

# Winkfield, Cranbourne and Chavey Down Parish Magazine



## March 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 23 pages this month. Messages to the editor need (1) a greeting (who it is for) and (2) a signature (who it's from).  
Reprinted 15-Feb-26

# Winkfield, Cranbourne and Chavey Down Parish Magazine – March 2026

## Mothers and children

### **Mothering Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March**

Whatever our childhood was like, it was formational. We learned from our earthly parents, good things ideally, although not everyone's childhood is great.

In the Bible, St Paul refers to the importance of up-bringing and of spiritual heritage. When he greets Timothy in his second letter to him, he calls him his 'Dear Son', praises his 'genuine faith' and then goes on: "You share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice. And I know that same faith continues strong in you."

Timothy's childhood had been rooted in the Old Testament scriptures that he had been taught by his mother and grandmother. Their example had set him on the right path, until he was old enough to choose for himself to follow Jesus.

Physically, we when we are young, we need nurturing by mothers and fathers. Spiritually it is the same. When we come to faith, we need spiritual mothers and father to help us grow into maturity as God's adopted children.

We also need spiritual sustenance: regularly reading the Bible, spending time in God's presence in prayer, and worshipping with the family of the Church.

God – our heavenly parent provides our personal nurturing through prayer and the Bible, but He also gives us each other, to encourage and share our experiences of his faithfulness.

However imperfect our earthly upbringing was, *God is a good, good Father*, a perfect parent who will only teach us *good things*. And gradually, as the fruit of the Holy Spirit ripens in us, we will become more like Jesus. We will gain more of the family likeness!

Is there someone in your life who has helped you to grow spiritually? This Mothering Sunday, thank God for them.

Is there someone your life whom you have 'mothered' or 'fathered' along the way? This Mothering Sunday, pray for them.

# From the parish registers for January 2025

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

## Notices

### 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

## Candlemas Celebration at St Peter's Church

*If Candlemas is clear and bright, Winter will have another fight.*

*If Candlemas brings cloud and rain, Winter is gone and won't come again!*

So goes the saying and as Revd Terry Ward-Hall said in his Candlemas sermon; if it is true, then he has delivered his last Winter Sermon!

Candlemas takes place on 2 February, which is forty days after Christmas, and marks the official end of the Christmas season. It was originally a pagan festival but became Christian in the late 4th century. In medieval England it was the day on which people removed their decorations, which was usually greenery taken from the hedgerows and taken into church on Christmas Eve.

Candlemas now commemorates the presentation of Jesus in the Temple and the meeting of Mary, Joseph and Jesus with Simeon and Anna. It came to symbolise and celebrate Christ as the Light of the World, through the blessing of candles that people brought into church and lit in their windows and through the candlelit processions that took place. It is part of a journey from darkness to faith, light and hope; and in our World today, this is something that we all pray for.

At St Peter's we celebrate Candlemas as one of our special services, with the music, candles and a candlelit procession to the font.



Light a candle, let its ray  
Tell us of a feast each day.  
Light a candle, let it grow,  
Show us all the way to go.  
Light a candle, let its spark  
Drive from us what's bad and dark.  
Candlemas we call this day,  
And it shows us why we say  
Jesus' light is all we need,  
We will follow where he leads.

St Peter's church was beautifully decorated with flowers and candles, and there were 50 in attendance (39 adults and 11 children), each holding a candle. We included the traditional Candlemas hymn and processed to the font, where the choir sang the Nunc Dimittis (set by

Edward Burgon). Two children were readers, and we all went out after singing the uplifting 'Shine Jesus Shine!'.

Our Candlemas service was truly something to celebrate.

Andrea Stephens

### **St Mary's Church and Choirs**

The Junior Choir, beautifully robed, led the singing for the Family Matins services in both January and February. They also sing at Family Praise and Crafty Church. The adult choir with William Bishop has continued to support all services.

The first Crafty Church service in 2026 was the presentation of Christ in the Temple. There were more than 12 children reading the bible passages and prayers. There were also two 'pairs' – new to reading – who asked to share readings for their first performance. All very well done. Several of the children also moved to the Chancel to sing the Lord's Prayer at Family Praise and Crafty Church

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

The Guild's first meeting of the year is on 10 February, at the home of one of our members. We will report on it next month.

### **Winkfield St Mary's School**

Visits twice a month are made to St Mary's School to take Assembly. The Bishop of Reading, the Rt Revd Mary Gregory attended one of the sessions in January and led the Assembly. The afternoon began with two of the children escorting the Bishop (and us) around the school with wonderful explanations of the classrooms and of the activities with which they were involved.

Once a month we visit the school to help with the Toddlers group. All of them are under 3!! There are many toys for them to play with, there is a story, a little singing, and we finish with the 'Toddlers' prayer.

### **Mothering Sunday – Sunday 15 March**

There will be just one service at 10am on Mothering Sunday this year. The service will be incorporated into the Holy Communion service led by Canon Dagnall. The children will present the posies to their mothers as usual.

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

The AGM will be held on Friday March 20 and we hope all members will attend.

As noted last month, the Music and Merriment concert will take place on 5 December 2026.

This concert has for many years been a celebration of local talent, including adult and junior choirs, outstanding young soloists, handbells, and more – it is their show, and it is a team effort with about 60 people young and old contributing directly to showing what our people can do.

Their talent attracts and satisfies a supportive audience, and the concert is thereby a great social asset to our community, and, as such, is much more than just a public concert aimed primarily at audience pleasure.

It is also, the Friends' principal fund-raiser to support the PCC in its duty to maintain St Mary's church and its amenities.

The show must go on, and it needs a good manager to take it on into the future. Anthony Hodson, who has run it since 2011, wants to (and needs to) retire from the top job, although he is happy to carry some of the administrative burden and pass on experience. For now, he is the caretaker manager and will deliver what must be delivered this year.

If you feel that you can take on the role of enthusiastic and creative leadership for the concert, now or in the future, please be in touch with Anthony ([aeh@xdotd.co.uk](mailto:aeh@xdotd.co.uk) or 01344 483347)

Think of the joy encapsulated in the picture below. Don't give it up!



## **Organ Recital**

There will be an organ recital by Henry Smith, who was our organist during 2024, on Saturday 25 April at 4pm, to be followed by afternoon tea. Please make a note of the date.

## **May Fayre**

This will take place on Sunday 10 May following Family Matins. More information to come – but please also make a note of this date.

## **Bellringers – March 2026**

Tower ringers, as always, ring for all the Church services, and on Mondays we are busy practicing for the first round of the annual striking competition. We are drawn against Bray which has a strong team, so fingers crossed!

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 the body!

The bellringers put two teams into a charity quiz night in Windsor raising funds for Thames Valley Hospice and had a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

As I write, our own quiz is coming up on 21 February and is a very popular event held in Brownlow hall - contact any bell ringer to book a table for up to six people. Tickets are just £12 per person to include a ploughmans supper (BYOB) and is in aid of St Mary's Church Bell Fund. Anything to do with tower and hand bell maintenance or repair is expensive so these are important reserves.

The hand bell ringers continue to practise on Wednesday evenings, and we have several Church services coming up in which we will participate – the first is on Mothering Sunday, when we will be ringing a lovely piece of music.

Anyone who would like to have a go at hand bell ringing please speak to me - the ability to read music is not essential, the ability to count (mostly up to four) is!!

Jill Glennerster 07821131303

## **Ascot Horticultural Society**

The next meeting will be held on 11 March (a Wednesday) at 7:45 pm when the speaker will be John Anderson (keeper of Windsor Great Park Gardens). The meeting will be held in the King Edwards Hall, King Edwards Road, North Ascot, SL5 8PD.

*Ascot Horticultural Society*

## **Windsor Great Park Gardens**



A talk by

**John Anderson**

**(Keeper of Windsor Gt Park Gardens)**

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**King Edward's Hall, King Edward's Road,**

**Ascot, SL5 8PD**

**(200m on right hand side)**

**Doors Open at 7:45pm**

**ENTRANCE Members £1 Visitors £3**

**Including refreshments**

**[www.ascorthorticulturalsociety.co.uk](http://www.ascorthorticulturalsociety.co.uk)  
[facebook.com/groups/276880418187911](https://facebook.com/groups/276880418187911)**

## Three Counties Cycle Ride 2026 on Sunday 7 June

Pedal for your medal  
On Sunday 7 June  
Everyone's a winner, there is no wooden spoon  
Support your favourite charity  
Every penny counts  
Enjoy the Berkshire countryside  
When on your bike you mount  
With signs and friendly marshals  
To guide you on your way  
Make Sunday 7 June a happy, healthy day!

The first Three Counties Cycle Ride in 1983 helped fund a new St John's Ambulance, and over the years our riders have raised over a million pounds for local causes.

Come and join us on Sunday 7 June together with your family and friends and support your own favourite charity.

Every pound you raise through sponsorship will go to your nominated charity.

This year, any 3CCR profits go to the wonderful Thames Valley Air Ambulance team.

This annual bike ride has been loved by thousands of family and club cyclists alike, enjoying the choice of three routes through the beautiful Berkshire countryside, with the longer rides dipping into Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. (Continued on page 11)



# Services in the Parish - March 2026

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

## ST MARTIN'S CHURCH

## Common Worship Services

Date	Day	Time	Service
1	2nd Sunday of Lent	9:30am	Morning Prayer
		4pm	Family Craft Café
8	3rd Sunday of Lent	9:30am	Family Praise
15	Mothering Sunday	10am	Community Coffee Morning in St Martin's Church Hall
22	5th Sunday of Lent	9:30am	Holy Communion led by Revd Bourne
29	Palm Sunday	9:30am	Morning Prayer
30	Monday of Holy Week	7pm	Compline led by John Kimbell

## ST MARY'S CHURCH

## Book of Common Prayer Services

Date	Day	Time	Service
1	2nd Sunday in Lent	10am	Family Worship
8	3rd Sunday in Lent	10am	Family Matins
15	Mothering Sunday	10am	Holy Communion led by Canon Dagnall
22	5th Sunday in Lent	9:30am	Crafty Church
		11am	Morning Prayer
29	Palm Sunday	10am	Crafty Choral Matins
31	Tuesday in Holy Week	7pm	Compline led by John Kimbell

## ST PETER'S CHURCH

## Common Worship Services

Date	Day	Time	Service
1	2nd Sunday of Lent	11am	Holy Communion led by Revd Ward-Hall
8	3rd Sunday of Lent	11am	Family Praise

Date	Day	Time	Service
15	Mothering Sunday	11am	Morning Praise & Prayer
22	5th Sunday of Lent	11am	Morning Praise & Prayer
29	Palm Sunday	11am	Holy Communion led by Revd Burgess

### **Three Counties Cycle Ride 2026 (continued)**

If cyclists are the life blood of the Three Counties Cycle Ride, our volunteer marshals are its beating heart. So, if you don't cycle, please volunteer via the website as one of our marshals and your chosen charity will also receive a donation.

And please share the poem with friends and neighbours - every pedalled pound counts. Join us on Sunday 7 June and celebrate cycling. Have fun. Be healthy. Help others.

### **Windsor Lions Club work with Cardiac Risk in the Young**

The Local Service Community Group of the Windsor Lions Club spent a busy but successful weekend in January working with the national charity CRY – Cardiac Risk in the Young – to offer heart screenings.

The event took place at St Edward's Royal Free Middle School; it targeted an age group from 14 to 35, and aimed to raise awareness of cardiac health in the younger generation.

Over the weekend, 188 young people were screened with an Electrocardiogram (ECG), at a combined cost of around £ 17,000. It was jointly funded by the Pauline Quirke Academy (PQA) Windsor Group and by the Windsor Lions Club.

Eleven people also undertook a recommended additional Echocardiogram (ECHO), with the instruction that they should be referred to their GP for further consultation. This should present some peace of mind to those provided with the 'all clear'.

The need for screening events such as this is borne out by statistics that show that twelve young people fall prey to sudden cardiac deaths every week.

Windsor Lions Event Organiser Lion John Shephard writes: "Our first-time involvement with providing heart screenings has been a

wonderful collaboration of combined efforts with PQA Windsor Group and the dedicated CRY team, who have been professionally screening young people for decades.

“Sadly, there is no National screening available to young people, which is the reason these types of events are invaluable to those attending.

“CRY, PQA Windsor & Windsor Lions are motivated by the realisation, that many young men and women are unaware that cardiac heart issues may exist without any apparent symptoms.

‘We hope that many more young people will register to be screened in the future. To find out more you can visit [www.testmyheart.org.uk](http://www.testmyheart.org.uk).’

### **Woodley Concert Band Spring Concert 21 March 2026**

Tickets: see flyer on page 29 or go to [www.woodleyconcertband.org.uk](http://www.woodleyconcertband.org.uk)

## Thoughts of all sorts

### **17<sup>th</sup> March: St Patrick, beloved apostle to Ireland**

St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. If you’ve ever been in New York on St Patrick’s Day, you’d think he was the patron saint of New York as well! The flamboyant parade is full of American/Irish razzmatazz.

It’s all a far cry from the hard life of this 5th century humble Christian who became in time both bishop and apostle of Ireland. Patrick was born the son of a town councillor in the west of England, between the Severn and the Clyde. But as a young man he was captured by Irish pirates, kidnapped to Ireland, and reduced to slavery. He was made to tend his master’s herds.

Desolate and despairing, Patrick turned to prayer. He found God was there for him, even in such desperate circumstances. He spent much time in prayer, and his faith grew and deepened, in contrast to his earlier years, when he ‘knew not the true God’.

Then, after six gruelling lonely years, he was told in a dream that he would soon go to his own country. He either escaped or was freed, made his way to a port 200 miles away and eventually persuaded some sailors to take him with them away from Ireland.

After various adventures in other lands, including near-starvation, Patrick landed on English soil at last, and returned to his family. But he was much changed. He had enjoyed his life of plenty before; now he wanted to devote the rest of his life to Christ. Patrick received some

form of training for the priesthood, but not the higher education he really wanted.

But by 435, well-educated or not, Patrick was badly needed. Palladius' mission to the Irish had failed, and so the Pope sent Patrick back to the land of his slavery. He set up his see at Armagh and worked principally in the north. He urged the Irish to greater spirituality, set up a school, and made several missionary journeys.

Patrick's writings are the first literature certainly identified from the Church in Britain. They reveal sincere simplicity and a deep pastoral care. He wanted to abolish paganism, idolatry, and was ready for imprisonment or death in the following of Christ.

Patrick remains the most popular of the Irish saints. The principal cathedral of New York is dedicated to him, as, of course, is the Anglican cathedral of Dublin.

### **Our love affair with our phones**

It was 150 years ago this month, on 10 March 1876, that the world's first telephone call was made. Alexander Graham Bell called his assistant and said: "Mr Watson, come here. I want you."

That phone call was the beginning of a worldwide addiction to phones. Phones spread quickly, constantly improved, and after more than 100 years of landlines, mobile phones arrived.

The first was introduced by Motorola in 1983 in the USA. The Motorola DynaTAC 8000X weighed nearly two pounds and cost around \$3,995.

The first smartphone, the IBM Simon Personal Communicator, was released in 1994, combining phone calls with PDA features like email, fax, and a calendar on a touchscreen. It was so expensive that it sold only about 50,000.

But by the late 90s, the BlackBerry had become a top favourite, with its popular email and messaging services beloved by Barack Obama, among many others.

Then in 2007, Apple released the first iPhone, informally known as the iPhone 2G, with an advanced multi-touch interface and app ecosystem.

Fast forward nearly 20 years, and there are now about 7.5 billion active smartphones in the world. The total number of all connections (SIMs/devices) now even exceeds the human population of about 8.3 billion.

## **When women become mothers... tracing a pregnancy**

March brings us not only Mothering Sunday, but also the Annunciation of the Incarnation -when the Angel Gabriel told Mary that she would become pregnant with the Christ child. (25<sup>th</sup> March, exactly nine months before Christmas).

Mary was overwhelmed with joy and love, as are millions of women when they realise their child is on the way.

Of course, Mary knew very little of just how her baby was growing within her. Today, modern science provides some fascinating details... here is one such description.

### *By end of the first month*

Size: Quarter of an inch.

Development: The baby is called an embryo at this stage. The heart has started to beat, but so far it has only one chamber. There is a simple spinal cord, and the eyes and ears are beginning to show. The foetus is growing about 1/125<sup>th</sup> of an inch a day. (See Psalm 139: 11-14)

### *By end of the second month*

Size: 1 and 1/8<sup>th</sup> inch

Development: The embryo is now technically a foetus, and its face and features are forming. The muscles are starting to move, and the limbs are starting to differentiate. The internal organs are starting to develop. (See Psalm 139: 15-18)

### *By end of the third month*

Size: 3 inches

Development: The foetus has arms, hands and fingers, legs, feet and toes. The ears appear, the eyes are developing, and the face begins to look human. The lips open and close. The doctor may hear a faint heartbeat. Blood cells are produced by the liver and spleen. (See Isaiah 49: 15-16)

### *By end of the fourth month*

Size: 4 inches

Development: Distinct heartbeat, gristle changing to bone, ribs visible, eyes, ears and nose more human shape, eyebrows present. Foetus can frown, squint and grimace. (See Isaiah 44: 2-4)

### *At end of fifth month*

Size: 7 inches

Development: Mother begins to feel first kicks. Eyes still closed, hair appears, ears nearly complete and baby now hearing the mother. (See Psalm 121)

### *At end of sixth month*

Size: 11-14 inches.

Development: Eyelashes are forming, fingernails growing. Baby hears clearly and may move to the rhythm of mother's body. Also, the rudiments of language are being laid down. Can respond to music. (See Luke 1: 36-44)

The last three months are important in intra-uterine bonding; the foetus may be able to feel the mother's emotions. Future baby's sleep patterns may be influenced by her sleeping patterns now.

### *At end of seventh month*

Size: 14 -17 inches.

Development: If born now, it has a chance of surviving. Lungs maturing, eyelids separating and eyes open. (See Psalm 128:1-5)

### *End of eight month*

Size: 16-18 inches

Development: Baby growing and gaining weight. Very good chance of survival. By the 32<sup>nd</sup> week, the neural circuits in brain are as advanced as a newborn, so a great deal of conscious awareness. Sleeping and waking now distinct states. (See Philippians 4: 4-8)

### *End of ninth month*

Size: 20 inches on average. 7 pounds on average

Development: All systems are complete and growing. Now is a good time to pray that everything goes well at the birth. (See John 16:21-22, Matthew 18:1-5)

As it says in the Psalms, we are 'wonderfully made'!

## **Episode 61 – The X.500 Directory – creating standards**

*Continuing Anthony Hodson's serial memoirs. In the mid 1980s, his professional career in ICL as a senior consultant IT specialist was flourishing as a result of his previous experience with small computers. The world of business computing was now dominated by the need to interwork computers, big and small, in increasing numbers, and he was*

*called to play a significant practical role in this. The reader can look up details of acronyms and terminology on the Web, if needed.*

*This account lies in a different world for most people – do just skim or skip! But the details of my professional life formed the core of a way of life that was suddenly expanded by travel and social opportunities while family life broadened as well. All that is for later episodes.*

## **Need for standards**

Just as telephonic systems had to be unified by international standards to make international telephone calls, distributed interworking by computers needed standardisation to permit ‘open’ working. CCITT (now referred to as ITU-T) had developed the telephonic standards. Now, in the 1980s, ITU-T took on the development of the new Open Systems Interconnection standards, known as by the acronym OSI.

This great project required a huge international team effort. Each aspect was developed by many international teams of IT consultants, coordinated by the central ‘architects’ of the standards that were required, ranging from the very general to the very detailed – even the use of single bits!

I was lucky enough to be coopted as a member of one of these teams, and my late career covered international development of these standards, and the implementation of new systems in accordance with those standards. It was exciting to be working at the forefront of practical IT technology.

## **OSI and the Arpanet, TCP/IP**

In Episode 59 of these memoirs, I introduced OSI and also the Arpanet, (which became the Internet) based on protocols termed TCP/IP, of which more later.

OSI and TCP/IP overlapped because they resolved the issue of practical interconnection in very different – and competitive – ways. Computer users (human or otherwise) used distributed applications (often known as ‘Apps’) based on interconnecting systems (electronic mail for example) – using interconnection protocols. In the end, TCP/IP prevailed.

OSI interconnection was losing to TCP/IP even before OSI was complete. By the 21st century, the Internet based on TCP/IP was the only game in play for interconnection. Fortunately, I was involved with the ‘OSI Directory’ – termed the X.500 Directory – which was in the ‘App’ area of commonality between the two sides, and I stayed with it as an expert until I ended my professional IT career in 2006 aged 69.

Why TCP/IP won over OSI is to do with the way in which digital information can be moved about. What happened can be explained by

analogy with a consignment of goods transported by train on rail-lines, as against a consignment of goods transported by one or more lorries over un-coordinated public roads.

Train transport of goods requires planning and scheduling and continuous collaboration to maintain efficiency and avoid collisions. This requires a strong level of control handled by relatively few centres. In moving digital information, using planned connection was the traditional way of handling information movement: you organised a connection by reference to a connection management centre, and used it until all the data was successfully moved. This was the OSI model (and also the IBM model).

Lorry transport requires less central coordination: goods are moved from A to B, perhaps in more than one load; at the destination, you will know from the paperwork when the last item of delivery has arrived.

TCP/IP sends big blocks of data by transmitting it in many packets of information sent independently as single items; the set of packets containing a big block of data are reassembled on delivery. TCP/IP defined how this was to work in terms of the nature of blocks and their handling.

There was some initial scepticism in the Arpanet design about how successful the TCP/IP idea would be to avoid collisions between packets and maintain throughput; but it worked as well as planned and it still does (particularly with faster and bigger transmission capacity). In early Internet days (and occasionally now) slow or chaotic data flow sometimes shows up the feared failings of TCP/IP when transmission capacity is inadequate.

Internet management is complex, but the actual movement of data is flexible and usually effective. TCP/IP has the great advantage that the movement of data is handled flexibly and autonomously by staged steps that are not under central control. This decentralisation was a major factor in the adoption of its concept: decentralisation enabled the system to work even if damaged, for example, by enemy action. Arpanet started out as a secret military project, but its potential civilian value was obvious, and it broke out of the military for general use.

Interestingly, in the late 20<sup>th</sup> Century, senior people in the European Commission were very unhappy about the Internet because of its low-level uncontrollability. But in a free world, and in the fact of its practical advantages they ultimately did not have a vote.

### **The '7-layer Model' of interworking**

OSI interworking depended on looking at information flow in terms of a philosophically thought-out '7-layer model', where each layer used strict standardised protocols. The bottom six layers were concerned with aspects

of data transmission from physical representations to language and format. These protocols supporting information flow were complex and expensive to develop, and when the TCI/IP protocol became available, as a working solution (as in Arpanet) it swept away the need for the bottom six OSI protocols. You can build Applications directly onto TCP/IP.

The Arpanet world had already developed a text-based electronic mail protocol, SMTP, and this was much simpler, and ultimately more flexible, than the OSI electronic mail protocol, which had developed its own complex model of the nature of email information. Digital information can be still carried in the form of text – less efficiently, perhaps, but sufficiently fast. Efficiency becomes less significant, particularly in the long term as raw network speeds increase.

### **Technical developments**

There were a number of important technology changes that were occurring at this time, and they contributed to the support of OSI and the Internet.

Computer chips were improving exponentially in speed; memory chips were beginning to demolish the competitiveness of mechanical data storage devices, satellites were increasingly available for long-distance data transmission, and glass fibre data transmission was set to take over from copper in transmission capacity.

Socially, of crucial importance and significance was the rise of the personal computer and mobile telephones as prices came down: a huge new market and driver of technology, and human needs drew attention to the need for simplicity and practicality in email and other forms of data exchange.

Ironically, IBM, the ‘old enemy’, who had been a key stimulus for establishing the OSI venture, had an established technology to contribute to text-based data interchange, the ‘Markup language’. In its heyday, IBM had been, in volume terms, the world’s largest publisher (of documentation of its computer and software products, years before the invention of modern word-processing systems such as Microsoft Word). In this time, it pioneer the idea of Markup to facilitate document format and layout.

Markup is special and distinctive text placed in normal text that tells a computer the role or characteristic of a component of text, for example, a paragraph or a block of text that is to be ‘bolded’, or in a different font – or needs to represent digital information. Markup was seized upon as a means of converting the text in a SMTP message into text with special layout. Today, perhaps the most important mark-up language is HTML, which is the language universally used by World-wide-web pages.

## **X.500, the OSI Directory**

In 1985 onwards, OSI was alive, well and important, and, through ICL, I was assigned a position in the UK's contribution to the OSI Directory, the OSI application that was to provide a universal distributed digital directory of information about named objects (such as people and companies).

Organisations could run their own Directory System Agents (known as DSAs) that could access any other DSA, and (subject to access rights) obtain information (such as email addresses) contained in any remote DSA. The Directory team had been devising how this would work internationally, both with DSAs 'talking' to each other (to allow access directly or by forwarding queries), and with Directory User Agents using a relatively simple protocol.

I and others from all over the world met over the next few years to develop and agree the necessary International Standards. We met in groups in Australia, China, France, Japan, S Korea, Switzerland, the UK, the USA, to name just a few, and we formed bonds and friendships with our group colleagues, some very long-lasting.

## **THORN and our French interne**

The European Commission wisely sponsored member states to develop experimental OSI prototypes in a programme of 'Esprit Projects' over the late 1980s, and these formed an important first practical step in implementation. ICL was given funds to help develop components of THORN ('The Obviously Required Name-server), in collaboration with other organisations, such as UCL in London, Post Office organisations in UK, France and Germany, GEC, Siemens in Munich and other commercial and academic bodies. I was put in charge of ICL's work and threw myself into this with enthusiasm, with the help of Peter Gale, a very capable professional programmer who worked with me for the next few years.

For a few months in 1989, I was seconded Sebastien Poinson, a charming French student from the Claude Bernard University in Lyon, and he joined the team to learn about how we were developing the experimental THORN system. This was a good experience for us all, and, after he left, Sebastien sent me his thesis that described his experience and what he had learned. It is rare to have an account of ones working life as other people see you, but that was what Sebastien gave us, and summary of his account (translated from the French original) can be found on page 20.

## **X.500 and identity management**

The X.500 Directory at this time had acquired a vital practical use of its own – the support of 'Digital Certificates' which are (and remain today well

into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century) an important feature of business life, because they support verification of the identities of people and organisations. Identity crime can be controlled to an important degree by certificates, and the X.500 Directory was accepted as the official mechanism whereby certifications could be managed and verified and distributed, based on the X.509 standards, part of the set of X.500 standards.

Thus, an understanding came at this time that, even if OSI communications protocols gave way to the Internet as a system of digital system interconnection, the X.500 Directory would survive, although it would be hidden deep in the complexity of the digital world, unnoticed by the general public. There it stays. I sometimes envy architects, whose life-works are public, but only a few engineers in other fields achieve fame that the public can perceive as a critical contribution

With THORN completed as a pilot project, I was determined not only to be ICL's international expert on OSI Directory, but also to be the designer and implementor of ICL's X.500 Directory product. That is another story, for the next episode.

*All episodes collected in [www.fosmw.com/parishmag/an-interesting-life.pdf](http://www.fosmw.com/parishmag/an-interesting-life.pdf)*

### **A French student in a small ICL team in the late 1980s**

Sebastien Poinson was assigned to Anthony Hodson and his assistant Peter Gale to work in ICL on the THORN project for 10 weeks in 1989. On completion, he wrote a thesis that covered his experiences working with us, mostly technical, but also describing how he got on as a member of a small team at the edge of new technology.

At this time, 35 years ago, electronic mail was in its infancy, and it is interesting to note that it was the quality of the ICL telephone system, and the extent that it was used for coordination of teams and technicalities that impressed him. Today's reliance on messaging and texting can, from today's experience, be viewed as potentially socially destructive, time consuming, creating data-mountains to manage.

He points out that frequent communication mostly telephonic and informal, but also face-to-face, was a feature of life of individuals in ICL

*“Their attitude surprised me from the very first days. Some people chat in the hallways, others think with their feet comfortably propped up on their desks; a general sense of well-being pervades the entire staff. People are friendly, attentive, and give you their time; in short, the modern tension known as stress doesn't overwhelm them.*

*“This behaviour, which might seem problematic, actually improves interpersonal relationships, and therefore the quality of the work itself. Anthony always surprised me because his very laid-back attitude didn't prevent him from delivering outstanding work. I also think that this attitude, common to many ICL employees, was one of the main factors that helped me integrate into the team.”*

Sebastien was pleased that we gave him the attention he needed to integrate with us. *“When I saw the attention Peter and Anthony were giving me, I was delighted.”*

During the first week, Peter spent his time explaining our computer resources and Anthony took over the following week, explaining how the Directory was to work: *“I think everything went well, even though the sheer volume of work sometimes overshadowed everything else. In fact, every morning for the first half hour, we simply chatted to get to know each other better, and at the end of the internship, Anthony invited me to spend an evening with his family.”*

Sebastien goes on to describe how he saw Peter and Anthony:

*“Peter and Anthony's personalities are very complementary. Peter, around 30 years old, is dynamic, rigorous, a worrier, very realistic, and loves computers and their logic, while Anthony, 52, is much more outgoing, combining serenity and joie de vivre with a passion for his work. Peter handles the programming, and Anthony the analysis and theoretical design.*

*“They divided between themselves the team's internal and external responsibilities.*

*“Since there were only three of us, our relationship was very friendly and continuous, meaning it wasn't interrupted by periods of non-communication. Within the department, we were the only ones working on the Directory, which explains both our unity and our isolation.*

*“We took advantage of the breaks at the beginning and end of the day to give oral reports on our work. Anthony, the official project manager at ICL, then used these breaks to redistribute the work.”*

Sebastien was not a natural linguist, and found English difficult, but with perseverance, he describes how he established a basic vocabulary that served well to discuss the technical work and the special terms that the work used:

*“It must be said that Anthony speaks French quite well and Peter understands it, but generally, they didn’t use it often, preferring to explain the meanings to me in English, which I didn’t mind at all. So, in ten weeks, I gained a French perspective on England—my own—and an English perspective—that of Peter and Anthony.”*

Sebastien comments that it was much easier to communicate in a technical world than socially.

*“As there were six of us French students doing the same type of internship, we lived in a group and were therefore more independent and less outgoing.”*

He wrote that in retrospect: *“Despite the minor daily comprehension difficulties, I think my English now shines brightly among my abilities, and I say this with great modesty. So, you have finally reached the end of your journey. Let me simply conclude with a few reflections and thank you.*

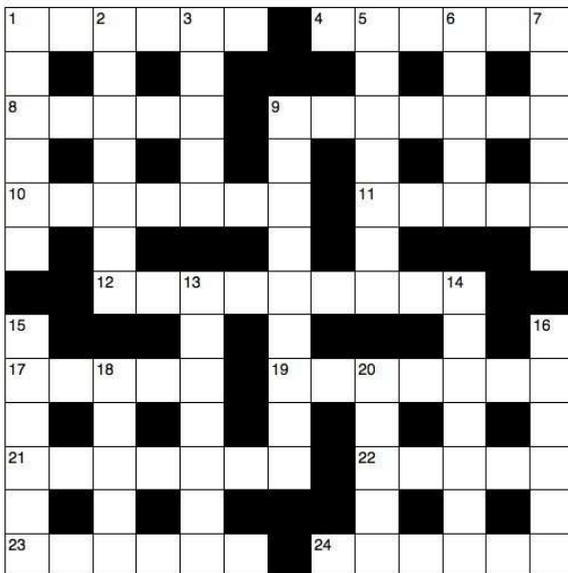
*“I was truly delighted to complete this internship.*

*“I believe it will forever remain etched in my memory as a cherished memory and an extraordinary experience. I would like to thank once again all those who made it possible for me, and all those who helped and supported me.”*

### **Crossword Clues**

#### **Across**

- 1 Arouse (Song of Songs 2:7) (6)
- 4 Extinguish (Isaiah 1:31) (6)
- 8 “They — — ,” you will say, “but I’m not hurt!” (Proverbs 23:35) (3,2)
- 9 Unhappiness (Nehemiah 2:2) (7)
- 10 Jewish (7)
- 11 Dirge (anag.) (5)



12 'A truthful witness gives honest — , but a false witness tells lies'  
(Proverbs 12:17) (9)

17 Paul quoted from the second one in his address in the synagogue at  
Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13:33) (5)

19 'Do not use your freedom to — the sinful nature' (Galatians 5:13) (7)

21 'As you can see, he has done nothing to — death' (Luke 23:15) (7)

22 Name applied by Isaiah to Jerusalem (Isaiah 29:1) (5)

23 'All the people — — one man, saying, "None of us will go home"  
(Judges 20:8) (4,2)

24 Lazarus, who was carried by angels to Abraham's side when he died,  
was one (Luke 16:20) (6)

Down

1 Appalled (Job 26:11) (6)

2 'In an — to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into  
the sea' (Acts 27:30) (7)

3 Expel (Acts 18:16) (5)

5 'But I have a baptism to — , and how distressed I am until it is  
completed!' (Luke 12:50) (7)

6 'Of the increase of his government and peace there will be — — '  
(Isaiah 9:7) (2,3)

7 Hurry (Psalm 119:60) (6)

9 'For I desire mercy, not — , and acknowledgement of God rather  
than burnt offerings' (Hosea 6:6) (9)

13 One of its towns was Sychar, where Jesus met a woman at Jacob's  
well (John 4:5) (7)

14 Shouting (Acts 7:57) (7)

15 Arachnid (Isaiah 59:5) (6)

16 One of Paul's first converts in Philippi was Lydia, a — in purple cloth  
(Acts 16:14) (6)

18 Donkeys (5)

20 Raked (anag) (5)

ACROSS: 1, Awaken, 4, Quench, 8, Hit me, 9, Sadness, 10, Semitic, 11,  
Ridge, 12, Testimony, 17, Psalm, 19, Indulge, 21, Deserve, 22, Ariel, 23, Rose  
as, 24, Beggar.  
DOWN: 1, Aggravate, 2, Attempt, 3, Eject, 5, Undergo, 6, No end, 7, Hasten,  
9, Sacrifice, 13, Samaria, 14, Yelling, 15, Spider, 16, Dealer, 18, Asses, 20,  
Drake.

# Children's Corner

## The Tale of the TWO BUILDERS



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE WAS ABOUT TWO MEN WHO BUILT THEIR OWN HOUSES



THE FIRST BUILDER SEARCHED HIGH AND LOW FOR A GOOD SOLID ROCK ON WHICH TO BUILD HIS HIS HOME.

AT LONG, LONG LAST HE FOUND THE IDEAL SPOT.



SO HE BEGAN TO BUILD.



THE OTHER BUILDER DIDN'T CARE WHERE HE BUILT HIS HOUSE

HE THOUGHT SOME NICE FLAT SAND WOULD BE AN EASY PLACE TO BUILD.



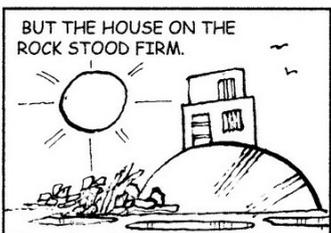
BUT ONE DAY THE STORM CAME...



...AND THE WIND BLEW...AND THE RAIN FELL....



...AND THE HOUSE ON THE SAND COLLAPSED!



BUT THE HOUSE ON THE ROCK STOOD FIRM.

JESUS EXPLAINED - IT'S IMPORTANT OUR LIVES HAVE A FIRM FOUNDATION.

# Annex

## **One or two excitements, by James Hodson**

*Episode 60 of Anthony Hodson's serial memoirs in the February 2026 edition introduced his son James' account of his school-years interest in model aeroplanes, including the monster powered glider that he called Serena, and it notes also his later interest in flying 'real' aeroplanes.*

*James designed, built and flew many more model aircraft after Serena and following graduation in 1988, he joined aerospace manufacturer Rolls-Royce, an appropriate employer given his interest!*

*He learned to fly full size at the local airport at Coventry, and after 13 hours tuition, flew solo in Sept 1989. He continued to build flying hours at Coventry but decided to take the American private pilots' course in Florida the following summer in 1990, gaining an FAA pilots licence. Over the next five years, James gained a night rating, converted to a UK licence, and flew friends and family in both the USA and the Midlands. In 1995, he decided to do an instrument rating to augment his skills.*

*The story below picks up from this point.*

### **October 1995 – Bartow, Florida, USA**

I was back in Florida to gain my instrument rating, having passed my pilot's licence there five years previously. This time though, fun, seeing the theme parks and leisurely flying in the Florida sun was out of the window. Instead, I was sweating it out in little Cessna 150s, circling over the hot swampy-looking land below, practicing stalls, steep turns, radio beacon tracking and partial instrument use; all whilst 'under the hood', a blinkers-like device that prevented you from seeing beyond your instruments.

It was Day 2 of the instrument course, and I had already flown a two-hour training flight that morning in N5813G with Ed, the owner of the school and a former UK airline pilot. This afternoon, another hour under the hood beckoned, and I suggested to Ed that, besides lunch, we also refuel the plane. I had pushed the plane hard that morning; its Rolls-Royce Continental engine, converted to run on standard gasoline as well as normal avgas, burnt more fuel. Ed glanced at the fuel gauges that tended to flap from side to side rather disconcertingly on Cessnas as the plane banked and said he was satisfied with our fuel state. We would only be flying for another hour. Half an hour later, we were again

buzzing over farm-land, and I was cocooned in a little world of twitching dials, throttle levers – and noise.

Suddenly, there was a violent adjustment in noise; the engine lost power, recovered, surged again, coughed a few times and then fell silent. In a about five seconds, Cessna N5813G had become a glider. The abrupt peacefulness was almost mind-blowing, especially as you could now hear sounds never possible with the engine's normal roar. The gyroscopes in the instruments were audibly whining, and you could hear the control cables pushing through the pullies and the plane creaking as it glided through the air.

Most concerning of all, though, I could also hear my thoroughly respectable flying instructor letting loose a volley of expletives – plainly things were NOT good. I tore off the hood, and Ed had taken over the controls: he was trying desperately to take advantage of what was left of the engine power, and to gain as much height as he could to lengthen our glide.

I began to wish that I had paid a bit more for my travel insurance before I left the UK, by declaring that I was doing a “dangerous” hobby. I was not going to be covered for this particular drama and the 1970s vintage era seat belts installed in N5813G which I was now examining, didn't look like they could save anyone. I concluded that there wasn't much else to do at that point except sit back and enjoy the dead stick landing. Ed's experience kicked in; after a nerve-wracking couple of moments circling around the farmland, he identified a field which looked firm enough to support a plane landing on it. There was no option of a go-around here, or any second chances, and fortunately we landed and rolled to a halt just before the field turned swampy.

Ed had managed to make contact with another pilot during our glide who was now circling around us after we had landed. We had also caught the attention of the farm owner himself and his hands who turned up in their pick-up, and who were astonished to see an aircraft suddenly gliding right over their heads. Ed's decision to have the training school's Cessnas converted to run off standard gasoline now paid off, and the farmer's spare fuel in his gerry-can was bought and emptied into the Cessna's fuel tank. The nearest airfield was 5 miles away and the fuel would provide about fifteen minutes flight; Ed chose to do the take off without me to save weight. He hopped into N5813G, fired up and took off on what firm ground was available, disappearing into the gloom.

I was left with my first introduction to Florida farming-folk, two of whom I now realised were the farmer's daughter and wife. We all climbed into the pick-up, the wife, daughter and myself, in the back whilst the two farmhands joined the farmer in the cab. "Hang onto us!" said the ladies and I grabbed them as the Chevrolet started and its enormous engine block and four-wheel drive propelled us through the marshy ground rocking violently from side to side. Mud flew everywhere and I would have been thrown out into the mire without those kindly 'gals' to hang onto.

The farmhands in the cab, had no such comforts. We made it back to the farmhouse, and the farmer drove me to the nearby airfield to be reunited with Ed, who had landed safely. For some reason, Ed's wife who had appeared to collect us, looked rather cross with Ed. For my part, I was learning that sometimes you need to be assertive, even when you are the very junior partner. My logbook entry that night was 'Forced Landing! Nr Lake Buffum'.

Four days later, I passed the instrument rating test and began to make weekend plans to visit our family friends and former neighbours the Redmonds, who lived 450 miles to the north in Atlanta. We had lived in Atlanta in the 1960s as my father, a former avionics engineer in Rochester had been seconded to Lockheed in Atlanta as part of the development of the US Airforce giant transport C5A. It would be a good half-day's flying from Bartow to DeKalb-Peachtree airport in Atlanta and Ed was happy to lend me their other flight school Cessna N19BS for the weekend. I was reassured that I had flown the journey three years earlier in a Piper Warrior, albeit a faster and better-equipped plane (it had an auto pilot) than the little Cessna. I would have to fly N19BS all the way to Atlanta and back manually, navigating by the radio VORs as I went, but heck, I was Top Gun, I had passed my instrument rating – it would be a piece of cake.

The first part of the journey was easy as I obtained air traffic control flight following, and, given a transponder code, I was visible and contactable on the air traffic control radar. By homing in on the VOR (radio) beacons, I steered around Orlando and on past Gainesville, Lake City and after two hours, landed at Valdosta, an airport on the Georgia border for a refuel. Throughout the flight, the clouds had been overcast and I couldn't fly higher than 3000 feet to see the ground, but I wasn't concerned. At Valdosta, I refuelled N19BS, and whilst enjoying the respite from its buzzing Continental engine, phoned the weather

service for a briefing to Atlanta. The meteorologist threw the reality of the weather situation at me like a bucket of cold water. By flying to Atlanta she said, I was approaching rising ground, and the cloud levels were descending. I was likely to be the only aircraft flying visual flight rules. In her opinion it would be foolhardy to continue. I thanked her for her advice and considered the options. I had done most of my flying in the UK and blotchy weather and low clouds was part of the general aviation experience; bunkering down in a motel in Southern Georgia didn't have much appeal, compared to making it to dinner with the Redmonds that night. I would press on with the flight.

The first hour and a half, flying at 110 mph and at about 2000 feet above the ground was without incident. I flew past Macon and used the air traffic control flight following and radio beacons as guidance, I slowly approached my destination DeKalb-Peachtree airport, but the weather continued to deteriorate. Suddenly flight-following announced over the radio, "Cessna 19BS, you are the only traffic flying visual flight rules between you and Stone Mountain. Because of weather conditions, we are unable to maintain flight following. Have a nice day."

*This story will be continued in the April 2026 parish magazine.*

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The Parish of  
Winkfield Cranbourne & Chavey Down

The logo for Woodley Concert Band, featuring the word "wood" in a white, lowercase, cursive font on a red rectangular background.

wood

The background of the poster is a stylized illustration of a mountain landscape at dusk or dawn. A large, glowing orange sun or moon is centered in the sky, casting a warm glow over the scene. The sky is a deep purple and blue, dotted with small yellow stars. In the foreground, a winding river flows through a valley, flanked by dark evergreen trees. In the background, snow-capped mountains rise against the sky.

**Woodley Concert Band**

**MUSICAL  
Landscapes**

**SATURDAY 21<sup>st</sup> MARCH  
7PM**

**HARRIET WALTER THEATRE  
REDDAM HOUSE SCHOOL, WOKINGHAM**

VISIT [WWW.WOODLEYCONCERTBAND.ORG.UK](http://WWW.WOODLEYCONCERTBAND.ORG.UK) FOR TICKETS AND INFORMATION

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