

A VIEW FROM THE VICARAGE

Awesome

Awesome. It is a word that we don't hear quite as much these days, because gone are the times when it was the favourite word of approval used by every teenager.

In the teenage sense it meant 'impressive' or 'fabulous' or, of course, 'cool' but, way back in the 1590's, awesome was slowly replacing the word 'awful' to describe an 'overwhelming feeling of reverence, admiration, or fear'.

It is beautifully used in the famous hymn "How Great Thou Art", which is based on a Swedish poem written by Carl Gustav Boberg in 1885.

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made.
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

Nowadays, 'awesome' is usually used when we are scrabbling to express something, such as: 'it was an awesome sight'. Like the poppies outside the Tower of London, I hope everyone who saw them had a moment of awesome, respectful gratitude.

Why muse on the word 'awesome'? Well my prayer is simply that your Christmas will have moments of awe, of reverence, of hope and that you will be able to join with the shepherds and angels and come to the manger of Christ simply, humbly, and with gratitude, and there meet our awesome God who brought heaven to earth through the cry of a new-born child.

My prayer is also for the New Year. If the old year has been hard, I pray the New Year will bring peace. Peace with God and peace with our fellow human beings, because Jesus, our Saviour, is the Prince of Peace, and we will all be able to step into the future with him, no matter how fearfully, with a sense of reverence and awe.

Catherine Blundell

A note from the Editors

Aren't words interesting? I was given a copy of Eric Partridge's book 'Origins' some years ago. It is a compendium of English words and their

origins, and I often find myself looking up words that have come into focus in everyday discussion – or, as in this case, in the Vicar’s article.

So, what did I find for ‘awesome’? The roots of ‘awe’, from Middle English, Old Norse and Old German, all point in the same direction: to frighten, to be afraid, fear. A Christian man in the past would be referred to as a ‘God-fearing man’, and this is the sense of Boberg’s hymn – not the sort of fear that comes when, defenceless, you encounter a tiger looking for lunch, but a total respect for the power of God, and knowledge of what He can do.

In Elgar’s wonderful oratorio, the ‘Dream of Gerontius’, based on Cardinal Newman’s poem of the same name, old Gerontius’ Soul, on his deathbed, is taken in his dream, at his request, to see Christ the Lord. The Angel warns: “Yes, for one moment, thou shalt see thy Lord. One moment; but thou knowest not, my child, What thou dost ask: that sight of the Most Fair will gladden thee, but it will pierce thee, too.’ Awesome is a good adjective for the shattering moment in the music when Gerontius’ Soul sees his Lord.

‘Take me away, take me away, and in the deep there let me be!’ his Soul cries.

In His message of love, Christ is still awesome in the old sense, and the ‘Dream of Gerontius’ is a powerful reminder of both aspects.

From the Registers

Funerals

A Funeral Service for the late Mr Ed Beer was held at St Mary’s church, on 21st November 2014.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

The Editors write: We heard of Ed’s sudden and tragic death with great sadness, and join with all in our parish in sending our deepest sympathy to Sally and the family. Ed was a much loved local figure, and so many of us will remember his hospitality for young and old, leading the family-team on those wonderful bonfire-night occasions ‘Saints and Sausages’. It is only in October that we posted Ed’s article on the British Association of Barbershop Singers and the Windsor Royal Harmonics – yes, Ed’s music was truly important to him. Nigel Atkinson, Church Warden at St Martin’s, where Ed worshipped, writes in his PCC report this month:

“We were all shocked and saddened by the sudden loss of Ed Beer two weeks ago. Ed was a devout servant of St Martin’s Church for many years. I often sat next to Ed in Church for many years and his knowledge of the Bible never failed to impress me.

“He was passionate about music and had a great sense of humour. Ed was a giver in life and nothing was too much trouble for him. He was a very charitable person and gave much of his time to helping others. He touched so many peoples’ lives and will be greatly missed by so many people in the community.” ‘His Lord said unto him, ‘well done thou good and faithful servant – enter thou into the joy of the Lord.’ (Matthew 25:21)

We send deepest condolences to Sally and the family.

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: 01344 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

The deadline for articles etc. for the next edition is 10th January 2015.

St Mary’s: Music for Christmas: 6th Dec. at 7:30pm

As something really special, we have two particularly talented young instrumentalists to perform for us. Emily Ambrose, our prodigy bassoonist, aged 10, and member of the National Children’s Orchestra for two years already, will astonish with her performance of ‘The flight of the bumblebee’ at breakneck speed. Daniel Kim, a 13-year old clarinetist, will skilfully perform Monti’s ‘Czardas’ – a piece usually reserved for virtuoso violinists. It is exciting to feel that we may be participating in the start of these two young persons’ distinguished musical careers. Unmissable!!

**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.lockside@btinternet.com**

All proceeds to Organ and Choir funds

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.*

Chavey Down Women's Institute

Our Christmas party is to take place on Monday 15th December. This event is always most enjoyable with visitors from other institutes. Our theme this year is glitz and glamour with Christmas songs from Louise Herrington.

Our first meeting of 2015 will be on Monday 19th January when our speaker will be Mrs A Jester on the origins of our calendar. So if you are interested then do come along and join us: a warm welcome awaits you!

In the meantime, on behalf of the committee and all the members of Chavey Down WI, we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and every good wish for 2015.

Janey Bethune-Williams 883854

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.

News from around the Parish

Remembrance Day service at St Mary's

On 9th November, the Civic Remembrance Day Service was held at St Mary's, just over 100 years from the start of the First World War. This followed the earlier 9:30am service, Family Praise, which had held a short service in church, followed by an act of remembrance around the war memorial. The Civic service itself started at 10:50am.

One member of the usual 9:30am congregation at St Mary's came instead to the later Remembrance Day Service with her daughter and niece. She summed up the occasion succinctly, writing:

"It was a lovely service and we stood outside for the Two Minutes Silence in the most glorious sunshine.

"The service certainly made the two girls think about the various wars and the consequences that war has on families and the wider community."

This was a very special service, and was conducted on this occasion by Rev'd Simon Baynes, Vicar of Winkfield 15 years ago. The service started at the War Memorial for the laying of wreaths and at 11am, the Last Post sounded the start of the Two Minutes Silence. The Reveille ended our quiet prayers. Both calls were beautifully played by a young trumpeter.

When you go home tell them of us and say:
'For your tomorrow we gave our today.'
We will not break faith with you.

The congregation then returned to the church, where the Service continued, focusing both on remembering the sacrifice made by so many in both World wars (particularly by those of our own parish) and also on our unremitting duty to try to prevent armed conflicts on all scales. There were stirring hymns, readings by six of our young people, who read beautifully, and a pertinent sermon by Simon Baynes.

After singing 'God Save the Queen', the Service closed with a prayer of dismissal; and the congregation left to the strains of the well-known but very moving 'Adagio' by Samuel Barber, played as an organ voluntary.

There was also a Remembrance Day Service at St Martin's. Nigel Atkinson, St Martin's Church Warden, writes:

"On 9th November, we held our Remembrance Service, with poignant readings and poems, ending on a particularly poignant poem on the poppy."

St Mary's Women's Guild

Mrs Ruth Timbrell was the speaker at the November Guild meeting and she brought many newspaper cuttings and photographs to illustrate her interesting talk on WW I. She explained that her interest had developed when she was handed, by the Executor, an old box of papers from the Maycock estate. It took Ruth three years to clean and work her way through the papers, which comprised 183 letters written by Lucy Maycock to her two serving sons in the Great War, which the sons kept, and their replies, which Lucy kept.

Ruth's fascination with these papers led her to the Berkshire Record Office in Reading to research and follow up leads on soldiers from Warfield, Winkfield, Binfield and Bracknell.

Further study showed the involvement of school children, some of whom collected horse chestnuts to be used in the Munitions Factories, and some Boy Scouts were also recruited to protect local roads!

There was no enemy action in Berkshire, although two POWs were caught near the Forester's Hotel. After the Great War surplus guns were stored in local schools, and they were then used by the Home Guard in WW II.

Ruth has arranged for her papers to be held, eventually, by the Berkshire Record Office, where they will be preserved in ideal conditions

Members thanked Mrs Timbrell for a most informative afternoon. Mrs Potter informed the meeting of the floral arrangements for Remembrance Sunday and also for a wedding at the end of November. Arrangements for Remembrance Sunday were agreed.

The Rev. Blundell has suggested that the crib, this year, should be arranged under the main altar.

Mrs Knight closed the meeting with a prayer.

Speakers for the remainder of 2014 and the beginning of 2015 are:

December: 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 2nd December at 2:30pm in St Martin's Hall. New members are always welcome. There is no Guild meeting in January.

Lesley Philpot

St Martin's War Memorial

Many of you will have noticed the barometer now placed on the outside of St Martin's. Hopefully, this will encourage more donations. Another village effort! Tracey designed it, her husband Frank obtained the materials, Bill Weedon made it, and Adrian Hoare fitted it.

Not having received our Faculty, the Stone Mason we have instructed is reluctant to start work until we have the OK from the Diocese. They have all the information we can possibly supply, and we really want to get this Memorial up in the spring. Sorry – everyone is disappointed that it is not up for November, but we cannot proceed without the Diocese Faculty.

Let's hope a date can be published in the February Magazine.

Ruth Timbrell

St. Mary's Choir

Our Remembrance Service on Sunday November 9th was an occasion of special significance, reminding us very clearly of all the sacrifices made by those in the armed forces and civilians in so many conflicts over the years. It was a privilege for the choir to lead a very full church in three traditional hymns and the National Anthem, on a very moving occasion.

With great sadness we learned of the death of Ed Beer. The choir would like to record their own special tribute to him. Although his home church was St. Martin's at Chavey Down, there were many times when he joined us at St. Mary's for concerts or other special services; and his singing and playing will be much missed. He was a man of enormous enthusiasm in everything he did and his passing will leave a big hole in parish life. Our love and prayers go to Sally and his family.

And so, Advent and Christmas are upon us again. There will be plenty of opportunities in the next month to remind us in words and song of what Christmas is really about.

St. Mary's: Music for Christmas is on December 6th at 7:30pm – please see the advertisement in the magazine and come along for a joyful evening of pre-Christmas entertainment. There are still a few tickets available.

We will also have special choral services including the much-loved Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols and Midnight Communion on Christmas Eve. You will find all the details in this magazine. Why not come and sing with us and make this Christmas a truly wonderful celebration of the birth of our Lord? In congregation or choir, you will be made very welcome. As usual, choir practice is every Thursday evening at 7:30pm; we warm up at 10:20am before the 11am Sunday service. Looking forward to seeing you!
Marian Stevens Tel. 882918

SERVICES ACROSS THE PARISH

NOTE. We are omitting the 'by' column again this month. 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 – December services

Dec	Day	Time	Form of service
7	2 nd Sunday of Advent	9:30am	Messy Church
		11am	Holy Communion
14	3 rd Sunday of Advent	8am	Holy Communion
		9:30am	Family Praise
		11am	Family/All age – Crib service
21	4 th Sunday of Advent	9:30am	5 Lessons and Carols
		11am	9 Lessons and Carols
		1:30pm	Baptism
24	Christmas Eve	2pm	Carols and Candlelight ‡
		3:30pm	Carols and Candlelight ‡
		11:30pm	Holy Communion
25	Christmas Day	10am	Family Matins, followed by said Holy Communion by extension
28	1 st Sunday of Christmas	11am	Carols and Readings

‡ **NOTE** Carols and Candlelight services are entry **by ticket only**; tickets are available from the church website www.winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk.

St Mary's – January 2015 services

Jan	Day	Time	Form of service
4	2 nd Sunday of Christmas	9:30am	Family Praise
		11am	Holy Communion
11	Baptism of Christ	8am	Holy Communion
		9:30am	Family Praise
		11am	Family/All age
18	2 nd Sunday of Epiphany	9:30am	Family Praise
		11am	Holy Communion
25	3 rd Sunday of Epiphany	8am	Holy Communion
		9:30am	Family Praise
		11am	Morning Prayer

St Martin's, Chavey Down – December services

Dec	Day	Time	Form of service
7	2 nd Sunday of Advent	9:30am	Family/All age
14	3 rd Sunday of Advent	9:30am	Holy Communion
21	4 th Sunday of Advent	9:30am	9 Lessons and Carols
24	Christmas Eve	6pm	Holy Communion
25	Christmas Day	9:30am	Holy Communion
28	There is no 9:30am service at St Martins – see St Mary's, St Peter's		

St Martin's, Chavey Down – January 2015 services

Jan	Day	Time	Form of service
4	2 nd Sunday of Christmas	9:30am	Family/All age
11	Baptism of Christ	9:30am	Holy Communion
25	2 nd Sunday of Epiphany	9:30am	Shared service with Holy Communion
25	3 rd Sunday of Epiphany	9:30am	Holy Communion

St Peter's, Cranbourne – December services

Dec	Day	Time	Form of service
7	2 nd Sunday of Advent	8am	Holy Communion
		11am	Altogether – Gift service
13	Saturday	1pm	Blessing of a Marriage
14	3 rd Sunday of Advent	11am	Holy Communion
21	4 th Sunday of Advent	8am	Holy Communion
		11am	9 Lessons and Carols
		1pm	Wedding
24	Christmas Eve	4pm	Carols and Candlelight
		8pm	Candlelight Holy Communion
25	Christmas Day	8am	Holy Communion
		10am	All Together Service
		10:45am	Holy Communion by extension
28	1 st Sunday of Christmas	8am	Holy Communion
		There is no 11am service at St Peter's. See St Mary's services	

St Peter's, Cranbourne – January 2015 services

Jan	Day	Time	Form of service
4	2 nd Sunday of Christmas	8am	Holy Communion
		11am	All Together Service
11	Baptism of Christ	11am	Holy Communion
18	2 nd Sunday of Epiphany	8am	Holy Communion
		11am	Morning Prayer
25	3 rd Sunday of Epiphany	11am	Holy Communion

Winkfield Row Methodist Church - December

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!**



December services:

7th Dec – Holy Communion: Revd Jackie Case

14th Dec at 3pm – Carol Service (there will be no Morning service that day): Maggy Garton

21st Dec – Kim Tame

25th Dec Christmas Morning at 9:30am: Revd Jackie Case

28th Dec – No Service



January services:

4th Jan – Covenant & Holy Communion: Revd Jackie Case

11th Jan – Jonny Cunningham

18th Jan – United Service at St Martin's Revd Jackie Case

25th Jan – Rosi MorganBarry



Flowers & Cleaning Rotas

St Mary's – December

Dates	Flowers
5 th and 12 th Dec	Mrs J Hodgson – Advent – Memorial Table
19 th Dec	Mrs Cullen/Mrs Cardwell – Memorial Table
Christmas	Mrs Cullen/Mrs Cardwell

Arrangements in January are to be advised.

St Martin's – December and January 2015

Dates	Flowers	Cleaning
7 th Dec 1914	Mrs Atkinson	Mrs Dickinson
14 th Dec	Mrs Sawdon/Mrs Greenfield	Mrs Vicos
21 st Dec	Mrs Sawdon/Mrs Greenfield	Mrs Vicos
Christmas Day	ALL FLOWER ARRANGERS	
28 th Dec	Mrs Zerilli/Megan Zerilli	Mrs Luff
4 th Jan 2015	Mrs Zerilli/Megan Zerilli	Mrs Luff
11 th Jan	Mrs Timbrell/Mrs Phillips	Mrs Crane
18 th Jan	Mrs Timbrell/Mrs Phillips	Mrs Crane
25 st Jan	Mrs Bunker/Mrs Smith	Mrs Paramor

What's on in December and January 2015

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 07711 077038 e/m Flo@ascotzumba.co.uk
	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	Indoor carpet bowling (no skill required) 2pm to 3:30pm at St Peter's church

Day	Event
	The Carnation Badminton Club plays on Thursdays at Carnation Hall, 8-10pm, at Carnation Hall. New members are welcome.
	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 e-mail dancejanet@hotmail.com

Other events – December

Day	Dec	Event	Time/place
Tue	2	St Mary's Women's Guild	2:30pm at St Martin's Church Hall – Carols and Christmas refreshment
Thu	4	Vicar's Tea Party	2pm to 3:30pm at St Peter's Church, Cranbourne
Sat	6	Winkfield St Mary's School Christmas Fair	1-4pm – please see website for further details: http://www.wsmschool.org/
		<i>St Mary's: Music for Christmas</i>	7:30pm St Mary's Church, Winkfield.
		For tickets or enquiries, please telephone Marian Stevens on 882918 or email: Anthony.locksride@btinternet.com	
Mon	8	Whist	7:30pm at the White Hart
Thu	25	A very happy Christmas to you all, and to your families, and thank you for your support of our magazine! The Editors	

Other events – January 2015

Day	Jan	Event	Time/place
Thu	1	And a very happy and prosperous New Year! Eds.	
Fri	2	No Vicar's Tea Party today	

There is no St Mary's Women's Guild meeting this month (see page 7)

More news from around the parish

Handbell Ringers

Another month of practising hard and teaching our new members - who are progressing well and enjoying themselves (I hope!!). We are certainly enjoying having more bells rung on a regular basis. We are ringing some Christmas pieces, which are always good fun.

We have just enjoyed a super "Bangers and Bangers" evening at the Bish household – an annual Event and always a great evening. Bell ringers certainly know how to run an event!

As ever we would love to have you join us – come along to St. Mary's any Wednesday evening from 7:30-9pm.

We are looking forward to ringing at the 28th December service - although not sure yet which piece we will ring, but hope you will enjoy it.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas from the bell ringers, and a happy and healthy New Year.

Jill Glennerster 884071

Winkfield Row May Day Fair & update on Zakk

Will the Fair Take Place in 2015?

In order for the fair to go ahead next year we need more helpers, especially in the run up to the event. Unfortunately, Angela Michie, who has been an active member of our committee for many years, was taken ill in September and is still recovering. As a result of this, Janie Bethune-Williams, also on the committee, will be unable us to help next year as much as she has done in the past. That leaves just three of us to do the bulk of the organising, and it just isn't feasible with such a major event. If you want the Winkfield Row May Day Fair to continue, then please get in touch and offer your support! Call Wendy French on 883528.

Successful Operation for Zakk Burkes

We were pleased to be able to donate £1250 towards Zakk's First Steps, which raised funds for Zakk's life-changing operation in America and subsequent physiotherapy. You may remember this little boy, age four, who was at the opening of the fair. He has severe quad spastic cerebral palsy and was unable to walk unaided. The operation has been a great success and after four-and-a-half weeks in St Louis Children's Hospital in Missouri Zakk and his family are back home in Ascot. Zakk has been able to walk for the first time and can now walk short distances with only a

walker for support. It is hoped that one day he will be able to walk with just a stick. We are pleased to have helped Zakk and his family achieve their dreams. More money is needed to help the family pay for his ongoing therapy. Donations can be made through Zakk's Just Giving page: www.justgiving.com/zakkyboy.

Thoughts of all sorts

1914

In this sonnet, called simply '1914', Wilfred Owen contemplates the horrors ahead as the Great War starts. He was killed in action in 1918.

The poem was read at the Civic Remembrance Day service by Carl Henderson.

War broke: and now the Winter of the world
With perishing great darkness closes in.
The foul tornado, centred at Berlin,
Is over all the width of Europe whirled,
Rending the sails of progress. Rent or furled
Are all Art's ensigns. Verse wails. Now begin
Famines of thought and feeling. Love's wine's thin.
The grain of human Autumn rots, down-hurled.

For after Spring had bloomed in early Greece,
And Summer blazed her glory out with Rome,
An Autumn softly fell, a harvest home,
A slow grand age, and rich with all increase.
But now, for us, wild Winter, and the need
Of sowings for new Spring, and blood for seed.

The origin of the Two Minute's Silence

This item was also read at the Remembrance Day service

An Australian journalist called Edward Honey is thought to have started the idea of the two-minute silence.

At the end of the Great War of 1914-1918, he had been distressed at the dancing in the street, when so many young men had died in the war; and he wrote to a newspaper suggesting that observing a few minutes' silence would be a far better way to remember the terrible loss of life.

He wrote: "This silence would be a very sacred intercession, a communion with the Glorious Dead who won us peace. From the communion will come new strength, hope and faith in the morrow. Where Englishmen and their women chance to be, surely in these minutes of bitter-sweet silence there will be service enough."

The idea was supported by Sir Percy Fitzpatrick, a well-known South African politician and author. When King George V heard of it, he proclaimed: "that, at the hour when the Armistice came into force, the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, there may be for the brief space of two minutes a complete suspension of all our normal activities so that in perfect stillness, the thoughts of everyone may be concentrated on reverent remembrance of the glorious dead."

Edward Honey and Sir Percy both went to Buckingham Palace for the rehearsal of the first two-minute silence in November 1919.

Pennant Magazine

The Pennant Magazine is the magazine of the Forces Pension Society (FPS), and is a journal of interest to all who have served in the armed forces (even to those who just did National Service, as in my case). It is one of the few magazines that I enjoy reading from cover to cover (well, almost).

The Forces Pension Society is a society for servicemen/women and ex-servicemen/women, and its main pre-occupation is (as is implied) in their financial well-being; and it acts as a highly respected pressure-group, for example taking up the cause of widows of servicemen, who now and in the past lost their service pensions on remarriage or cohabitation. (As a result, the government has decided to remove the rule, as from April 2015.) FPS also has a medical insurance scheme for members, which is good value.

The November Magazine contained some articles that focussed on the First World War, as one might expect. For example ...

Did you know about the 'Monitor' M-class submarines, whose design was finalised in 1916. These submarines were fitted with a whopping 12-inch gun, contained in waterproofed gun-house; this enabled them to lob shells weighing about 400kg at enemy shore-targets. M1 was commissioned in spring 1918, after completely successful trials, but, in the event, was never used in action. She was lost in 1925, with all hands, as a result of being accidentally rammed by a merchant vessel.

The second of the class, M2 was converted into an underwater aircraft carrier, with a waterproofed hangar for a seaplane. This could be launched by catapult, and, after a mission, could 'land' on the water and be picked up by crane and then put back in its hangar. Alas, M2 was also lost with all hands, apparently by flooding through the hangar when trying to launch an aircraft when under way.

Staying with the 1914-18 war, one article tells the story of John McRae's poem: 'In Flanders fields the poppies blow ...' – perhaps the best known of

all WW I poems. Of relevance to Flanders is an article about the first battle of Ypres in 1914, won by the Allies, albeit with huge losses on both sides.

Contemporary articles study President Putin; Ukraine; leaving Camp Bastion, 'wrestling with the EU', and lots more.

Pennant Magazine is free to members of FPS, but can be purchased by non-members for £6.95. Membership of the Society costs £35 p.a.

Coping with doubts

Many good Christians experience times when they are beset by doubts, so, if this happens to you, don't be surprised. As the Methodist minister Leslie Weatherhead wrote many years ago, "doubt is not the enemy of faith, it is the growing edge of faith".

While doubts can make some people feel guilty, that is not in itself sinful, because no-one can make another believe until he "can so exhibit the truth that the mind of the would-be believer cannot do other than leap out and grasp it and make it his own". What is sinful, he suggests, is for a person to assert that he does not believe, after truth has authenticated itself in his own mind, or if he refuses to contemplate all the evidence (which one is so prone to do if it is offered by someone with a quite different viewpoint).

"There is only one right way to ask a person to believe and that is to put before them what they ought to believe because it is true ... and present what is true in such a way that nothing will prevent it from being seen, except the desire to abide in darkness."

Weatherhead goes on to say that faith is like moving along the firm road of demonstrable, accepted fact, and then making a leap "in the same direction as the evidence, so as to bring oneself further than the evidence alone will carry one". It is a mistake to talk of the conflict between science and faith. The tension (if any) is between two kinds of co-existing experience.

"Let us examine that evidence and then in complete loyalty to its trend make a leap of both intellect and will ... and try out in life the faith that carries us on wings, after the hard road of fact and reason stops."

Bible Cake

On Bible Sunday this year, the Vicar made cakes in church. Well why preach a sermon when you could make cakes instead?

Many have asked for the recipe and here are two versions of how to make a Bible Cake. As the Bible was written pre-European Union, all the measurements are imperial – so apologies if you were born after 1970.

Bible Cake Recipe (King James or Revised Standard Version works best)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ 3oz of Judges 5:25❖ 6oz of Jeremiah 6:20❖ 2 Jeremiah 17:11❖ 7oz of Exodus 29:2❖ 1 teaspoon of Amos 4:5❖ 2 Chronicles 9:9❖ a pinch of Mark 9:50:❖ 1oz of Genesis 24:17 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ 1 teaspoon of 1 Samuel 14:25❖ 2oz of 1 Samuel 30:12❖ 2oz of Song of Solomon 2:13❖ 2oz of Numbers 17:8❖ Follow Solomon’s advice in Proverbs 23:14 for making good children (<i>eggs not children, I think!?</i> Eds.) |
|--|--|

(Here is the traditional recipe:)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ 3oz butter❖ 6 oz sugar❖ 2 eggs❖ 7oz flour❖ 1 teaspoon baking powder❖ 1 teaspoon allspice❖ A pinch of salt | <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ 1 cup water❖ 1 tablespoon honey❖ 4oz raisins❖ 4oz chopped dried figs❖ 4oz slivered or chopped almonds |
|---|---|

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Cream together butter and sugar, beat in eggs one at a time, beating well after each one. Sift together flour, baking power, salt and spice. Add alternately with water to creamed mixture. Stir in honey, fold in raisins, figs and almonds. Mix well. Turn into two well greased 9 x 5 x 3 inch loaf pans. Bake about 60 minutes, making sure not to over-bake. Let cool for 30 minutes in pans before turning out onto rack.

Editors’ note: you may wish to experiment with quantities – google ‘Bible Cake’ on the Web. But you will find there lots of pictures of good results!

On why Carol Services are so dangerous

The Rectory, St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren,

So: you are excited about being invited to plan your first Carol Service. The dangers involved are only slightly less than being invited to judge the best cake made by the Ladies’ Group. You seem to have no idea of the lifelong offence you will inevitably cause. In decades to come when you will either be a seasoned old clergyman – or more likely a double glazing salesman – you will be remembered as “the Curate who offended Mrs Smith.”

First, you have to decide which groups are going to be represented to give the readings. If the Brownies were asked last year, then it has to be the Cubs this time. But don’t forget that every third year, the Boys’ Brigade must be asked, or they will take their revenge and get their flag tangled in

the nave chandelier come Remembrance Sunday. If someone represents the choir, then over a four year period, all four voice parts must be called on – and if the organist isn't asked on the fifth year, then all hymns subsequently will be played at double speed and with one verse missing. Should one person have been invited to read for two successive years, then their annual appearance thereafter will be taken as an inalienable right for the rest of their lifetime – and probably longer than that. To drop them may well invoke legal proceedings.

Then there is the batting order to be considered. Someone from the Church Council will take it as a deliberate slight if they are placed lower in the order than a representative of the Men's Fellowship and so self-respecting bell ringer would voluntarily follow a brass cleaner.

If you do not specify where they should read from and how the readings should end, then a form of ecclesiastical inflation will happen. If the first reader speaks from the chancel step, the next one will go to the lectern; after the sanctuary and pulpit have been utilised, the final reader will probably ask you to move so he can take your place. The variations on "Here endeth", "This is the Word of the Lord", and "Thanks be to God", are endless and will increase in length as the Service progresses. The final reader will probably end with a lengthy exegesis on what he thinks the passage means, correcting whatever you said in your sermon.

I once made the mistake of not telling all readers which Bible translation to use. One, an Old Testament expert, therefore decided to read in Hebrew. Not to be outdone, another read her Gospel passage in Greek – apologising beforehand that it may not be a perfect rendering, as she was spontaneously translating it from the English. And some say Christians are not competitive.

You have two alternatives: either repeat last year's Service without any alteration, saying that it could not be improved, or design your own – and then take Christmas off.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace



"Goodness! is it time for Christmas Fair organising, carol service planning and nativity play rehearsals?!"

Children's Corner



ANGELS

We hear a lot about angels at Christmas. A lot of the carols we sing have angels in them – like 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing' and 'While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night'.

Angels are God's messengers and you can read about the good news they brought to the shepherds in St Luke's Gospel chapter 2, verses 8-20.

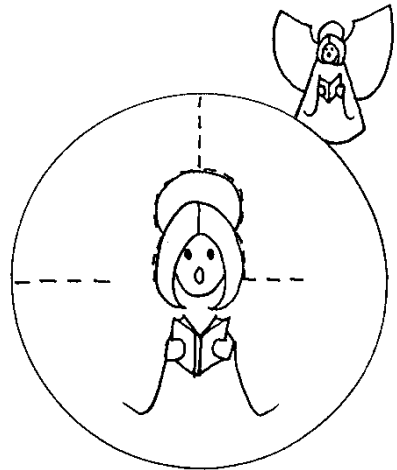
MAKE YOUR OWN CHRISTMAS ANGEL

You can make a whole host of angels, one for the top of the tree and a row of them, all different sizes, to go on a windowsill. To alter the size simply draw a bigger or smaller circle, you could use a dinner plate or a small tin to draw round. You could even make a giant angel using a dustbin lid!

You will need:

Scissors, thick white paper or thin white card, some felt tip pens and something circular to draw round (use a small plate or saucer to start with).

- Draw a circle on the paper and cut it out. Mark the centre of the circle (lightly fold it into quarters to find the centre).
- Copy the face and features on to the circle and colour them in.
- Mark the dotted lines and cut around them and around the halo and hair as marked.
- Fold the angel into a cone by putting one wing over the other and slotting them together. A little piece of sellotape will hold it firmly.



How do angels greet each other?

They say, Halo.

What do fish sing at Christmas?

Shark, the herald angels sing.



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