpleasant weather to enjoy a really special concert. This concert is another important fund-raiser for our beautiful 700-year-old church, which is so important as a local community asset.

We are aware that words must be projected better in all relevant items in our concert, and next year, all announcements, formal or informal, sung or spoken will be supported by microphones for individual speakers and singers. Note the date in 2024: 7 December (to be confirmed).

### **Bell Ringers December 2023**

The hand bell ringers hosted the 'Christmas Together' session again this year – it proved so popular across the area that it was decided to repeat it this year. Groups all over the area got together in small groups to ring three supplied pieces of music, and also solo pieces. We entertained The Black Swan Group, had enormous fun and, apart from ringing, enjoyed tea and mince pies!

Music and Merriment was, as always, a great success - I think it was the best ever! We were delighted to be a small part of such a wonderful event.

It was great fun setting up for the Christmas Tree festival and the Church looks fabulous with more trees than ever, all beautifully decorated.

We rang our hand bells at The Savill Gardens on 18 December, and were part of the Nine Lessons and Carols service which is always rather special and we rang two festive pieces. The White Hart had kindly invited us to ring again on Christmas Eve, and we rang there an assortment of familiar Christmas Carols.

The branch practice for tower ringers this month was held at Hughenden tower – an excellent opportunity to ring on 8 bells – and this was followed by a wonderful array of festive treats!

As always, our tower bells are rung before all the services - if you would like to have go, then do speak to Tony.

Take care.

Jill Glennerster 07821131303

### **St Mary's Choir**

Members of St Mary's choir and our extra singers were the backbone of the Winkfield Chorale, who sang at the Music and Merriment concert on

2 December. They led the congregation carols and had two solo slots, one in each half. There were some substantial challenges in the pieces, but the combined choir had practiced hard, with two long rehearsals, directed by Peter Halliday, and they deserve many thanks for their hard work. They enjoyed singing Anthony's new Christmas anthem, and performed it very well. The whole concert was a very splendid occasion, much enjoyed by our visiting choir members, most of whom were St John Singers.

Members of St Mary's choir and several of the extra singers performed at the service of Nine Lessons and Carols on 17 December. The choir solo items included an arrangement of 'Away in a Manager' by Jonathan Holl. We are very grateful to our Extra singers who join us very regularly. We also thank Henry Smith, our excellent organist, who has played and accompanied the choir at so many of our services during 2023.

### **St Mary's Women's Guild**

As usual, the Guild provided the mince pies for the Music and Merriment concert and assisted with the refreshments during the interval.

The Guild's December meeting was held at the home of one of our members, and John Kimbell led the service. After the service the meeting continued with discussions on the Music and Merriment concert and the Christmas Tree Festival. There were 20 trees sponsored and decorated in the church. This year several local companies sponsored, and also decorated their trees.

There was a steady stream of visitors on the opening day. There were 6 stalls on display, a Christmas Hamper for raffle and refreshments available throughout the day. Final figures are not yet known, but more than £1,300 was raised. A very successful 3rd Christmas Tree Festival. The money raised will be for the Electrics Project. Members attended the White Hart for a very enjoyable Christmas lunch.

### **Family Matins**

Sunday 10 December was the Nativity and Crib service. The service began with the lighting of the 2nd Advent Candle by one of the children, who also read the opening words of scripture; she was followed by another youngster reading the collect of the day. The Music and Merriment Junior choir sang the first two verses of Once in Royal David's City. Members of the congregation joined them for the remaining verses of the carol. Then began the story of Christmas read by 20 young members of St Mary's 9:30am services. **(Continued on page 11)**



# **Candlemas Service**

**February 4th 2024**

**11am**

**St Peter's Church, Cranbourne**

Candlemas is a special service at St Peter's Church, celebrating the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple.

All the greenery decorations that were put up on Christmas Eve were taken down and the candles were blessed on Candlemas Day.

Come along to find out more, join in with the Candlelight Procession, the singing and music and start looking towards Spring and Easter.

[www.winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk](http://www.winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk)

# Services in the Parish – January 2024

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

Please note the tagged items in the service tables. See below the tables for the relevant information about the tags.

## ST MARTIN'S CHURCH

### Common Worship Services

Date	Day	Time	Service
7	The 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Epiphany	9:30am	Family Praise
		4pm	Family Craft Café
14	The 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany	9:30am	Family Praise
21	The 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany	9:30am	Family Communion
28	The 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany	9:30am	Family Communion

## ST MARY'S CHURCH

### Book of Common Prayer Services

Date	Day	Time	Service
7	The 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Epiphany	10am	Family Communion
14	The 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany	8am	Said Holy Communion
		10am	Family Matins
21	The 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany	9:30am	Family Praise
		11am	Holy Communion
28	The 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany	8am	Said Holy Communion
		9:30am	Crafty Church
		11am	Morning Prayer

## ST PETER'S CHURCH

### Common Worship Services

Date	Day	Time	Service
7	The 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Epiphany	11am	Family Praise
14	The 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany	11am	Holy Communion
21	The 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany	11am	Morning Prayer
28	The 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany	11am	Holy Communion



TURNER – Bryan Vivian

Of Winkfield Row

Sadly passed away on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023, aged 92

He will be sadly missed by all

Funeral service taking place at St Marys Church  
Winkfield, SL4 4SF, on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January at  
12.00pm

Followed by refreshments in the White Hart Pub  
Opposite

Flowers welcome as are  
Donations for

The British Red Cross  
&  
The Brain Tumour Charity

<https://bryanturner.muchloved.com/>

Please feel free to contribute and light a Candle.

Miles and Daughters Funeral Directors, Ivydene House, Forest Road, Binfield RG42 4HP

### **Family Matins on 10 December continued**

The Music and Merriment Junior choir then sang, beautifully, Christmas Lullaby, Fum Fum Fum and Caribe Noel, which were the three pieces they had performed at the Music and Merriment concert under the direction of Lucy Head, who came in specially to direct them on this occasion, too. Two youngsters played piano solos and another a violin solo with an additional poem read by another young performer. During the congregational singing of the hymns, the children dressed the crib – they did a wonderful

job. Henry Smith, our excellent organist, ended the service with Gwyllim Beechey's Prelude on 'Away in a Manger'.

### Family Praise and Crafty Church

Crafty Church at the end of November was all about Christmas. The activity was making decorations for the Crafty Church Christmas Tree. These were excellent and were placed on the tree on Friday 8 December.

### Friends of St Mary's Winkfield

The current project of the Friends of St Mary's Winkfield over the last few years has been the renovation of the ageing electrical systems of St Mary's church. One aspect of the work has been completed – the improvement of the public address system, but the main work requires review and restoration of the wiring and associated systems, and necessitates the major services of a suitably experienced contractor.

St Mary's Church Committee has obtained quotations for the works required to bring the electrical installation up to the necessary standards and a preferred contractor has been identified. The PCC will soon be entering into a contract once final details have been agreed and an asbestos survey has been undertaken to identify any potential risk.

The Friends of St Mary's Winkfield have been fundraising in various ways, and in 2023 alone, have added more than £10,000 to their reserves. They will continue to raise money to enable donation of a grant to the PCC that will cover the majority of the cost of the works.

The Christmas Tree Festival and the Music and Merriment concert have been part of 2023 fundraising. The Friends are particularly grateful to the many donors which have contributed this year to the Friends' reserves. These include the Mercers Company of the City of London.

## Thoughts of all sorts

### Looking ahead

*Lester Amann considers the future.. In two of the articles in this section, we acknowledge use of 'Parish Pump' material.*

January is named after the Roman god Janus. He had two faces, so he could study the past and see into the future.

At the start of a new year, we dispose of old calendars and diaries. No doubt, it is only natural to look back at the former year. Perhaps we recall occasions of happy times that include special moments with dear friends.

On the other hand, our old year may have had disappointments, such as loss of employment or deterioration of health.

We might also reminisce about the life of our church. We remember our building regularly filled for our services. There were many joyous occasions in which we were encouraged and supported. However, over time, things have changed. We may now have a dwindling congregation, with its regular members elderly and less active.

However, these ponderings are not meant to make us depressed! We can look back with thankfulness that God has been with us. Also, we can look to the future, praying that God will give us wisdom, strength, and guidance for our journey ahead.

The Bible is full of instances where individuals, and indeed the Jewish nation, looked back. They had annual Feast Days, through which God showed them His grace and favour. These festivals were important because they had a dual purpose – to look back and face forward. The Passover looked back to the Israelites' deliverance from slavery in Egypt. This meal was a reminder that just as God had cared for them in the past; He would be with them in the future.

Similarly, for us, the Communion Service is a reminder of the sacrifice of Jesus who secured our salvation. We look back to His life, death, and resurrection so that we can live with confidence that our sins are forgiven, and one day we will live in God's eternal Home.

January can be a month when remember God's blessings and faithfulness in the past, enabling us to look to the future with confidence. As we start a new year, may it be our prayer that God will enrich us wherever we are, and that we will know He is always with us.

### Science and Christianity

It's a fallacy that science, mathematics and Christianity are incompatible. The more we know about science, and how we now understand it to work, the clearer it becomes that only a super-mathematician could have devised the mathematical framework that makes physics tick – and that allows the formation of not only a universe of mind-boggling size, galaxies, black holes and all, but also, at the human level, free will and acts of God such as the life and death of Jesus Christ. God works at all scales, tiny to huge.

John Lennox, a Professor of Mathematics at Oxford and also a formidable Christian apologist, is worth reading, or viewing, for example on:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXbcbyqOK60>

## The Godspell about Jesus

Mark is the shortest of the Gospels, and most likely the first to be written (about 65 – 70AD). It is certainly the most action-packed!

The gospel of Mark was written by John Mark, whose name occurs often in Acts. His mother lived in a house in Jerusalem, where Jesus' followers met in the early days of the church there (Acts 12:12). John Mark was cousin to Barnabas, Paul's travelling companion.

John Mark had set off with Paul on the first great missionary tour, but then disgraced himself by going home – not making himself popular with Paul! However, Barnabas gave John Mark a second chance, and in later years John Mark won the friendship of Paul. When Paul was in prison, John Mark stood by him (Colossians 4).

Mark's gospel was written, not when John Mark was in Jerusalem, but later, when he had spent some time with Peter in Rome. Peter had come to love John Mark as his own son. (1 Peter 5:13), and there is a strong early tradition that John Mark set down Jesus' story as he had heard it directly from the apostle Peter.

For example, Papias, writing about AD140, said: "Mark, who was the interpreter of Peter, wrote down accurately all that he remembered, whether of sayings or doings of Christ, but not in order. For he was neither a hearer nor companion of the Lord."

Some years later Irenaeus wrote that Mark's gospel was written "when Peter and Paul were preaching the gospel in Rome and founding the church there." After their deaths, "Mark, Peter's disciple, has himself delivered to us in writing the substance of Peter's preaching."

John Mark wrote his gospel with extraordinary vividness. And he obviously knew he would have non-Jewish readers because he often explains Jewish customs.

The Gospel begins with a bang: "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God..." No beating about the bush – here is the purpose and the message right from the opening verse.

The word 'gospel' in Greek is euangelion – good news (hence the term evangelist). So where does the actual word 'gospel' come from? The Anglo-Saxons first thought it up, using the term 'Godspell', a word that may mean 'good news' or 'news about God'. It was an apt way to refer to the new faith when it reached them. (Hence 'Godspell' as the name of the West End musical about the life of Jesus.)

## Episode 35 of 'An Interesting Life' – Oxford life Part 4

*Continuing Anthony Hodson's serial memoirs.*

My second and third years at Balliol College from autumn 1958 to summer 1960 were full and busy, but relatively uneventful. I had a good coterie of friends, many of them were related to my active musical life at Oxford, and of course, my close friend Adrian Firth, introduced in episode 34, was a stalwart companion.

In addition to the social stuff, yes, I also did some work. I still have a letter from my father, in which he sternly upbraids me for too much socialising and not enough work, but in the event, I did get a good degree, so in the long term he could not complain too much. It is true, though, that in my finals (the closing Oxford exam) there were areas of the curriculum in which I should have performed better, with more assiduous preparation. In defence, I may record that these included topics like 'fluid dynamics', which I never encountered in my later career as a mathematician.

In music I became known as a good oboist, and was involved in chamber music, solo, and orchestral activity. Dr Sydney Watson was very much part of my musical life, with my core activity being a member (as 2<sup>nd</sup> Oboe) of the Oxford Orchestral Society, a good amateur orchestra, which he directed. Sydney had moved from Eton to Oxford during my National Service to take up the post of organist and musical director of Christchurch (Oxford) Cathedral, and this put him in the centre of 'Town' music. (The Oxford Orchestral Society was not part of the music faculty of Oxford University itself, which had its own orchestra and other groups the direction of Prof Jack Westrup. They considered themselves very much superior).

The Oxford Orchestral Society gave several concerts a year, mostly in the Town Hall, and sometimes at other venues in the area, including schools. We performed a wide selection of excellent classical works, and we generally played to good audiences.

Choosing good pieces for schools though, didn't always work, and I remember performing Wagner's beautiful Siegfried Idyll in a local school. As the piece made its stately and romantic progression, the increasingly noisy shifting of small behinds on hard chairs could not be ignored!

On one occasion, Sydney directed a performance of the splendid but challenging oratorio Belshazzar's Feast, written by William Walton, an alumnus of Christchurch College; this was to take place in the great Sheldonian Theatre with a big choir and a professional orchestra – he

deemed the Oxford Orchestral Society not good enough. Membership of the choir was by invitation or by audition only.

My bass singing voice had a good 'profundo' with a weak high register, but I wanted to sing anyway in so eminent a performance. So I presented myself to Sydney for audition. It took two minutes. "Of course you must sing!" he said as soon as I came in, and that was the end of the audition. And I did. Singing this splendid work was a wonderful experience, almost my only experience in singing in a very big and accomplished choir.

Sydney was the principal organist for main services in the Cathedral. From time to time, I attended Evensong, and afterwards would go up into the organ loft to watch him deliver his voluntary after the service. "Hello Anthony," he would say, "and what you been up to?" Playing a complex Bach fugue, with active hands and feet, he would chat on, without a note missed. That takes a musician of genius, and I have always admired (and envied) the natural way in which music flowed from him.

Sydney was a staunch friend, and played at the wedding service of Margaret-Anne and me, a few years later. My sad last memory of him was visiting him in a retirement home in Aynhoe House (already a sad place for me, as I noted in Episode 20); he had developed Alzheimer's and didn't know who I was.

Julian Silverman, also a Balliol man, was another musical friend in the Oxford orchestral society was. He was a brilliant French horn player, and his playing may well have inspired me to suggest that my daughter Lucy, then 14, should take up the French horn (Lucy was a 'natural' at the instrument and became a professional French horn player). Julian's father, Sidney Silverman, was a well-known radical left-wing MP, and Julian himself was a strong socialist. I have always been a political centrist, and well remember the hours that we spent in the Junior Common Room, debating political issues, sometimes far into the night, with friendly fervour and with neither persuading the other. Today, friends of very different political persuasions are rare indeed.

A musical memory that I well remember was meeting the great violinist Yehudi Menuhin at a soirée in Christchurch College hosted by Prof Hugh Trevor Roper, a distinguished historian and long-term friend and colleague of my father Harry Hodson. Yehudi was charming, simple and direct, and quite happy to talk to undistinguished young men like me.

Meanwhile, my friendship with Margaret-Anne strengthened, particularly as I was well accepted in her family, and my parents, so different themselves



in a similar way, accepted her, as they did more and more, as in our marriage, when she established her firm place in the family.

One day Margaret Anne said but she couldn't easily read my letters, and could I improve my handwriting, please? In those days email was decades away, and all correspondence was in handwriting.

Things were evidently getting 'serious', as I accepted her challenge, and set out to improve, quite radically, by learning from scratch a well-formed italic script. I taught myself, with determination, from a useful calligraphy textbook, and solidified the technique over the summer holidays of 1959. It slowed my writing speed a lot, but, fortunately, essays were not part of my Oxford mathematical work.

Much the family summer holiday in 1959 was spent in the harbourside town of Blakeney, near the east/west coastline of North Norfolk. This was a favourite family spot for my father and his family, who had long Norfolk connections. There were many family friends in the area, and Blakeney was not far from Holt, a beautiful little market town that was also the location of Gresham School where my father had had his secondary education (he later became a Governor of the school) – so this was familiar territory for the family.

To the north of Blakeney is a broad spit. Blakeney is connected to the North Sea by a two-mile passage from the harbour entrance at the west end of the spit to a narrow cut to Blakeney Quay to the south-east, via two tidal lakes. The passage with the tidal lakes, which change in size as the tide comes in and goes out, are known as Blakeney harbour. Blakeney Point is the irregular westerly end of the spit and on the south side, not far from the north-pointing entrance is an old coastguard station, which was then a seasonal café. The spit itself is a nature reserve with the biggest grey-seal colony in Europe at the harbour entrance, and it supports undisturbed bird-life elsewhere. Local small-boat companies make a living by taking thousands of sightseers to the point to see the seals.

Blakeney has an enthusiastic sailing community, as the tidal lakes give good sheltered small-boat sailing. This leads to another story, told in the complete set of episodes, and in Appendix 1 (on page 21) in the parish mag's web edition.

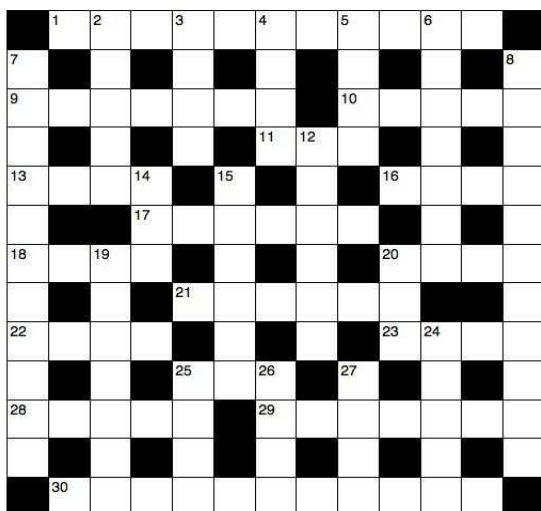
We used to stay in the pleasant Blakeney Hotel and it was there, that summer, that I had enough time to lay down the basics of my new italic script.

Following that holiday, Margaret Anne and I had a date in London in early September. I proposed marriage, and she accepted me. Of course, we were not able to consider any marriage date until I was earning good money with a job after my Oxford years, but getting that job was now a priority. I decided against remaining as an academic, to Margaret-Anne's relief, as she didn't fancy being married to an Oxford don, and I set out to secure a good job in industry that would make ample use off my mathematical and practical skills as well as supporting married life. The next episode will tell how all that worked out.

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

## Puzzles

### Crossword Puzzle



### ACROSS

- 1 Paul said the wrath of God 'is being revealed from heaven' against this (Romans 1:18) (11)  
 9 Go smite (anag.) (7) 10 'But — I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee'(Matthew 26:32) (5)  
 11 'Take and —; this is my body' (Matthew 26:26) (3) 13 Type (2 Thessalonians 2:10) (4)  
 16 'Woe to those who — iniquity' (Micah 2:1) (4)  
 17 'How shall we — if we ignore such a great salvation?' (Hebrews 2:3) (6)  
 18 Opposite of evens (4)  
 20 Previously cited (Latin) (4)

- 21 'There is surely — — of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife' (Genesis 20:11) (2,4)  
 22 The Thessalonians were warned to keep away from every brother who was this (2 Thessalonians 3:6) (4)  
 23 Beat (anag.) (4)  
 25 To trouble or afflict (Job 16:3) (3)  
 28 Part of a roof (1 Kings 7:9) (5)  
 29 Attain (Job 5:12) (7)  
 30 Insect noted for its gymnastic ability (Psalm 78:46) (11)

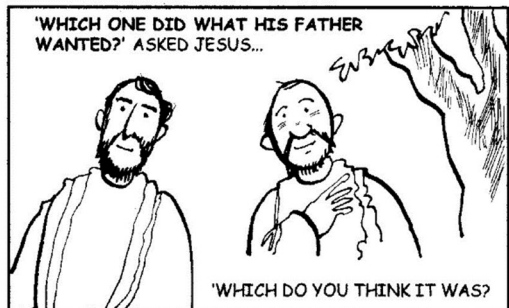
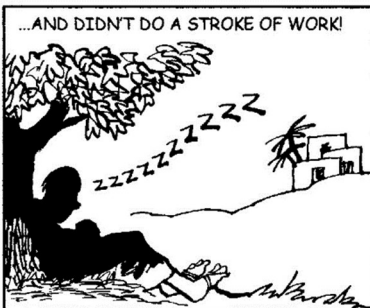
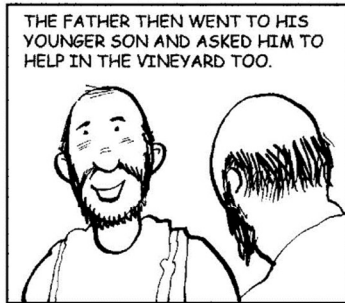
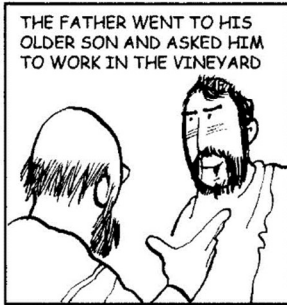
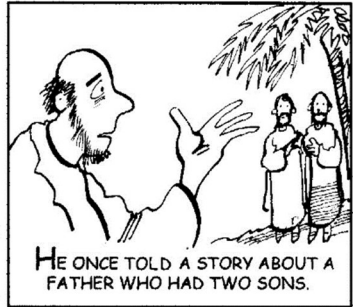
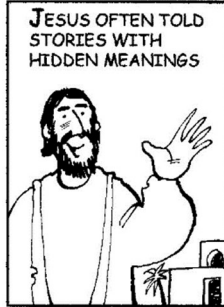
## DOWN

- 2 Smell (John 11:39) (5)  
 3 Lion's home (Jeremiah 25:38) (4)  
 4 'Jesus Christ is the — yesterday and today and for ever' (Hebrews 13:8) (4)  
 5 Tidy (4)  
 6 Made their home (Genesis 47:27) (7)  
 7 Their task was to carry the curtains of the tabernacle (Numbers 4:25–26) (11)  
 8 Timothy's was called Lois (2 Timothy 1:5) (11)  
 12 The Lover likened the fragrance of the Beloved's breath to these (Song of Songs 7:8) (6)  
 14 Times Educational Supplement (1,1,1)  
 15 Eight-tentacled sea creatures (6)  
 19 'And lead us not into temptation, but — us from the evil one' (Matthew 6:13) (7)  
 20 D.L. Moody's legendary song leader, — D. Sankey (3)  
 24 Rarely used musical note (5)  
 25 'Your will be done on earth — it — in heaven' (Matthew 6:10) (2,2)  
 26 and 27 'The Lord Almighty will — them with a — , as when he struck down Midian at the rock of Oreb' (Isaiah 10:26) (4,4)  
 27 See 26 Down

ACROSS: 1, Depend. 4, Canopy. 7, Beak. 8, Irritate. 9, Zedekiah. 13, Ate. 16, Job's comforter. 17, NAE. 19, Lang Syne. 24, Blockade. 25, Five. 26, Enigma. 27, Drench. DOWN: 1, Debt. 2, Peaceable. 3, Drink. 4, Curia. 5, Nuts. 6, Put it. 10, Excel. 11, Is man. 12, Hoots. 13, Attention. 14, Ezra. 15, Ijon. 18, Aslan. 20, Abana. 21, Gred. 22, GCMG. 23, Leah.

# Children's Corner

## The tale of the Two Sons



## Appendix 1 An interesting life – Wendy Cherry

*An additional incident in Anthony Hodson's serial memoirs.*

There was one other memorable incident that summer at Blakeney. A popular sailing event that year was the Daily Mirror race. Competitors had to sail from a start near the cut leading to Blakeney Quay to the old Coastguard Station, near Blakeney point, where they would pick up a copy of the Daily Mirror and bring it back to the race's starting point. How you got from your boat to the Coastguard Station was your choice.

I entered the race with my younger brother Daniel as crew, sailing a hired twelve-foot Firefly dinghy. Fireflies were fast and fun, but skittish, and needed careful handling to avoid capsizing. We decided to go as close as we could to the Coastguard Station, beach the boat, pick up our Mirror, and then proceed back the way we came, and so we did.

As we proceeded back, Blakeney harbour extends a bit to the north, and looking in that direction I saw a hand waving out of the water and heard a cry. So we went to the rescue. I capsized the dinghy close to the person in the water, the quickest thing to do, as the dinghy floated buoyantly and would be a safe place to rest a person. I swam to rescue the person just a few yards away, and found it was a girl of about 17 or 18.

I was a strong swimmer and had learned life saving techniques as a boy at West Downs School, so I easily reached her and swam back with her to the boat, using the side-stroke method; this entailed swimming with one arm while clasping the person being rescued around the chest. When practising this technique at school, we had used another boy as the rescue. This time it was a fully grown girl.

Although that was a surprise, probably for both of us, there was no time for niceties; I brought the girl back, and she rested safely on the sail of the capsized boat. Before long, the race's Nanny Boat, which was deployed to help with emergencies, came up to us, and took the girl back to Blakeney. Un-capsizing the Firefly was not difficult, and it had self-bailing, so we were soon back to Blakeney cut and home, wet but happy.

The girl had been a competitor in the race and had decided to anchor her boat near where we picked her up, swim to Blakeney point, run to the Coastguard Station and return the same way. She developed cramp on the way back, and got into trouble, and that was when we appeared.

Back in Blakeney I met up with the girl, who was called Wendy Cherry. She thanked me and said that she would have liked to give me a Ten Shilling

Note for rescuing her, but she didn't have one (10/- was real money in those days). I said it didn't matter at all and I was very pleased to have been able to help.

This incident created a deep bond in me for her, although I never met her again. She was from one of the leading Blakeney families, so, from time to time, I inquired after her with people who might know her. In due course she married a Mexican prince and went to live in that country, and I was much saddened to learn that she had died of illness at quite a young age. I still think of her.