

A VIEW FROM THE VICARAGE

Why is Easter late?

The question 'is Easter early or late this year' is one that needs to be considered for timetabling, by supermarkets and administrative processes and I am often asked 'why does Easter move so much?'.

Well, as many of you already know, Easter moves because it is a moveable feast, meaning it is not fixed in relation to the ordinary calendar and since the year AD325 the date of Easter has been established as 'the first Sunday after the full moon following the March equinox'. So, as the March equinox is on about the 20th/21st March, the date of Easter therefore varies between 22nd March and the 25th April.

This date wasn't arrived at by accident, though, because Easter is dated in relation, not just to the lunar cycle, but to the Jewish Passover and Exodus; and the exact date of Easter has been cause of many arguments, the occasionally heresy and, no doubt, the shedding of blood.

So, after all that, just to let you know, Easter this year is late. Ash Wednesday isn't until 5th March, Mothering Sunday is right at the end of March, and you'll have to hang onto your bonnets until 20th April for Easter to arrive. Practically summer time!

All this leaves us with a slightly unusual start to the church year. We actually have time to draw breath before we launch into our next major festival: there is time to stop and think, ponder and plan.

So, what will you do with your February? Will you spring-clean house and heart before March brings the season of penitence? Or spend time sowing seeds in the anticipation of summer's bounty? Or just enjoy the lengthening days? Well, I hope this February isn't the same old routine, and there will be moments of joy, rest, and the extraordinary - and time to be with God.

Through all the changing scenes of life,
in trouble and in joy,
the praises of my God shall still
my heart and tongue employ.

Catherine Blundell

A note from the Editors

And yet – hot-cross-buns are already on sale in the supermarkets, at 60p per packet. What is going on here? One hot-cross-bun a day for 50 million people up to Easter Day totals well over 4 billion buns. Mr Sainsbury, dream on! And be glad that Easter isn't early this year.

I suppose that we are lucky that Easter isn't so commercialised as Christmas. What is sad is that the glorious message of Easter is missed by so many people, even though the day itself – yes, a great public holiday - is so well celebrated by those buns.

Historically, hot-cross-buns were eaten in Lent, up to Good Friday. Wikipedia notes that: "In the times of Elizabeth I of England (1592), the London Clerk of Markets issued a decree forbidding the sale of hot cross buns and other spiced breads, except at burials, on Good Friday, or at Christmas. The punishment for transgressing the decree was forfeiture of all the forbidden product to the poor."

Sorry, Mr Sainsbury, being good Elizabethans, and also respecting the symbology, we will leave our own consumption of buns to Good Friday, although forfeiture of prematurely-sold buns to the poor seems a good idea (even if dieticians might disagree).

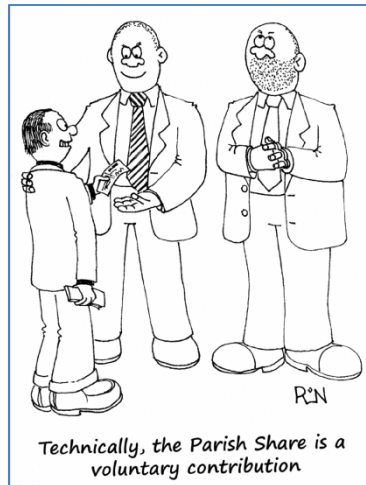
And, talking of great festivals, as we approach putting the Parish Mag to bed, it is quite clear that not so many people spent their Christmas holidays writing exciting articles for our Parish Mag. HUGE THANKS TO THOSE WHO DID!! Please now sharpen your virtual quills, and express your thoughts, document your family history, or write about something that interests you; then send it to us! By 10th March will do.

Get to it now!!

Editors

From the registers:

There have been no reports of weddings/blessings, baptisms or funerals during December 2013 and January 2014.



Bits and Pieces

Church Office opening hours

Mondays: 9:30am to 12:30pm
Tuesdays: 9:30 to 12:30pm
Wednesdays: 9:30am to 3:30pm
Thursdays: 9:30 to 12:30pm

Contact info

Church Office

c/o St Martin's Church, Church Road, Chavey Down, SL5 8RR

Phone: 01344 882933

Web: www.winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk

email: admin@winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk

Parish Mag email: WParishmag@winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk

Diary information

If you are arranging an event please contact Alison Burt in the Church Office so that it can be noted in the Church diary and mentioned on the website. Alison will endeavour to keep track of activities and timings etc.

Morning office (daily prayers)

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Tuesdays 9:15am, usually Mary Knight, will be at St Martin's

Fridays 9:30am, usually Catherine Blundell, will be at St. Peter's

Events, Notices and News

Parish events

View details on our website: www.winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk.

St Mary's Choir

The seasons of Advent and Christmas are now well behind us, but this is the first opportunity to report on the Choir's activities during a busy festive time.

"St. Mary's – Music for Christmas", on December 7th, in which the Choir and Friends played a major part, was a real success and raised over

£1200 for organ and choir funds. The Cameo Singers were in splendid voice as usual and the Woodley Wind Quintet, with the addition of Martin Proctor on percussion, delighted and amused us with their playing.

Camellia Richards gave a beautiful performance of two well-known operatic arias and the Junior Choir of 19 young singers sang like little angels. I am told that they all want to do it again this year!

All in all, it was a magnificent evening of musical entertainment, but of course a concert such as this does involve a lot of hard work from very many people and we have to say a big thank-you to everyone who contributed.

It was so good to see the old church full of enthusiastic performers making music to the glory of God with a smiling appreciative audience. And (as the Quintet members pointed out), the mince pies were pretty good, too, thanks to the Women's Guild.

On December 22nd, the Choir and Friends were glad to take part in the traditional Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. This is a great chance for the congregation to "let rip" with some familiar carols and for the Choir to contribute some special items. A number of parishioners have been kind enough to comment favourably on the quality of the singing, one describing it as truly glorious. Praise indeed for a small parish choir!

Other services involving the Choir included the solemnity of Midnight Communion on Christmas Eve and the delightful Alternative Carol Service on December 29th. It has been a busy time for both organists and choristers.

We are now looking forward to the year 2014 with its new challenges and opportunities. Although we will no longer have the regular assistance of Chris Cromar, we shall continue to expand our repertoire while supporting the congregation - and keeping a place for the familiar favourites which they enjoy.

As usual, choir practice is every Thursday evening at 7:30pm and we warm up at 10:30am before the 11am Sunday service. Come and join us - you will be very welcome.

Hand-bell Ringers

We hand-bell ringers had a relatively quiet festive period as far as ringing is concerned - but we are now back and 'rarin' to go!!

Three of us attended the "birthday" rally in Benson, held annually in January for all members of the hand bell ringers of Great Britain. It was a somewhat traumatic journey, through wind, rain and flood, but well worth the effort, and a good time was had by all.

We also plan to attend a "four in hand" teaching session in February, where we learn to ring four bells at once rather than just two - so watch out for some clever stuff next time you see us performing!

We really do need some "fresh blood" due to ringers moving away, so please **do** come and give it a go. Any Wednesday, at St. Mary's, from 7:30pm until 9pm.

The now famous quiz run by the bell ringers is back!! This year it is on February 8th. at 7pm in St. Martins Hall. Get up a team of four and join us - or just turn up (tell us if you are coming, so that we can have the ploughman's supper there for you!) and we will find a team for you!!

Wishing you all a healthy and happy 2014.

Jill Glennerster 01344 884071

St Mary's Women's Guild

Lady Bowden, Miss Jean Brown and Mrs Spratley were thanked for presenting the Guild Banner at the Remembrance Day service.

The Christmas Bazaar held at Mrs Cullen's home was successful, and raised £370 to be divided between the Organ Restoration Fund and the Choir Fund. Mrs Cullen was thanked by all Guild members for her generosity in making her home available for this important event.

Mrs Potter advised members of the flower rota, and also explained to members her idea of a possible new theme for Christmas floral arrangements. The theme would be red and green decorations. Members agreed the theme. Comments received during the Christmas period were very complimentary and the Church looked lovely.

Margaret-Anne Hodson attended the December meeting and talked to members about the Christmas concert to be held on 7 December.

It was suggested that hotplates should be used again for the mince pies on 7 December. Members discussed and agreed their contributions and also their preferred stations in the Church.

7 January and Mill Ride Golf Club were agreed as date and venue for a New Year Lunch. We (21 of us!) attended earlier this week and it was a most enjoyable occasion.

Mrs Ruth Marshall came to the December meeting and has indicated she would like to join the Guild.

Mrs Doughty provided, once again, her delicious Christmas cake which we all enjoyed.

The next meeting of the Guild is at 1430 hrs. on Tuesday 4 February in St Martin's Church Hall.

Mrs Knight closed the meeting with a prayer.

Lesley Philpot

St Mary's Tower Bell Ringers

The St Mary's Tower Bell Ringers wish you all a very happy New Year!



KEEP CALM



AND
CARRY ON
BELL-RINGING

ST MARY'S WINKFIELD TOWER BELL RINGERS

PRACTICE EVERY MONDAY

Beginners: 7.30pm – 8.00pm
Full practice: 8.00pm – 9.15pm

**For details call Tower Captain Tony Bish on
01344 886087 or why not just come along!**

Chavey Down WI

Our meeting this month takes place on Monday 17th in St Martin's Church Hall at 7:45 p.m. Our speaker this month will be our very own WI adviser Jean Shepherd, who, being a seasoned traveller, is well known for her travel talks.

The subject for her talk is 'The Maritime States of Canada' that she visited last year.

If you are interested in travel do come along - a warm welcome awaits you!

Janey Bethune-Williams 883854

Christian Exploration!

Would you like to explore what your faith means to you today?

If you were baptised as a baby, what does that mean to you now?

If you haven't been baptised, have you considered being baptised as an adult?

Would you like to get confirmed but are not sure what is involved?

Your questions will be explored and (hopefully) answered on a specially prepared course during

- Saturday 8 March 2014 from 9:30am to 16:30 at St Peter's Church, Cranbourne and
- Saturday 15 March 2014 from 09:30 to 12:30 at St Peter's Church, Cranbourne

Please contact David Blundell (email: dmblundell@btinternet.com) or the Vicar for further information.

Previous participants' comments:

"The course gave us the chance to reconnect with God. Life always seems to get in the way but the sessions gave us the time to start to explore the teachings of Jesus and the bible in a way that just attending church each week could never bring."

Amanda and Warren, St. Martin's Church

"I found this course so useful particularly the section on how to read the bible, and the explanation of the Holy Spirit."

Jane, St. Peter's Church

"I enjoyed my Bible Study of God, The Father, God the Son and Holy Spirit in a friendly environment. The atmosphere was very relaxed and I felt comfortable asking for further guidance and explanations on what The Bible Scriptures are trying to tell me."

Claire, St. Mary's, Family Praise.

Relay For Life event at Ascot

Rose and Dave Dalton of Chavey Down will again be organising the 2014 Relay For Life event at Ascot Race Course on July 19th and 20th. This is a team event – non-athletic – for families and friends or work colleagues – men, women and children – and is a 24 hours celebration.

Registration is now open for Team Captains to sign up and start raising much needed funds for Cancer Research UK. Since we started in 2008 we have, amazingly, raised over £530,000.

In celebration of passing this Half a Million Pounds milestone, we will be holding a Black Tie Ball – "The Half a Million Celebration Ball" – on March 1st at The Berystede Hotel. Tickets at £55, or £500 for a table of 10, are on sale now. For details of the Ball and Relay For Life please go to: www.relayforlifescot.co.uk

or email rosedalton@btinternet.com or telephone 01344 883564. We have also been given 2 return flights to auction, to anywhere in the USA, served by Delta Airlines and valid until November 2014. These will be auctioned at the Ball, but advance reserve bids are being taken.

Thank you all for your support over the years and I hope to meet many of you in 2014!

Rose Dalton <http://www.relayforlifescot.co.uk>

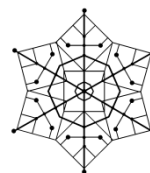
PS Join us for Cancer Research UK Relay For Life Ascot July 19th/20th for our 7th annual event. One community getting together for an amazing weekend raising funds and awareness for this wonderful cause.

United, we are stronger than cancer!

SERVICES ACROSS THE PARISH

Snow Policy

The Ministry Team and PCC have agreed that, in the event of snowfall that is accompanied by severe-weather warnings and that makes travel difficult, services will be cancelled if necessary. The decision will be made at 6pm for morning services the following day and 12 noon for evening services that day.



St Mary's February

Feb	Sunday	Time	Form of service	Conducted by
2	Candlemas (Presentation of Christ in the Temple)	9:30am	Messy Church	Clergy
		11am	Holy Communion	Clergy
9	4th Sunday before Lent	8am	Holy Communion	Clergy
		9:30am	Family Praise	Lay minister
		11am	Family/All Age	Lay minister
16	3rd Sunday before Lent	9:30am	Family Praise	Clergy
		11am	Holy Communion	Clergy
23	2nd Sunday before Lent	8am	Holy Communion	Clergy
		9:30am	Family Praise	Lay minister
		11am	Morning Prayer	Lay minister

St Martin's Chavey Down February

Feb	Sunday	Time	Form of service	Conducted by
2	Candlemas (Presentation of Christ in the Temple)	9:30am	Family/All Age	Lay minister
9	4th Sunday before Lent	9:30am	Holy Communion	Clergy

16	3rd Sunday before Lent	9:30am	Morning Prayer	Lay minister
23	2nd Sunday before Lent	9:30am	Holy Communion	Clergy

St Peter's Cranbourne February

Feb	Sunday	Time	Form of service	Conducted by
2	Candlemas (Presentation of Christ in the Temple)	8am	Holy Communion	Clergy
		11am	All Together Service	Lay minister
9	4th Sunday before Lent	11am	Holy Communion	Clergy
16	3rd Sunday before Lent	8am	Holy Communion	Clergy
		11am	Morning Prayer	Lay minister
23	2nd Sunday before Lent	11am	Holy Communion	Clergy

Note on Service Leaders: Where 'clergy' is shown – this will usually be the Vicar. Where 'lay minister' is shown, this includes: Stuart Ager, David Blundell, Paula Darrall, Mary Knight, Jacki Thomas, and Mike Thomas.

Winkfield Row Methodist Church FEBRUARY SERVICES

2nd Feb Holy Communion – Rev'd Jackie Case
 9th Feb – David Morgan
 16th Feb – Irene Robinson
 23th Feb – Rev'd Roy Smith



How to find the Winkfield Row Methodist Church:

We are located in Winkfield Row opposite Lambrook School: Winkfield Row, Bracknell RG42 6NE.

Telephone: 01344 411417

Morning worship 10:30am (unless stated). **All are welcome!**



Flowers & Cleaning Rotas

St Mary's

Dates	Flowers
Feb 7 th	Miss Brown and Mrs Cameron
Feb 14 th and 21 st	Mrs Hourihan and Mrs Tennant
Feb 28 th	Mrs Potter and Mrs Haines

St Martin's

Dates	Flowers	Cleaning
Feb 1 st	Mrs Sawdon & Mrs Greenfield	Mrs Vicos
Feb 8 th and 15 th	Mrs E Zerilli & Megan Zerilli	Mrs Luff
Feb 22 nd and Mar 1 st	Mrs Timbrell & Mrs. Phillips	Mrs Crane

What's on in February

Day	Feb	Event	Time/place
Sat	1	Baptism Preparation session	9:30am at St Mary's church
		Marriage preparation session	1pm at St Mary's church
		Film Club	2pm at St Peter's church
Sun	2	Baptisms, Hudson family,	12:45pm at St Mary's church
		Baptism, Liska family	1:30pm at St Mary's church
Tue	4	St Mary's Women's Guild	2:30pm at St Martin's
Wed	5	Zumba gold class at	7pm to 8pm at St Peter's church hall
Thu	6	Indoor carpet bowling (no skill required)	2pm to 3:30pm at St Peter's church
		Sunningdale & Ascot Camera Club	8pm at All Saints Church Hall (SL5 8DQ)

Day	Feb	Event	Time/place
Sat	8	Concert of 40/50's music and afternoon tea – tbc	Time to be confirmed: At St Peter's church:
Mon	10	Deanery Synod	
Wed	12	Zumba gold class	7pm to 8pm at St Peter's church hall
		Ascot Horticultural Society	7:30pm at King Edward's Hall, (SL5 8PD)
		Cranbourne PCC Meeting	
Fri	14	Indoor carpet bowling (no skill required)	2pm to 3:30pm at St Peter's church
Mon	17	Chavey Down WI meeting (talk by Jean Shepherd on 'The Maritime States of Canada')	7:45pm at St Martin's Church Hall
Wed	19	Zumba gold class	7pm to 8pm at St Peter's church hall
Thu	20	Indoor carpet bowling (no skill required)	2pm to 3:30pm at St Peter's church
		Vicar's Tea Party	2pm to 3:30pm at St Peter's church
Sun	23	Baptism, Newton family	12:45pm at St Peter's church
		Baptisms, Talbot family	1:30pm at St Peter's church
		Baptism, Rayner family,	2:15pm at St Peter's church
Thu	27	Zumba gold class	7pm to 8pm at St Peter's church hall

NB. All content in this list may be subject to change without notice.

Advance warning: From 1st to 31st March, Organ refurbishment will be carried out at St Mary's church.

St Mary's Organ

Those interested will have spotted from the previous page that the St Mary's Church organ will have restoration work done to it during March. By popular request, here are some notes about the organ itself.

St Mary's organ was originally built in 1829 by Grays, a firm of organ-builders, who were made more successful in 1849 when a Mr Davison, an astute businessman, joined the company. The provenance of our instrument is therefore referred to as Gray & Davison, even though Mr Davison was not involved at the time of its construction. The organ was restored in 1878, and again in 1889. The company itself was failing at the end of the 19th century.

A brass plaque says that St Mary's organ was 'restored and improved by Foster Waite of Abingdon, through the generosity of friends and parishioners, and was rededicated in 1989.'

The instrument is a modest and rather old-fashioned two-manual instrument with pedalboard. All the same, it serves its principal use well, and it does adequately fill the church with sound. A visiting musician tried the instrument out with all the stops open when the bell-tower was being renovated in 2008, and the sound was enough to cause the workers to come down to find out what was going on.

It has about 800 pipes, ranging from the tiny – a few inches long, and so high-pitched as to be barely audible to oldies like me – to some with pipework of more than 16 feet. (The visible pipework does actually work.) The pipes are grouped into '**ranks**', that is, sets of pipes making the same kind of sound but at varying pitches. The organist can select or deselect ranks by means of '**stops**' arranged near the **keyboards** (called **manuals**), that he/she can push in/pull out. An active **stop** for a **manual** will allow all the pipes for the **rank** to be directly activated by the organist, note by note, from the **keyboard** or **pedalboard**.

Our instrument has 17 **ranks** of pipes, switched on or off by the **stops**. Some have specialised names like 'Bourdon', 'Diapason', 'Sesquialtera', while others imitate instrumental timbres, like 'Oboe' and 'Trumpet'.

The blowing of each pipe in our organ is controlled, purely mechanically, by what is called a '**tracker action**'. Mechanical systems of this kind have mostly been replaced in more modern pipe organs by electric or electro-pneumatic activation.

The St Mary's organ has two **manuals** that are independently played (unless the **manuals** are '**coupled**'). One manual is called the '**Great**' (and has louder 'stops with some soft ones) and the other is called '**Swell**', used for more special effects. For example, it can play at variable sound levels, under control of a foot-operated '**Swell pedal**'. The **Great** notes can be made to activate also the corresponding **Swell** pipes by a '**coupler**'; and the **pedalboard** notes can similarly be made to operate the corresponding **Great** or **Swell** notes by two other **couplers**.

The **pedalboard** is just like the **keyboard**, except that it is operated by the organist's feet rather than his fingers. In playing the organ, therefore, he/she must coordinate all four limbs independently (which is one reason why playing the organ is so difficult).

The link between **manual** and **pedal keys** and the pipes is done by a delicate and complex arrangement of rods, levers, wires, ligatures and seals. This link must be free enough to play music fast without requiring great effort for the hands (and feet). Maintaining this delicacy of action is a challenge for tracker-action organs. The St Mary's organ is a good example of a well-designed mechanical action, and is fairly light on the **Great manual**, but is much heavier on the **Swell manual**, and heavier still operating the **Great manual** with the **Swell** coupled in.

The selection of **stops** to play make a particular sound or sound combination is called '**registration**'. An organist can select **registration** to suite a particular piece of music, and by changing **keyboard**, or by selecting or deselecting **stops** while playing.

The St Mary's organ has three large pedals to make quick changes of **registration**, but this is crude and not always reliable. Modern instruments (and upgraded older instruments) have programmable buttons called pistons to facilitate changes of **registration**.

Our organ is capable of playing a large repertoire of organ works, but its limited stops, and difficulty of changing registration, do limit its expressiveness, particularly for 19th and 20th century music.

Over time, the internal mechanisms of a **tracker** organ are adversely affected by dirt, corrosion and breakage of wires, stiffening of leather items such as seals, and this can cause a number of unfortunate happenings. The commonest is that individual notes fail to play; complete ranks become inactive; notes sound continuously, the

mechanism becomes stiff, air leaks when seals no longer seal properly and so on. So be sympathetic to our organists and their concerns!

It is now 25 years since the organ had a major overhaul, and the present plans for attention to its inner workings are long overdue!

Anthony Hodson 01344 310665

PS We need to encourage new young potential organists!

ASCOT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

2014 should be a significant year for the local gardening community. The earliest known record of the organisation is dated 19th November 1884 when the Ascot, Sunninghill, Sunningdale & District Gardening Association is reported, by the Reading Mercury, to have staged its first show. By 1920 this group had evidently broken up giving rise, it is believed, to Ascot Horticultural Society and Sunningdale & District Gardening Association. 130 years on, and with several interim name changes, Ascot Horticultural Society is flourishing and continues the tradition with its objectives to 'enthuse, educate and encourage' local people to enjoy aspects of horticulture and the natural environment.

Our 2014 programme was launched early last month when Sara John, a keen local gardener and talented photographer, aided technically by her husband Alan, dispelled misconceptions about 'barren' Northern Isles with a superbly illustrated talk entitled "Orkney in Bloom".

On **12th February**, we are due to meet 'head to head' with members of our sister organisation, the Sunningdale & District Gardening Association, for the Annual Quiz. We will be competing for possession of the Alastair Fosdyke Trophy which is currently held by Sunningdale. A closely fought contest can be expected.

On **12th March**, we are again privileged to welcome Jim Buttress, an eminent member



Spotlights
Musical Theatre Group



*Can you sing?
Can you act or would you like to act?
Have you got hidden talents?*

We'll come and find out! We are looking for people who like to have a lot of fun and want to give their vocal chords a good work out. Make friends, have fun and enjoy yourself on a Monday evening 8.00—10pm at Cheapside Village Hall SL5 7QH.

Ring Jan Chislett 01344 623231
www.spotlightsmtg.co.uk

of the Royal Horticultural Society and holder of its prestigious Victoria Medal of Honour. An engaging speaker and founder member and past chairman of the 'Britain in Bloom' campaign, Jim is clearly passionate about widely promoting an enjoyment of all things horticultural. This time he will be talking about the establishment of the "World Garden at Lullingstone Castle, Kent"; an ambitious ongoing project with which he has been closely associated.

9th April has been chosen as the date for the Spring Show. By then we hope that Winter gloom will be gone and that the area will be ablaze with bright colourful spring flowers. Well you have to be optimistic!

14th May Not only do herbs have useful medicinal properties and provide a refreshing olfactory dimension to the garden, they also constitute essential flavours for the kitchen. To describe the "History of the Fresh Herb Market and Modern Growing Methods" we welcome Matthew Prestwich, a local nurseryman.

Regular Society meetings take place each month on the second Wednesday in King Edward's Hall, North Ascot (unless stated), starting at 7:45pm. All are most welcome. Admission - members £1.00 and visitors £2.50. Full details can be found on the web-site : www.ascorthorticulturalsociety.org.uk. Alternatively call Peter Cleare.

Peter Cleare 01344 622086

Thoughts of all sorts

A message from Ruth Timbrell

I should like to thank everyone who has been so kind and thoughtful to us following my recent car crash. We have been blessed with such kindness and help, even a small decorated Christmas tree, a steak and kidney pie, mince pies, flowers – and help.

We are very blessed living in such a wonderful parish where people are so kind and thoughtful.

Bless you all and a Happy New Year!

I am progressing well and hope to be fighting fit before too long.

Ruth Timbrell.

Creature Comforts

It's easy to forget that less than 200 years ago, worshippers at St Mary's had to wrap up well during the winter months to keep warm. When the church was Victorianised, a boiler in the cellar beneath the vestry (now sealed) provided heat through large pipes running the length of the nave beneath ornate iron grids. Previously, a large pot-bellied stove at the back of the church was the only heating the congregation had. The stove has long since gone, but the chimney can still be seen on the outside wall.

The lighting was not ideal. The overhead lights in the nave were originally for oil lamps before conversion to electricity in the 20th century. In addition, iron hoops around the wall can still be seen where other oil lamps were placed. The chancel was lit by candles.

The organist had to play by candle light – the scorch marks are still clearly visible on the timber above the keyboards!

The bellows on the organ were pumped manually. The pump handle behind the organ is still operable, and was last used at a Christmas Concert in the early '90s, when Winkfield was plunged into darkness following a power failure. The concert continued by candlelight, ending with the Hallelujah Chorus! The only casualty at the event was the carpeting which suffered a major candlewax malfunction.

Today the congregation enjoys a well-lit and well-heated church.

However, worshippers at Shottesbrooke, where I play the organ, have no creature comforts. There is no heating and no lighting – just as it was in the 1337 when the church was built. Previous attempts to 'electrify' the church were abandoned when damp rendered most of the wiring unsafe. Today the only power in the church is for the organ and a power point for an electric fire to keep the organist's feet and hands from freezing! Apart from being dim and cold in the winter, the church has become home to a bat colony during the warm months – and a haven for flies when there is a warm spell in the winter!!

Josh Tuffley

All because the Lady likes Milk Tray!

Remember the commercial? When a gallant young man swung on a rope through the window with a box of Milk Tray, or dived off a cliff to

bring Milk Tray to his lady friend. Well ... that commercial was not new. In fact it had been a fact in ... **Chavey Down in 1928!**

Turning out my various portfolios of memories written by old Chavey Downers, I came across the following, written by George Wickens who at one time lived in North Road Chavey Down.

Apparently there was a young Pilot named Alcock, who had a lady friend in Longhill Road by the name of Miss Wilmin. Alcock was a bit of a dare-devil, and used to fly low over Miss Wilmin's parents' garden to drop boxes of chocolates for his young lady!

He apparently scared the wits out of local residents.

On one occasion in 1928 he was a bit too clever and tried a loop-the-loop. The engine failed, and the plane came down in a field belonging to Winkfield Manor (it was later developed as Windsor Forest Stud, which is now Mill Ride Golf Course).

George Wickens, who attended Ascot Heath School, was returning to school after having his dinner, and looked at the plane – in fact most of the children from Ascot Heath School went to look at the plane, as it was such a rare sight in 1928.

In his notes George says the plane had a 'radial engine', in which the pistons and cylinders turned with the prop. Any ideas, anyone, as to what the make of the aircraft was?

There was an aircraft packing depot at Ascot West, and they collected the plane and took it back to Farnborough. Alcock was court-martialled – but was later honoured, as he was the first pilot to loop-the-loop in that particular aircraft. He, was the brother of the Alcock of Messrs Alcock and Brown, who had become famous for the first non-stop flight across the Atlantic (in a modified Vickers Vimy bomber) a year or two before.

I have a vast amount of notes written by older village worthies which if the editors can find room for or agree to their being printed can be put in the Magazine at some stage when space permits.

Ruth Timbrell.

Thanks, Ruth, for this charming and interesting article! Eds.

God and the Abrahamic religions

Catherine in her this month's "VIEW FROM THE VICARAGE" reminds us very clearly of the links between Judaism and Christianity. Mary Knight in her fascinating sermons has told us about the Old Covenant between God and man, as forged in the Old Testament, and how it led to the New Covenant established by Jesus – who (as Mary told us in her 12/1/14 sermon) was brought up as a good Jew.

Islam also stems from the Old Covenant between man and God – yes the God of Abraham and Isaac – yes, 'our' God.

So we do we not have a duty to respect those who worship within the three great monotheistic religions – Christianity, Judaism and Islam – because the most important part – God Himself – is 'shared'?

How we worship God is the essence of Religion; differences in religion stem from having found or inherited different conflicting paths to God. The important thing, it seems to me, is to worship God, not the religion. I suspect that worshipping religion, not God, is at the root of much of the hatred between members of one religion against another, and many people – including Muslims – would agree – perhaps privately?

We are truly and unimaginably blessed in having Jesus as the centre of our worship – He is God, and He with Father and Holy Ghost are God. In our relationships with the paths of Judaism and Islam there are unfathomable mysteries – but we must seek somehow to deal with them with tolerance, and leave the technicalities to theologians.

Anthony Hodson

Court in the Act – The White Hart Revisited – PS!

(following on from Patricia Powell's article in the Dec/Jan magazine)

I've just been to The White Hart again and have been there two three times since the refurb. The first time, after which I did the article for you, I was really almost shocked as it looked so stark and different, but it's now more dressed up with pictures and artefacts, as well as Christmas decorations, and looks better and quite pretty. The food remains very palatable and Phill and Jean and crew are always nice.

Patricia Powell

Our Page

St Bernadette

In February 1858 Bernadette was 14 years old and lived with her family in the little town of Lourdes in the Pyrenees in France. While she was out collecting wood to keep the family warm Bernadette had a vision of St Mary, the Mother of Christ. The lady in blue and white appeared 18 times in all and asked Bernadette to tell the priests to make a procession to the grotto where she appeared and to build a chapel there. At first the priests didn't believe Bernadette's story because she was only a poor, uneducated girl.

People who were ill came to bathe in the spring of water that appeared at the Grotto and in time a large church was built. And still today pilgrims from all over the world visit the shrine.

What happened to Bernadette? She became a nun. When they asked her if she was sad that the visions had ended she answered: 'I was like a broom. When the sweeping is finished you put it behind the door and forget about it.'

Children's Corner

WATER WORDS

All the answers to this Bible Quiz are to do with water. Answers at the bottom of the page.

1. Where the disciples fished (Mark 1).
2. It parted to allow Moses and the Israelites through (Exodus 14).
3. Jacob met his future wife here (Genesis 29).
4. Paul was on his way to Rome when this happened (Acts 27).
5. How Jonah travelled when the sailors threw him overboard (Jonah 1).
6. The river in which Jesus was baptised (Matthew 3).



Why was Moses hidden quickly?
It was a rush job.

1. Sea of Galilee
2. The Red Sea.
3. at a well
4. he was shipwrecked
5. in a large fish or whale
6. River Jordan