

Winkfield, Cranbourne and Chavey Down Parish Magazine



November 2026

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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.

Winkfield, Cranbourne and Chavey Down

Reprinted 17-Oct-26

Parish Magazine – November 2026

A message from Revd Andy Medlicott

Revd Andy's licensing service

Thank you everyone!

There was quite a buzz in the air at my licensing, with St Peter's full of people from the parish of Winkfield, Cranbourne and Chavey Down, as well as from Bray! To have both Bishop Mary and Archdeacon Stephen license me and celebrate with us is quite something. It shows their commitment to our parish.

Thank you to everyone who came, and to those who helped organise and run the service. Everything went very well, and the church looked beautiful. I was especially thrilled when people I know from Bray commented on how friendly my new parish is. I am glad they have seen what I have experienced.

On the following Sunday, my licence was certified at St Martin's, so it's all official now. You're stuck with me!

Since then, it has been a whirlwind of a couple of weeks. I have met many new people at services at St Mary's, St Peter's and St Martin's. I spent a fun evening having a go at bell-ringing. I have become a trustee of three Winkfield charities, enjoyed collective worship at St Mary's Primary School and met many children and parents through a series of Ranelagh application surgeries. So many lovely people.

I am conscious that my arrival is an exciting time, but these activities are only possible because of the hard work of so many people over the years. Particularly encouraging is the number of confirmation candidates we have. At the beginning of October, I presented three candidates to Bishop Mary, all of whom have long-standing links with St Mary's. In January, I expect to present at least two candidates from St Martin's.

So thank you all. I look forward to meeting more of you over the coming months.

Take care and God bless,

Andy



From the parish registers for September 2026

No baptisms or confirmations have been reported

No weddings or blessings have been reported

The following funerals have been reported:

The interment of the late Glenna Platt took place on 4 September in the Memorial Garden of St Mary's Church, led by Revd Andrew Medicott.

The interment of the late Gavin Gordon took place on 10 September in St Peter's Church Cranbourne, led by Revd Catie Watson.

The interment of the late Lydia Hinkley & the late Lynn Wilkin took place on 18 September in the Memorial Garden of St Mary's Church, led by Revd Andrew Medicott.

The funeral of the late Margaret Blackburn took place on 22 September in St Mary's Church, led by Revd Andrew Medicott; the service was continued at the Easthampstead Crematorium

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.

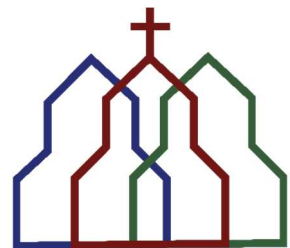
Should you have any Safeguarding concerns, please contact the Church Office at safeguarding@winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk (please begin the message with 'SAFEGUARDING'), or on 01344 882933.

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

Local events and reports

A Double dose of Agatha Christie from CADS in November

Cranbourne Amateur Dramatic Society will be performing 2 short Agatha Christie murder mysteries at the end of November. 'The Rats' and 'Butter in a Lordly dish' are dramatic and compelling with all the intrigue and plot twists that audiences have come to expect and enjoy from the undisputed 'Queen of Crime'. The armchair sleuth is easily caught out when things are not as they seem. Being staged in a beautiful country church building only adds to the atmosphere of mystery and drama.

Directed by Joel Embury, the show will take place: , the show will take place:

- At 7:30pm on 25, 26 & 27 November 2026.
- In St Peter's Church, Hatchet Lane, Cranbourne, Winkfield SL4 2EG.
- With a bar for refreshments before the show and in the interval between the plays.

Tickets can be ordered via Ticketsource when available. Check our website <https://cadsact.org.uk/tickets>

Music and Merriment 2026

Our popular community concert will take place this year at 7:30pm on Saturday 5 December 2026, and will again display the talent that we have in our parish and its local area.

It's not just a carol concert, although the audience will have their share of Christmas carol singing. Our young people are well represented, not only by mega-talented violinist Sarah and the amazing virtuosic piano playing of Sergey, both of whom entertained us last year, but also, as in previous years, by the Junior Concert Choir. These children from local schools, trained to perform to a high standard, will sing under the skilled direction of Lucy Head.



And as in past years the St Mary's handbells will display their growing talents, and the music will be supported by Alan Rapley on the organ and Len Tyler's 5T's Brass quintet. There will be festive readings, and of course there will be free mulled wine and mince pies in the interval.

What a grand way to start the Christmas season! Online tickets will be available as in past years via the Friends of St Mary's website www.fosmw.com.

St Mary's choirs and services

The Harvest Festival took place at Family Matins on 11 October. The Junior choir performed and several of the children took part in the short Harvest play. Several of them also read the Bible passages and prayers. The Junior Choir rehearsals now take place on Wednesdays in the church at 5pm.

We thank the extra singers who sang with us during late September and early October services.

St Mary's Guild

The Memorial Service for Margaret Blackburn will take place at Windsor Race-Course on Thursday 12 November. Members of the Guild have been invited to attend.

The Friends of St Mary's Winkfield
PRESENT A NEW

Music & Merriment Christmas Concert

A UNIQUE CONCERT OF LOCAL DIVERSITY AND TALENT
TO GET EVERYONE IN THE FESTIVE MOOD

7:30pm Saturday
5th December 2026
St Mary's Church
Church Road, Winkfield SL4 4SF

FEATURING



SENSATIONAL
VIOLINIST
SARAH



SERGEY
THE POWERFUL
PIANIST



THE 5T'S
BRASS QUINTET



THE HARMONIOUS
HANDBELLS



JUNIOR
CHILDRENS CHOIR
AND AUDIENCE SINGALONG CAROLS
<https://fosmw.com/concert/>



SOLO
SINGERS



READERS



FREE
MULLED WINE
& MINCE PIES



TICKETS

£14

(£7 FOR UNDER 13S)



TICKETS AVAILABLE



Online at
<https://fosmw.com>



Purchase at St Mary's services



01344 483347

Three Guild members visited Audrey de Verinne at the end of September just one week before her 100th birthday. She was in good spirits and pleased to see us. We enjoyed seeing her and presented her with a card and a gift.

Friendly Faces

Members of Friendly Faces were pleased to welcome Revd Andy Medlicott to their October meeting.

St Mary's Bellringers

The tower bells have rung for all the Sunday services as usual, and it has been a busy and enjoyable few weeks for the bell ringers.

Heritage Open Day was very popular this year, with fifteen visitors making the climb up the tower. The following day was Bell Sunday, which was also a great success. The tower bells welcomed the congregation, followed by the handbells ringing at the end of the service.

In between, I gave a short talk about my trip to Aberdeen for the International Handbell Symposium, and this was followed by a demonstration of how we 'move' the tower bells around to achieve different sounds. Volunteers then had a go themselves, with great success – well done to everyone who joined in!

Those who wanted to do so could then make the annual climb up the steep tower steps to have a go at chiming the bells in the ringing chamber, before going even further up the very steep ladder to the bell chamber to see our beautiful bells.

If you missed this event but would like to have a go at ringing, or would simply like to see our lovely bells, please speak to Tony, who will be happy to arrange a visit. Alternatively, just come along on any Monday evening at 7.30pm and join us for our weekly practice session. You will be very welcome!

We also enjoyed our annual ringing outing, visiting Cookham with its ten bells, Hitcham with six, Burnham with eight and Stoke Poges with eight. Each tower was very different, both from each other and from our own bells here at Winkfield, and each presented its own challenges. It was a great way to spend a Saturday! We finished the day at a local hostelry with a much-needed cup of tea and cake.

Many of the ringers also attended the licensing service for Revd Andrew Medlicott at St Peter's Church and thoroughly enjoyed the occasion.

The church was packed, with a large number of people from all the churches and a great many clergy to welcome and support Andrew. It was a pleasure to welcome him to the tower last Monday to have his first try at bell ringing!

Finally, we bell ringers are a handy lot! We spent a lovely sunny morning chopping up a fallen tree at the back of the churchyard. It was hard work, a great team effort and well worth it to see the area clear and safe again.

If you are curious about bell ringing, why not come along and see what we do? We are always happy to welcome new members to either hand or tower ringing!

Jill Glennester 07821131303

Windsor Great Park Horse Ride

This is a timeless event that just gets better! It was run at one time for the Windsor Lions by Peter Vaughan, a leading Winkfield figure.

Windsor Lions club were delighted with the outcome of their annual Cross-Country Horse Ride in Windsor Great Park last weekend – and – more importantly – so were the 650+ riders who took part and helped to raise more than £50,000 for Charity. The event has been running in a broadly similar format for more than 50 years but is still enjoyed by new riders each year.

But this year two riders highlighted the continuity and longevity of the ride. Mother and daughter Debbie and Nikki journeyed all the way from Dover to take part in the ride – both having participated back in 2016. Ten years ago, Nikki rode Tara and this year Tara had another outing, this year with Mum, Debbie on her back! When asked what brought them back to the ride, Nikki commented 'It is just such a beautiful setting – the ride is relaxed, calm and very well organised – and all the riders are so well-behaved.'

The money raised by Windsor Lions historically goes to a variety of local good causes – some equine-based such as Riding for the Disabled and Blue Acre Stable – as well as others like Thames Valley Adventure Playground and Well Windsor. The funds also go towards the grass-roots work the club carries out, such as their annual Silver Spring Party for older folks and a Prostate Cancer Screening event that provides a free opportunity for men's prostate health to be checked.

Local events and reports continue on page 11

Services in the Parish November 2026

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

Please note that St Martin's Patronal Service will take place at St Martin's church at 10am on 1 November.

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH

Common Worship Services

Date	Day	Time	Service
1	4 th Sunday before Advent	10am	Patronal Communion
		4pm	Family Craft Café
8	3 rd Sunday before Advent	9:30am	 Remembrance Service
15	2 nd Sunday before Advent	10am	Community Coffee Morning <i>in St Martin's Church Hall</i>
22	Christ the King	9:30am	Holy Communion
29	1 st Sunday of Advent	9:30am	Morning Prayer

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Book of Common Prayer Services

Date	Day	Time	Service
1	22 nd Sunday after Trinity	<i>Please join St Martin's Church for the 10am Patronal Communion</i>	
8	23 rd Sunday after Trinity	10:45am	 Remembrance Service
15	24 th Sunday after Trinity	9:30am	Family Praise
		11am	Holy Communion
22	Sunday Next Before Advent	9:30am	Crafty Church
		11am	Morning Prayer
29	1 st Sunday in Advent	10am	Crafty Choral Matins

ST PETER'S CHURCH

Common Worship Services

Date	Day	Time	Service
1	4 th Sunday before Advent	<i>Please join St Martin's Church for the 10am Patronal Communion</i>	

Date	Day	Time	Service
8	3 rd Sunday before Advent	10:45am	 Remembrance Service
15	2 nd Sunday before Advent	11am	Morning Praise & Prayer
22	Christ the King	11am	Holy Communion
29	1 st Sunday of Advent	11am	Morning Praise & Prayer



Remembrance Services at St Mary's and St Peter's Churches will begin at 10.45am in church. The Service Leader will direct us outside to the War Memorial for a time of silence.

Windsor Great Park Horse Ride (continued)

The Mayor of Windsor, Councillor Sian Martin and her Consort, husband Tim, enjoyed a visit to the park where they were given a tour of the ride, escorted by Windsor Lions President Phillip Simpson. He was delighted with the outcome of the ride, commenting: 'every year we are amazed at the number of riders who come along to support the ride. We are so grateful for their participation and help in raising such an amazing amount of money to fund our work in the community. We are also so thankful for the support given to us by the Park Authorities – we never forget what a privilege it is to be able to use the park – nor do the riders.'

Woodley Concert Band Autumn Concert 10 October



The Woodley Concert Band had a great performance on the stage of the great hall of Bulmershe school in Woodley on 10 October, with a popular programme that ended, like the Last Night of the Proms, with

Henry Wood's Sea Songs and Elgar's Land of hope and Glory from his famous Pomp and Circumstance march.

Quite a few of the performers have performed over the years in Winkfield's Music and Merriment Christmas Concert.

Family Chringle & Gift Service

Sunday 6th December at 11am

St Peter's Church, Cranbourne



Please donate;
a new toy for a child
toiletries for an adult
Christmas biscuits
or sweets
for Bracknell Foodbank



Family Craft Café *Chringle*

**Sunday 6th December
at 4pm
in St Martin's Church
Chavey Down**

A family hands-on service incorporating;
an orange, sweets & ribbon
to explain and celebrate Christmas

**The
Children's
Society
2026**

WWW.WINKFIELDANDCRANBOURNE.ORG.UK



Thoughts of all sorts

Remember them ...

'In Flanders' fields the poppies blow between the crosses, row on row, that mark our place: and in the sky the larks, still bravely singing, fly scarce heard amid the guns below.'

This is the first verse of John McCrae's poem, first published in Punch magazine in 1915. It soon came to symbolise the sacrifice of all who died in World War One. Today, the poppy remains an important symbol of all those who have sacrificed their lives in conflicts over the years. But why do we remember them?

'They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.' (Micah 4:3). Writing 700 years before Christ, Micah spoke at the time when Samaria was captured due to the invasion of Assyria. However, he prophesied a future of hope, a world where nations would come together in peace rather than war. His words are fulfilled in the kingdom of God established by Jesus.

Our understanding of *peace* is more than simply the absence of conflict. It is about building relationships between people, communities and nations, founded on love and justice for all. As we remember those who have died in war, we should look practically at how we can build such relationships, beginning with our own families, colleagues and neighbours. *'We will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.'* (Micah 4:5). Let us ask God's Spirit to make us people of peace, justice and compassion for today's world.

'They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them.'

Episode 69 – Joining the Mercer Court of Assistants

Continuing Anthony Hodson's serial memoirs. In episode 68, Anthony records that in 1966, he was unexpectedly invited to join the Court of Assistants of the Mercers' Company, the premier Livery Company of the City of London. This was a huge honour, as it would normally lead to being Master Mercer (as indeed it did), a responsible job with public aspects that was rated very highly in the life of the City of London.

Livery Companies are these days the surviving social manifestations of the ancient city guilds, many of which are dedicated to philanthropy. To give

better understanding of these companies and of the Livery Movement that they represent, you can find an article on page 22 in the Annex part of this parish magazine. It gives a broad explanation of what all this is about.

In early April 1996 I attended my first meeting as an Additional Assistant or the Court of Assistants of the Worshipful Company of Mercers, the City of London's seniormost Livery Company. This was a special occasion for me, a huge and unexpected privilege, and one that would lead (if elected) to my becoming Master Mercer in July 2001 for a year up to July 2002.

The Court of Assistants is the main governing body of the Mercers Company, a property-owning fraternity of fellow-Mercers, dedicated to philanthropic work of all kinds, particularly with regard to education and sheltered housing for old people. The chairman of the Court is the current Master Mercer (the 'Master'), usually with one year of tenure. The Master is supported by three Wardens; in order, these are the Renter Warden, the House Warden, the Upper Warden (the next in line to be Master). The top warden is the Master Mercer himself. Each year wardens normally progress to the next higher position, with the Upper becoming Master.

There are one or more Additional Assistants, recruited to progress annually towards becoming Renter Warden, and I looked forward to becoming Renter Warden in July 1998. The role of additional assistant is a kind of apprenticeship into achieving Wardenship and eventually Mastership, 'if elected'. The Mercers' Election Court takes place in early July, on the first Friday of the week following the 7th July, the Saint's Day of the Translation of St Thomas of Acon (otherwise known as Thomas a Becket). The Election of Wardens and the Master usually follows the expected progression, as almost a formality, but not always, as a result of death or other mishap.

After their Master's year, past-masters remain members of the Court, and until recently membership was for life, although it was normal for past-masters quietly to retire, by just not showing up at Court when they felt that their time had come. At that time, in the late 1990s, there were several members of the Court who reached their 90s, including my father, Harry Hodson. He reached his 90th birthday in May 1996 just after I joined the Court. He was at that time very much an active member of the Court, with formidable intellect and wide knowledge of the world through his life-long journalistic experience.

St Thomas is the patron saint of the Mercers' Company, and today's Mercers' Hall, located on Cheapside in the centre of the City of London, where fellowship and meetings normally take place, is very close to the birthplace of St Thomas. Mercers' Hall is a relatively new building, following the bombing and destruction of the previous Hall in 1941. It was

opened for business in 1958, just before I was admitted to membership of the Company that same year, aged 21.

As a Liveryman, I was already a full member of the Mercers, and I knew many of the members of the Court of Assistants as they were prominent members of the Company, and some I knew well. William Clarke, the Master who had now led my inclusion as an Additional Assistant, was part of my parents' circle of family friends. Others I had met occasionally. Becoming a member of the Court of Assistants, however, launched one into a close fraternity of Court members, able to take part in informal but significant discussions of Mercer affairs and other subjects (although, at that time, not permitted to speak in Court without pre-arranged invitation by the Master).

In those days, the Court (of Assistants) met fortnightly. Court meetings were based on pre-circulated Court papers that normally followed discussion in the meetings of the Master and his three Wardens. Papers were by the Clerk of the Mercers' Company and his specialised advisory staff (some Mercer employees, some engaged as consultants). Court meetings were normally short and were an opportunity for members to pose questions and express opinions. Matters that had been put forward for resolution in the Court papers were usually well known and voted through unanimously (with the occasional abstention, and, rarely, one or more votes against). The Master as Chairman had the duty to recognise lack of general agreement on a resolution before a vote was taken, and issues could be taken back for the Clerk's 'executive' to rethink, or possibly just abandon.

This style of operation was traditional and generally worked very well, with fundamental courtesy and tolerance. Many of the most important issues were the subject of lunch-time discussions, where good will was enjoyably maintained over a delicious meal and excellent wines.

At that time, the general membership of the Mercers Company was male only, but the possibility of introducing women had been raised 25 years previously and turned down by the narrowest of margins by the Court of Assistants at the time. The issue was coming up again seriously during my time as an Additional Assistant and Warden, and I was very much in favour. I remember at one lunch sitting next to a very senior past master, John Powell, who said to me (I was then House Warden): "I hear that you're in favour of admitting women, Anthony."; I agreed that that was so. "In that case," he said gently with a smile: "I'm NOT looking forward to your being Master!". In the event, when admitting women was agreed upon, John Powell was the issue's leading supporter in the senior membership of the Court!

So I had become a member of a group of friends with the common purpose: to govern the Mercers Company as best they could. They were diverse in their experience and career paths, and some had been brought in as members in a post-war move to strengthen the quality of the Court of Assistants. More traditionally, some were members of families that had managed to gain above average membership of the Company.

For example, in 1996, there were three Court Watneys: Adrian (a senior lawyer, bringing in legal expertise), Duncan (a GP who saw a duty in Mercer members to contribute new money to philanthropic resources), and David, with a career in human resources (often adding his own differing opinions).

The Palmers were a second major family; the seniormost was John, Earl of Selborne, family name Palmer, with his brother Harry Palmer. John was a delightfully modest person, although a distinguished scientist and an FRS, as was Harry; both very able and much loved as friends, and often with wise but unconventional views. John Palmer was already a personal friend.

Roger Lane and my father Harry were the leading nonagenarians, both from well-established Mercer families. The Wathen brothers were descendants of a leading Norfolk banking family, with a strong interest in education. Mark, the older Wathen, was a clergyman.

It was David Vermont who was the Company's leading voice and authority on church matter (the Mercers had several 'livings' in a number of areas of England). He and my father Harry had also been leading exponents of the re-establishment of Gresham College (of which more later); I also became much involved with Gresham College, with a lot of support from David.

Francis H Tate (always known as Tony) and John Fenwick were leading business figures who had been brought into the company in the post-war strengthening of the Court, with wise views from their own perspectives. Tony Tate had died just before I joined the Court, but was now represented in a new dynasty by his son David, who became Master in 1997. Tony was a close friend of my father-in-law Gerald Incedon, so David was a childhood friend of my wife Margaret-Anne.

William Clarke (known as Smokey), who had introduced me to the Court, was an Art Historian, and the fact is that Court Members (including the many that I haven't mentioned for lack of space), brought great diversity of backgrounds, to which I was now adding Information Technology. This breadth of experience was of much more importance to the Mercers Company than the 'grandness' that might be associated with seniority in the powerful world of the City of London.

Another new addition to the Court was Michael Graham, who, following a stellar career in a leading City company working in insurance brokerage

and other financial services, had successfully progressed to become a young Lord Mayor of London (becoming Sir Alexander Graham). Of particular interest closeness with the Corporation of the City of London, with which the Mercers had for centuries been closely associated.

Of younger Court members, my two predecessors, Dick Withers Green and Richard Cunis, whose Mastership I followed, had been pupils at St Pauls Boy's school, a Mercer school, and their interest and keenness for the Mercers took them into the company.

One other Mercer personage must be mentioned – the Clerk. The Clerk of the Mercers' Company – and for all livery companies – is the organising king pin and leader. He (or she) keeps detailed track of everything that goes on in the Company – not only activities of the members of the company, but also of the administrative and management backup that supports the companies working, in philanthropy, membership, stewardship of assets, both at the governance level. and in the detailed functioning of the company down to the lowest administrative detail.

The Clerk is also the guide and helper to each Master, in terms of procedure and protocol, and efficient working of Mercer decision making, and can hire and fire and engage external resources. The Clerk is also the primary point of call for external City and Livery affairs.

Michael Wakeford was Clerk of the Mercers Company for 24 years from 1974 to 1998. A lawyer by profession, he became an expert in property (appropriate for a property-owning company like the Mercers). He also was strongly interested in developments in educational practices, of deep interest to the Mercers and their involvement in schools and education and this earned him an eventual knighthood.

He was also sensitive to the way in which IT was gradually changing working practices in organisations large and small. It was he who took a specific interest in the chartering of the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists in 1992, to become Livery Company number 100 in precedence. And it was he who tapped my shoulder to suggest joining the Court of Assistants.

The careers and experience of Masters, and therefore Court membership, then as now, was very diverse, as noted earlier. This was a good thing, as the world was changing fast in the 1990s, and these changes would dominate the decades of the 2000s. The Soviet Union had collapsed to create new but fragile geopolitics that seemed at the time to be a new order of leadership Western democratic ideology. Technology was one of the key drivers, driven largely by the USA. The Internet was now established and profoundly important, spawning universal email, and the World Wide

Web. Small computers for both personal and business use fundamentally altered the way in which business worked in terms of strategy, communications and workplace practices

The Livery Company companies were not motivated to adopt new technology particularly quickly, but in the beginning of my time on the Court, under Michael

Wakeford (who became Sir Michael) IT was considered to be a fundamental force and presence in all that the Mercers would be doing. I was myself also very interested in education, so this was quite an exciting time to be part of Mercer governance.

Crossword puzzle

Across

Across

1 and 20 Down 'Lord of all

_, Lord of all _, whose

trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy'(11,3)

9 Moses' question to a fighting Hebrew labourer: 'Why are you _ your fellow Hebrew?' (Exodus 2:13) (7)

10 Acclaimed cellist who contracted multiple sclerosis at the height of her fame, Jacqueline _ (2,3)

11 'At even _ the sun was set, the sick, O Lord, around thee lay'(3)

13 A descendant of Gad (xNumbers 26:16) (4)

16 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but _ for the gift my Father promised' (Acts 1:4) (4)

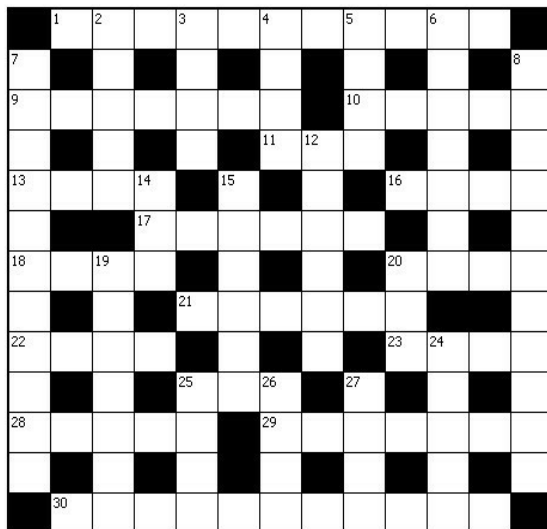
17 Clambers (Jeremiah 48:44) (6)

18 Peter's response to questioning by the Sanhedrin: 'We must _ God rather than men!'(Acts 5:29) (4)

20 Christian paraplegic author, artist and campaigner, _ Eareckson Tada (4)

21 Bird partial to the nests of other birds (6)

22 'Such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat _ _'(Matthew 13:2) (2,2)



- 23 Infectious tropical disease (4)
 25 Tree (3)
 28 'No fear of me should _ you, nor should my hand be heavy upon you'(Job 33:7) (5)
 29 For example, to Titus, Timothy or Philemon (7)
 30 Week beginning with Pentecost Sunday, according to the Church's calendar (11)

Down

- 2 'O Jerusalem _ how _ I have longed to gather your children together' Matthew 23:37) (5)
 3 Way out (4)
 4 Exhort (Romans 12:1) (4)
 5 Done (anag.) (4)
 6 Highest of the four voice-parts in a choir (7)
 7 Concerning the study of God (11)
 8 Uniquely, it has Abbey, Cathedral and Chapel (11)
 12 Admonish (Matthew 16:22) (6)
 14 Frozen (3)
 15 Established form of religious ceremony (6)
 19 Inscription often found on gravestones (7)
 20 See I Across
 24 Behaved (Joshua 7:1) (5)
 25 Time (anag.) (4)
 26 Lists choice of meals (4)
 27 'For the wages of sin is death, but the _ of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord'(Romans 6:23) (4)

ANSWERS
 ACROSS: 1, Hopefulness, 9, Hitting, 10, du Pre, 11, Ere, 13, Ozni,
 16, Wait, 17, Climbs, 18, Obey, 20, Joni, 21, Cuckoo, 22, In it,
 23, Yaws, 25, Elm, 28, Alarm, 29, Epistle, 30, Whitsun tide,
 DOWN: 2, Offen, 3, Exit, 4, Urge, 5, Node, 6, Soprano,
 7, Theological, 8, Westminster, 12, Rebuke, 14, Ivy, 15, Ritual,
 19, Epitaph, 20, Joy, 24, Acted, 25, Emit, 26, Menu, 27, Gift.

.Children's Corner

The gardener and the Vine



JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONCE HE TOLD HIS FRIENDS ALL
ABOUT A GARDENER.

THE GARDENER'S JOB WAS
TO CARE FOR THE VINES



HE WOULD LOOK AT EACH
BRANCH CAREFULLY..

... AND IF IT WAS PRODUCING
GOOD FRUIT, HE WOULD CARE
FOR IT AND NOURISH IT.



IF IT WAS PRODUCING BAD
FRUIT...

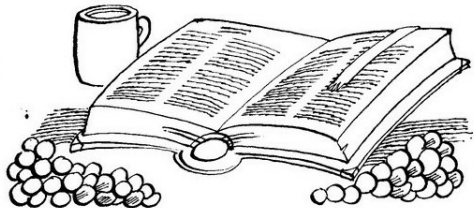


...OR NO FRUIT AT
ALL...



... THEN THE GARDENER WOULD
CHOP IT OFF, AND BURN IT IN
THE FIRE!!

JESUS WANTED HIS FRIENDS TO SHARE
THE GOOD NEWS - THAT'S LIKE THE
VINE BEARING GOOD FRUIT.



YOU CAN READ THIS SPECIAL PARABLE IN JOHN'S
GOSPEL, CHAPTER 15.

Annex

William Temple: Archbishop of Canterbury

During the Second World War, Winston Churchill was Britain's Prime Minister. At the same time, William Temple was Archbishop of Canterbury. While Churchill led the country against Germany, Temple encouraged the British people to trust the Lord for their deliverance and strength. Like Churchill, Temple was a great leader, a gifted orator and a prolific writer. He was also a theologian and social activist.

Temple was born on 15th October 1881 in Exeter, Devon. He was educated at Rugby School and Balliol College, Oxford, from 1900 to 1904. He loved the music of Bach; the poetry of Browning and Shelley, and Shakespeare. He was an avid reader and possessed a near-photographic memory.

He became president of the Oxford Union and after graduation, was a lecturer in philosophy at Queen's College, Oxford. He was a member of the debating society and was a skilled and balanced debater. Following his ordination in 1909, and priesting in 1910, Temple was headmaster of Repton School for four years. He married Frances Anson in 1916. They were childless.

From 1921-29 Temple was Bishop of Manchester. During this time, he was seen as a pioneer of the Ecumenical Movement and gradually became a national figure. In 1926 he urged the British government to seek a negotiated agreement to the General Strike.

Temple excelled as a moderator; a teacher and a preacher and his appointment as Archbishop of York (1929-40) was a popular one. His influence also led to the formation of the British Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches. During the 2nd World War, he jointly founded the Council of Christians and Jews to combat anti-Semitism and other forms of prejudice in Britain.

As Archbishop of Canterbury (1942-44), Temple became an outspoken advocate of social reform and became involved in the campaign against unemployment, poverty and poor housing. He believed in the rights of all people, whether rich or poor, and was a leading force for social justice. He was grounded in the problems of the working man and in his book 'Christianity and Social Order' (1942) he shared his vision for all to have access to healthcare, education and decent housing. His radical

thinking and activism played a foundational role in the formation of the British Welfare State.

Temple died aged 63 at Westgate-on-Sea, Kent on 26th October 1944. He was the first Primate of All England to be cremated and his ashes were buried in the cloister garden of Canterbury Cathedral. He is the last Archbishop of Canterbury to have died while in office.

Burnham wants to approve bishops

The Prime Minister, Andy Burnham, wants to advise the King on the appointment of bishops and archbishops in the Church of England and Church of Scotland.

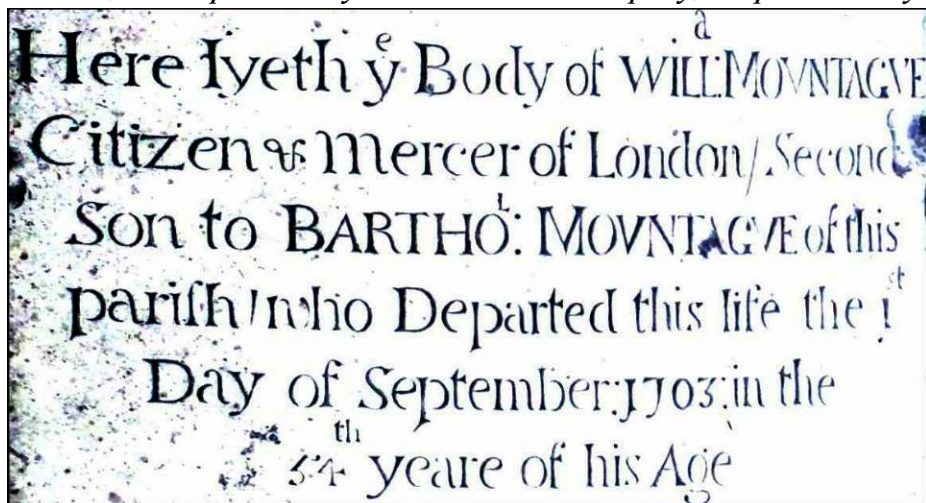
The practice of the King being involved dates way back to the Reformation, when the monarch was head of the Church, and so took responsibility for appointing clergy.

Burnham is currently barred because he is a professing Roman Catholic. But he has called the Roman Catholic Relief Act 1829 an “antiquated and archaic anomaly” and is determined to change it.

These days, of course, the Prime Minister’s approval of such appointments is symbolic. The Church puts its candidate forward, who will be approved. In the meantime, there are nine current or upcoming vacancies for diocesan bishops.

The Mercers and the City Livery Companies of London

A brief introductory outline of the Livery Companies of the City of London, and in particular of the Mercers’ Company, the premier City



Livery Company. this is an adjunct to Episode 69 of the serial memoirs of Anthony Hodson, who became Master Mercer for a one year's term of office in 2001. There is an interesting Parish connection In St Mary's Church, Winkfield, the gravestone at the foot of the chancel steps is to the memory of William Mountague, Mercer of [the City of] London.

In the 68th episode of his serial memoirs, Anthony Hodson told of when he became a member of the Court of Assistants of the Mercer's company of the City of London. The Court would be the equivalent of the board for a public company, but the Mercers are not like a normal company. This special article is an explanation of the nature of City Livery Companies, and particularly of the Mercers' Company, in a form that could illuminate Anthony's involvement with the Mercers Company as a senior member. Anthony's life as a member of the Court is introduced in episode 69, on page 13.

The Mercers' Company's website summarises the purpose of the Company, and reason for its existence, on its 'about' page <https://www.mercers.co.uk/about-the-company> as follows:

"The Mercers' Company is a livery company focused on being a philanthropic force for good. We have a [rich history](#) dating back over 700 years with philanthropy as the common thread between our past, present and future."

The Mercers (to give them their summary name) are a City Livery Company, meaning that it is the present-day incarnation of one of the medieval 'Mercers Guild' of the City of London. Many of these guilds define specific ancient crafts like the Bakers, the Clothworkers, the Drapers, the Farmers, the Glovers, etc. Many still pursue the activities of the trade (as do the Goldsmiths and the Vintners, for example), while others have adopted interests more distantly related to the old craft, e.g. the Horners (fabricating products made of horn, with an interest in plastics and plastic products). An individual Livery Company is often formally referred to as a "The Worshipful Company of X"

Many cities (e.g. Birmingham, Edinburgh) have their own livery companies, and the movement exists in other countries. In the City of London, the Weavers are the oldest, by date of incorporation by Royal charter (in 1155). The Mercers were granted their charter in 1394, but they existed as a guild well before that.

Over the years, modern crafts and professions have created new livery companies; for example, the 100th livery company is the Information

Technologists. As at February 2026 there were 114 Livery Companies, of which the 114th is the 'Worshipful Company of HR Professionals'.

Livery companies are given a rank (precedence) in terms of a serial number. In the City of London, older companies (numbers 1 to 48) were assigned a rank/precedence in the year 1515 that is still used. (But google 'sixes and sevens origin livery companies' for an unusual ordering arrangement between the Skinners and the Merchant Taylors). Later livery company rankings are based on the date of incorporation or 'charter'.

The twelve top Livery Companies by wealth and power were given rank or precedence 1 to 12 in the 1515 ranking, and they are still referred to as the 'Twelve Great City Livery Companies'. The Worshipful Company of Mercers are number one with the highest rank/precedence. These twelve companies would have become powerful in medieval years by having successful traders as members, and also by having members with strong influence in the City of London (including the mayoralty). International trade would have been a particularly strong source of wealth for members, and many rich guild members left bequests for the estate of their Company or for its charitable work.

Today, all City Livery Companies have clear particular purposes, in many cases associated with the promotion or regulation of particular trades or professions. In the case of the Mercers, the special guild interest was in silk and fine cloth, including cloth-of-gold, and this was supplemented by international trading by members that would have included other commodities (this would maximise the profitability of transportation efficiency in both ingoing and outgoing trade).

The export of wool and import of fabrics and luxuries was key to Mercer wealth, and Dick Whittington (thrice Master Mercer as well as four times Lord Mayor of London) is a celebrated Mercer who was also very much interested in many important charitable works, including the establishment of almshouses for old people (supported by many of the older livery companies).

Over the years, city livery companies broadened their interests to education and other charitable activities, including supporting old and poor people, including almshouses and many have church interest in livings that they own to select incumbents.

Originally, members of older livery companies would have been practitioners in the company's trade and as a whole would have

regulated who was entitled to participate in the trade, and who was entitled to have apprentices, as future practitioners. The right to become a member was often granted to family members of a member of a livery company.

In many cases, members' wives were allowed to become members of the guild, so that a wife could pursue a trade as a guild member on the death of her husband. Passing membership down in families is very common in older livery companies (mostly by 'patrimony', that is father to son, but also through broader family relationships). Membership of women died out in many livery companies in Victorian times particularly. Most livery companies have now restored membership of women, only a very few still admit men only.

In the year 2000, Mercer membership by patrimony did not include father-to-daughter as well as father to son. From 2002, gender-discrimination was abolished for the Company, allowing membership mother-to-son or -daughter as well as father-to-son or -daughter. Membership is now gender-blind. There has always been regulated member entry by means other than patrimony, and including closer family relationships; mostly men in the past but including a few women (typically Royals) in what was an otherwise a men-only company.

A person admitted as a member of a livery company does not immediately become a 'Livery man' (a gender-free title for a full membership). There is usually a process (dependent on the Company) in becoming a Liveryman. E.g. based on career experience. In the Mercers Company, very roughly half are Liverymen (of either gender), with total membership of several hundred. Although many members have careers based on City of London financial organisations, the breadth of skills and experience that results from a family-based core expanding over the years into a wealth of career opportunities, is impressive. Although rooted in history, the Mercers and other livery Companies embrace up-to-date thinking and technology.

Some families among the membership go back a long way. Two families that have led the way are the Watneys and the Palmers. The Hodsons also go back about 250 years but not so prominently: there was no Hodson Master until 1932,

Livery companies vary in wealth. Many companies seek regular funding from their membership, particularly newer companies. Members of the Twelve Great Companies have had the benefit of

wealth that is the result of hundreds of years of international trading, from which gifts of funding and property have created capital assets. However, these companies now all serve philanthropic purposes, so that stewardship of their wealth is not aimed at maximising asset growth. Instead, stewardship is primarily aimed at maintaining revenue-earning assets that allow substantial giving with long-term maintenance of assets that will grow in such a way as to assure indefinite existence into the future.

The foundation of livery companies like the Mercers is its membership, which provides resources for governance for the Company, for stewardship of the company's assets, for wisdom and leadership in philanthropic activity, and for direct involvement of members with charitable work. The membership is backed by the Clerk of the Company, the Chief Executive in effect, with a team that provides leadership and professional and administrative support of the Company's activities and properties and assets.

Membership involvement in the Company includes direct funding from the pockets of members, hands-on involvement in charitable activities backed by the company, and governorships of schools with which the Company is involved. Members' involvement is voluntary, although expenses may be paid.

Schools and colleges are a vital part of the long-term work of the Mercers (as for many other livery companies), and there are 17 schools and colleges with which the Company has a special relationship, of which the majority are maintained-sector (i.e. state schools, academies and 6th form colleges). Gresham College is a special case: a charitable company that gives free public lectures according to the Will for Elizabethan financier Sir Thomas Gresham. These lectures are delivered to lay audiences by world-class academics with the necessary communication skills, and these days reach millions through the Web.

City Livery Companies, because of their trade importance in years past, and continuing because of their modern activities, have a special place in the management and governance of the City of London. Sheriffs and the Lord Mayor of London are required to be Liverymen of a City Livery Company, and it is liverymen who form the electorate for these important positions.

The City Livery Company movement has been estimated as having several tens of thousands of members, and, despite interest in the

wealth locked up in it, has survived scrutiny by successive modern governments. It is always mindful of the need to be a visibly strong dedicated and effective force for good.

Brace yourself for the Midterms

America can be hard to ignore. Especially this month when, on 3 November, America will hold her Midterm General Elections.

The Midterms are all about Congress. America votes for her president every four years, while the Midterms fall in between, at the two-year mark. They are always held on the second Tuesday in November.

The Midterms decide which party controls the House of Representatives and the Senate. This year, all 435 seats in House of Representatives and 35 of the 100 seats in the Senate are up for grabs. Whoever wins will become part of the 120th US Congress.

The Midterms are always a face-off between the Democrats and the Republicans, so it is no surprise that this year they are very heated. Midterms are a way for Americans to voice their approval or dismay at the current administration, and Donald Trump certainly provokes strong feelings, both ways.

If Trump loses the Republican majority, it will create a dramatic power shift in the USA.

That will affect national policy on numerous issues that are giving Americans headaches just now. These range from the too-rapid progress in Artificial Intelligence and the spread of giant sprawling data centres, to the soaring price of gasoline, food and health care, to the huge tariffs and strained relationships with allies, and to the 2026 Iran War and widespread suffering in Gaza.

A Prayer for November 2026

Dear Lord,

At this dark and dismal time, when the year is closing down and our lives get busier and the world more confusing, we can sometimes become discouraged and low in spirits.

Help us to adjust our perspective, to turn and look up, to focus afresh on You, to remember that Your name is above all names, above discouragement, above despair, above confusion.

Help us to be thankful for each day that You have made, recognising each one as a gift from You, to be treasured and lived fruitfully.

May we welcome Your powerful, healing light into our hearts and lives
– Your light, which no darkness can dim. Help us to remember your
words,

*I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in
darkness, but will have the light of life.*

Help us to follow you and walk in the light, this November and always.
In your name,

Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

