

Winkfield, Cranbourne and Chavey Down Parish Magazine



October 2026

CONTENTS

A message from Revd Andy Medlicott	2
A message from the Lay Chair	3
From the parish registers for August 2026	4
In memoriam	4
Notices	5
Local events and reports	7
Services in the Parish –October 2026	10
Thoughts of all sorts	14
Crossword Puzzle	22
Children's Corner	24
Annex	25

This magazine is available on the web at www.fosmw.com or www.winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk . Some paper copies are available in the Winkfield churches on or after the last Sunday of each month. The printed magazine has 24 pages this month. The web version has 30 pages.

Reprinted 21-Sep-26

Winkfield, Cranbourne and Chavey Down Parish Magazine – October 2026

A message from Revd Andy Medlicott

Hello Winkfield, Cranbourne and Chavey Down!



A lot has happened since I took the occasional service in the parish back in May...

I am excited to be joining you all shortly, taking an extended placement over the next twelve months to complete my training. I will be working three days a week in and around the parish, plus Sundays. It has been really lovely to begin to get to know some of you and see all the great things you have been doing during your lengthy vacancy. I look forward to continuing this voyage of discovery!

I come from St Michael's in Bray where I have been for the past five years. But I have lived, worked and worshipped in the Bracknell area for the last 30 years. I still live there. My wife, Becky, is also ordained and a college chaplain at Shiplake College near Henley. We have a teenage daughter, Emma, and two cocker spaniels, Milo and Tilly.

My experience of church is varied. Before Bray, I was part of Warfield church, where I was an enthusiastic lay leader. During those years I was involved in a number of congregations, including St Andrew's in Priestwood where I sensed God calling me to ordained ministry. Wanting to gain some experience of cathedral worship, I studied at 'vicar-factory' in Salisbury just as lockdowns lifted. During training I held down a full-time software engineering job. I have enjoyed this variety of styles of worship and spirituality. I hope this will stand me in

good stead as I continue to get to know the different churches within your parish.

Though I am not yet licensed, I have been attending services whenever I have been free from responsibilities at Bray. I have also taken a couple of weddings and a baptism during August! After licensing, it will be lovely to be able to draw alongside you all and offer some consistency and support as we look to the future.

Take care and God bless,

Andy

A message from the Lay Chair

On behalf of the PCC and Parish I would like to welcome the Revd Andrew Medlicott to the Parish of Winkfield Cranbourne and Chavey Down and we hope that he will enjoy his time with us.

That's the formal welcome – now on to the less formal!

We are absolutely delighted to welcome Andy into our Parish. We also extend a warm welcome to his wife, Becky, daughter Emma and their two beautifully behaved dogs, Milo and Tilly. His enthusiasm, his spirituality, care and ability to get on with people are just what we need – and, most of all, he wants our Parish to be loved again. We in Winkfield certainly want that, and we will love him in return.

There will be new challenges for him to relish, and he brings a wealth of life experiences into his new role. We are so fortunate that this opportunity arose and so grateful that the Bishop and Archdeacon have made it happen.

Initially, Andy was worried that we were happy to have him come just because no one else seemed to want to join us, but NO, as we have assured him, that was never in our thinking. We knew that we had to have the right person, and we had been advised over a year ago that we should never accept anything less – and we haven't, as you all will discover over the next year.

Our prayers have been answered, and we will move along new pathways with Andy as our guide and leader. We ourselves will still be expected to work hard, as we have many issues to attend to over the next year and we pray for our success in dealing with them, success that will lead to the Deanery Synod Pastoral Standing Committee recommending the appointment of a permanent minister.

Our job as a PCC is to make sure we look after Andy as much as he will look after us. We now look forward to his special Licensing Service at St Peter's Church on 23 September 7pm at which we can celebrate Andy becoming our Curate in Charge.

We very much look forward to working with you, Andy!

Andrea

From the parish registers for August 2026

Baptisms

Georgia Weaver was baptised in St Martin's church on Sunday 23 August

Adam Blunden was baptised in St Martin's church on Sunday 23 August

No confirmations have been reported

None

Weddings & Blessings

Victoria & Ian Evans were married in St Mary's church on Friday 14 August 2026

Poppy & Harry Sawdon were married in St Mary's church on Saturday 22 August 2026

Rachel & Josh Fitzpatrick were in St Peter's church on Saturday 29 August 2026

No funerals have been reported

In memoriam

James Hodson 1963-2026

We report with great sadness the untimely death on 25 August of James Hodson, aged 62, son of Margaret-Anne and Anthony Hodson, editors of the parish mag, after a long fight with cancer. His bravery and fortitude set an example for us all. He leaves his beloved wife Marcela and son Michael aged 21.

His contributions to the Winkfield parish mag over the last year, with a brief account of his life, can be found at:

www.xdotd.com/CJHdec/d/James-recollections.pdf

Notices

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.

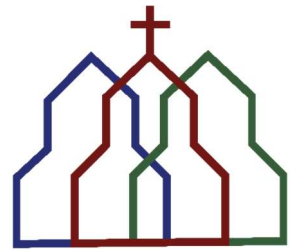
Should you have any Safeguarding concerns, please contact the Church Office at safeguarding@winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk (please begin the message with 'SAFEGUARDING'), or on 01344 882933.

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



Ascot Horticultural Society
'Our Local Butterflies'



A talk by
Brian Clews

Wednesday
14th October 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.ascothorticulturalsociety.co.uk
facebook.com/groups/276880418187911

Local events and reports

Ascot Horticultural Society

The Ascot Horticulture meeting for October will be held on 14 October at 7:45 pm in the King Edwards Hall, North Ascot. The speaker will be Brian Clews talking on Our Local Butterflies.

Non-members will be most welcome. Do come and join us!

A Lasting Tribute to Mary Knight (1931-2019)

A beautiful stained-glass panel has recently been installed at St Martin's Church, Chavey Down, as a lasting tribute to the life and work of Mary Knight.

On 13 September 2026, the completed panel was revealed to the congregation and members of Mary's family during a special Service of Dedication led by John Kimbell.



Mary was a much-loved member of our community and, over many years, gave generously of her time, skills and knowledge. She was a teacher, a church leader and lay minister at St Martin's, and contributed enormously to the life of the church, the Church Hall and the wider Chavey Down community. She was also a founder and Life President of the Chavey Down Women's Institute.

The parish wanted to find a fitting way to recognise all that Mary had contributed, and the Friends of St Martin's felt

that a stained-glass panel would provide a particularly appropriate and lasting memorial.

The idea for the panel was developed by Michael Dickinson, Hilary Atkinson and Margaret Smith. Sadly, Michael died after a short illness last year, but his involvement in the project remains an important part of its story.

Finding the inspiration for the design took some time, until Candlemas — one of Mary's favourite services — provided the answer. The finished panel beautifully reflects Mary's faith, her work as a teacher and her many interests.

The lily is a symbol of the Resurrection of Christ and represents rebirth and hope, while the candle represents the light of Christ. Daisies represent innocence and humility and, along with lilies, are a symbol of purity. The daisies also have a special significance as the symbol of the Women's Institute, of which Mary was a founder and Life President in Chavey Down.

Look closely and you will also see bees amongst the flowers. These represent Mary's industrious nature, while their collection and transformation of nectar into honey provide a lovely metaphor for the acquisition and sharing of knowledge – particularly appropriate for someone who spent so much of her life as a teacher. The Bible reflects Mary's Christian faith and her work as a lay minister.

The panel was designed and created locally by Caroline Loveys, a member of our parish, whose beautiful and thoughtful work has brought all these elements together. Caroline is a professional artist, specialising in stained glass, and we are so lucky to have her in our midst. Her skill and artistry in creating the panel will long endure as a visual joy in our celebration of Mary and her life.

The Friends of St Martin's, the congregation and Mary's family would like to thank everyone who contributed so generously towards the cost of the panel. The wonderful response from local parishioners and residents of Chavey Down meant that the funds were raised very quickly.

This beautiful stained-glass panel is now part of St Martin's and will remain as a lasting reminder of Mary – her faith, her dedication, her love of learning and, above all, the many ways in which she enriched the lives of those around her.

St Mary's choirs and services

William Bishop gave his final performance at the August Crafty Choral Matins service. The Junior Choir performed at this service, and both they and the adult choir presented him with gifts. John Kimbell, our Authorised Lay Minister, thanked him for all he had done for St Mary's during the last two years. His mother and a colleague joined the choir Crafty Choral Matins service.

Our new organist Logan Williamson directed the choir rehearsal before the 2026 Patronal service led by our Curate, Rev Andy Medlicott, on 6 September. The rehearsal went well and was followed by a good service. Several of our extra singers performed that day.

We welcome both Revd Andy Medlicott and Logan to our Parish.

Heritage Open Days

St Mary's opened for Heritage Open Days on Saturdays 12 and 19 September. There were guided tours around the church, and on 12 September, the tower-bell ringers provided trips up the tower. There was a quiz for the children and jigsaws for the children. We welcomed those taking part in Ride and Stride throughout the Day. Refreshments were available.

Bell Sunday

Sunday October 13 October was Bell Sunday at the St Mary's Family Matins service. Thirteen of the children read the bible passages and prayers. The Junior choir performed. The bell ringers provided the sermon about bell ringing; they also demonstrated their bell ringing expertise, and the service ended with trips up the tower.

St Mary's Guild

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Margaret Blackburn a very long-standing member of the Guild. She offered her home for so many of our gatherings. There will be a celebration of her life at Windsor race course in November. Details will be advised when known.

At our September meeting, Judith Usher gave an excellent talk on the Berliner – a daily British military train that ran 145 miles between West Berlin and East Germany from 1945, all through the Cold War and on until 1991. We have booked Judith for 2027.

Local events and reports continue on page 11

Services in the Parish October 2026

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

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH

Common Worship Services

Date	Day	Time	Service
4	18 th Sunday after Trinity	9:30am	✠ Harvest Family Praise <i>followed by</i> Harvest Brunch
		4pm	✠ Celebrating Harvest Craft Café
11	19 th Sunday after Trinity	9:30am	Family Praise
18	20 th Sunday after Trinity	10am	Community Coffee Morning <i>in St Martin's Church Hall</i>
25	21 st Sunday after Trinity	9:30am	✠ All Saints & All Souls Memorial Service <i>followed by</i> said Holy Communion

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Book of Common Prayer Services

Date	Day	Time	Service
4	18 th Sunday after Trinity	10am	Family Communion
11	19 th Sunday after Trinity	10am	✠ Family Matins, Harvest Festival
18	20 th Sunday after Trinity	9:30am	Family Praise
		11am	Holy Communion
25	Last Sunday after Trinity	9:30am	Crafty Church
		11am	✠ Morning Prayer in commemoration of All Saints' & All Souls' Day

ST PETER'S CHURCH

Common Worship Services

Date	Day	Time	Service
4	18 th Sunday after Trinity	11am	Family Praise for Harvest
11	19 th Sunday after Trinity	11am	Holy Communion
18	20 th Sunday after Trinity	11am	Morning Praise & Prayer



Food Donation Ideas:

A TYPICAL FOOD PARCEL CAN INCLUDE:

Long life milk	Long life fruit juice	Tinned meat
Tinned vegetables	Rice Pudding	Cooking Sauce
Cereal	Tea/coffee	Biscuits
Tinned fruit	Tinned tomatoes	Tinned puddings
Stock cubes	Oil sprays (small)	Cooking sauce
Rice	Instant Mash	

Please no; pasta, baked beans, tinned soup, baby milk or fresh food

Parcels can also include:

Deodorant	Shampoo	Shower gel
Soap bars	Toothpaste	Toothbrushes
Toilet paper	Sanitary products	
Washing up liquid	Spray cleaner	Laundry capsules
Baby wipes	Nappies (sizes 5 & 6)	



All Saints & All Souls Services

There are notelets at the back of each church for you to let us know loved ones you would like remembered in this year's service.

Please complete them and return to your service leader,
Churchwardens; Anne & Lesley or the Sides Teams

Alternatively, please email the church office using subject line:
All Souls Service .

Local events and reports (continued)

St Mary's Bellringers: a weekend of bells

It was certainly a busy weekend for the bells!

On Saturday, the church was open as part of Heritage Open Day, and fifteen people came to look around the bell tower. I think that must be a record number! It was lovely to welcome so many visitors and give them an opportunity to discover more about our tower and its bells.

Then, on Sunday, we celebrated Bell Sunday, with bells featuring throughout our worship. We enjoyed two lovely hymns, and several of our children read beautifully for us.

The handbells and hand-chimes performed *Aura Lee*, perhaps better known as *Love Me Tender*. There was also a short talk about the International Symposium I recently attended, followed by a demonstration of how the tower bells ring simple changes. This was done by having people in a row, moving around with handbells and number cards - a simple way of showing what can otherwise be quite a complicated process!

It was great fun, especially when members of the congregation were invited to have a go themselves.

As usual, at the end of the service everyone was invited to visit the tower. Dozens of people took up the invitation and climbed the steep spiral staircase to have a go at chiming the bells. They then ventured further up to the clock chamber, and finally to the bell chamber at the top of the tower, where they could see our beautiful bells at close quarters.

It was a wonderful weekend of sharing our bells, their music and their fascinating history with both visitors and members of our congregation. A big thank you to everyone who helped make it such a memorable celebration!

Jill Glennerster 07821 131303

Woodley Concert Band Autumn Concert 10 October

Woodley Concert Band (WCB) musicians have supported the Parish by playing in the Winkfield's big Music and Merriment community concert for a number of years. The band is a well-established and award-winning local wind-band.

Join us for an evening of colour, contrast and joyful music as we present “Musical Kaleidoscope” on October 10th at Bulmershe School. A kaleidoscope is bright, with changing patterns, and always joyful – that is exactly what you can expect from our autumn concert. And we are back in our local venue with good comfortable seating, easy access by public transport and plentiful parking.

We have a lively arrangement of the *Mickey Mouse March* to get your toes tapping and the cheerful *Entry of the Gladiators* – the

The poster features a vibrant, multi-colored geometric pattern resembling a kaleidoscope, with various shades of blue, green, yellow, and red. Confetti is scattered throughout the design. At the top center, the word "web" is written in a white, cursive font inside a dark red rectangular box. Below this, the text "Woodley Concert Band" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The main title "Musical Kaleidoscope" is prominently displayed in a large, bold, yellow, serif font with a black outline. A dark grey rectangular box in the center contains the text "A dazzling evening of vibrant, uplifting music for everyone!" in a white, sans-serif font. Below this box, the event details "Saturday 10th October at 7pm" and "The Bulmershe School, Woodley" are written in a white, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the website "www.woodleyconcertband.org.uk" is listed for tickets and information. A small red box at the very bottom contains the text "REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1059259".

web

Woodley Concert Band

Musical Kaleidoscope

**A dazzling evening of vibrant,
uplifting music for everyone!**

**Saturday 10th October at 7pm
The Bulmershe School, Woodley**

Visit www.woodleyconcertband.org.uk
for tickets and information

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1059259

unmistakable theme of circus clowns everywhere – will take you straight to the big top. For something more adventurous, Paul Hart's *Cartoon* conjures up everything you might expect from a classic crazy cartoon, with the help of lots of percussion. *Festivo* by Edward Gregson brings a different kind of energy with exuberant, changing rhythms which we know you will love.

For those who love a touch of the Proms, there are familiar favourites too: Wood's *Fantasia on British Sea Songs* (featuring *Rule Britannia*) and Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance March* (Land of Hope and Glory), both featuring Dani May, our fabulous guest singer.

Old favourites and new discoveries come together in a concert which will definitely brighten your October evening!

Tickets: £15 Adults £13 Concessions (over 65's) £5 Under 16's

Tickets can be booked online at:

www.woodleyconcertband.org.uk/autumn-concert-2026-musical-kaleidoscope or by phoning our box office: 0118 211 8261

FREE TICKETS! WCB First Timers Scheme If you've never been to a WCB concert before, we'd be delighted to offer you a **FREE** ticket to our concert under our **First Timers** scheme. All we ask in return is that you sign up to our mailing list (you can unsubscribe at any time) and fill out a short survey after the concert. These tickets must be booked in advance via our box office phone number.

Thoughts of all sorts

Be nice to your knees

Osteoarthritis is the main cause of knee pain in people over 50. Here are some tips that may help:

Be aware of the several major groups of muscles that support your knees. They include the quadriceps at the side and front of your thighs, the hamstrings at the back, and your calf muscles. If you can give these muscles regular exercise that keeps them strong, they will help protect your knees.

Be aware that your knees *like and need* to move. Using them less is one of the worst things you can do, because it only weakens them. If you have bad osteoarthritis, then ask your doctor for alternative ways of exercising them, instead of walking.

Be aware that knees do better when you lose weight. Just losing one kg of body weight will bring down the compressive force on your knees by as much as 4kg with each step. That will help preserve your knee cartilage.

It seems that doctors disagree over the value of taking supplements such as glucosamine or turmeric, but they say that if you find they work for you, then certainly keep taking them.

800 years since the death of St Francis of Assisi

The Rev Roy Shaw looks back on St Francis' life and the contribution he made to the world

You'll have heard of Giovanni di Pietro di Bernadone, although he is more probably familiar as Francis of Assisi. On 4 October we will mark 800 years since his death; such was his fame, influence and holiness that he was declared a saint by the Pope less than two years after his death.

Francis was born into a prosperous family of silk merchants in Assisi, central Italy, probably in 1181. As a young man he loved clothes, spent money lavishly, and enjoyed a reputation of a jack-the-lad, pleasure-loving and irresponsible. But experience both as a prisoner of war and of illness led him to think deeply about his life, although it took some time for this reappraisal to bear fruit.

Just outside Assisi was the ruined chapel of San Damiano, and it was here that he felt God speak to him, asking him to "repair my church, which as you can see, is falling into ruin". Little did Francis know at that point that 'repairing my church' meant much more than repairing this simple chapel – a task he set about doing.

Francis became known for his devotion to Christ and also his commitment to the poor and bereft. Others were attracted to join him in preaching the gospel and serving the poor. Eventually this was organised into a congregation of poor men (friars), which today we know as the Franciscans.

He established a Rule of Life for these men, later revised as more joined them. A sister organisation, the Poor Clares, was founded for women who wanted to give their lives to God and the service of the poor. Two years before his death, in a period of intense prayer, he is said to have displayed the *stigmata* - the wounds of Christ - in his hands and side.

By then he was increasingly ill; blindness and malaria took its toll. He died aged just 45.

Simplicity was a hallmark of his life, which has come down to us in a number of ways. Care for the environment is one way; being patron saint of animals is another. World Animal Day is marked on the same day as Francis' death. Many churches will be holding a 'Blessing of the Animals' service, often a cheerful riot of barking dogs, hissing cats, rats and mice in cages, even a stick insect, and horses tethered outside. Is there one in your area where you could take your pet to be blessed?

We should see Francis as a visionary and inspirer, who, impelled by the love of Christ, was able to give himself to, and draw others to, a life of service to the poor, care for the environment, and prayer. By the time he died, there were Franciscan friars over much of Europe. Today, inspired by his legacy, his followers – friars, sisters and lay people – are found all over the world.

One of Francis' prayers asks God 'to grant us the grace to do for You alone what we know You want us to do, and always to desire what pleases You.' That could be a good rule of life, a star, for each of us to live by?

Episode 68 – The 1990s

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

The 1990s in the Hodson family were life-changing. Our children James and Lucy were now adults, and had started their careers and were forging their own style of life. My own parents were in their 80s, but were still keeping busy (my father remained busy until his death in 1999 aged nearly 93, despite a significant stroke). At the beginning of the decade, my brothers Nick (55), Daniel (45) and Charles (34) were in mid-careers and had their own families. I was 52.

James was 26 years old in 1990, and had graduated in 1988 with a degree in accountancy studies. He took a job with Rolls Royce in Derby, where their aero-engine business was based (this seemed appropriate for his interest in aeroplanes), and later obtained his private pilot's license. Being driven in the air around England was an experience enjoyed by family and friends, and I remember a happy day flying over the South Downs to the Isle of Wight, landing for lunch at grassy Sanddown Airport (which doubled as a golf course in those days).

James had obtained his pilot's license in Florida, and it seems likely that choosing the USA was in part influenced by our having lived in the USA on immigrant visas from 1966 to 1970. There we made some lifelong friends who, I think, were delighted to be visited by occasional Hodsons travelling in their directions.

Lucy had gained a good music qualification at Trinity College of London, majoring in French horn, and was trying to start a career as a musician; this was difficult, and she found that she had useful skills in art, design and marketing that boosted her income and enabled her to be independent.

She also remembers James's flying skills: in 1992 she accompanied him to Florida (he had his pilot's license by then) where he planned to train and qualify at night flying, followed by free holiday time with a chartered 6-seat Cessna. This turned out to be quite an adventure. The two of them flew to Atlanta, where they were joined by Webb Richmond, son of our next-door neighbours when we lived in Dunwoody, Georgia in the mid 1960s, who were great friends.

They decided to fly to the Jazz City of New Orleans and had a great time listening to real New Orleans music and eating seafood. Webb was a big man, an ex-US Marine, so they could visit the less salubrious parts of New Orleans with confidence that Webb could deal with any attempted trouble.

Flying back to Atlanta, they all had to make an emergency stop at a country airfield, where they were helped by kindly local, astonished at the unexpected visitation from above, and bewildered by the English accent in an area that spoke 'Southern drawl' – the local Georgian accent.

Webb's father Jim was able to pick them up from there, and I think he had obtained a spare for the broken engine component, so they were able to fly on to Atlanta (probably without Webb, for his safety). James and Lucy were subsequently able to go on to Richmond, Virginia, to visit our dear friends from Atlanta days, Prof. Ellis West and his wife Phyllis.

I think that that was the end of dodgy flying adventures, for a few years but Lucy recalls that Ellis took James and herself in his car to visit the Blue Mountains. Ellis was not much bothered by speed limits (actual or implied) or closeness to cliff edges, so Lucy reports that she kept her eyes shut for most of this excursion.

For our part, having finished paying school fees, Margaret-Anne and I were feeling more adventurous financially. I had travelled widely on my work with the X.500 international standards over the late 80s, and we took the opportunity to travel more widely ourselves on holiday, not only visiting European capitals but also the USA. Our last family holiday, with the children, was to Crete in 1989, then we did our own thing.

Apart from the south-eastern USA, where our old friends from Atlanta days lived, we found two favourite corners of America. These were the Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming and Maine, at the very northeast corner of the USA, and we made several visits to both.

Yellowstone is famous not only for stunning scenery but also for its geothermal activity and wildlife: bison, bears, elk and moose (to mention just the larger creatures). The big 'Old Faithful' geysir is world famous. Moose are stated to be among the most dangerous animals, and on one of our visits, we came within ten feet of a big bull moose that was hidden in the woodland near the Snake River. We suddenly saw it and it saw us. We moved very quietly, and I managed to take a photo (right).



However, holidays were not the only important activities for Margaret-Anne and myself and the family. Episode 67 recorded that, in 1992, I was advised by ICL, my employer, that the product that I had been developing for the company would be moved to the Midlands; I had the choice of moving or redundancy. That was an unexpected and very scary development that led in 1993 to my setting up my own little consultancy, XdotD Associates, in the useful corner of Information Technology in which I had been working for some years. XdotD had a shaky start that threatened all my future financial and retirement plans. As it turned out, XdotD Associates was very successful, thanks to a long-term association with Siemens in Munich, and other products of

networking over the previous years. The plans for the future became steadily more secure until I retired from professional IT work in 2006.

This was just as well, as in 1994, my daughter Lucy Head announced her engagement to Stephen Head, and we were able to give them both a good wedding day in 1995. They were married in St Mary's church Winkfield by Simon Baynes, the then Vicar of Winkfield.

The other main life-development came out of the blue. I had been a member and liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Mercers of the City of London since I was 21, but with a busy professional career that (with family activities) consumed all my time and energy, I had not been in a good position to join committees or become a governor of Mercer schools, although, I had always been very interested in the Company's great philanthropic and educational work. If possible, I attended the General Courts in which the membership met and were informed about Company activity and news.

My father Harry Hodson had been Master Mercer in 1964/1965, and (as has been the tradition) remained for life as a Past Master an active and influential member of the Mercers' governing body.

After the December 1995 General Court, I was approached by the Clerk of the Mercers' Company (he is the chief adviser and executive officer of the Company), who asked me whether I would like to join the progression of Wardens that (after 3 years) are normally appointed to become Master Mercers.

The Mastership is a huge and responsible position that entails chairing the Court of Assistants and other committees, as well as taking part in many public and Mercer functions. Many of these functions require having to make speeches, some formal, some not so formal. For a year one becomes a VIP in the City of London's public activities.

Why had the Mercers chosen me? Nobody knows the answer. I was clearly intelligent and, of significant current interest, my career had been in computery, and I could be in a position to help the Company to embrace IT up to modern standards. I evidently was considered sociably personable and presentable enough, I could tie a white bow tie for big dinners, and, of course, was the son of my distinguished father.

I said to the Clerk that I must consult my father, who said that of course I should join the progression. I would become Master (if elected) in 2001. The post would entail about 50% of my time, and so would impact my professional career in XdotD Associates, and I had to decide whether

that would be viable. I decided that I could fit it into my professional activities, and contacted the Clerk accordingly. It would 'cost me' real income, but it was a unique opportunity and privilege to be invited.

And so, subject to approval by the Court of Assistants, I was put forward. I was interviewed by the Court of Assistants in their meeting that followed the March 1996 General Court, and they approved my joining the Court, starting in April. I became Master Mercer in 2001

And so, in 1996, began a life-changing experience as a senior member of the Mercers Company, dedicated to its philanthropic work.

9/11 – a horrific personal experience

This unique account of the appalling terrorist attack on the twin towers of the World Trade Centre, twenty five years ago, on 11 September 2001 comes from Bob and Nancy Colin, friends of the editors, who lived in a flat a few hundred yards away from the 'Twin Towers'. We have not altered or edited the account, which we keep as five photocopied manuscript pages that the Colins sent to close friends after the event.

Perhaps you too, will remember where you were and what you were doing at 8:47am on Tuesday 11 September 2001. Because of our proximity to the WTC, coupled with an unobstructed view of the twin towers from our kitchen picture window as well as from our terrace, that moment in time is indelibly etched in our minds!

Bob was beginning his day with a cup of coffee and the Wall Street Journal spread out on our new counter in the just-remodelled kitchen. Phyllis was completing her daily back exercise routine (flat on the floor). The dull drone of a jet plane, an explosion, and a fire of bonfire proportions jolted us Phyllis' initial reaction was: "do you think a pilot got blinded by the intensely bright sun?" My early reaction was different based on my knowledge of the buildings, the approximate number of people that work there and pass through the lower concourse during the commuter hour – I guessed that could mean as many as 5000 casualties.

The second hit to the second tower, just 18 minutes later, was totally unexpected – UNBELIEVABLE! Although the plane slammed into the building from the south (our view), we missed that moment but saw everything else: the fire / smoke / explosions / black / white / the disappearance of both magnificent towers! That smoke rushed towards our building four blocks away and within minutes had pasted inside and out with a film of grey ash!

The power went out; water had been cut off, and telephone lines were inoperative. We were instructed by Fire Dept. officials to evacuate the building and move to a cove along the Hudson River at the South end of our building. Police and fire officials inspected any and all packages, handed us a large bottle of water, a life preserver, and lifted us on a police boat, and we were ferried across the river to Jersey City, NJ.

Now what?... We were Displaced Persons! Fortunately we knew NJ (Bob in particular He was a commuter from NJ to NY for years).... We decided to walk from Jersey City to the railroad – bus Path tubes at Hoboken terminal about 1½ miles away, hoping that something would be moving somewhere which would ultimately enable us to get to our home in Westbrook Connecticut, along the Long Island Sound 100 miles away from NY. One bomb scare at the Hoboken Terminal caused a delay of a few hours. Finally, transportation started to move. We chose a train going north paralleling the Hudson River and the NJ side and ended up in Suffern, NY. Kind people there drove us to a car rental location, and, after a glitch or two, we were driving across the Tappan Zee Bridge at 7:30pm enroute to Westbrook safe ? YES ! sound? Yet to be determined!

None of us will forget the surrealistic movie scene of what will prove to be the largest single terrorist attack in world history and it's only begun.

An aside [from Phyllis]

Evacuate - immediately!! Quick, grab your stuff and move out – what do you grab? Not thinking logically I grabbed my cheque book, toothpaste – but no brush, handbag, wet washcloths and a bathing suit and cap. Why? Who knows? No I was not planning to swim across the Hudson River to NJ.

Bob grabbed the cooler with ice, bread and some Turkey breast, his trusty briefcase stuffed, a hammer (?), a screwdriver (?) and two pairs of binoculars!

Yes, we did remember our cameras and used-up rolls of film before arriving in NJ.

It is now Monday, 17th of September. On Saturday 15th of September, we returned to NYC and to Battery Park City. After waiting an hour with other residents, we were escorted the final mile to and from our building by a National Guard officer. We spent about 20 minutes grabbing up the things we had forgotten - emptying out the refrigerator, taking more pictures of the void now in the skyline and the

debris everywhere! Outside our kitchen window on the street amidst all the clutter are 20 Port o’ Johns [portable toilets] and 20 showers and footbaths for the rescue dogs.

As of this writing we do not have power or phones; We are staying in Connecticut. We thank you for all your prayers and concerns.

God bless America! And all of you.

Much love

Phyllis and Bob

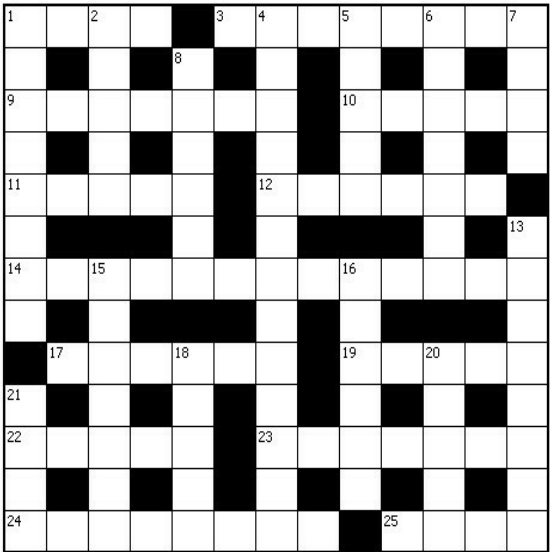
***Note from the Eds.** Anthony had just started his year’s term of office as Master Mercer (see previous article,) and, on the day of the attack was having a light lunch by himself at home, watching BBC TV news. The streamed footage showed the shocking impact of the second passenger plane hitting one of the twin towers. It soon became clear that this was a dreadful terrorist attack.*

The following day, a big meeting for all members of the Company had been called to discuss whether the Mercers should admit lady-members for the first time for 180 years, and Anthony feared that a copy-cat terrorist attack was possible on London. The Clerk and I discussed the matter, and we decided that the meeting should go ahead. There was no attack next day on London and, ten months later, we did indeed admit the first lady Mercers for all those years.

Crossword puzzle

Across

- 1 ‘Those who were standing near Paul said, “You — to insult God’s high priest?”’ (Acts 23:4) (4)
- 3 They were assigned to guard the tree of life (Genesis 3:24) (8)
- 9 ‘Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the — of — , the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite’ (1 Samuel 1:1) (3,4)
- 10 Surrender (Joshua 24:23) (5)



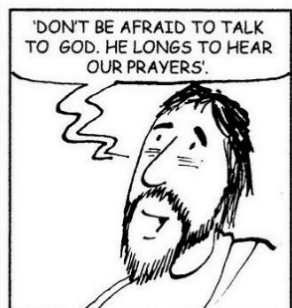
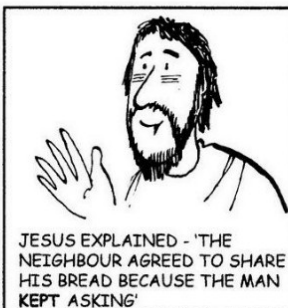
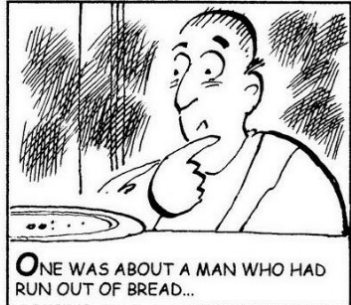
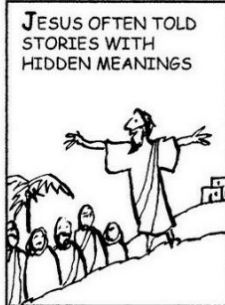
- 11 Where American livestock can be reared (5)
- 12 Listen (anag.) (6)
- 14 Alternative name for Kiriath Jearim (2 Samuel 6:2) (6,2,5)
- 17 He founded Westminster Abbey, — the Confessor (6)
- 19 Hebrew word for the place of the dead (5)
- 22 Allies of Persia in the fifth century BC (Esther 1:3) (5)
- 23 Where John Wesley was forced to preach a lot (4,3)
- 24 Rebellion against God; abandonment of religious belief (8)
- 25 Note (anag.) (4)

Down

- 1 Give an account of (Mark 4:30) (8)
- 2 'I — — the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free' (Psalm 119:32) (3,2)
- 4 'He took the ephod, the other — — and the carved image' (Judges 18:20) (9,4)
- 5 'You are a chosen people, a — priesthood' (1 Peter 2:9) (5)
- 6 The meek, the merciful and the mourners are all this (Matthew 5:4-5, 7) (7)
- 7 Musical Instrument Digital Interface (1,1,1,1)
- 8 He was the son of Nun (Deuteronomy 34:9) (6)
- 13 'Let the little — come to me' (Matthew 19:14) (8)
- 15 'About three thousand were — — their number that day' (Acts 2:41) (5,2)
- 16 In John's vision, the wall of the new Jerusalem was made of this (Revelation 21:18) (6)
- 18 'Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly — a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ' (Philippians 3:20) (5)
- 20 'Glorify the Lord with me: let us — his name together' (Psalm 34:3) (5)
- 21 Young Men's Christian Association (1,1,1,1)

ACROSS	1 dare; 3 cherubim; 9 son Tohu; 10 yield; 11 ranch; 12 enlist; 14 Baalah of Judah; 17 Edward; 19 Sheol; 22 media; 23 open air; 24 apostasy; 25 Eton
DOWN	1 describe; 2 run in; 4 household gods; 5 royal; 6 blessed; 7 MIDI; 8 Joshua; 13 children; 15 added to; 16 Jasper; 18 await; 20 exalt; 21 YMCA

Children's Corner



Annex

Who is the Son of Man? (St Matthew 16:13-20)

A sermon delivered by Bishop Michael Colclough for the 12th Sunday of Trinity. Bishop Michael is the retired chaplain of the Mercers Company of the City of London, which has connections to St Mary's church.

Jesus asked his disciples: "Who do people say the Son of Man is? ... who do you say that I am?"

"A disturbance", could well be our answer, from a canter through St Matthew's Gospel. King Herod disturbed not to distraction but to destruction when he heard rumours of a new boy king on the block. Mary and Joseph disturbed when, for the Child's safety from Herod, they fled into Egypt.

Things didn't improve with age: disturbance for families and businesses when Jesus invited Peter, Andrew, James and John to leave their homes and follow him into the unknown future of his roving ministry: "Follow me and I will make you fish for people".

After the Sermon on the Mount, St Matthew tells us that "The crowds were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not like their scribes". The disturbance of true authenticity which showed itself again in the people Jesus called to follow him like Matthew, a hated tax collector working for the occupying forces of Rome. And Jesus's reply to criticism: "Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy not sacrifice'. For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners".

People were disturbed with awe at some miracles: "What sort of man is this that even the winds and the sea obey him?". And "They were filled with awe, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to human beings" when he healed the sick. The disturbance of wonder and awe.

Don't forget those disturbing words about commitment to Jesus and his mission: "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have come not to bring peace, but a sword". Yes, for some people, following Jesus would involve a new set of priorities: even leaving family and home for the sake of the Kingdom.

His 'wisdom and deeds of power' caused the people of his home-town of Nazareth to question his authenticity: "Is not this the carpenter's son

... Where then did this man get all this? And they took offence at him". Disturbance for the familiar and it causes offence.

Of course, others, like the Canaanite woman whose daughter was healed, did give a positive response to Jesus, who said, "Woman, great is your faith. Let it be done for you as you wish". But the religious authorities, the Pharisees and Sadducees, continued to be suspicious and demanded signs from heaven.

Jesus's disturbing presence made people question and revise their views about God, about Jesus, about themselves and about their neighbours.

Today, in the midst of such disturbance we hear Jesus posing the question, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" There's an easy answer for any Jew who knew their history, because the prophets of Israel had always been the disturbers of the land. They spoke God's word fiercely against ungodly kings and called wandering people back from the comfort of false idolatries to worship the one true God. People like Elijah or Jeremiah, or even the last of that prophetic line whom people of Jesus's day knew in the flesh, John the Baptist. Yes, Jesus was made in the mould of the prophets, the mouthpieces of God. Historical reflection and comparison are easy but next comes the crunch question: "But who do you say that I am?"

The disciples obviously admired and trusted Jesus, otherwise they wouldn't be there at Caesarea Philippi with him. But this is the disturbing Jesus, not the "gentle Jesus meek and mild" of Wesley's hymn, and Jesus pushes those disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" He asks for more than the admiration of a fan club.

Peter realises that even the highest of human categories are inadequate to describe Jesus. He answers with insight and faith, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God". Peter proclaimed what he recognised from all he had seen and heard from Jesus. He says, in effect, "You are the true king, the one Israel has been waiting for, God's adopted Son: "You are the Messiah". Now we're in a totally different ball game.

If Jesus is the true king, the rulers and authorities of this world had better look out, because there's going to be a new style of rule and authority that will go beyond them and their national borders. It will call for a commitment deeper than they expect, as Jesus calls people into a community that will give its ultimate allegiance and commitment

to him as God's anointed King. These will be the people called to establish God's Kingdom and live the life of heaven here on earth. Peter, with his declaration of faith, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God", Peter is the start of this community.

Because of his faith, Peter is called the 'rock' on which Jesus will build his Church. Praise indeed. In the Old Testament it is God himself who is referred to as the 'rock' for His people: "The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer" we sing in Psalm 18. Jesus shows confidence in humanity as he entrusts the future of his people and his mission into Peter's hands.

But we all remember that tragic bleep in Peter's discipleship when the 'rock' crumbled slightly and Peter denied that knew Jesus on the night before Jesus died. But what would I have done under the pressure of fear and isolation among those who were the enemies of Jesus? And Peter redeemed himself after the Resurrection when he three times declared his love for Jesus. New reconciliation with Jesus giving Peter the confidence to leave the past behind and embrace the leadership of the young Jerusalem Church. There he witnessed to Jesus with a courage and commitment that led to his imprisonment.

Peter, the rock, had the foresight and security to welcome the newly converted St Paul into the leadership of the Church. He supported Paul's mission and journeys to extend the teaching and fellowship of the Church beyond its Jewish roots into the Gentile world, and it was in that world, in the city of Rome, that St Peter was crucified for his faithfulness to Jesus.

Such things Peter could never have imagined in his Galilean fishing boat of old. What changed, what emboldened him? It was, surely, the difference Jesus made to his life. In knowing Jesus and being disturbed by Jesus, Peter discovered that he had more to himself than he'd ever dreamt, realised he had potential that he'd previously been unaware of. Knowing Jesus showed Peter not only who he was but who he could become, a true child of God, made in God's image and reflecting God's glory and love.

"You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God." St Peter's discernment and statement of faith are important to you and me. If we truly imitate Peter's response to Jesus, we also will discover hidden depths, new potential in our own lives and, by these discoveries, we shall find God and glorify Him here and now in His world and our lives.

The question is: are we willing to risk exposing our lives to the disturbances or even the winnowing sword of 'the Messiah ... the Son of the Living God'? I believe it's worth the risk because, after all, they're nothing other than the disturbances and the winnowing sword of God's homely yet infinite love.

100 years of Winnie the Pooh

One hundred years ago, on 14 October 1926, the children's book *Winnie-the-Pooh*, by A A Milne, was published.

It was set in the Hundred Acre Wood, an innocent world described as 'largely Edenic' but based on Ashdown Forest in East Sussex, which the Milne family often explored from their home in nearby Hartfield. It came about through the encouragement of E H Shepard, Milne's colleague on the humorous magazine *Punch*, who provided the beguiling illustrations.

Alan Alexander Milne was firstly a playwright and occasional mystery story writer who, again with Shepard, wrote the book of children's verse *When We Were Very Young*, which contained the seeds of *Winnie-the-Pooh* and its sequel, *The House on Pooh Corner*, all of which proved extremely popular.

It was apparently during a family visit to London Zoo, where Christopher Robin encountered a tame bear called Winnipeg, that the book was conceived. 'Winnie's literary friends, such as Piglet and Eeyore, were originally toys of the real Christopher Robin.

Sadly, the book eventually had an adverse effect on the Milne family. The author said that he felt 'amazement and disgust' at the fame his son had had thrust upon him: "I do not want C R Milne to ever wish that his name was Charles Robert." 'Nevertheless, the son did become estranged from his parents, especially following his marriage to his mother's niece.

The effect of the book on others has been happier. 'A plaque at Ashdown Forest declares that Milne and Shepard "captured the magic of Ashdown Forest and gave it to the world".

Despite creating a kind of Eden, Milne, who was a pacifist, said little about religion. 'But he did say on joining the Home Guard that "in fighting Hitler we are truly fighting the Devil, the Anti-Christ ... Hitler was a crusader against God."

Uncle Chris's collection of short stories

Regular readers of the mag will remember that we had an article in February 2025 and later editions of the mag about Peter Frost's 'crafty short stories', written to fund-raise for Ukrainian children. This article brings Peter's project up to date.

Pete is a local North Ascot author who has written three books ("Uncle Chris's Collection of Crafty Short Stories") which are collection of mystery short stories with a twist at the end of each story. Money generated is sent to the charity 'World Vision' which help Ukraine and African children. The short stories are so good that four of them were read out live on air on Berkshire Radio recently. Pete will also be interviewed on Marlow Radio at the end of the month.

The books have been well received by the public and to date £2000 has been sent to the charity. Updated book sales will be known end of October and it is hoped that we will get to the target of £3000.

Each book contains fifteen mystery stories where each only takes ten minutes to read and the challenge for the reader is to "Get the twist before the twist gets you!!"

Pete has been to a number of Rotary, Women's Institute and U3A clubs as a speaker to tell them about the books and the charity. He even reads a story to see if the audience can "Get the twist before the twist gets you!!" If you know a group who would like a speaker please let him know (petefrost@hotmail.com). He can even advise on how to avoid fraudulent publishers (from experience).

If you would like to see an example of a story then visit: [Instagram#craftyshortstories](https://www.instagram.com/craftyshortstories).



Binfield Warfield Winkfield Arts Week 2026

The website www.arts-week.org is now ready to view for the events in the 2027 Arts Week which runs from Sunday 25th October – Sunday 1st November 2026.

The 2026 Binfield Warfield Winkfield Arts Week is for local residents in the three Parishes, it runs from from Sunday 25th October – 1st November 2026. This free community Arts Week of many events (and the Arts and Crafts Exhibition) is organised and fully funded by the three local Parish Councils of Binfield Warfield & Winkfield. Full event details are on www.arts-week.org. Tickets will be available online from 12.00 midday on Sunday 4th October 2026.

Bookable Tickets will all be released from 12noon on Sunday 4th October at www.ticketsource.com/artswEEK.

This year there are 29 Craft, Art or Music events for all the family in venues across the Parishes. All children's events are free access and reserved for residents of Binfield Warfield or Winkfield.

Jonathan Greenyer
Creative Consultant
Binfield Warfield Winkfield Arts Week
artswEEK@windsor-artists.org
01344 882 702
07768 513 436

Three-day Art & Crafts Exhibition

The three-day Art & Crafts Exhibition at Brownlow Hall is FREE to enter for local artists and creatives who live in the three Parishes. Visitors enjoy free admission and free parking. It is held at Brownlow Hall, Newell Green, Warfield from 30th Oct to 1st Nov 2026 11-4pm each day.