

# Winkfield, Cranbourne and Chavey Down Parish Magazine



## February 2026

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This magazine is available on the web at [www.fosmw.com](http://www.fosmw.com) or <https://www.winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk> For correspondence with the Editors please write to [aeh@xdotd.co.uk](mailto:aeh@xdotd.co.uk) or [info@fosmw.com](mailto:info@fosmw.com) including 'parish mag' somewhere in the subject. Some paper copies are available in the three churches on or after the last Sunday of each month. The printed magazine has 20 pages this month. Messages to the editor need (1) a greeting (who it is for) and (2) a signature (who it's from).  
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# Winkfield, Cranbourne and Chavey Down Parish Magazine – February 2026

## Our new Archbishop of Canterbury

The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE officially became Archbishop of Canterbury on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026, when she was legally confirmed at St Paul's Cathedral.

Most people know that she had been Bishop of London for several years, and that she is the first woman to ever become Archbishop of Canterbury. But what else do you know about her?

1. She was born in Woking in 1962, and is one of four children, with two sisters and one brother.
2. She attended Winston Churchill Comprehensive School and Woking Sixth Form College. She went on to South Bank Polytechnic and Heythrop College, University of London
3. She worked as a nurse in the National Health Service, which she has described as “an opportunity to reflect the love of God”. She specialised as a cancer nurse and became a ward sister at Westminster Hospital, before being made Director of Nursing at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital.
4. In 1999, at the age of 37, she was appointed the Government’s Chief Nursing Officer for England in the Department of Health. She was the youngest person ever to be appointed to the post. Bishop Sarah was made a Dame Commander of the British Empire in 2005 in recognition of her outstanding contribution to nursing.
5. She had become a Christian at the age of 16. While working as the Chief Nursing Officer for England, she discerned a call to ordination and entered training ministry at the South East Institute for Theological Education.
6. She was ordained in 2001 and served her curacy in St Saviour’s Battersea Fields, initially as a self-supporting minister, before leaving her government post in 2004, which she has described at the time as “the biggest decision I have ever made”.
7. In 2012 she was installed as Canon Treasurer at Salisbury Cathedral and three years later took the role as Suffragan Bishop of Crediton in

the Diocese of Exeter, the fourth woman to become a Bishop in the Church of England.

8. On 12<sup>th</sup> May 2018, Bishop Sarah was installed as the 133rd Bishop of London at St Paul's Cathedral, the first woman to hold the role.

9. Bishop Sarah sits in the House of Lords as one of the Lords Spirituals, having been introduced on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2018. Her maiden speech paid tribute to the NHS on its 70th anniversary, telling the Lords: "I am the Bishop I am today because of that first vocation to nursing, and compassion and healing are constants at the heart of who I am."

10. She was sworn in as a member of the Privy Council in March 2018 and became Dean of Her Majesty's Chapels Royal in July 2019.

11. As Bishop of London, she led the Church of England's Living in Love and Faith process from 2020 to 2023. This included the formative stages of discernment and decision making which saw the introduction of the Prayers of Love and Faith for same-sex couples.

12. She has served on the Church's National Safeguarding Steering Group and is also Lead Bishop for Health and Social Care issues.

13. As a Lord Spiritual, she has drawn from both her pastoral experience and her background in nursing and healthcare and has played a key role in the ongoing debates on assisted dying.

14. This year, she chaired the Triennium Funding Working Group that developed the Church of England's three-year spending plan that led to significant investments in local churches and parish clergy.

15. Archbishop Sarah is married to Eamonn, an Irish-born IT and Enterprise Architect who enjoys beekeeping and volunteering as a London tourist guide.

16. The couple have two grown-up children, Liam and Grace.

17. Archbishop Sarah has continued her interest in the health service having been a non-executive director at the Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust then at Salisbury NHS Foundation Hospital.

18. She is Chair of Christian Aid.

19. She has spoken openly about her dyslexia, describing her difficulties with writing and reading.

20. In her spare time, she loves cooking, walking and pottery.

*(I had the pleasure of meeting Archbishop Sarah at Mercers Hall when she was Bishop of London, and I warmly welcome her now in her difficult role. Ed.)*

## **Comment in the Church Times**

In an article in its 9/1/26 edition welcoming Archbishop Sarah, the Church Times comments:

'The extraordinary nature of the times demands an approach that resists easy binary and polarising responses.'

'The Archbishop's leadership will be tested precisely on this balancing act: the capacity to be both prophetic and pastoral, both clear-sighted about injustice and generous in hospitality, and both rooted in tradition and imaginative about renewal. Her task is not to retreat from the public square, but to reclaim it; not to narrow the Church's vision, but to articulate a more generous and inclusive understanding of what England is becoming.'

'It is leadership for a liminal age: holding the threshold open while helping a nation find its footing for whatever comes next. It requires someone who understands that a weak establishment, properly conceived, is not a compromise but a charism — the gift of being close enough to power to speak truth to it, and yet free enough from power to speak truth for those beyond it.'

## ***From the parish registers for December 2025***

No Baptisms, Confirmations, Weddings or Blessings or Funerals have been reported

## **Notices**

### **A message from the Lay Chair on behalf of the PCC**

As I write this, Twelfth Night approaches, and it's time to put those decorations and lights back in storage for another year.

It was lovely to hear how many people attended our three churches during the Christmas period, but how many of those are going to put Jesus away in the loft until next Christmas? We hope that some of those who visited us will want to return.

As we move forward with trying to find a new minister, our profile and advertisements go live on 16 January. We pray that there is someone out there who feels drawn to apply.

We meet as a PCC in January. On behalf of us all I wish you a healthy and happy 2026.

Andrea Stephens

## **Church Office**

Office hours are Monday-Friday 9:30am-12noon. The Church Office is open to 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://www.winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk> Note. This link will not work without including the www part of the URL.

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 is 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.

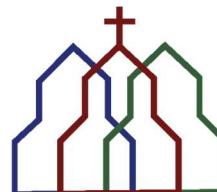
Should you have any Safeguarding concerns, please contact the Church Office at [safeguarding@winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk) (please begin the message with 'SAFEGUARDING'), or on 01344 882933.

St. Martins Church Hall

St Martin's Church Hall is available for Hire Weekday Evenings & Weekends

£17.50 per hour (community/charity rate also available. Sorry - no 'bouncy castles'.

For enquiries, please contact Amanda Carter at  
[churchhallstmartins@gmail.com](mailto:churchhallstmartins@gmail.com)



The Parish of  
Winkfield Cranbourne & Chavey Down

## **Local events and reports**

### **Friends of St Mary's Winkfield**

The Friends of St Mary's, Winkfield (FOSMW) have had a good year in 2025, and were able to show a small profit over the year even after a PCC grant of nearly £5k. Many thanks to all who contributed to FOSMW by continuing to renew subscriptions and/or take part in the

successful Music and Merriment concert (sponsored by FOSMW) and other FOSMW activities. I hope that the new subscription renewal date of 1<sup>st</sup> of January for everybody will be helpful.

The Music and Merriment concert will have raised just over £2,000 (including gift-aid on leaving collection and sponsorship of costs) towards the PCC's costs of maintaining our beautiful church.

The annual concert is currently the only active fundraising project for FOSMW; it is financially successful and must continue, in order to further the objects of FOSMW (as required by its constitution).

Anthony Hodson, retiring manager of the concert, will stand in as caretaker manager while FOSMW finds a replacement for him, and the early planning for concert resources (musicians plan early for Christmas!) will begin at once. The proposed date for the 2026 concert is Saturday 5 December.

During 2026, FOSMW will continue to work for St Mary's by assisting the PCC with costs, including the possibility of a new project. We also hope that a new Priest will be appointed as Interim Minister during 2026 and look forward to supporting him or her.

The FOSMW AGM will take place at St Mary's church at 8pm on 20 March.

With many thanks for your continued support.

Lesley Philpot, Chairman

### **St Mary's services**

There were two excellent Carols by Candlelight services on Christmas Eve. The 2pm service had just over 200 attending and the 3:30pm more than 250. The singing was excellent and the church, lit by candles and the Christmas tree lights, looked beautiful. Members attended Christmas Matins on Christmas morning, and a short Communion-by-Extension service followed.

There were no services on 28 December. The choir returned for the service of Family Communion on 4 January, led by Revd Alan Dibden. William Bishop was the organist.

Family Matins on 11 January was the first of the young people's services for 2026. As it was the Sunday after the Epiphany, they recited Longfellow's 'The Three Kings' during the service, as well as reading the Bible passages and prayers. The Junior choir performed 'Go and See.'

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

The Guild does not have a meeting in January. As they were unable to find a suitable date in December for a Christmas lunch, they will be having a New Year Lunch in January.

## **Bell ringers February 2026**

As always, we were made very welcome at Savill Gardens where we rang Christmas Carols for the visitors – we were treated to coffee and chocolate buns from the café (which were delicious!).

The Christmas Tree Festival was as lovely as ever, with many trees decorating the Church in style!

It was particularly pretty during the Carols by Candlelight service when the Church was in darkness and all the tree lights twinkled.

After this super service the handbell ringers went over to The White Hart to ring Christmas carols in a very busy pub! We are grateful to Danielle for allowing us to carry on with this tradition.

Nine Lessons and Carols was another lovely service with tower bells beforehand and hand bells during the service - we chose to ring 'Il Est Née Le Divin Enfant' and 'Joy to the World', both very special pieces.

The tower ringers rang out the old year with half muffled bells and welcomed in 2026 without the muffles. This is a special event every year and enjoyed by us all. It is also an opportunity for 'other-halves' or visitors to have a go on our beautiful bells as well.

The handbells hosted the ever popular 'Birthday Rally' for the region again this year and it was, as always, well attended. In all, more than 15 teams attended and the hall was packed.

We always choose a theme and this year it was 'boats', so five pieces of boat-related music were selected, which offered the opportunity to dress up and scatter boats and paraphernalia around the hall. Tony was particularly splendid as a Captain, complete with tricorn hat, and he brought along his own galleon!

A great day was had by all and, despite freezing conditions outside, everybody made it to the rally without mishap and safely home again.

Do get in touch and if you would like to have a go at tower ringing – it is great exercise for both the mind and body!

Also, the handbell ringers would welcome new recruits – we practise on Wednesday evening at 6:30pm for one hour. The bellringers' regular

St Mary's Church  
Bellringers

**QUIZ**

In aid of  
St Mary's Church Bell Fund

7:00pm BROWNLOW HALL

Saturday 21 February 2026

**£12** PER TICKET  
Max 6 Per Team

Including ploughmans supper (B.Y.O.B)

tickets available from 01344 886087 or any bellringer

RAFFLE TO BE DRAWN ON THE NIGHT

quiz night is on 21 February 2026 – make a note and join us for this fun event with a Ploughman's Supper!

Teams of up to six people are welcome – please contact any bell ringer to book your table.

Happy New Year to you all from the bell ringers!

Jill Glennerster  
07821131303

## Thoughts of all sorts

### **The length of our day**

The shortest day of the Winkfield year this winter was 7 hours and 50 minutes long, a length that happened on Christmas Day. On the first day of February, the length of the day will have increased to 9 hours and 11 minutes, one hour and twenty-one minutes longer. Hurrah – Spring is on the way, and our gardens are confirming this with the opening buds of the early spring flowers!

A cheering thought after the cold spell of early January, and this is certainly a time when we need cheering thoughts, with the domestic and international news full of grim and worrying events.

Sunday by Sunday our Winkfield churches provide a time of calmness reflection, and awareness of the everlasting values that Christ brought. Let us hope that world rulers come to their senses as the days lengthen.

### **4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Russia-Ukraine war**

As 24<sup>th</sup> February approaches, the statistics are grim for the fourth anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

- *Massive displacement:* 6.9 million refugees have fled Ukraine, with a further 3.7 million internally displaced.
- *Significant casualties:* Russia has hit one million casualties in all, including 250,000 soldiers killed. Ukraine has had about 53,000 casualties, including about 15,000 deaths.
- *Immense destruction:* of Ukraine's infrastructure, medical facilities and educational facilities.
- *Impact:* Russia now occupies about 20% of Ukraine, including Crimea. Worldwide, a weakened global economy, threatened food security, and documented war crimes, including chemical weapons used by Russia.

Continued on page 11

# Services in the Parish - February 2026

## ST MARTIN'S CHURCH

## Common Worship Services

Date	Day	Time	Service
1	Candlemas	9:30am	Morning Prayer for Candlemas
8	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent	9:30am	Family Praise
		4pm	Family Craft Café Service
15	Sunday next before Lent	10am	Community Coffee Morning in St Martin's Church Hall
22	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent	9:30am	Holy Communion led by Revd Alan Dibden

## ST MARY'S CHURCH

## Book of Common Prayer Services

Date	Day	Time	Service
1	Septuagesima	10am	Family Worship
8	Sexagesima	10am	Family Matins
15	Quinquagesima	9:30am	Family Praise
		11am	Holy Communion led by Canon Dagnell
18	Ash Wednesday	11am	Said Holy Communion led by Revd Alan Dibden
22	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent	9:30am	Crafty Church
		11am	Morning Prayer

## ST PETER'S CHURCH

## Common Worship Services

Date	Day	Time	Service
1	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Epiphany	11am	Holy Communion led by Revd Ward-Hall
8	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent	11am	Family Praise for Candlemas

Date	Day	Time	Service
15	Sunday next before Lent	11am	Morning Praise & Prayer
22	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent	11am	Holy Communion led by Revd Burgess

*We are deeply grateful to our visiting priests for their help in maintaining the work of our churches in the parish of Winkfield.*

#### **4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Russia-Ukraine war (continued)**

- *Expense: Billions of dollars have been given in aid to Ukraine. (About \$175bn from the US, and \$197bn from EU since 2022.)*

The future is unclear, but here are some memorable quotes of two leading Ukrainians:

At the start of the war, when offered evacuation from Kyiv by the U.S. government, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy famously stated, "I need ammunition, not a ride".

The following day, on 25 February, he emphasised Ukraine's determination, stating: "We will be defending our country, because our weapon is truth, and our truth is that this is our land, our country, our children, and we will defend all of this".

The head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC), Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk focuses on themes of resilience, freedom, and hope. "Ukraine is wounded, but it is not defeated! Ukraine is exhausted, but it is standing and will remain standing. Believe me, no one thinks of giving up."

A recurring theme in Zelenskyy's speeches is that "Life will win over death, and the light will win over darkness".

#### **Shrove Tuesday – Pancake Day – 9<sup>th</sup> February**

It's odd, really, to think that confessing one's sins to God should be linked to making pancakes. And yet the beginning of Lent brings us both – Shrove Tuesday is Pancake Day and is followed by Ash Wednesday – and so Lent begins.

In centuries gone by, the pancakes were made to use up the milk and eggs before the fasting of Lent. More recently, many readers will have childhood memories of the wonder of watching our mothers break an

egg, mix it with milk and flour, and out of all that gooey mess, manage to produce a light and delicious pancake.

These days, more of us buy pancake mix, or even ready-made pancakes. It seems we prefer the certainty of ending up with pancakes to the risk of having made nothing but a mess of the kitchen.

In many parishes they used to hold pancake races on the day. Why anyone would want to run around a field while holding a pancake is not clear, but in Olney, Bucks, they have held a pancake race almost every year since 1445.

## **Episode 60 - Growing up family**

*This episode continues Anthony Hodson's serial memoirs*

By the middle of the 80s, our younger family was reaching adulthood (James was 18 in November 1981 and Lucy was 18 in August 1985).

James' later years of Eton education were much happier than the early years, which are chronicled in his own words in episode 56A of 'An Interesting Life' ([www.fosmw.com/parishmag/an-interesting-life.pdf](http://www.fosmw.com/parishmag/an-interesting-life.pdf) or in the October 2025 edition of the Parish Mag, page 21). His subjects of study were satisfactory, and although I do remember sending him notes on how to cope with the niceties of differential calculus, he was generally working satisfactorily through the academic requirements and making a wide range of friends covering a variety of interests.

One of these interests (see Episode 58) was in making and flying radio-controlled model aircraft powered by small engines. Of these, Serena was the name he gave to a monster with 9½ foot wing-span, and his humorous account of Serena is to be found on page 21 of this mag.

Unfortunately, as he reached the end of his time at Eton, his A-Level results were not as good as hoped for, and he made the decision that, rather than immediately seek a university place, he should directly take on a job with a possible career prospect. (The A-levels, proved quite good enough later, in conjunction with three year's work-experience, for him to be accepted on the BA course in 1985 at Huddersfield Polytechnic, now University of Huddersfield.)

I cannot remember exactly how James developed his interest in the Wine Trade, but there were strong connections on Margaret-Anne's side of the family, and her father was a connoisseur of fine wine.

Through Margaret-Anne's parents, we were friendly with Godfrey Pease, a retired senior Royal Marines officer who lived on the top of

Pangbourne Hill, not so very far away. Godfrey had developed his own wine agency that worked with a small vintner, High Breck Vintners, and he suggested that James should take a job with High Breck, and so it came about, a few weeks after leaving Eton.

What happened then is told with humour in James's own words in the article following this one on page 17.

Lucy's later school years were dominated by her musical achievements, particularly on the French Horn. This had two repercussions on my own musical life. Her teacher in her early years recommended that she join a local wind-band to gain experience in ensemble playing, and so she joined the Bagshot Concert Band, which was a good wind-band based in Bagshot, practising on Friday evenings, and still in existence.

As her chauffeur for the rehearsals, I decided that I should join the band myself, based on my expertise on the Tuba that I had gained as a tuba-player as a National Service sailor. Even after 15 years away from brass instruments, the skills in my fingers and mouth were easily awoken from dormancy, and I was easily able to join the band as a euphonium player (it's quite like a tuba to play).

Lucy very soon went on to higher things, joining the Reading Youth Orchestra, but I stayed with the Bagshot band for a few years on the euphonium, and later on the tuba (which I found harder), and I enjoyed this experience. I was even its acting musical director of the Band for a time, and recall conducting it for incidental music in Guildford Cathedral on one occasion.

Meanwhile, I was in demand to help Lucy as the piano accompanist for her for the many pieces that she studied in her early years on the Horn, a task that became harder, stretching my technique to the limit and beyond. As the challenges of Grade 8 French Horn approached, she was lucky to have Chris Mahy as her teacher; he was Area Director for Berkshire County Music Service and was an accomplished pianist and French Horn player. It was a relief to defer to him as accompanist.

Chris was strongly responsible for Lucy's success in gaining a 6th Form place at the Purcell School of Music, where she had the joy of working with many other talented young musicians. (See also Episode 58.)

Her singing developed strongly at Purcell. She had a clear natural soprano, best labelled as a Baroque Soprano, and singing was a major feature of life at the Purcell School. Quite early on in her year, she put herself down as a candidate for Soprano Soloist in a public concert

performance of the Mozart Requiem - a crowning (but unfinished) musical masterpiece of Mozart's short life. She was obviously in competition with fellow pupils with singing as their first study. To her amazement and delight (not to mention ours), she was selected for the part - a real privilege and achievement thanks to her great vocal gift.

We attended the Purcell School's concert that included the Mozart Requiem. It is a moving work at any time. A short slow introduction leads to a choral fugue: 'Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis', immediately followed by a faster lyrical passage on the violins, that hands the solemn mood to the soprano soloist: 'Te decet hymnus ...'. Lucy's clear voice made us sit up straight with emotion - our daughter as we had never heard her before.

We were reminded of this moment years later after my father Harry Hodson died in 1999. His Memorial service took place in the beautiful Wren church of St Mary le Beau (Bow Bells) in the City of London, close to Mercers Hall, a place which, as a past Master Mercer, had been almost his second home in his later years. It was arranged that Lucy would sing the 'Pie Jesu' from the Fauré Requiem, and this really 'hit the button' - and not only for us. We learned that others who had half dreaded an 'amateur performance by Harry's granddaughter' were riveted by what they heard.

Lucy, after a very successful year at the Purcell School gained a place for three years in the Trinity College of Music in 1985. Trinity is one of London's main musical conservatoires and at that time was located in central London (in 2002, it moved to its current location in Greenwich). There she studied French Horn as her primary study, with piano and singing as her secondary studies.

1984 was the year in which we had our last family sailing holidays with the four of us as a single family. We had had a number of sailing holidays since our first in the UK in 1971, mostly visiting the north coast of France. Over the years we had visited all the main ports de plaisance from Calais to St Malo, and we had had many adventures (fortunately none of them disastrous, but with one or two near-misses).

With just family as crew, we knew that we did not have the ability to cope with seriously strong weather conditions, so careful study of the weather forecasts was an essential precaution for our sea-going. Also important was the big tidal range and the fast tidal currents of the north coast of France. We learned from the Hypnos adventure (Episode 51A)

the dangers and potential disasters of getting the tidal range wrong, and with big tidal range came also strong tidal currents. However, even in August, storms can arise with little notice, as we soon learned.

Our sailing holiday of late August 1974 took us past the Normandy beaches, where we saw the remains of Mulberry Harbour, created after the D-Day landings; there was no place to stop, so we pressed on to the mouth of the Seine river. On a little inlet, as the Seine narrows, lies the ancient town of Honfleur, an important place in the days of Henry V. It has a little locked oblong basin, popular with sailors such as ourselves, and we reached a quayside mooring with pleasure after our long sail, with only three days left of our charter.

The day after we reached Honfleur, a big depression blew up. Force 9 winds blew up huge waves, and Ted Heath's yacht Morning Cloud was lost on 2 September with the tragic loss of two lives, as we soon heard from the news. How glad we were to be in a safe sheltered harbour! When the unexpected happens, friendships happen and hospitality flourishes, and we enjoyed several days of cheerful community with fellow sailors. We were in touch with the charterers of our yacht, who said "Don't come back until it's safe". It was a week before we could venture back to the yacht's home-moorings near Chichester. The charterer said that we were the first back of several crews who had been stuck on the other side of The Channel by the storm.

By 1984, we were fairly experienced family sailors, and I was even more aware of the responsibilities for the safety of my family, particularly as our destination was the Channel Islands, with their massive tidal range and fast currents. Our first stop was Sark, and this demanded fine weather as there are no yacht harbours on the island (which mostly lies a few hundred feet above sea-level, with cliffs all the way round). The tidal waters around Sark are never still. It has a small tidal harbour for ferries in the east side, not suitable for private boats, but on the west side there is small rocky island, Brecqhou, and there is a deep anchorage between Sark and Brecqhou that is moderately sheltered except for south westerly weather. This is served by a small quay on the Sark side with steps all the way up to the main level of the island.

This is where we planned to stay for a night, and we arrived there safely, taking care to arrive as close as possible to the calmest time of the twice-a-day tidal cycle. Approaching the anchorage over calm water, we noted little whirlpools created by the residual tidal current. We anchored a few hundred yards from the quay. It was now midday, and

in the afternoon, we paddled to the quay in the boat's rubber dinghy for an afternoon's sightseeing on Sark, returned to the boat and settled down for the night.

Early the next morning, at about 5:30am, we became aware of a big swell from the southwest. This was bad news, as our anchor-hold could be loosened and we could be blown onto the Sark cliffs. I decided that we should leave immediately for the 30-mile journey to the big port of St Helier on Jersey. We had a quick snack, and James had the task of raising the anchor on the now-bucking foredeck, while I used the boat's engine to alleviate the stress. It was quite a struggle for him, and he was exhausted and a bit sea-sick after we had fully raised and stowed the anchor. He retired to a cosy spot to recover. Lucy and Margaret-Anne also found comfortable spots to rest for the journey but were left with unfavourable memories of the bumpy journey to St Helier.

The wind direction was favourable to sail south, leaving the west coast of Jersey a mile or so on our port side, and for me it was one of the most exhilarating sails that I can remember, and my own tendency to seasickness did not strike me. When we turned to the east to run along the south coast of Jersey, the movement of the boat became more comfortable, and we arrived at the outer harbour of St Helier in the early afternoon. The tide was quite low at that time, and the big locked inner-harbour was inaccessible, and would remain so until an hour before high-water, when the lock gates would open.

It was clear now that some heavy weather was blowing up strongly and there was nowhere to moor in the outer harbour, which was becoming more and more full of small boats shooting about, trying hard (under motor – the conditions were un-sailable) not to hit each other. James was very active with fenders to avoid damage to our boat and others, and at one point he decided to step off our boat with his fender onto another boat that had come too close. Successfully fended off, the boat sailed away with James still on it, and we had a complex manoeuvre to locate and retrieve him and bring him back on board.

This was achieved in due course, and when the inner harbour opened, we motored in and found a quayside mooring and were now safely sheltered from the storm that blew up that night. A force-10 gale blew that stopped all the ferries and took several days to subside. By chance, when we went ashore the following morning, we almost at once ran into Revd David Smith, who had officiated at our wedding in 1961, 23 years previously and was on the island as a stand-in priest. Small world!

Confined to Jersey for a few days, we visited Gerald Durrell's zoo and other places of interest. When we finally left for the journey home, there was hardly any wind at all, so we had to use diesel power to help propel us on the long journey to our boat's home in Poole Harbour, with a brief stop in Alderney harbour to relax for a few hours.

That was our last family sail for nearly 40 years, when we joined Lucy and her husband Stephen and their late-teen daughters for a Greek sailing holiday.

*All episodes so far are on [www.fosmw.com/parishmag/an-interesting-life.pdf](http://www.fosmw.com/parishmag/an-interesting-life.pdf)*

### **High Breck – James's first job**

*This is a brief account by James Hodson of his first job after Eton, in the context of the preceding article on page 12.*

The conventional career options from Eton in the early 80s were: to do Oxbridge, go into the army, go and farm your 'Daddy's estate', or go and do something else. With my considerably less than stellar A levels under my belt, and with no 'Daddy's estate' to farm, I opted for a career in the wine trade and joined High Breck Vintners, a small firm in 1982, one month after leaving Eton, on the border between Surrey and Hants near Headley.

My new boss Tom, a charming ex marketing man and fifty years my senior had turned his hobby of exporting French wine into an even bigger hobby. Over the next year I discovered delicious white and red Burgundies, unknown gewurtztraminers from Alsace, simple but brilliant table wines from Bergerac (cheaper than Bordeaux), glorious dry Muscadets and Sauternes dessert wines. Tom really had a point when he said you didn't need to go outside of France to fulfil every wine requirement.

I was put in charge of 'cellarage', delivery, selling where I could through wine tasting, and giving one of Tom's younger twin daughters driving lessons.

I look back on that year, through a sort of Burgundy-infused blur, as one of the happiest and simplest in my life. I performed in the local acting group, the Headley Players, I took up Judo, met a girl at the Judo club, but all came second place to my biggest love of all, which was tearing around the Hampshire Lanes on a succession of motor bikes.

After a year of this, the suggestion was to do something a little more grown up and work for one of Tom's French suppliers. And so it was, one very early morning in Jul 1983, that I took the ferry to St Malo.

My final destination was Borie-Manoux, a wine négociant in Bordeaux. My latest two-wheeled trusty steed was a 1979 Honda 250 Super dream with a propensity to blow out its spark plugs, which was laden down with my possessions for the next six months. Would bike and beast make it all the way to Bordeaux? The story will continue.

## Crossword Clues

### Across

1 'If you love those who love you, what — is that to you?' (Luke 6:32) (6)

4 'They threw the ship's — overboard' (Acts 27:19) (6)

7 The first murderer (Genesis 4:8) (4)

8 He was the head Levite in charge of the singing when the ark of God was brought back to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 15:22) (8)

9 Samson was noted for this (Judges 16:6) (8)

13 Solicit money or food from passers by (Acts 3:2) (3)

16 What William Booth's Christian Mission became in 1878 (9,4)

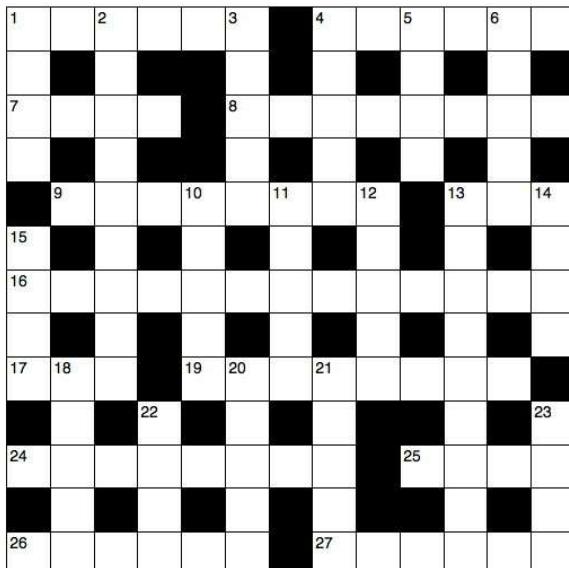
17 Alliance of Religions and Conservation (1,1,1)

19 'I will praise your name for ever and ever. — — I will praise you' (Psalm 145:1-2) (5,3)

24 Simon had (anag.) (8)

25 Desperate (Deuteronomy 28:48) (4)

26 Elisha witnessed the boy he was seeking to resuscitate do this seven times before opening his eyes (2 Kings 4:35) (6)



27 The belly and thighs of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream were made of this (Daniel 2:32) (6)

## Down

- 1 'Before the — crows, you will disown me three times' (Matthew 26:75) (4)
- 2 Relating to the books of the Bible between Acts and Revelation (9)
- 3 'They have — the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!' (John 20:2) (5)
- 4 Belief (5)
- 5 'Take the following fine spices: ... 250 shekels of fragrant — ' (Exodus 30:23) (4)
- 6 'Do not — Jerusalem, but wait for the gift' (Acts 1:4) (5)
- 10 A seer (anag.) (5)
- 11 'Even there your hand will — me' (Psalm 139:10) (5)
- 12 The wild variety was part of John the Baptist's diet (Mark 1:6) (5)
- 13 A non-Greek speaker who was looked down on by civilized people (Colossians 3:11) (9)
- 14 Famous 1950s musical whose characters included members of 16 Across, — and Dolls (4)
- 15 The province from which Paul wrote to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 16:19) (4)
- 18 'He was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring — — his hand' (Ezekiel 40:3) (3,2)
- 20 'Today, if you hear his — , do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion' (Hebrews 3:15) (5)
- 21 The Jericho prostitute who hid two Israelite spies on the roof of her house (Hebrews 11:31) (5)
- 22 'And now these three remain: faith, — and love. But the greatest of these is love' (1 Corinthians 13:1) (4)
- 23 'God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end' (Daniel 5:26) (4)

ACROSS: 1, Credit, 4, Tackie, 7, Cain, 8, Kenaiah, 9, Strength, 13, Beg, 16, Salvation Army, 17, ARC.

DOWN: 1, Cock, 2, Epistolic, 3, Taken, 4, Tenet, 5, Can, 6, Leave, 10, Erase, 11, Guide, 12, Honey, 13, Barbarian, 14, Guy's, 15, Asia, 18, Rod in, 20, Voice, 21, Rahab, 22, Hope, 23, Mene.

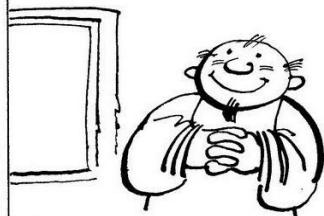
19, Every day, 24, Admonish, 25, Dire, 26, Sneeze, 27, Bronze.

# Children's Corner

## The Big Bash!



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



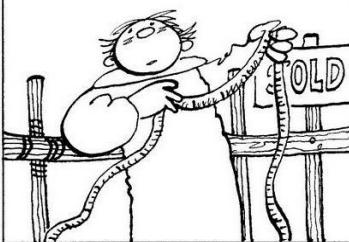
ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A RICH MAN WHO DECIDED TO HAVE A PARTY

HE SENT OUT LOTS OF INVITATIONS

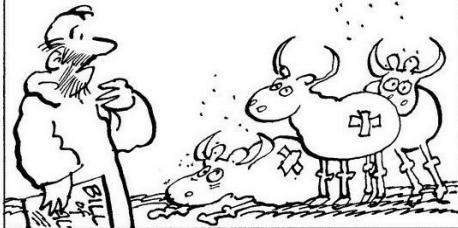


BUT PEOPLE STARTED MAKING EXCUSES

ONE MAN SAID HE HAD BOUGHT A FIELD, BUT NEEDED TO MEASURE IT



ANOTHER MAN SAID HE NEEDED TO TEST DRIVE THE OXEN HE HAS JUST PAID FOR



ANOTHER MAN SAID HE HAD JUST GOT MARRIED - AND HIS WIFE WOULDN'T LET HIM OUT!

SO THE RICH MAN INVITED ALL THE POOR AND NEEDY INSTEAD.



THE PARABLE MEANS WE SHOULDN'T MAKE EXCUSES FOR NOT FOLLOWING JESUS.

## Annex

### The Three Kings

*This epiphany poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882) was narrated by the children of the St Mary's 9:30am service on 12/1/26.*

Three Kings came riding from far away,  
Melchior and Gaspar and Baltasar;  
Three Wise Men out of the East were they,  
And they travelled by night and they slept by day,  
For their guide was a beautiful, wonderful star.

The star was so beautiful, large and clear,  
That all the other stars of the sky  
Became a white mist in the atmosphere,  
And by this they knew that the coming was near  
Of the Prince foretold in the prophecy.

Three caskets they bore on their saddle-bows,  
Three caskets of gold with golden keys;  
Their robes were of crimson silk with rows  
Of bells and pomegranates and furbelows,  
Their turbans like blossoming almond-trees.

And so the Three Kings rode into the West,  
Through the dusk of the night, over hill and dell,  
And sometimes they nodded with beard on breast,  
And sometimes talked, as they paused to rest,  
With the people they met at some wayside well.

“Of the child that is born,” said Baltasar,  
“Good people, I pray you, tell us the news;  
For we in the East have seen his star,  
And have ridden fast, and have ridden far,  
To find and worship the King of the Jews.”

And the people answered, “You ask in vain;  
We know of no King but Herod the Great!”  
They thought the Wise Men were men insane,  
As they spurred their horses across the plain,  
Like riders in haste, who cannot wait.

And when they came to Jerusalem,  
Herod the Great, who had heard this thing,  
Sent for the Wise Men and questioned them;

And said, "Go down unto Bethlehem,  
And bring me tidings of this new king."

So they rode away; and the star stood still,  
The only one in the grey of morn;  
Yes, it stopped—it stood still of its own free will,  
Right over Bethlehem on the hill,  
The city of David, where Christ was born.

And the Three Kings rode through the gate and the guard,  
Through the silent street, till their horses turned  
And neighed as they entered the great inn-yard;  
But the windows were closed, and the doors were barred,  
And only a light in the stable burned.

And cradled there in the scented hay,  
In the air made sweet by the breath of kine,  
The little child in the manger lay,  
The child, that would be king one day  
Of a kingdom not human, but divine.

His mother Mary of Nazareth  
Sat watching beside his place of rest,  
Watching the even flow of his breath,  
For the joy of life and the terror of death  
Were mingled together in her breast.

They laid their offerings at his feet:  
The gold was their tribute to a King,  
The frankincense, with its odour sweet,  
Was for the Priest, the Paraclete,  
The myrrh for the body's burying.

And the mother wondered and bowed her head,  
And sat as still as a statue of stone,  
Her heart was troubled yet comforted,  
Remembering what the Angel had said  
Of an endless reign and of David's throne.

Then the Kings rode out of the city gate,  
With a clatter of hoofs in proud array;  
But they went not back to Herod the Great,  
For they knew his malice and feared his hate,  
And returned to their homes by another way.

## **Serena**

*James Hodson's recollections of 'Serena' - a crowning achievement as an aeromodeller as he was making a reputation of his own as a pupil at Eton College. (See serial biography on page 12 of this magazine.)*

It was Spring 1980 and half a dozen boys from Eton's radio control model flying club were clustered around a corner of Agar's Plough (Eton's main playing fields). The centre of attention was an ungainly looking yellow and black model aircraft that appeared to be neither a powered plane nor a glider but was somehow an amalgam of the two.

The plane was my own latest creation and had been inspired by an article I had seen a few years earlier in the Aeromodeller Magazine about a 'glide-assisted' powered model. The author, having become tired of fast performance models, had switched to model gliders and having become tired of those too, had created 'Serena', a nine-foot wing-spanned behemoth which could actually manage take offs from the ground with its small engine, climb to a thousand feet, glide for about twenty minutes afterwards and then land on its undercarriage.

My own version of Serena used remnants of wings from previous model aircraft (Agar's Plough was pock-marked with Serena's crashed predecessors) attached to a new set of 72-inch foam wings and topped out at nine-and-a-half-foot wing-span. The fuselage and tail plane were however built from the exact plans of the original Serena and she was powered by a Flash-15, a 2.5cc Taiwanese copy of an Enya glow-engine.

My Flash was noted more for its recalcitrance than its reliability, but it was a bigger engine than the one used in the Aeromodeller example. Would it rise to the challenge and hoist Serena into the heavens?

My less-than charitable friends didn't think so and had already renamed the plane 'Obscena'. "It will never take off, Hodson, it's too heavy," said a particularly outspoken critic, Bill, who was one of Eton's KS scholars. He had a point: the wings were so large that they drooped, and, with its three-channel radio and fibre glass bracing for the wings, the plane topped out at four pounds, which was a tall order for a small glow-engine to haul into the air.

I ignored Bill, passed the transmitter to Mark, our best pilot and two years my senior, and started the Flash. It fired up immediately with a purposeful bellow and a whiff of burnt castor oil – Mark tuned the engine to full power and throttled back.

My critics were still jeering but became noticeably quieter when, with throttle advanced, Serena's wings trembled and edged forward over the grass field. I walked alongside the taxiing aircraft, her wings gently undulating. Mark steered Serena to the centre of Agars, turned her into wind and piled on full throttle using the transmitter.

Serena began to increase speed with magisterial dignity and, with me running alongside, it happened. The drooping wings lifted and Serena went airborne, gently climbing away towards Slough.

My reputation as a builder magically restored itself as the jeers from my friends stopped abruptly in mid-breath and became cheers. For some reason Bill had suddenly become fulsome in praise of my aero-engineering skills and was now referring to me as 'James'. 32 years later, sitting next to Bill at an Eton reunion and himself now a drone engineer, I reminded him of this; but right now, Serena was climbing to the stars.

At a thousand feet, Mark levelled off Serena and gave me the controls. She moved quite briskly around the sky but with impressive grace. After a quarter of an hour, the engine cut and Mark brought her in for an impressive landing a few minutes later.

I would love to conclude that Serena and I logged many more flight hours, but at that time, my building skills surpassed my flying skills, and this soon took its toll on my droop-winged yellow and black bird.

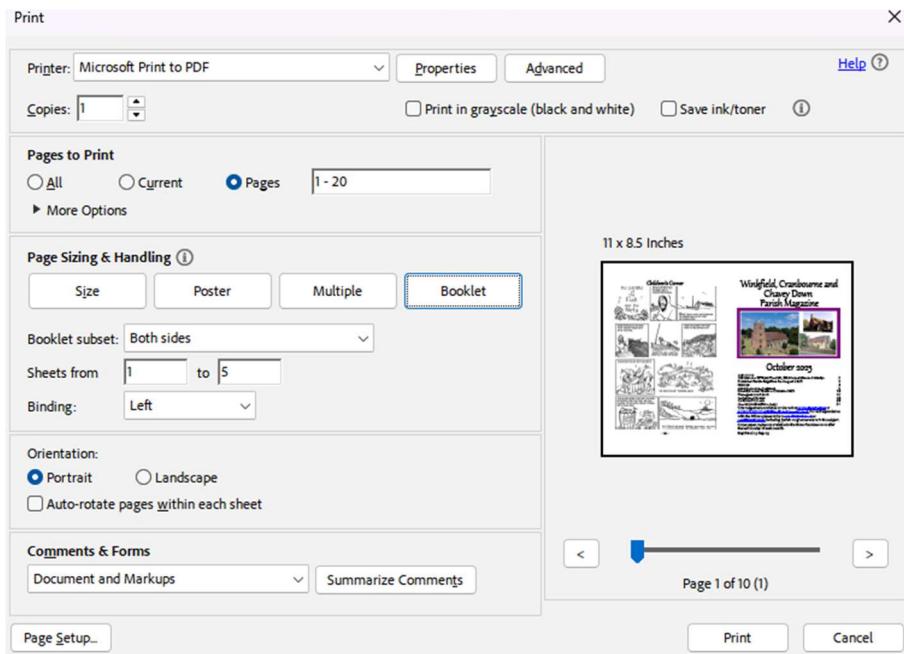
However, there were many successors to Serena, and before the end of that decade I was flying solo in full size aircraft.

Mastering radio control aircraft is a surprisingly good spring-board to flying the real thing, as you have already gained the instincts of what not to do when the plane is actually strapped to you, otherwise it hurts!

*James Hodson*

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Note that the printed mag version is 20 pages long, so if you want to duplicate the printed edition, on this screen you should click Pages and put in the required number of pages, which would be 1-20. This printed mag, on 20 pages, will omit the Annex, which amounts to extra material on page 21 and beyond. It is perfectly possible to print the whole mag in booklet form, Annex and all, although Service Information will no longer be on the middle pages. To do this, just leave Pages to Print in the print menu, and it will print the whole mag complete with Annex, on 7 sheets for this mag edition.

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