

A VIEW FROM THE VICARAGE

Time to build an Ark?

I guess, with all the rain that has deluged the country these last few months – that it is time to talk about Noah. There are many flood stories in ancient faiths, and you may all think you know this biblical story well, but there are many hidden depths in the script, and points we might not have ever considered.

There is no doubt the biblical figure of Noah is an interesting one. For example, he wasn't a man in a hurry and he didn't leave things until the last minute. It took years to build the ark, and construction began well before it started raining. Noah listened to the voice of God and acted upon divine instruction, even though he may have looked a bit daft doing so – after all who really needs a boat in a semi-desert region?

Noah was also prepared to trust. Did you know that the instructions for the ark did not include a rudder? Therefore, he and his family were going to be at the mercy of the tide and the weather. Noah could have fiddled with the plans and added his own 'improvements' but he didn't: he boarded, he waited and he trusted that it would be all right in the end.

Finally, when the flood was over, Noah still didn't rush. He waited to see if the dove would return or not before he stepped off the ark, and then the first thing he did on dry land was to make a thanks offering to God.

It is a multi-layered and frankly mind blowing story, with messages about faith, righteousness, good and evil. It can be taken literally or as a metaphor for a deeper spiritual truth but, however we approach Noah, we should always ask 'what does this mean for me'?

Lent starts in March and I wonder if we can use the story of Noah to help during the long penitential season. Listening to God as Noah did, building our faith so it can survive the floods of life, and trusting as Noah did, because we are not without a rudder if we hold the divine hand.

You'll find the story of Noah in the Book of Genesis, chapters 6 to 10 but be prepared, it might not be as you expected as there is much

more going on. However you will see that eventually it did stop raining, and, thankfully, the waters finally receded.

Catherine Blundell

A note from the Editors

Noah had the grace, the insight into God's will and the time (although I'm not sure that his nine hundred and fifty years of life were all really a blessing to him or anybody else). The sinners in the world did not have these benefits – and still do not – and I'm afraid that that means **us**.

And we can as a species rightly feel concerned about climate change, to which many people believe that we have all contributed.

I'm not sure who exactly is responsible for the dysfunctional jet-stream that seems to have caused all these deep wet and windy cyclones to impinge on us this winter. The USA has been having its weather problems too, so maybe we need to look further west, across the Pacific – to China? Maybe further west still – and back to us? Yes we're all inescapably part of the problem.

The result: many of our fellow-countrymen and others are suffering, many close to us, not just far away in the West Country. We must pray that we will have the grace to atone for our collective responsibility by contributing cheerfully to requests for help in restoring normality to the lives of those affected. I think Noah would be expecting this of us, if he had been given a few more 950 years.

What do you think? What interests you about these and other issues? Any ideas about the Mag? Let us know!

Editors

From the Registers

Baptisms

Charlie Hudson

Summer Hudson

Kathleen Liska

Bits and Pieces

Church Office opening hours

Mondays: 9:30am to 12:30pm

Tuesdays: 9:30am to 12:30pm

Contact info:

Wednesdays: 9:30am to 3:30pm

Thursdays: 9:30am to 12:30pm

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email: admin@winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk

Parish Mag email: WParishmag@winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk

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 Dates for your Diaries

Parish events and 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. View event details on our website:

www.winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk.

Collation dates for the Parish Magazine

The next few dates for the collation are:

28th March 2014

25th April 2014

23rd May 2014

27th June 2014

Collators and deliverers of the magazine, please note!

The deadline for articles and text for this part of the Parish Mag is always the 10th of each month preceding publication.

The Maidens Green Society

The Maidens Green Society are holding their AGM on Friday 14th March at Stirrups Hotel, Maidens Green, by the kind permission of Jason McKelvie, 7pm for 7:30pm, refreshments served. New members are always welcome so if you are local please come along and hear the news and Views! Contact Richard Bell at richard@quickserver.co.uk

Chavey Down Association - dates for your diary.

Memory Garden tidy up: 5th April, 9:30am. Any time that you can give would be appreciated. This site is part of Church property so any member of St. Martins who can help would be most welcome. We all enjoy the garden especially the display of snowdrops now in flower.

Future clear up days 7th June, 9th August, and a winter clear up in November. Date not yet finalised

16th May Annual General Meeting. St Martin's Hall 7 for 7:30pm. Cheese and wine will be served after the meeting.

26th June. Our Annual Senior citizens outing will take place. The destination: Eastbourne. More details will be found in the April edition of the Parish Magazine.

Winkfield Mayday Fair - 5th May 2014

We need sponsorship & raffle prizes!

If you are a local business perhaps you would consider a donation to help cover the expense of organising the event. Alternatively you may be able to donate a raffle prize. In return your company will be acknowledged in the programme and on posters at the event.



We need Volunteer helpers too!!

With just a handful of us organising the event we really do need your help in the run up to the fair or to help out on the day with setting up, selling raffle tickets and lucky programmes and helping to clear up at the end. We cannot manage to do it all on our own!

A day for the Community by the Community

12.00 midday – 4.00pm
Carnation Hall, Chavey Down Road

If you can help with any of the above please contact Wendy French.
Tel: 883528 or email: wendyfrench@winkfieldrowfair.org

St Mary's Church organ restoration Plant Sale

The Women's Guild will be holding a Plant Sale at St Mary' Church. Winkfield, on **SATURDAY 17th MAY, 2014.**

This plant sale is being held to raise funds for the Organ Restoration.

To make this a success a large number of plants will be required. Could we therefore please ask members of the Parish to donate plants, perhaps by splitting perennial plants from their garden, or by other means. We would be happy to collect any plants – just telephone 886324.

Doreen Potter

Note. The refurbishment work on the Organ has been postponed. Ed

Magazine Adverts Section - Volunteer Support Required.

We are looking for a second Volunteer to support the Advertising aspect of this magazine. The main activities are to support:

- ❖ Telephone-sales for new Ads, throughout the year when required;
- ❖ Sending out annual invoices / reminders / payment chase-ups in December through to March;
- ❖ Type-setting new Ad. artwork, mainly between January and April;
- ❖ Arranging annual renewals in between November and February;
- ❖ Annually auditing the magazine section in February for March.

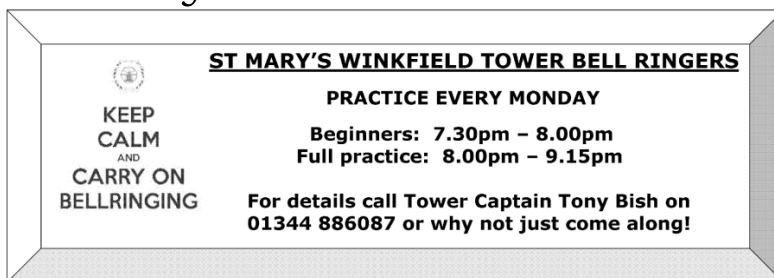
This is a very rewarding role for the Parish and most work is achieved between November and April, with a little throughout the year. Full training is given.


Woodley Concert Band – Spring Concert 29/3/14

The accomplished wind band that supplied musicians for our Christmas Concert will be holding their Spring Concert at the Bearwood Theatre at 7:30pm on Saturday 29th March. Enjoy music on the theme of Myths, Magic and Fairy-tales. Visit their website for booking details:

www.woodleyconcertband.org.uk

News from around the Parish




KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON BELLRINGING

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!

Tower Bell and Hand Bell Ringers Quiz evening

On Saturday 8th February we held our annual quiz, which was a fantastic success with just over 90 people attending. Thank you to everyone who supported us and made the evening worthwhile! Many thanks to Trevor for his many quiz questions, and to Jill who managed the catering. We are not yet sure of the final figure raised, but it will certainly help to boost our coffers.

St Mary's Tower Bell Ringers

Following the usual December festive activities and bell ringing for the Church services, St Mary's Tower Bells finished 2013 by ringing out the year on 'muffled bells' and introducing the New Year with a good loud ring! The 12 strikes at midnight were rung by Sharon Cakebread on the tenor bell. Well done Sharon, it's our heaviest bell! There was a good turn-out for this event, with ringers and partners joining in with the New Year celebrations.

In January many of the bell ringers went to the Sunningdale Pantomime "Wind in the Willows", which was a fun evening. One of our bell ringers, Kathryn Harris, had been involved with the Panto, and had painted the scenery. She made a brilliant job of it.

We have finally received two new bell ropes, and Trevor, our Steeple Keeper, has been busy changing our ropes over. We have another four on order, to complete the set.

As always, anyone wishing to come along and join us, we practice on Monday evenings, beginners 7:30–8pm and full practice 8–9:15pm (which is usually followed by a drink in the local pub). We are a friendly group and always welcome new people, whether you can ring or not. If you fancy a go, why not come along?

Suzanne Woods

Hand-bell Ringers

We have been busy practising our bell ringing with a minimum number of ringers. We hope to produce a small performance repertoire for you in the not too distant future.

Two of us successfully auditioned for the South East Region Bell Orchestra in November and have attended monthly practice sessions - we will be performing with this prestigious group in May - more details to follow ...

Despite attempts to recruit new members you have all stubbornly avoided our efforts, so we have had to resort to new techniques. Four of us attended an excellent study day in Oxford to try and master the "four in hand" method – and yes, this is as difficult as it sounds!!! It was a great day where we practised for many hours ringing four bells (two in each hand) at the same time. We finished the day exhausted both mentally and physically, with "sausage" fingers and sore wrists, necks and backs from the strain. We were all pleased with ourselves and

determined to practice our new skills - however we would prefer it if there were just a couple of new members to give us an option!!!

Please give it some thought and give us a go - come and join us any Wednesday evening from 7:30–9:30pm in St. Mary's church: you can be sure of a warm welcome.

Jill Glennerster 884071

St Mary's Women's Guild

The first meeting of the New Year took place in February and a warm welcome was extended to two new members. Mrs Ruth Marshall, who had attended the December meeting, and Mrs Jean Boshoff. We hope that they will enjoy the Guild for many years

Mrs Mary Knight began the meeting with a short talk and prayer to celebrate Candlemas, traditionally the end of the Christmas season, and marking the Presentation of Christ in the Temple 40 days after his birth at Christmas.

Mrs Potter and the flower arrangers were thanked for the excellent Christmas flower arrangements in the Church and the new theme was greatly admired.

Members had enjoyed the New Year lunch at Mill Ride Golf Club.

We had initial discussions about a new crib for St Mary's and improved notice boards.

The posies for Mothering Sunday will be prepared on Saturday 29th March. Times and names of those involved will be confirmed at the March meeting.

The suggestion to invite people to speak at Guild meetings was agreed and the following speakers/dates have been arranged.

- ❖ 4th March: Mrs Patricia Powell - 'A City Childhood Remembered'
- ❖ 3rd June: Mrs Margaret-Anne Hodson – 'The Riding for the Disabled Association'

The annual Women's World Day of Prayer service will be held on Friday 7th March at 7:30pm at St Peter's Church.

Easter Lilies – please see the separate paragraph on page 9.

The next meeting of the Guild will take place at 2:30pm on Tuesday 4th March. New members are always welcome.

Lesley Philpot

Chavey Down WI

Our March meeting is on Monday 17th: this will be our annual meeting at which new officers for the forth coming year will be elected. New members on the committee are always most welcome.

Once a year we have a Fair Trade Stall which will be at this meeting as that is as close as we can get it to Fair Trade Fortnight. This month we will also be having a demonstration of Pampered Chef products.

We are a friendly institute always looking for new members and new ideas. So please do consider coming to join us. As well as our monthly meetings we have coffee/tea get-togethers, theatre trips, garden visits, and many other outings.

Janey Bethune-Williams 883854

St. Mary's Choir

January and February are fairly quiet months on the musical front, but under the able direction of two of our organists, Maurice Rogers and Jonathan Holl, the choir continues to lead the congregation each Sunday and practice new material for inclusion in the services. We are much indebted to these two gentlemen for their help and encouragement and also to their respective wives, Marilyn and Madeline, who regularly sing with us. Thanks also to the other "Friends" of the choir who join us in song when they can.

Holy Week and Easter are still some weeks away, but we will shortly be preparing music for these festivals of great solemnity followed by wonderful joy. Why not come and join us – you will be made most welcome. Regular commitment for every Sunday is not an absolute necessity, just a pleasure in trying to sing to the best you can. Enthusiasm is much more important than a beautiful voice or perfect musical knowledge. Do get in touch if you would like to know more.

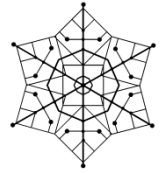
Choir practice is every Thursday evening at 7:30pm and we usually warm up at about 10:30am before the 11am Sunday service. Hope to see you!

Marian Stevens 882918

Congratulations ...

... to Dorothy and Josh Tuffley, who have just celebrated their 50th Wedding anniversary! Well done – a great achievement!!

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, 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 – March services

Mar	Sunday	Time	Form of service	Conducted by
2	Sunday next before Lent	9:30am	Messy Church	Lay minister
		11am	Holy Communion	Clergy
5	Ash Wednesday	11am	Holy Communion	Clergy
9	1 st Sunday of Lent	8am	Holy Communion	Clergy
		9:30am	Family Praise	Lay minister
		11am	Family/All Age	Lay minister
16	2 nd Sunday of Lent	9:30am	Family Praise	Clergy
		11am	Holy Communion	Clergy
		12:45pm	Baptism	Clergy
		1:30pm	Baptism	Clergy
23	3 rd Sunday of Lent	8am	Holy Communion	Clergy
		9:30am	Family Praise	Lay minister
		11am	Morning Prayer	Lay minister
30	4 th S of Lent, Mothering Sunday	9:30am	Family Praise	Lay minister
		11am	Morning Prayer	Lay minister

Easter Memorial Lilies

If you would like to purchase any Lilies to be displayed in St Mary's Church over Easter in memory of loved ones and relatives, please contact Doreen Potter on 886324.

Lilies cost £2.00. each and payment should be made direct to Doreen.

St Martin's, Chavey Down – March services

Mar	Sunday	Time	Form of service	Conducted by
2	Sunday next before Lent	9:30am	Family/All Age	Lay minister
9	1 st Sunday of Lent	9:30am	Holy Communion	Clergy
16	2 nd S. of Lent	9:30am	Morning Prayer	Lay minister
23	3 rd S. of Lent	9:30am	Holy Communion	Clergy
30	4 th S. of Lent Mothering Sunday	8am	Holy Communion	Clergy
		9:30am	Morning Prayer	Lay minister

St Peter's Cranbourne – March services

Mar	Sunday	Time	Form of service	Conducted by
2	Sunday next before Lent	8am	Holy Communion	Clergy
		11am	All Together Service	Lay minister
5	Ash Wed'y	8pm	Holy Communion	Clergy
7	Women's World Day of Prayer	7:45pm	Holy Communion	Clergy
9	1 st Sunday of Lent	11am	Holy Communion	Clergy
		12:45pm	Baptism	Clergy
		1:30pm	Baptism	Clergy
		2:15pm	Baptism	Clergy
16	2 nd Sunday. of Lent	8am	Holy Communion	Clergy
		11am	Morning Prayer	Lay minister
23	3 rd Sunday. of Lent	11am	Holy Communion	Clergy
		12:45pm	Baptism	Clergy
		1:30pm	Baptism	Clergy
		2:15pm	Baptism	Clergy
30	4 th S. of Lent Mothering Sunday	11am	Morning Prayer	Lay minister

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

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!**

2nd March Holy Communion Rev'd Roy Smith

9th March Mary Elms

16th March Maggy Garton

23rd Revd Jackie Case

30th Mothering Sunday: Irene Robinson



The Ash Wednesday service on 5th March at 7:30pm will be a United Service for Winkfield Row, Crowthorne and Bracknell Methodist Church led by Rev'd Roy Smith, Preacher Mrs Nina Preston.

Flowers & Cleaning Rotas

St Mary's

Dates	Flowers
7 th March	Mrs Potter and Mrs Haines
14 th and 21 st March	Mrs Jolly and Mrs Potter
28 th March	Mrs Cameron and Mrs Hodgson

St Martin's

Dates	Flowers	Cleaning
2 nd March	Mrs Timbrell/Mrs Phillips	Mrs Crane
9 th & 16 th March	Mrs Bunker/Mrs Smith	Mrs Paramor
23 rd & 30 th March	Mrs Fanning /Mrs Logan	Mrs Jenkins

What's on in March

Day	Mar	Event	Time/place
Sat	1	Baptism Preparation session	9:30am at St Mary's church
		Film Club,	2pm at St Peter's church
Tue	4	SHROVE TUESDAY	
		St Mary's Women's Guild	2:30pm at St Martin's
Wed	5	ASH WEDNESDAY	
Thu	6	Indoor carpet bowling (no skill required)	2pm to 3:30pm at St Peter's church
		Cranbourne Standing Committee Meeting	2pm to 3:30pm at St Peter's church
		Sunningdale & Ascot Camera Club	8pm All Saints Church Hall (SL5 8DQ)
Fri	7	Women's World Day of Prayer Service,	7:30pm at St Peter's church, Cranbourne
Sun	9	Christian Exploration Course	9:30am to 4:30pm at St Peter's church, Cranbourne
Wed	12	Cranbourne PCC Meeting	7:30pm at St Peter's Church
Thu	13	Winkfield PCC Meeting	8pm at St Martin's Hall
Fri	14	Ministry Team meeting	2pm
Mon	17	Chavey Down WI Annual Meeting & Fair Trade Stall	7:45pm at St Martin's Hall
Thu	20	Indoor carpet bowling (no skill required)	2-3:30pm at St Peter's church
		Vicar's Tea Party	2-3:30pm at St Peter's church
Wed	26	St Marys Annual Parochial Church Meeting	7:30pm at Martin's church
		Zumba gold class	7-8pm at St Peter's church Hall
Thu	27	Indoor carpet bowling (no skill required)	2-3:30pm at St Peter's church
Sat	29	Christian Exploration Course	9:30am to 4:30pm at St Peter's church, Cranbourne
		Woodley Concert Band	7:30pm Bearwood Theatre
Sun	30	MOTHERING SUNDAY	

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

Thoughts of all sorts

The way to a Woman's heart! Post Script!!

(see article on page 17 of the February Parish Mag)

Apparently the Milk Tray paid off. The airman and Miss Wilmin were married, according to local information. The airman Alcock was posted abroad and they went to Karachi.

Ruth Timbrell

Young musicians – and a tragedy

Our Christmas Concert has not only been a time to enjoy our own children's voices as they sing like angels in the Junior Choir, but it has also been a showcase, over the past three years, for talented young musicians. We have enjoyed school-age singers and instrumentalists, and, in 2011, Lucy Morris, the Director of the Children's Choir was just 18 years old, and already a well-rounded musician, leading a mini-orchestra comprising her school-age musical friends and associates.

A special feature of the 2012 concert was the Acer Minor Bassoon Septet –surely the most unusual ensemble ever to play in St Mary's Church? We will long remember the rich voice of those bassoons in the hands of the young players, some not long out of primary school.

Toby Davies was one of these players – a musician of great talent, he played the piano and composed, as well as playing the bassoon with great skill. He was also a boy of unique charm and character.

In September 2013, he moved from Reading School to the celebrated Purcell School of Music, to work towards A Levels in a school whose pupils are all potential musical stars.

There, in November 2013, aged 16, he fell seriously ill and died shortly afterwards in Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

This was a devastating blow to his family, to the School, and to all who knew him. His Headmaster, David Thomas said:

“The whole school is extremely upset at Toby's sudden death. He was a very popular and talented pupil who brought a love of life, a love of people, and a love of music to the school. In his short time here, he gave a great deal to the life of the school, and he will be much missed.”

On a brighter note, you may like to use old programmes to find the names of young musicians who have played at our Christmas Concerts, and try googling them to see if they have emerged into Internet fame!

For example you can find Madeleine Millar (who played at our 2012 concert). (She has recently has been offered a place at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and also at the Royal Academy of Music).

Many (perhaps most) of our young Christmas instrumental talent has been involved with The Woodley Festival of Music and Drama. So ...

The Woodley Festival of Music and Drama

Talking of the young, those with talented children who would enjoy a challenge, or those interested in spotting young musical or dramatic talent – can have a thoroughly enjoyable time at the Woodley Festival doing just that. The Festival takes place this year during the weekends of 8th/9th March, 15th/16th March and 22th/23th March, and has Piano, Instrumental, Vocal and Speech/Drama sections, under skilled adjudicators. It takes place at the Oakwood Centre, Woodley (except children's choirs, which are held in Emmbrook School on 8th March). There are a number of classes for adults (and some Family classes, too). There is a small entry fee for audience members who are not performing. Fuller details can be found on the Festival website:

www.woodleyfestival.org.uk

Apart from the challenge of performance, competitors have the benefit of the adjudicator's sympathetic and helpful assessment of how they did, and this will help them and other competitors to do better still. Entries for classes must be in by mid-January, so request your children's teachers to take early action if you are interested. The Festival offers the services of an experienced and sympathetic accompanist if needed.

Anthony Hodson

St Martin's. War memorial WW1

It is common knowledge that St.Martin's does not have a permanent memorial. Chavey Down casualties are in fact recorded on the Roll of Honour at Holy Trinity Bracknell – which one cannot get at, let alone read (and it appears to be incomplete!). Chavey Down was at that time "in Bracknell" – it was 'taken out' of Winkfield when Holy Trinity was built (although it had always been in Winkfield). Thankfully it is now restored to Winkfield .

Some 10 years ago I was asked by various village people to compile a list of the Chavey Down lads who lost their lives in WW1. This list then stood at 5. A new name will be added by me, this year, to a framed list in the Church (to artwork designed by my niece Jacqueline Mayes), bringing the total to 12.

The name to be added is Robert Alfred Brown who lived in Church Road. He emigrated to Canada and, when war was declared, joined the Canadian Forces in 1915. He was shot in the throat by a sniper on the first day of the Battle of Passchendaele, aged just 20 years. Sadly, 'lessons have not been learnt'.

Ruth Timbrell

Precious Places of Worship

I was Christened in the Baroque, Wren-designed St James's Church, Piccadilly and my childhood church was St Stephen's, Rochester Row, both in central London. My primary and grammar schools were C of E too, so I grew up in the Anglican tradition. I enjoy, though, visiting churches of all denominations – and other faiths' religious centres too.

From the wistfully redundant watermen's church at Boveney near Windsor, to tiny stone Welsh mountain chapels and sister ones in Argentinian Patagonia, to the healing shrine of The Black Madonna at Czestochowa, Poland, to the soaring, blue rose-windowed Chartres Cathedral, to the Hagia Sophia church/mosque in Istanbul, to unadorned Lutheran buildings in the German-settled, wine-growing Barossa Valley, South Australia, to the golden onion-domed Kremlin churches and back to our beautiful Westminster Abbey and, closer to hand, our own parish churches, I have felt privileged to see them all.

Churches, synagogues, mosques and temples offer, world-wide, sanctuary and a welcome. These places, and adjacent burial areas, hold such a trove of history, styles and intriguing and often poignant artefacts, pictures and memorials - a key part of our human heritage. In these more secular times, long may they last.

Patricia Powell

What shall I do?

A real problem for many when ending full time employment is how to keep the grey cells from shrivelling. Luckily there is an organisation out there that provides mental and physical stimulus for older people – and for an annual subscription of only £15!

Here's a list of subjects to stretch the mind, stimulate the curious and get you out and about:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Bridge❖ Walking and visits❖ Making music❖ French/Spanish/Italian conversation❖ Science and Technology | <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Gardening❖ Singing for fun❖ Photography❖ Art Appreciation❖ Etc., etc., etc. |
|---|---|

These are just a few of the subjects available. Groups meet informally, often in a private house each month, enjoying the company of like-minded people. Unlike the Open University, there are no exams or certificates in the U3A.

The University of the Third Age (U3A) movement is a unique and exciting organisation which provides, through its U3As, life-enhancing and life-changing opportunities. Retired and semi-retired people come together and learn together, not for qualifications but for its own reward: the sheer joy of discovery!

Members share their skills and life experiences: the learners teach and the teachers learn, and there is no distinction between them.

The U3A (University of the Third Age) has branches all over the country. Details of the Bracknell branch can be found at:

www.bracknellu3a.org.uk

Or contact: Tony Bolt, 6 Woolhampton Way, BRACKNELL, RG12 9NS
Telephone: 483843

Women of Consequence

You do not have to be an active feminist – or even female – to enjoy a thoroughly good read in this excellent book by Mark Hichens. He selects eleven distinguished women as his subjects (deliberately excluding politicians such as Mrs Thatcher, or royal personages such as Queen Victoria), and gives a compelling account of each of their interesting life's works in a style that is both well researched and well presented. Most of the women selected are English, the exceptions being Madame Curie and Mother Theresa.

Mark Hichens was a schoolmaster in his main career, teaching history to children under the age of 13, and he certainly learnt how to make the subject interesting! Instead of retiring (he is now 89), he has written a series of books about important people –specialising in women:

Wives of the Kings of England: From Normans to Stuarts
Wives of the Kings of England: From Hanover to Windsors
Prime Ministers' Wives
Queens and Empresses

as well as books on Oscar Wilde and PG Woodhouse. If you enjoy incisive biographies (and not over-sympathetic covering-up of the flaws of great people), you may enjoy Mark's contributions to the field.

If you have read a book that you really enjoyed, why not share your views about it with the rest of us? Eds.

The Boyle Lecture

In these days, when the secular world seems to be drowning out religion, not so much by rational argument (e.g. from militant atheist Richard Dawkins) as by plain apathy, it is good news that there is a strong and enduring intellectual fight back. A spear-head of this fight-back is the annual Boyle Lecture, which takes place in the City church of St Mary-le-Bow (of Bow Bells fame).

The Boyle lectures were established in the 17th Century by Robert Boyle, the scientist and Natural Philosopher (physicists among us may remember Boyle's Law). His object, then as now, was to make rational defence of Christianity against scientific theories purporting disprove it.

The lectures lapsed during the 20th Century, but were revived in 2004, and they demonstrate that the best scientific arguments from radical atheists like Dawkins miss the point; indeed several of the deliverers of the Boyle lecture have themselves been eminent scientists (of which the Rev'd Prof. John Polkinghorne is perhaps the best known).

The Boyle Lecture was given this year on 22nd January by The Rev'd Dr Alister McGrath, Prof. of Theology at King's College, London, who pointed out that there was no need to take on atheists on the basis of the philosophical foundations of science, since these foundations are substantially different from those of theology (and of Christianity). Better to start boldly from the most relevant philosophical foundations!

The traditional response to the main lecturer was given by The Rt Rev'd and Rt Hon. the Lord Harries of Pentregarth, whom many will remember from his days as Bishop of Oxford (others will remember him as a recent Gresham Professor of Divinity). Lord Harries' perceptive response was a tour-de-force, approving the general direction of Dr

McGrath, but inviting more exploration of the theological foundations, so that informed counter-argument to atheism can be stronger.

The good news is that our faith is safe against science: we can accept scientific facts and need not reject them on faith grounds, as there is no rational ground to suppose that they invalidate our Christian beliefs.

Letters to the Editor

**From Andrew Radgick,
History Officer, The Bracknell Forest Society**

Dear Sir,

I am researching the men of the area who were killed in WWI for a book to be published later this year.

While looking at copies of the Winkfield Parish Magazine deposited at the Berkshire Record Office, I came across a reference to a Roll of Honour at "Winkfield School", which I believe was probably Winkfield St Mary, Church of England School. It consisted of an illuminated list of names of former pupils that were killed in the conflict.

I have contacted the school, but none of the staff recall having seen such an item. May I ask through your Parish Magazine if any former pupils from the school ever remembering seeing it, or have any information on it please?

Kind regards,

Andrew Radgick
Email: aradgick@btinternet.com
Tel: 862683

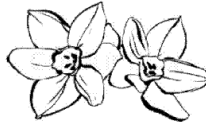
If anybody can help, do be in touch with Andrew directly – and Ruth Timbrell would be interested also in new light on the subject.

*Letters are invited on any topic!
Eds.*



"No, not the steeple, the roof or the organ – it's for the vicar's post-Christmas-pre-Easter recuperation holiday-break."

**Bracknell & Wokingham
Districts Branch**



**...our Spring Fair 2014, and the
chance to come along and see some of the
cats in our care, available for rehoming**

Date: Saturday 15th March 2014

Time: 1.00pm to 4.00pm

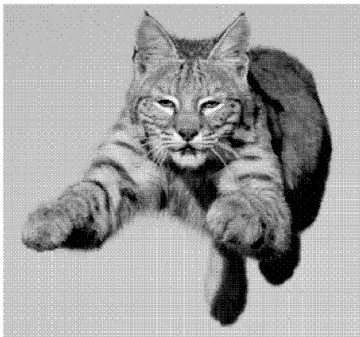
**Ven: Carnation Hall,
Chavey Down Rd,
Winkfield, Berkshire,
RG42 7PA**

Entrance

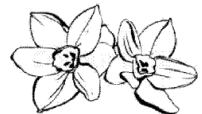
**Fee: £1 admission per person
or a donation of cat food**



**Cats Protection goods, Cat collectables, Toys, Books,
Bric-a-Brac, Raffle, Tombola, Jewellery, Membership stand,
delicious cakes and food, free parking and cats, cats, cats!**



**Leap into action, come along and
help support the branch to raise
much needed funds!**



Children's Corner



LENT

Lent, before Easter, is like Advent before Christmas, a time of preparation. Lent is when we remember that Jesus prepared himself for starting his ministry by going away by himself for 40 days of fasting and prayer. You can read about it in your Bible: Matthew, chapter 4, verses 1-11; Mark, chapter 1, verses 12-13 and Luke, chapter 4, verses 1-13.

Jesus went into the wilderness – a quiet lonely place away from people – where he could think things out. He knew that his work would be hard, that many people would not listen to him, or if they listened, they would not believe him. During these 40 days Jesus made his choice: to work in God's way however hard that might be.

This year Lent starts on 5th March and goes through half of April - have you thought about how YOU are going to prepare yourself to follow Jesus this Lent?

SPRING COLOURS

There are colours which are mentioned with these things in

the Bible. Answers at the bottom of the page.

1. Pastures, herbs and olives are all?
2. A sea, tents and wine are?
3. Hangings in the Temple, pomegranates and doors of tents were all?
4. A horse, robes and teeth were all?
5. Kings' raiment (clothing), Jesus' robe and the dye that Lydia sold were all?
6. One of the gifts to the baby Jesus, candlesticks and spoons were?
7. A raven, clouds and chariot horses were?
8. Lips, a thread tied to a window and robes are?

~~~~~  
**What's blue, V-shaped and flies?**

The Red Arrows in disguise.



**What do you do with a green monster?**

Wait till he's ripe.

~~~~~  
**Answers: 1.green 2.red 3.blue
4.white 5.purple 6.gold 7.black
8.scarlet**