

A VIEW FROM THE VICARAGE

A Century of Loss

A hundred years is a long time but, as harvest passes by, our thoughts turn to the season of remembrance and this year it is made all the more poignant by the milestone of a century since the start of the First World War.

What a century it has been. The men that died on Flanders Field, with the exception of a few very young lads, would have been born in the Victorian era. They knew a world of steam engines, the British Empire and the birth of much of the technology that rules our lives today. However the losses of the First World War, like any untimely death, robbed those men not just of life, but of the experiences they would have had.

Had they lived a full three score years and ten they would have seen medical advances only dreamt of in the trenches, experienced ever more complicated forms of communication, watched man reach the moon and then the ultimate horror of a weapon, more deadly than the German machine gun, the atom bomb.

They would also have experienced the ordinary things of life, loved ones growing old, children, grandchildren, the highs and lows of a career and the simple joys of the seasons as they changed.

It is this loss of ordinary lives and potential that we will remember and honour this November. On the 9th November at 10:45am there will be a Civic Service in St Mary's church, led by Revd Simon Baynes, former vicar of the Winkfield and Cranbourne churches, with poems, hymns and an act of Remembrance.

At St Peter's there will also be a service of remembrance, with a special display to remember the young men of this area who died in World War One. You are most welcome to either service. At Chavey Down the special service will come later next year when we, hopefully, unveil the long awaited new memorials to the young men of Chavey Down.

With war comes sacrifice. It is made not just by those who fight but also by those who wait, pray and mourn. Sacrifice is costly, sacrifice is hard but at the heart of it are values such as honour, duty and love. Jesus said, as he was about to face his own death, 'greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends'. (John 15:13)

Catherine Blundell

A note from the Editors

A few days ago, I was in the Headteacher's Office, at Winkfield St Mary's School, meeting four young people who had volunteered to read at the Civic Remembrance Day service at St Mary's on 9th November. I asked them if they knew of anybody in their past family who had been killed in war. One thought that a great-grandfather had been killed, but for them – and even for many much older people – the whole experience of family loss in war was history, something in the distant past, recorded in books, or perhaps seen in old footage discussed in television programmes.

The loss of life in WW1 (and WW2 too) – combatants and non-combatants – tragic in itself, had a huge impact on families, with the loss or maiming of fathers (and sometimes mothers), of sons (and daughters), and of friends and relatives. So also did the aftermath of war in itself. The gulf in this respect between today's families and families after WW1 (or WW2) is almost beyond imagining. The closest we come today to seeing war's horrible impact on families is on TV news showing families living in refugee camps in the Middle East. They face huge anguish, grief and loss.

We all must face the reality of the tragedy of war, while recognising the heroism and devotion to duty of so many in our armed forces, past, present and future. Remembrance Day services are a good way to make us focus on this, both adults and children. Our readers on 9/11/14 will do their best to show that our young people too can endeavour to engage with this reality.

From the Registers

Baptisms

Welcome to the following children, baptised into God's church recently:

7th September	Jessica Reynolds	7th September	Cerys Lewis
7th September	Isaac Jolly	28th September	Henry Graham
7th September	Dylan Woods		

Marriages

Congratulations to the following couple, married recently:

20th September Bryn Evans & Sally Pickering

Funerals

A Funeral Service for the late Mr Les Richards was held at St Mary's church, on 19th August 2014.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

Bits and Pieces

Office opening hours (Friday closed):

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

Thursdays: 9:30am to 12:30pm
Fridays: closed

Contact info

Church Office: c/o St Martin's Church, Church Road, Chavey Down, SL5 8RR Phone: 882933

Website: www.winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk

email: admin@winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk

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 the website above.

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

Collation dates for the Parish Magazine

The final date for the collation to the end of the year is:

Nov 28 (December/January edition)

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.

Popel's Cottages Almshouse Vacancy

A first floor flat at Popel's Cottages, Church Road (next to Popel's Hall) has become available following redecorating and refurbishment, including a new carpet and a walk-in-shower.

The flats are managed by the Winkfield Parochial Charities to provide accommodation for women in the Parish whose personal circumstances mean they would benefit from the assistance of our charity.*

If you know someone in Winkfield who would be interested in the property, please contact Michael Zerilli (Chairman of Trustees) by phone on 07543 627 637, or by email at winkfieldparochialcharities@outlook.com, for more information.

**The trustees are mindful of Equality legislation; however, the stated purpose of the charities is that the accommodation is to be provided for women of the Parish.*

**Cats Protection
Bracknell and Wokingham
Districts Branch**



Winter Fair 2014

Date: Saturday 8th November 2014
Time: 1.00pm to 4.00pm
Venue: Carnation Hall, Chavey Down Rd,
Winkfield, Berkshire, RG42 7PA

**Entrance
Fee:** 50p 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, parking and
cats to see!**

Winter

Cats Protection Bracknell & Wokingham Districts,
PO Box 4054, Bracknell, Berks, RG42 9DE
Telephone: 0845 371 4212 (Monday - Saturday 9.00am – 5.00pm only), www.cats.org.uk/bracknell
Registered Charity 203644 (England and Wales) and SC037711 (Scotland)

Chavey Down Women's Institute

Our meeting this month takes the form of a craft meeting at which some of our own members will be demonstrating their own crafts.

So if you feel you would like to learn something new then do come along at 7:30pm on Monday 17th November in St Martins Church Hall and have a go!

A very warm welcome awaits you there.

Janey Bethune-Williams 883854



A CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EVENING
Winkfield St Mary's School

THURSDAY 13th NOVEMBER 2014
7PM TO 10 PM

Winkfield Row, RG42 6NH

Lots of lovely stalls selling Crafts, Jewellery,
Bags, Scarves, Cards, Children's Clothes, Shabby
Chic Gifts, Toys and lots more....

ENTRANCE £3

Includes a glass of Mulled Wine,
Mince Pie & a Goody Bag
BAR & RAFFLE

ALL WELCOME

Tickets available on the door

Organised by Winkfield St Mary's School PTA

News from around the Parish

Happy Birthday Winkfield Brownies!

In September, Winkfield Brownies celebrated their First Birthday, in the best possible way playing games, eating cake and drinking lemonade! With a woodland scene cake, including a pool and an Owl, the girls sang Happy Birthday and then Wise Owl, Gwen Cooper, President of South East Berkshire Division and former Brownie Guider cut the cake.

Apart from eating cake (and marshmallows) something that Brownies are very good at, in their first year the Brownies have learnt about being a Brownie, tried new things, been on a sleepover and a pack holiday, played games, entertained, had campfires (three at time of going to press), played games, been on a litter pick, had a meeting in the dark, visited Pets at Home, orienteered around Lily Hill Park, been sno-tubing, had a go at various crafts, travelled to India, and had a Party (or two). They have met up with other Brownie Groups in the local area and Berkshire to celebrate the Big Brownie Birthday – 100 years of Brownies!

Winkfield Brownies have girls from eight local schools who have forged friendships, and have discovered and grown from the guiding ethos; but it can't be done without help from our volunteers and parents. If you think it all sounds like fun and want to know more about Guiding in the Bracknell/Ascot area, please see <http://girlguidingseberks.btck.co.uk/>. If you are interested in volunteering (even occasionally), or have something you can share, please email growingguidingsedivision@gmail.com or winkfieldbrownies@gmail.com. If your daughter wishes to become a Brownie please go to <https://enquiryym.girlguiding.org.uk/>.

Barn Owl and Baby Owl, Guiders, Winkfield Brownies.

Handbell Ringers

We are busy practising for Bell Sunday on 19th October (which you will hopefully have enjoyed by the time you read this!).

Some of us attended the Newbury Ringing Roadshow and had a thoroughly enjoyable day out. Whilst there we decided to purchase two octaves of hand chimes to complement our bells; they make an interesting sound which we combine with the bells in several pieces of music. We are practising hard so we hope you enjoy that new sound when we next perform. We also now have plenty of options for ringing (some say the chimes are easier to ring than the bells!!). We have two new members who are most welcome, and who are progressing well; so do come and join them and have a go - we always have fun.

Jill Glennerster 884071

**St Mary's Church
Winkfield
proudly presents**

***St Mary's: Music
for Christmas***

**Saturday 6th December 2014
at 7:30pm**

The Cameo Singers

A wind quintet by the Woodley Concert Band

A Children's Choir

Full choir with St Mary's Singers and Friends

Featuring highly talented young soloists

**Mulled wine and mince pies will be served
in the interval**

Tickets only £10 (£5 under 13s)

**For tickets or enquiries, please phone Marian Stevens at
01344 882918 or email: Anthony.locksride@btinternet.com**

All proceeds to Organ and Choir funds

SERVICES ACROSS THE PARISH

NOTE. We are omitting the 'by' column this month, by request. Holy Communion, Holy Matrimony and Baptisms services are taken by Clergy (normally the Vicar). Other services may be taken by Lay or Clergy. Lay ministers include: Stuart Ager, David Blundell, Paula Darrall, Mary Knight, Jacki Thomas, and Mike Thomas.

St Mary's – November services

Nov	Day	Time	Form of service
2	4th Sunday before Advent- All Souls	9:30am	Messy Church
		11am	Holy Communion
9	3rd Sunday before Advent – Remembrance Day	8am	Holy Communion
		9:30am	Family Praise
		10:45am	Remembrance - Civic Service
16	2nd Sunday before Advent	9:30am	Family Praise
		11am	Holy Communion
		12:45pm	Baptism
		1pm	Baptism
		2:15pm	Baptism
22	Saturday Wedding	2pm	Holy Matrimony
23	Christ the King	8am	Holy Communion
		9:30am	Family Praise
		11am	Morning Prayer
30	1 st Sunday of Advent	9:30am	Family Praise
		11am	Advent Carols and Readings

St Martin's, Chavey Down – November services

Nov	Day	Time	Form of service
2	4th Sunday before Advent - All Souls	9:30am	Family Matins
9	3rd Sunday before Advent, Remembrance	9:30am	Remembrance
16	2nd Sunday before Advent	9:30am	Morning Prayer
23	Christ the King	9:30am	Holy Communion
30	1 st Sunday of Advent	9:30am	Holy Communion
		11am	Morning Prayer with Advent Carols

St Peter's Cranbourne – November services

Nov	Day	Time	Form of service
2	4th Sunday before Advent- All Souls	8am	Holy Communion
		11am	All Together
9	3rd Sunday before Advent, Remembrance	10:45am	Remembrance
16	2nd Sunday before Advent	8am	Holy communion
		11am	Morning Prayer
23	Christ the King	11am	Holy communion
		12:45pm	Baptism
		1pm	Baptism
		2:15pm	Baptism
30	1 st Sunday of Advent	11am	Special Christingle service

Note on Service Leaders:

Winkfield Row Methodist Church - November

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 Nov – Baptism – Revd Jackie Case

9th Nov. – Remembrance Sunday – Holy Communion

Revd Jackie Case

16th Nov. – Dalwyn Atwell

23rd Nov. – Tony King

30th Nov. – Diana Middleditch



Flowers & Cleaning Rotas - November

St Mary's

Dates	Flowers
7 th and 14 th Nov.	Mrs Potter and Mrs Haines
21st Nov.	Mrs Jolly and Mrs Potter
28th Nov.	Mrs Jolly (Advent - memorial table only)

St Martin's

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

What's on in November 2014

NB. All content in these lists may be subject to change without notice.

Regular events

Day	Event
Mondays not including Bank Holidays	Ascot Bridge Club – Chavey Down, Ascot. For more information please call David Calcutt on 886412, or visit the web site www.ascotbridge.org.uk
	Ballet With Victoria Lyons at St Peters Hall. For more information call 638538.
	Ascot Yoga 7:45-9pm at Carnation hall. Visit www.ascotzumba.co.uk for more info or contact Flo Young on 07711077038 e/m Flo@ascotzumba.co.uk
Mondays not including Bank Holidays	Fun Adult Jive Classes at King Edwards Hall, SL5 8PD. Debra on 07748 391776 or email john@jive-cats.co.uk
Tuesdays	Short Mat Bowls at Carnation Hall at 7pm. For more information please ring 882916 or 884553.
Wednesdays	Zumba gold class at St Peter's church hall 7pm to 8pm
	Pilates classes at Carnation Hall Contact Rebecca on 0774 860 3145, e-mail pilatesascot@btinternet.com or visit www.pilatesascot.co.uk .
Thursdays (except 27 th Nov)	Indoor carpet bowling (no skill required) 2pm to 3:30pm at St Peter's church
Thursdays	The Carnation Badminton Club plays on Thursdays at Carnation Hall, 8-10pm, at Carnation Hall. New members welcome.

Day	Event
Thursdays	Ballroom and Latin American dance classes, at the British Legion Hall in Hatchet Lane, Cranbourne, Pay as you go. To find out more, call 621353 or email dancejanet@hotmail.com

Other events

Day	Nov	Event	Time/place
Thur Fri & Sat	30/10 31/10 1/11	Cranbourne Amateur Dramatic Society: 3 short plays to commemorate WORLD WAR I	7:45pm at St Peter's Church Hall, Hatchet lane, Cranbourne, SL4 2EG. Box Office: 01344 886456
Sat	1	Baptism preparation	9:30am at St Mary's Church
		Cordes Hall Cinema	10am to 8pm. Please see website: www.cordes-hall-sunninghill.org.uk
Tue	4	St Mary's Women's Guild	2:30pm at St Martin's Church Hall. New members always welcome.
		Winkfield Standing Committee	8pm at the Church Office
Wed	5	Cranbourne Standing Committee	8pm: location tba
Thur	6	World Ship Society – Peter and Bruce Dawes : A Journey from Vlissingen to Hamburg.	7:45 for 8pm. Carnation Hall All welcome
Fri	7	Holiday Craft & Gift Fayre	Ascot Pavilion, Ascot Racecourse
		For more information see www.awbs.org.uk/craft-fayre	
Sat	8	Christian Foundation Course Please contact email: dmblundell@btinternet.com	9:30am at St Peter's Church, Cranbourne.

Day	Nov	Event	Time/place
Sun	9	Remembrance Services	9:30am St Martin's, Chavey Down 10:45am St Mary's Church, Winkfield (Civic service) 10:45am St Peter's Church, Cranbourne
Sat	15	Christian Foundation Course	9:30am at St Peter's Church, Cranbourne.
		Please contact dmblundell@btinternet.com	
		Messy Church/Family Praisers – Team Training	9:30am at St Mary's Church Winkfield
Sun	16	Ascot Famers Market	9:30am - 1pm, Car Park 3 at the Racecourse, SL5 7JF, upper Ascot High Street,
		Sunninghill Victorian Street Fayre	12noon till 4pm. For more information visit: http://sunninghillandascotparishcouncil.co.uk/
Wed	19	Cranbourne PCC Meeting	8pm at St Peter's Church
Thur	20	Winkfield PCC Meeting	8pm in St Martin's Hall
Sat	22	Messy Church/Family Praisers – Team Training	9:30am at St Mary's Church Winkfield
		Ascot Art Group	10am until 4pm: North Ascot Community Centre, Fernbank Road, Ascot, SL5 8LA
		British Legion Christmas fair/Table Top Sale	10am to 1pm at the Royal British Legion Hall, Hatchet Lane, Cranbourne
		Holy Matrimony – Sandall & Brookes-Grindlay	St Mary's Church at 2pm
		David Jones Dixieland Jazz	7:30 to 10pm at the Royal British Legion Hall, Hatchet Lane, Cranbourne. Tickets cost £8 from Peter on 01344 772351

Day	Nov	Event	Time/place
Thur to Sun	27 to 30	Christmas Fair	From 9:30am at Ascot Racecourse

More news from around the parish

St. Mary's Choir

November sees the end of the year in the church's calendar and the beginning of a new year with the season of Advent. Advent Sunday is on November 30th. This is the time when we look towards the coming of the Christ Child and inevitably start to think about Christmas. (The word Advent comes from the Latin word *adventum* meaning "the arriving" at the season of Christmas and the coming of Christ.)

In the Choir, we will be practising for our Christmas Concert and towards a number of special services, including the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, a regular feature of our seasonal celebrations. If you like a little singing yourself, in the bath or in the car, and have thought you might consider joining a group of like-minded folk to make a joyful noise, why not come along to our choir practice and help us disperse the winter gloom with some cheerful music – now could not be a better time? You will be made very welcome and enthusiasm is always much more important than perfect musical knowledge.

We practise on Thursday evenings at St. Mary's Church at 7:30pm and warm up on Sunday mornings at 10:15am, before the 11am service. If you cannot commit to every Sunday, come and join us once or twice a month.

Our other main event in the near future is of course St. Mary's – Music for Christmas on December 6th at 7:30pm – a glorious celebration of voices and instrumentalists to start the festive season. There are full details of the concert on page 7 of this magazine, so if you haven't bought your tickets already, please do so without delay and don't miss it (you can use the form supplied on that page). Alternatively, you might like to join us and sing in the choir! Either way, we hope to see you there.

Marian Stevens 882918; email: anthony.locksride@btinternet.com

St Mary's Women's Guild

Mary Knight, Lay Minister and a Guild member, gave a most fascinating talk about her Christian musical holidays. There were three festivals that she and Geoffrey had visited this year.

The first was Winchester, for the Southern Cathedrals Festival. This festival, held each year at Winchester, Salisbury or Chichester, offers sacred choral and organ music performed to the very highest standard by the three cathedrals' renowned choirs. The Festival offers a unique opportunity to enjoy music, and to take part in worship within the setting of three magnificent cathedrals.

The second visit was to Edington, a small village on the edge of Salisbury Plain, in Wiltshire. For one week in August every year since 1956, Edington has hosted a Festival of Music within the Liturgy in its magnificent fourteenth-century priory church. Singers from many of the great cathedral and collegiate choirs come together to take part in the week's daily services.

Throughout the week, Matins and Compline are sung to plainsong by the Schola Cantorum, whilst the principal services are led by a Nave Choir of men and boys, and a Consort of mixed voices.

The third visit was to Tewkesbury Abbey with Musica Deo Sacra (MDS), a group of singers from different cathedrals, collegiate and recital choirs who gather together for a very special week at the Abbey to sing some of the finest music, written over the centuries, in its intended liturgical setting.

Members thanked Mary for such an interesting and informative afternoon.

Members had enjoyed the harvest lunch followed by Evensong, and thanks were given to Doreen Potter and the flower arrangers for decorating the church so beautifully, and also to Joan Doughty who, once again, provided the food boxes. Members of the Guild packed and delivered the boxes.

Speakers for remainder of the year and for the beginning of 2015 are:

Nov. 2014 Ruth Timbrell: WW1

Dec. 2014 Carols with Geoffrey Knight, followed by tea – and Joan Doughty's Christmas cake!

February Jean Brown – Stewarding at St. George's Chapel

The next meeting of the Guild is Tuesday 4th November at 2:30pm in St Martin's Hall. New members are always welcome.

Lesley Philpot

What's on in December:

2nd Dec Women's Guild – 2:30pm St Martin's Hall – Carols with Geoffrey Knight

8th Dec Whist – 7:30pm at the White Hart

Memory Garden, St.Martin's,

The next workday is 1st November. Sonia and Ray Simmonds have donated crocus bulbs in memory of Sonia's grandfather, who was killed in WW1. He was 2nd Lt Bertram Hayward.

What a lovely thought in this emotive year!

Ruth Timbrell

Winkfield Football Reunion 120 years

A message from Doug Chapman

I would like to thank all the people that made this event a success on 28th September, from those that donated memorabilia to those that came on the night; thanks also to the Winkfield Club for holding the event.

The football club was started in Brockhill in 1894, moved to the Winkfield Club in 1901, and is one of the oldest football clubs in the area. The pitch was in a field in Chavey Down road next to Fern Cottage, and was used until 1964, when the club moved to the council pitches at the bottom of Locks Ride. Some of the early 1900s clubs in the league were from Bagshot, Binfield, Cox Green, Waltham St Lawrence, Sunninghill and Winkfield. Dennis Brant was involved in the Winkfield Football club as a player and manager/ secretary for over 50 years: some of the memorabilia was given to me by his wife after he died.

The Fielden Cup was a competition for local teams to raise money for local charities, and was donated by Dr Fielden of Bracknell in 1920. This competition is still going today, and has been won many times over the years by Winkfield Football Club.

I took over the club 35 years ago, after playing for Chavey Down and Bracknell Old Boys. Saturday football was in decline when the local Bracknell factory teams pulled out of the league, which was previously called the Pages League. It merged with the Slough league and became The East Berks League when Sunday football became popular around 1978/1980).

Winkfield entered the Bracknell Sunday League, under the name of The White Horse Winkfield, as the White Horse pub (now the Don Beni Restaurant) then sponsored the football club. After a couple of years, the club reverted back to Winkfield Working Men's F.C., and once again was based in the Winkfield Club.

During the 1980/90s Winkfield had 5 teams including Veterans and Youth (the Youth side being managed by Steve Finniesten - ex Chelsea), and it

enjoyed success, winning virtually everything they entered. Today there is only one surviving Sunday team.

Doug Chapman

Magazine Ads 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.

Thoughts of all sorts

Comfort for a grieving friend

Sue Morris, who wrote about 'A year in the life of a new widow' in the October 2014 edition, gives us these further thoughts.

Following the piece I wrote about losing my husband, I was asked if I could throw some light on the most sensitive way to treat someone recently bereaved.

The way a person deals with their grief is subjective, so it is hard to make suggestions; but I can give you a few examples from my own experience, which may be helpful if you are trying to support a friend who has recently been bereaved.

I have had varying reactions from my friends. Family members are not embarrassed to share the raw emotion but I think embarrassment does alter people's approach and in some cases renders them unable to communicate. This has been the case with even close friends of mine. But there is absolutely no reason to feel uncomfortable. Of course you're going to be sad but it isn't as though you've grown another head. "I just didn't know what to say, so I pretended not to see her/him. "

Unfortunately you are thrown reluctantly into the limelight and people tread very carefully around you. For me I have preferred a direct and positive approach. I am thinking of the person who would say "I know

you're suffering but I'm taking you to the cinema, garden centre, lunch, walk, whatever so let's make a date to meet". Or of the person who listens to you, accepts your anxiety, and doesn't make you feel any different to whom you were before the loss. And who, when you refuse to leave your house - time and time again (as I did) - doesn't give up trying!

Emailing is a practical and non-invasive way to let someone know you are thinking of him or her. One friend bunked me off her email list for passing on funnies: did she think I had lost my sense of humour too?! If you don't believe in email, then a phone call works, just to keep in touch. It's not always a convenient time to call so just accept that that person will call you back, or not, after you leave a message. One friend complained that I didn't call her back - don't expect a return call is all I can say. But try again, at times you just don't feel like talking to anyone.

For me it's now a year and I have heard that people stop calling, stop thinking of you, as they imagine you are "better" now. That is certainly not the case and I know that those friends who have supported me through this last year and have become so important to me will be my friends for life. And those that haven't, well sadly we'll just lose touch.

I found the following extract about mourning during Victorian times:

'There are many who do not believe in wearing mourning at all. Such have a right to refuse it — it concerns no one but themselves. On the other hand, much can be said in favour of the custom. A mourning dress is a protection against thoughtless or cruel inquiries. It is also in consonance with the feelings of the one bereaved, to whom brightness and merriment seem almost a mockery of the woe into which they have been plunged. With such, garments of mourning are "an outward sign of an inward sorrow," and they cling to them as the last token of respect and affection which they can show the dead.'

Luckily our approach to widows these days isn't as gothic, gloomy or dark. I much prefer light-hearted approach taken by Gerard Hoffnung in his story "French Widows and Advice for Tourists" where the Austrian Hotel Proprietor boasts: "There is a French Widow in every bedroom".

Sue Morris

*Ed. Sue Morris's first article was in the October Edition of the Parish Mag, which can currently be downloaded from the editors' website:
<http://www.xdotd.com/parishmag/1410%20Parish%20Mag.pdf>*

Do consider sending us ideas, thoughts and reminiscences, for publication in our magazine.

From 'Tuning Tales Behind the organ'

Tales by Ken Gaines, an expert in tuning and maintaining organs, with thanks to him and to 'The Berkshire Organist' for permission to use his material.

On one occasion, we were called to look at the organ in a small church on the far side of Herefordshire. It was soon clear that there was an infestation of mice who must have thought they were in Heaven, let alone being in church. Behind the Walker organ there were piles of old discarded hassocks which had evidently been stuffed with wood shavings. A family of mice had moved into one of these desirable residences and had evidently invited their relatives and friends to occupy some of the other tenements.

There was plenty of work available for them, much of which seemed to consist of "modifying" the organ by perforating the bellows, chewing numerous wooden components and inserting tiny black wedges between the keys etc.

While we were there, a church warden came in complaining that the organ wasn't working properly. We explained to her what was happening and suggested that they should get rid of the mice and burn the old hassocks.

She retorted that they couldn't possibly dispose of the old hassocks, as the now ancient lady who had donated them 50 plus years ago was still alive, and as for the mice, as God's creatures, they were as much entitled to be in church as anyone else.

Before this latter-day St. Francis returned to whatever planet she seemed to inhabit, she made it clear neither she nor her sister (who played the organ) would agree to trapping, poisoning or otherwise getting rid of the mice. "All you've got to do is get that organ working properly," she ended.

There seemed to be no point in reminding her that this was a tuning visit and not a rebuild contract. Although the firm's policy is to give the tuner discretion to do minor repairs on a tuning visit, no way could this damage be described as minor. Needless to say no tuning or repairs were done that day and a letter was sent from our office disclaiming responsibility until the infestation had been dealt with.

© 2014 Ken Gaines

Keeping away from nicotine

An elderly minister read about experiments showing that tar and nicotine causes cancer in mice. Deeply moved, he went down to his study at once, and moved all of his pipe tobacco to the top shelf, where the mice could not reach it.

Children's Corner



COVENTRY'S CROSS

The people of Coventry will always remember the dreadfully long night of 14th November 1940. It was the longest air raid of the World War II and when the light dawned the next morning, Coventry was in ruins.

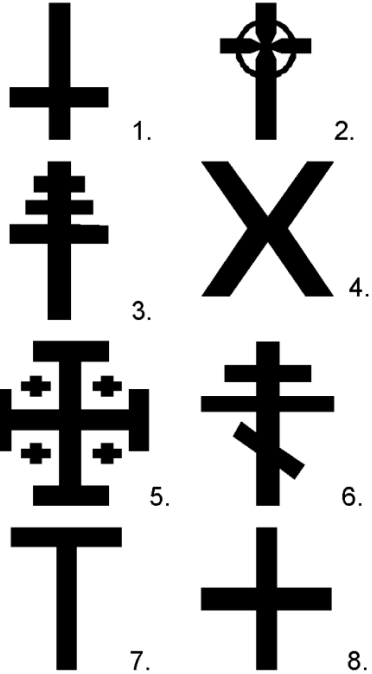
So many people were dead, injured or homeless; there wasn't a person who had not suffered during that night.

The medieval cathedral was a burnt out shell. Two of the burnt roof beams were tied together to make a cross and this makeshift symbol was set up where the altar had been. A cross was also made from the 14th century iron nails that had held the roof together and this Cross of Nails still remains today as a symbol of sympathy, forgiveness and reconciliation. Copies of the Cross of Nails have been presented to countries round the globe as a reminder that love and understanding bind us together; and that we need to remember the horrors that happen when people forget that.



CROSS PURPOSES

There are many different types of cross in pictures. Do you know what these are called?



What's green and hairy and drinks from the wrong side of the glass?

A gooseberry with hiccups.

What's the most common owl in this country?

The Tea Towl (ouch!)

Answers: 1.St Peter's 2.Celtic
3.Papal 4.St Andrew's 5.Jerusalem
6.Russian Orthodox 7.St Anthony's
8.Greek

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