# Winkfield, Cranbourne and Chavey Down Parish Magazine

## September 2026

**CONTENTS**


| | |
|---|---|
| God in the Sciences | 2 |
| From the Parish Register July 2026 | 3 |
| A message from the PCC Lay Chair | 4 |
| Notices | 4 |
| Local events and reports | 7 |
| Thoughts of all sorts | 9 |
| Services in the Parish –September 2026 | 10 |
| Crossword Puzzle | 18 |
| Children's Corner | 20 |


This magazine is available on the web at www.fosmw.com or www.winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk For correspondence with the Editors, please write to aeh@xdotd.co.uk or info@fosmw.com **including 'parish mag' somewhere in the subject**. Some paper copies are available in the Winkfield churches on or after the last Sunday of each month. The printed magazine has 20 pages this month. There is no Annex this month.

Reprinted 3-Sep-26

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

# God in the Sciences

*This article is written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith. See* www.faraday.cam.ac.uk/churches *and* http://www.cis.org.uk . *Acknowledgements to Parish Pump*

## How can a Christian be a scientist?

I used to ask this question as a student. I wondered what it was like to have a career in science, and how being a Christian might make a difference. Eventually I met a good number of successful scientists who were sincere Christians, and I learned that science and faith are a great combination. Dr Francis Collins, former Director of the project to decode the whole of human DNA, wrote that it is "possible for the scientist-believer to be intellectually fulfilled and spiritually alive, both worshipping God and using the tools of science to uncover some of the awesome mysteries of His creation." So, what do people like this make of the opportunities and challenges of a life in science?

Although our beliefs may affect what we notice about the world and how we interpret our data, they don't affect the outcome of the experiments themselves. If a Muslim and a Christian drop the same ball from the same height under identical conditions, it will fall at the same speed. This means that a scientist can be respected by her colleagues for doing good work, regardless of what she believes and what her colleagues think of her worldview.

Science is an exercise in observing and measuring things and coming up with general principles about the way things are. The world has been declared by God to be 'very good' (see chapter one and two of Genesis), and exploring it is a way to express our gratitude to Him. Scientific discoveries can also bring a sense of awe and wonder that feeds into our worship.

Some people don't want to get involved in certain lines of research because of ethical concerns. On the other hand, there are many issues that make Christians want to get stuck into new research that will help

care for people and the rest of creation, such as medical research, ecology or developing appropriate technologies.

Organisations such as Christians in Science and the Faraday Institute gather together scientists who are also people of faith, and others who are interested in the subject. They come from a wide range of backgrounds and express their beliefs in a variety of different ways. What they have in common is the conviction that you don't have to choose between science and God. As the young people in our churches prepare to return to their studies, online if not in person, let's encourage them that science (along with many other fields) is a great way to serve God.

*Editor's note: As a mathematician and amateur scientist with a special interest in quantum physics and astronomy in particular, I would find it hard to envisage that our world and our universe could happen without God. We see remarkable beauty in nature, and we learn about the extraordinary subtleties that lie in the process of evolution, and in our own species as it has evolved, with its strengths and weaknesses.*

*We also see in the laws of physics many simple equations within a framework so complex that nobody fully understands it. The relationship between these laws and what we feel, know, observe, measure and deduce is regulated by measurable constants that, with incredible delicacy, make nature work as it does. How could all this come about without a God, our God, the Maker of all things?*

*Within all this we find our free will as human beings – and the will of God too, and we can see that our Christian Faith works within this structure – yes, there are mysteries, but they are part of our relationship with God, and would we not expect the inexplicable sometimes??*

*Even in mathematics there are facts that God knows – but we can't prove them even in principle - that's a provable mathematical fact!*

# From the parish registers for July 2026

## Baptisms

Ruby Manthorpe was baptised in St Mary's Church on Sunday 5 July.

**No Confirmations, Weddings & Blessings or Funerals etc. have been reported.**

# A message from the PCC Lay Chair

The PCC met with the Archdeacon at the PCC meeting of 14 July 2026. He had prepared a paper beforehand that looked at the areas that we would need to work on over the next year. These included the need to develop a sustainable pattern of public worship as well as to make sure that there is a balanced clergy workload that ensures adequate time for community engagement.

More work needs to be on community involvement and not just on the services in our churches. There will be monthly meetings to reflect on progress; towards the end of the ministry period a recommendation will be made to the deanery pastoral committee.

After unanimous agreement from the PCC, the archdeacon prepared a statement that was read out in our Parish on 19/7/26. This statement was also published on page 2 of the August 2026 parish mag (click or find on the Parish Website). In summary, Revd Andy Medlicott will be providing a ministry with us for 12 months, starting in September 2026.

We are absolutely delighted that Andy is coming to join and lead us over the next year. We all have an invitation to his Licencing service which is to be held on Wednesday 23 September at 7pm in St Peter's Church, Cranbourne. Please contact the Church Office by 10 September if you wish to attend. Thank you.

A more formal welcome will be presented in the October parish magazine, and Andy will also be writing an article in the mag.

We all pray that we meet all the new challenges on our journey with Andy and that we enjoy working with him for a successful outcome.

# Notices

### Ranelagh application surgeries

Parents hoping for their children to enter Ranelagh School in September 2027 should consider the notice opposite. More details will be available later.

### Safeguarding in the Parish

The Parish safeguarding details are at:
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 (please begin the message with 'SAFEGUARDING'), or on 01344 882933.

## St. Martin's 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

The Parish of Winkfield Cranbourne & Chavey Down

## Winkfield and North Ascot Good Neighbours Scheme

Since 1993, we have been providing a vital, low cost, community transport service. The Scheme is run entirely by volunteers, and its aim is to provide a helping hand to our neighbours. We provide door to door transport to essential medical appointments for our less mobile residents. For over 30 years we have made a huge difference to many of our neighbours who would have had to travel alone, take expensive taxi journeys, or struggle using public transport.

Should you need help to attend an appointment, simply call one of our friendly coordinators to discuss your requirements Monday to Friday, giving two days' notice:

Brenda - 01344 882975 Pat - 01344 886144

The Parish of Winkfield, Cranbourne and Chavey Down

**RANELAGH SCHOOL APPLICATION SURGERIES FOR INTAKE SEPTEMBER 2027**

by appointment only, from **10am-12 noon** on;
Wednesday **30th September**
Wednesday **7th October**
Saturday **10th October**
*or*
Wednesday **14th October**

please email: lesleyphilpot50@gmail.com

www.winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk

# Ascot Horticultural Society

## The History of Squire's Garden Centres
## A talk given by Sarah Squire

## Wednesday 9th September 2026

**Doors Open at 7:45pm**

**King Edward's Hall, King Edward's Road, Ascot, SL5 8PD**
**(200m on right hand side of King Edwards Rd )**

**Entrance: Members £1 Visitors £3 Includes refreshments**

**www.ascothorticulturalsociety.co.uk**
**facebook.com/groups/276880418187911**
Subject to change

# Local events and reports

## Ascot Horticultural Society

The Ascot Horticultural Society's meeting in September will be a talk by Sarah Squire on the history of Squire's Garden Centres. The meeting will commence at 8pm on Wednesday 9 September in King Edwards Hall, King Edwards Road, North Ascot; see flyer opposite.

## St Mary's Choirs and services

William returned from his tour with the Founder's Choir at the beginning of August. His time with us will end on the last Sunday in August. His two years have passed very quickly – and we are sorry to lose him. We wish him well for the future.

The choir has continued to sing at all services and will sing at a wedding at the end of August. Several members of the Junior Choir have also sung, either together or solo, at both Family Praise and Crafty Church services.

The children continue to read at Family Matins, Family Praise and Crafty Church services. And they will be singing the Lord's Prayer from the Chancel.

## St Mary's Women's Guild

As promised in last month's magazine, here are another few words about the wonderful afternoon tea at the home of one of our members.

Guild members (minus two who were not well) arrived in good time for an excellent afternoon. Most members thought the business of the meeting should not last too long – nor did it!! Then the tea arrived. Wonderful sandwiches, scones with jam and cream and cakes. All elegantly served. Many, many thanks to our member.

Our talks started again in August, a month earlier than anticipated.

## HODS – Heritage Open Days

St Marys will be open on Saturdays 12 and 19 September from 10am to 4pm.

On Saturday 12 September, there will be 'guided Power-Point' presentations, tours around the church, a quiz for the children and trips up the Tower, and refreshments will be available.

## *Bells, Bells and More Bells!*

Our tower bells have continued to ring out despite the recent heat. We only wish that we could open the windows in the tower to let some air in – unfortunately, they are sealed! The ringers may have been feeling the heat, but the bells certainly haven't let it stop them!

We hope you enjoy the regular sound of our lovely bells ringing out on Sundays and at our Monday evening practice. If you would like to have a look at the bells, or even have a go at ringing, you would be very welcome. Just contact Tony, pop along to the tower on a Monday evening at 7:30pm or speak to any of the bell ringers in church on Sunday.

And talking of bells, the handbell team kindly allowed me to lend our bells to the Region for a little trip up to Aberdeen for the International Handbell Symposium. 'A little trip' perhaps isn't quite the right way to put it - the event attracted over 600 ringers from 16 different countries!

I had an amazing week ringing and learning alongside people from all over the world. The days were long, the ringing was hard work and there was a considerable amount of bell-related concentration required, but it was enormous fun!

If anyone would like to see what happens when 600+ bell ringers get together, I have a couple of examples that I can show you. There were an astonishing number of bells involved, along with other instruments, and it really is quite something to hear!

The standard of ringing from some of the countries represented was absolutely phenomenal, and it was hugely inspiring to see and hear what can be achieved with handbells. I came home with plenty of ideas and, hopefully, a few new tunes and ways of ringing to share with our own ringers here. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn from such talented ringers and to bring a little bit of that inspiration back home with me.

It was a fantastic experience, and I came home with lots of new ideas, plenty of happy memories and, perhaps unsurprisingly, an even greater appreciation for bells in all their many forms.

So, whether you prefer your bells high up in the church tower or small enough to carry around in a case, there is always plenty of ringing going on, and you are very welcome to come and join us!

Jill Glennerster 07821131303

# Thoughts of All Sorts

## Pilgrimage for St Francis, everybody's favourite Saint

A group of Anglican Franciscans are close to finishing a three-month, 800-mile pilgrimage across the UK, to mark the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi.

The 80-day journey began in July in Alnmouth, in Northumberland, and pilgrims have been heading to Hilfield Friary, in Dorset, by September. They will then go on to the convent of the Community of St Clare (OSC), in Oxfordshire, and on to London, to the final destination, the Friary in Plaistow, Newham.

They are due to arrive in time for the global commemorations marking the death of St Francis, on the 2nd and 4thOctober. The pilgrims will join a service at Christchurch, Blackfriars in Southwark.

They have stayed in churches, homes, and parish halls. They will be joined by day pilgrims, and others doing just a short section of the pilgrimage.

More details available by emailing: pilgrimage800@franciscans.org.uk.

*More about St Francis is planned for the October mag.*

## Back to School

No matter how old we are, we can probably remember our first day at school – being left at the door, meeting children we did not know, separated from the adults we did know and had trusted since the day we were born. But on the other hand, there was the excitement: a big step along the road of life, new friends to make, another adult to become important in our lives. Yes, quite a lot to handle when you're rising five!

And that's what hundreds of thousands of children are going to experience this month. Parents may have prepared them for it, and they may in a slightly apprehensive way be looking forward to it, but it must feel to the five-year-old like a massive step into the unknown.

Not much less is the anxiety of mum, who leaves her precious child, proudly resplendent in their new school uniform, in the Reception class-room. Will he or she suddenly panic, and cry for that familiar parental cuddle? Will they feel abandoned in an alien setting? Will they like the teacher?

# Services in the Parish September 2026

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

**ST MARTIN'S CHURCH** **Common Worship Services**

| Date | Day | Time | Service |
|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 14th Sunday after Trinity | 9.30am and 10am | *Please join us at 10am in St Mary's Church for a Patronal Communion* |
| | | 4pm | Family Craft Café |
| 13 | 15th Sunday after Trinity | 9.30am | Family Praise |
| 20 | 16th Sunday after Trinity | 10am | Community Coffee Morning in St Martin's Church Hall |
| 27 | 17th Sunday after Trinity | 9.30am | Holy Communion |

**ST MARY'S CHURCH** **Book of Common Prayer Services**

| Date | Day | Time | Service |
|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 14th Sunday after Trinity | 10am | Patronal Service & Family Communion |
| 13 | 15th Sunday after Trinity | 10am | Family Matins, Bell Sunday |
| 20 | 16th Sunday after Trinity | 9.30am | Family Praise |
| | | 11am | Holy Communion |
| 27 | 17th Sunday after Trinity | 9.30am | Crafty Church |
| | | 11am | Morning Prayer |

**ST PETER'S CHURCH** **Common Worship Services**

| Date | Day | Time | Service |
|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 14th Sunday after Trinity | *Please join us in St Mary's Church for the 10am Patronal Service* | |
| 13 | 15th Sunday after Trinity | 11am | Holy Communion by extension |

| Date | Day | Time | Service |
|---|---|---|---|
| 20 | 16th Sunday after Trinity | 11am | Morning Praise & Prayer |
| 23 | Licensing service for Revd Andy Medlacott | | See details on page 4 |
| 27 | 17th Sunday after Trinity | 11am | Holy Communion |

## Back to School (continued)

Of course we'll be praying for them, and we know that like millions of others before them they will very probably eventually decide that their schooldays were among the best of their lives. But end of class can't come soon enough for mum on that first day! How wonderful when they come running out, laughing and excited, clutching a piece of paper with some obscure crayon marks on it – written evidence of their first day's education.

## The Ruthwell Cross

*This personal article is drawn from a sermon given by Bishop Michael Colclough, whose thoughts have often appeared in recent parish mags. Bishop Michael is the recently retired chaplain of the Mercers' Company of the City of London, with a long relationship to St Mary's church, as well as to the Editor, who was Master Mercer 25 years ago.*

Some time ago, I led a pilgrimage in the steps of the Northern Saints of British Isles, visiting holy places associated with early Celtic Christians such as Ninian, Columba, Aidan, Hilda and Cuthbert – great teachers and missionaries in their generations, who were true and faithful witnesses to Christ. One of those witnesses to Christ that we visited was not a place with rich memories of a person, a saint. It was, rather, the witness of a stone cross in a small church near Dumfries, the Ruthwell Cross. It is one of the oldest and most impressive preaching crosses in Europe. It stands 18 feet high, and dates from the 7th Century.

The Ruthwell Cross was made as a teaching cross in an age when many people could not read. It is covered with scenes from the Bible, carved pictures of the annunciation, the visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth and the flight of Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus into Egypt.

There are scenes from the life of Jesus – with John the Baptist, Christ healing the man born blind, Christ having his feet washed by Mary Magdalene and more. We see Christ crucified and Christ in glory. That

cross, in wonderful carved imagery, has presented people with the Gospel of Christ for 1400 years.

And that cross has witnessed to the history of the church in our land. After standing in Ruthwell for 1000 years, it was broken up following the Reformation; and for 180 years it lay scattered in the churchyard, until a new minister in the parish realised the importance of its witness and spent 24 years tracking down fragments of the cross and putting it all back together. If you are ever in that region, it is certainly worth a visit. *(See picture and continuation of this article on page 12.)*

I had not seen the cross before: and, as soon as I saw it and realised the effectiveness of its own particular witness to Christ, I felt challenged regarding my own witness as a disciple of Christ. This ancient cross still has something to say to us today.

With acknowledgements to Wikipedia Commons

Firstly, we are called to be like Jesus. In the letter to the Philippians, St Paul writes: "Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who ... being found in human form, humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death of the cross." (Philippians 2:4ff.)

We are reminded of the divine humility in Jesus, Jesus who emptied himself to be as we are in order to save us.

The Ruthwell Cross has a striking image of Mary Magdelene washing Jesus' feet in loving service. It was not long after Mary Magdelene washed Jesus' feet that we find our Lord washing the feet of his disciples. I often wonder whether it was the impact that Mary's washing had on Jesus that led him to do the same for his disciples.

We ourselves never know the impact of our own service for others – no matter how small or personal that service may be.

There is one non-Biblical scene on the cross at Ruthwell. It portrays two very early saints of the Egyptian desert: St Paul and St Anthony. The story tells us that the two holy men met and, ironically, had a contest in humility. Each insists that the other should take precedence and break the bread of the Eucharist. They decide to break the bread together – and the inscription reads, "Saints Paul and Anthony, two hermits, broke bread in the desert". Christians are called to be humble – not a popular idea in today's world.

Secondly, we are reminded that, if we are going to be like Jesus, we must stay close to Jesus. As well as the Latin inscriptions on the Ruthwell Cross you also see Runic carvings. Runic writing was a special language for sacred purposes that was in use between the 5th and 12th Centuries and the Ruthwell Cross gives us sections of the first English religious poem, 'The Dream of the Rood' ('Rood' is another name for Cross).

It's a poem that I had to read in Anglo Saxon at University – so I was thrilled to be reminded of the way in which the poet uses the cross itself to speak to us and invite us to contemplate the life and love of Jesus. And the poem portrays the Cross, speaking as the most faithful of Christ's disciples - it was the cross that stayed closest to Jesus at His crucifixion:

Here are a few lines from 'The Dream of the Rood': the Cross speaks:

"I lifted high a mighty king "*says the Cross*,
"Lord of the heavens, I dared not bend.
"With dark nails they drove me through:
"on me those sores are seen." (*You can find complete text online.*)

As disciples, we are to point people to Christ – just as that Scottish cross has done for 1400 years. In St John's Gospel, Jesus tells us that "the Son

of Man must be lifted up, so that whoever believes in him may have eternal life". It's sobering to reflect that we are all entrusted with things of eternal worth and value. What you and I do or say can change people – both in this world and the next. Our task is simply to encourage people to look to the Cross. It is by the cross that Christ has freed us from our sins. It is by the Cross that we have the freedom to know and approach the living God. It is by the Cross that death is defeated, and we can share in eternal life.

## Episode 67 – XdotD Associates

*Continuing Anthony Hodson's serial memoirs. The full set of memoirs can be found at www.fosmw.com/parishmag/an-interesting-life.pdf*

After leaving ICL in early 1993, I was essentially on my own now, trading with a newly registered business-name: 'XdotD Associates'. The D in 'XdotD' was the Roman letter for 500, and the main business (I expected) would primarily be related to X.500, the International Directory standard. I decided that XdotD would act as a sole trader rather than as a limited company. This was simpler to administer, paying tax (including VAT) quarterly on profit as one went along. This would keep taxation under control, although being a 'limited company' would have potential tax benefits. Not worth the effort, I thought, and I have never regretted it.

I decided to associate at the beginning with a small company based in Pangbourne that would help to market my services. They would also give me an office in Pangbourne as well as my home-office. I had one small project that I had established before leaving ICL; the Pangbourne firm would seek work for me for when my project finished, and we would agree the sharing of profits.

Six weeks later, I finished the initial project, and no new work had yet materialised from the Pangbourne company. Sitting that Friday at my home-office desk I wondered what I would do next, and the financial plan for my late career and our old age looked uncomfortably fragile.

As I was thinking about all this, the telephone rang, and it was Teo Dumitrescu, who was the manager of the Siemens team in Munich developing X500 and related products. He had been involved with the THORN projects (viz Episode 61), so we had long been colleagues.

Teo advised me that Siemens were putting together a consortium that was bidding for a big European Community contract to develop testing procedures and other material for the new X.500 and other OSI standards. Members included British Telecom, France Telecom, Deutches Bundespost, GEC and others. Would XdotD Associates be interested in

joining the consortium, to collaborate by delivering testing procedures for X.500 products? Teo was fairly certain that they would win the contract, but the work would not start for a few months.

XdotD associates thought about this for a millisecond or two and said yes. The contract would require delivery during the course of 1994. I was well prepared for the challenges of this kind of work, and, although not particularly exciting, it was solid and well-paid, and completely appropriate for what XdotD associates wanted to do. A very good start. I regarded this at the time as a sort of miracle, and was then, and have always been, deeply grateful to Teo for thinking of me for such a wonderful opportunity.

Ten minutes later, the telephone rang again and it was Steve Dooley. Steve was an old ICL colleague who had set up a successful IT consultancy company called 'Level-7', co-owned with Ian Valentine, an extremely able IT engineer who had been a project leader working for me on a big email project when I worked for Sperry Gyroscope. Ian also had left Sperry after I did to join ICL; he was to work on email standards before setting up Level-7 with Steve. He would become a world-expert on email.

Steve told me that Level-7 had a contract for week's course on the X.500 standards; the course was due to start in nine days' time, to be given at the ICL training centre at Beaumont, near Old Windsor, but it required 13 days of preparation. Would XdotD Associates be interested in delivering this course for them in the short available time?

XdotD Associates thought for another millisecond or two, and said yes, and the course was successfully given on time. This was the first of many training courses that I subsequently gave on X.500, in many locations in Europe and the USA, from Helsinki to Dallas, over the next 10 years or so.

The business from these two first assignments was clearly of my own making, and the Pangbourne company reluctantly agreed that they could not claim participation; so we separated, and, over the next 13 years, XdotD Associates was active and profitable beyond my expectations.

Teo telephoned me again a few weeks later. This time, he told me that would like me to contribute my knowledge and experience to the work that his team in Munich were undertaking for the development of 'DirX', Siemens' future X500 product. So, XdotD's success was further secured, and I collaborated with Teo and the Siemens team for the following years.

As a result, over the next few years, I worked with Siemens on system strategy and design for the core DirX design; later I was also involved as a software engineer in the development of a lot of ancillary software for the DirX system. This meant that I had contracts continuously from Siemens over 13 years: a vital part of XdotD Associates' business life: I was now an

established expert on X.500, not only as a lecturer, but taking on consultancy on related issues. Teo also became and remains a close friend.

During this period, I was never out of active contracts, and the resulting fees gave an income that was much better than would have been the case if I had continued with ICL. So, as it turned out, being let go by ICL was the best thing that could have happened.

I had been 57 in 1993, when XdotD Associates started, and I was painfully aware that old age was approaching, so a financial priority was making the best provision for Margaret-Anne and myself for retirement. I hired Margaret-Anne as my salaried Office Manager, started my own pension plan (and Margaret-Anne's too), and a lot of our income went into those savings. I was able to pay off the mortgage. We didn't live extravagantly, although we were able to spend money on some good holidays and family activities, and these included a big wedding day for daughter Lucy when she married Stephen in 1994. We also had a big family reception for James following a church Blessing Service in 2003 for his marriage to Marcela. (They had already been married in Colombia, Marcela's home country).

One day in 2006, Teo rang me, unexpectedly, with regrets, to say that Siemens had reorganised; his team had been moved to another part of the company and that they no longer had a budget for contracts with me. I quite understood; I was now 69, with pension income from ICL, and was happy to move on to the busy interests of a very active retirement.

But that was the end of my main professional life, after a long career of 46 years. It had started well in avionics, and it ended well as a recognised world expert in a small corner of Information Technology. It had indeed, by that time, laid down good financial provisions for our retirement income. My career had taken unusual turns, and there were certainly downs as well as ups – but these experiences proved important in a still-active life.

One of the blessings of my career was that it fitted beautifully and happily with our family life. Margaret-Anne and I had married in 1961, first living and West Hampstead, moving to Kent in 1962. We had the adventure of living in the USA from 1966 to 1970, first in Atlanta, and later in Darien, Connecticut. With two children by now, James and Lucy, we returned to the UK, living for a short while in London before moving to Berkshire.

We settled in Spring Lanes House in Bracknell when James was 12 and Lucy was 9, and this gave them both the settled home-place that I had not had as a boy, and, 50 years later, as I write, it is still our home. These memoirs have recorded some of the many family adventures that we have enjoyed.

By 1993, James was settling into his second job after Huddersfield, and Lucy had finished her education as a professional French Horn player and had started a musical career (augmented by other work)); she was by now engaged to be married to Stephen Head. So, both James and Lucy were now independent and had enjoyed the stability of our home location over their formative teenage years.

My parents, Harry and Margaret were now senior citizens by 1993. My father was 87 and still active as the editor of the long-established 'Annual Register of World Events' (since 1758!). He and his assistant Verena Hoffman collected news from all over the world to record in an annually published volume. My mother had retired as Chairman of the League of Friends of what became the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital and had fortunately recovered from a stroke. They lived in London in a flat in Lexham Gardens. Harry died in 1999, and Margaret in 2002.

Margaret-Anne's parents, Gerald and Hazel, were not fortunate in later old age. When Gerald retired, they had gone to live in a beautiful house in rural South Africa, where they were happy and comfortable, giving the best of paternalism to their staff, who loved them. Unfortunately, Hazel, who had successfully been breeding Welsh Ponies in South Africa, developed neurological problems following a fall from a horse, and it was becoming clear that they ought to return to the UK for her better medical care.

By that time, 1986, South Africa was making its transition to Independence and Gerald suddenly found that much of his wealth was locked into the country and was hugely diminished in value if they returned to the OK. This was such a shock to him that he had a major stroke from which he never recovered. He and Hazel had to return to England in 1987 with much reduced capital, settling in Somerset in a small house that they could afford. Gerald sadly died in 1990, while Hazel became steadily more disabled and died in 2005.

For both of us, our parents were much loved, and much missed.

However, my life-story is far from finished, for in 1996, an amazing, life-changing turn of events occurred – but that is for the next episode.

### *Appendix to Episode 67 - What is the 'X.500 Directory' for?*

A friend asked about the 'Directories' talked about in Anthony's recent Episodes: "I am not clear what the end use is of these Directories. Does it have a relevance perhaps hidden in our everyday computer use?"

It's a good question, but the answer – 'YES!' – needs explanation.

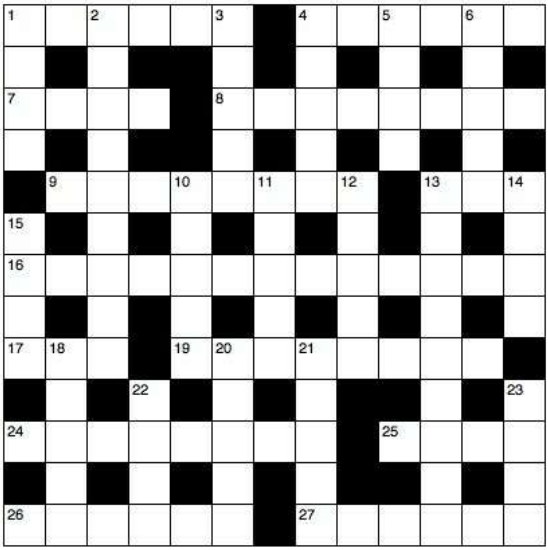
A Directory in general is a system that enables you to look up contact information about a person or object with which you need to

communicate. For example, a telephone directory gives telephone numbers (and addresses) for people or organisations with which you may want to communicate.

The X.500 Directory could have been used widely in this way to store email addresses as well telephone numbers and addresses, and X.500 would have had the advantage of having access control that would give some level of privacy. However, with the rise of Google and other such services that provided very powerful search strategies, theX.500 Directory would not be competitive in any way for that general public purpose.

However, X.500 was from the start created as the customised technology giving access to the 'certificates' used for identity management and to the certification authorities that provide their assurance of trustworthiness.

Websites accessed via a 'https://' prefix (e.g. 'https://fosmw.com') have valid certificates that can be used to validate the source identity of information from the website. Services to access valid certificates to obtain websites' digital signatures using X.500 Directory technology are deployed world-wide. That is the relevance. for Web trust, and it isn't hidden.



## Crossword puzzle

### Across

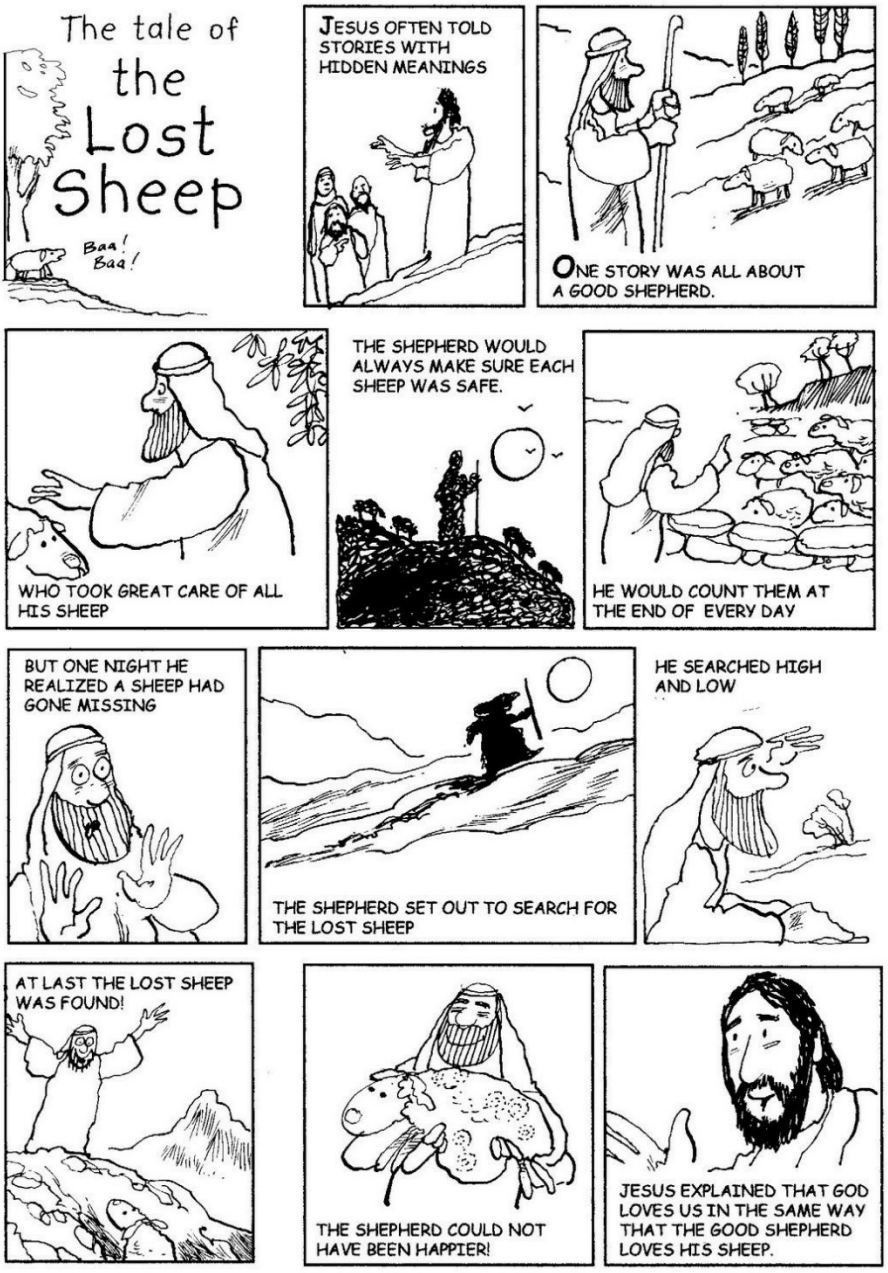
1 'Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders — in vain' (Psalm 127:1) (6)
4 Season of the year (Psalm 84:6) (6)
7 'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. — here and keep watch with me' (Matthew 26:38) (4)
8 It came over the whole land from the sixth to the ninth hour on the first Good Friday (Luke 23:44) (8)
9 Paul invariably did this in the synagogues he visited on his missionary journeys (Acts 17:2) (8)
13 'It is God who works in you to will and to — according to his good purpose' (Philippians 2:13) (3)

16 Members of the Church of Scotland (13)
17 'Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountain side and — down' (Matthew 5:1) (3)
19 Mock (Luke14:29) (8)
24 Disgrace (Psalm 44:13) (8)
25 First month of the Hebrew calendar (Exodus 13:4) (4)
26 Christianity of the Britons before Augustine arrived from Rome( 6)
27 Mean (Numbers 35:23) (6)

**Down**

1 'Whoever finds his life will — it' (Matthew 10:39) (4)
2 'My lord the king, let the — — on me and on my father's family, and let the king and his throne be without guilt' (2 Samuel 14:9) (5,4)
3 O raid (anag.) (5)
4 'If two of you on earth — about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven' (Matthew 18:19) (5)
5 Take care of (1 Samuel 17:15) (4)
6 What the older son heard as he came near the house the day his prodigal brother came home (Luke 15:25) (5)
10 'Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with — judgment' (Romans 12:3) (5)
11 Do ten (anag.) (5)
12 Architectural style first used in Greek temples in the sixth century BC (5)
13 Capable of being used (1Kings7:36) (9)
14 'Each one should — his own actions'(Galatians6:4) (4)
15 Among the items imported by Solomon's fleet of trading ships (1 Kings 10:22) (4)
18 'But I am afraid that just —— was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray' (2 Corinthians 11:3) (2,3)
20 Outstanding 18th-century hymn writer, — Watts (5)
21 One of the four sons of Asher (Genesis46:17) (5)
22 Be distressed (Proverbs24:19) (4)
23 He was the father of Gaal, who threatened rebellion against Abimelech (Judges 9:28) (4)

**ACROSS**: 1, Labour. 4, Autumn. 7, Stay. 8, Darkness. 9, Reasoned. 13, Act. 16, Presbyterians. 17, Sat. 19, Ridicule. 24, Reproach. 25, Abib. 26, Celtic. 27, Intend.

**DOWN**:1,Lose.2,Blamerest.3,Radio.4,Agree.5,Tend.6,Music. 10, Sober. 11, Noted. 12, Doric. 13, Available. 14, Test. 15, Apes. 18, As Eve. 20, Isaac. 21, Ishvi. 22, Fret. 23, Ebed.

# Children's Corner