

# Winkfield, Cranbourne and Chavey Down Parish Magazine



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<https://fosmw.com/parishmag/booklet-printing.pdf>

# Winkfield, Cranbourne and Chavey Down Parish Magazine - December 2023

## A message from Patrick 'Be well and in good health'.

During Victorian times, Christmas became a holiday that families could enjoy, and celebrate, with music in the home and carols that were sung after the Christmas meal.

The tradition of '*wassailing*', probably from the Old Norse '*ves heill*,' is a toast meaning 'be well and in good health.' Wassailers went round the Victorian towns singing and would be rewarded with a hot, spiced (often cider-based) drink, known as 'wassail'.

Today, carol singers can be found in town and village squares, visiting hospitals and old people's homes and are more likely to ask for donations to charity. That said, a glass of mulled wine is often very welcome! No figgy pudding though!

Carol singing warms the heart and feeds the nostalgia of a simpler, peaceful time. Sadly, many who enjoy singing the carols have no idea what they mean, even though the carols explicitly underscore who Jesus is and why He came.

Yes, it is a time of joyous family reunions and celebrations. It is indeed 'good tidings of great joy' that God has sent His only begotten Son to commute our sentence of eternal separation from God, and darkness, by taking the penalty for our rebellion. "Unto you is born a Saviour"<sup>1</sup>. He brings "tidings of comfort and joy"<sup>2</sup>; gifts of sin forgiven, universal reconciliation, life, and eternal wellbeing.

People living in darkness and heading for an even greater darkness are brought into God's eternal light and everlasting family intimacy. "Born that man no more may die, Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth."<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Luke 2:11

<sup>2</sup> Luke 2:10

<sup>3</sup> "Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the new-born king." John Wesley.

“Come, let us sing our sweetest voice”<sup>4</sup>, as we revel in the mystery of the incarnation. Jesus is the “Hope of all the earth thou art, Dear desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.”<sup>5</sup> Allow this King to be born and grow in our hearts. He is the King worthy of our submission and worship. O that this Peace child, Saviour and Judge, would be allowed into the turmoil in Ukraine and the Holy Land.

Let our prayer be that Jesus would “Cast out our sin and enter in, Be born in us today”<sup>6</sup> and our aspiration be, “What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; If I were a wise man I would do my part, Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.”

**‘Be well and in good health’. Have a Christ filled Christmas.**

Revd. Patrick Mukholi – Christmas 2023

## *From the Parish Registers for October 2023*

### Baptisms

Brandon Bennett and Connor Bennett were Christened in St Mary's Church, Winkfield, on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023.

No Funerals, Weddings & Blessings have been reported.

## Notices

### Church Office

Office hours are Monday-Friday 9:30am – 12noon. The Church Office is open for visitors on Tuesdays & Fridays. Contact info: Church Office: c/o St Martin's Church, Church Road, Chavey Down, SL5 8RR Phone:

01344 882933 or email [admin@winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk](mailto:admin@winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk)

Website: <https://winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk>

If you are arranging an event, please contact Stephanie in the Church Office at the email address above, so that it can be noted in the Church diary and recorded on the website.

Don't forget to use our fundraising links:

<https://www.winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk/donate.htm>

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<sup>4</sup> Come, let us sing our sweetest voice, Cecil J. Sharp

<sup>5</sup> Come thou long expected Jesus. Charles Wesley.

<sup>6</sup> A Nativity Prayer: "O little town of Bethlehem," Phillips Brooks

## Safeguarding in the Parish

The Parish safeguarding details are at:

<https://www.winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk/safeguarding.htm>

Safeguarding is part of our core faith and an integral feature of Christian life. Please be alert to the fact that Safeguarding concerns arise in many different guises. So, we should always have faith to question, especially when something does not feel right.

Should you have any Safeguarding concerns, please contact our Parish Safeguarding Officer, Mrs Camille Jeffs, via the Church Office on: 01344 882933, or email [safeguarding@winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk) (please begin message with 'SAFEGUARDING').

## Local reports and events

### St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival 9-26 December

The Christmas Tree festival, in its third year, is a major fund-raiser for the Electrics project work that is shortly going to be carried out. This is an expensive exercise for which we have been saving up for a few years, but we still have to raise about a third of what it will cost.

So please help by supporting the Christmas Tree festival – enjoy the magnificent decorations, many made by the children, the mulled wine and mince pies and other stalls. Please give towards the work needed to bring the church's electrics to the standard required .

Win a very special Christmas hamper!

### Royal British Legions Women's Section, Cranbourne and Winkfield Branch

The Branch is celebrating its 100th year on 9 November. Now there are only 7 members – but we all meet together once a month. We still fundraise for the RBL Women's Section, usually about four times a year. A past President was Lady May Abel Smith, who was a granddaughter of Queen Victoria, and an aunt to our late Queen. She used to attend our monthly meetings several times a year, always bringing with her a cake baked by her chef. She held the office until her death.

Our current President is Violet Jones, who celebrated her 103rd birthday a few weeks ago. Violet never misses a meeting.

*Congratulations to the Cranbourne and Winkfield Branch for their amazingly long history, and for supporting, in the Royal British Legion, a cause that is dear to the hearts of so many of us. Although there are now not many of us that remember the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, and all who*



# St Mary's Church Christmas Tree Festival

Taking place on

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December**

10.00am until 4.00pm

Sponsored and decorated  
Christmas trees displayed both  
inside and outside the church  
until

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> December**

Come and enjoy stalls,  
entertainment and  
refreshments

Entrance is free but donations  
will be warmly welcomed

St Mary's Church, Church Road Winkfield. SL4 4SF

*remembered the First World War are with their Maker, we are annually reminded by the Remembrance Day ceremonies, at the Cenotaph and all over the country, of the gratitude that we owe to our armed services for our existence, and for our need for stability in a world so war-torn as it is today. Eds*

### **Ascot Horticultural Society**

The next meeting is our Christmas Show. This will be held in the King Edwards Hall, King Edwards Road, North Ascot on 3 December. The first meeting in 2024 will be held in March. More details will follow next year. For details of the show contact Wendy Sivyver 01344 890716.

The branch are celebrating their 100th birthday by having a luncheon at The Cricketers at Warfield.

Wendy Sivyver, Secretary.

### **Family Matins at St Mary's**

This congregation joined the 10:45 service on Remembrance Sunday; one of the youngsters laid a wreath on behalf of this congregation, Family Praise and Crafty Church.

### **Family Praise and Crafty Church**

Family Praise in October told the story of Jesus raising a widow's son and Crafty Church told the story of the Twelve Disciples. The activity asked them to cut out and colour the Disciples. The cut out figures were taken to the chancel steps on 29 October, which was the All Souls service, and the children read from Ecclesiastes Ch3 and also recited the well known prayer 'God be in my head' from the 1598 Sarum Primer.

The children, as usual, read the bible passages and prayers; there was also an excellent pianist at Family Praise.

### **St Mary's Choir**

The choir continues to rehearse before all services on a Sunday morning. The anthems during October were 'O food to pilgrims given' and 'Christ is our corner-stone'. The choir interlude for the All Souls service was 'Litany to the Holy Spirit' by Peter Hurford. Henry Smith has accompanied at all these services before ending the services with excellently performed voluntaries. We are very grateful to him and our extra singers.

### **St Mary's Women's Guild**

The Guild continues to prepare for the Christmas Tree Festival opening on Saturday 9 December. A member of the Guild will lay a wreath at the

*Ascot Horticultural Society*

# **Christmas Show**

**&**



# **Social Evening**

## **Exhibits**

**Floral Art**

**Cookery**

**Flowers**

**Handicrafts**

**Vegetables**

**Photography**



**+ Raffle**

**& Refreshments**



**King Edward's Hall, Ascot, SL5 8PD**

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

**Staging of exhibits from 7.45pm – 8.00pm**

**Meeting begins at 8.00pm**

For more information on entering please contact Wendy Sivyer on  
01344 890716 or [wendysivyer@aol.com](mailto:wendysivyer@aol.com)

**Entrance: Members £1. Visitors £2.50 Including refreshments**

Remembrance service on 12 November. Our extremely interesting outing to the Foundling Museum took place on October 24. Patricia Powell has very kindly written a report on the visit: this will be found in 'Thoughts Of All Sorts' on page 9 below, with the title 'Lost And Found'.

### Bell Ringers November 2023

Lots of preparation this month for the handbell ringers as we have so many commitments coming up - Remembrance Sunday, Music and Merriment (remember to book your tickets for this fabulous event!!) plus our now annual "Christmas Together" when we are joined by other local ringers. I will report on all these next month. We have also been invited back to the Savill Gardens to ring from 11:30-12:30; it really is lovely there and it would be good to see some familiar faces...

During Arts Week I organised and ran a day's handbell ringing workshops, with some assistance from a colleague, which was really interesting. There were 3 sessions that were well attended, and the feedback was very positive. Three ladies came along to our practice on the following Wednesday, had a good time and managed to ring some good music - a great achievement for their first attempt. We hope they continue with us.

The 5th Sunday in October had us ringing "Now Thank We All Our God" - a wonderful hymn which we felt appropriate for the All Souls / All Saints service.

We all enjoyed a wonderful (and surprisingly dry!!) 'bangers and bangers' evening at chez Bish - many thanks to Sue and Tony for organising this and being such fantastic hosts!

The following day we were invited to ring at St Martin's church where we performed "Amazing Grace" during their Patronal service - always a lovely piece of music. We needed to ring from stands as there simply is not sufficient space for our tables in that lovely church.

This Sunday we are delighted to be a part of the Remembrance Day Service when we will be ringing a particularly lovely piece of music. As always, the tower bells are rung before all the services - if you would like to have go then do speak to Tony.

This Remembrance Sunday, as always, the bells will be rung half muffled so do listen carefully as it sounds really special.

Something else to look forward to is the Christmas Tree Festival - we will be setting up on December 8. Check the poster at the back of church for details.

Take care.

Jill Glennerster 07821131303



# Thoughts of all sorts

## Lost And Found

Did you know Heathcliff was a foundling, Jane Eyre was fostered, James Bond was adopted? Well, the place to find out about real people and such fictional characters is The Foundling Museum in pretty Brunswick Square, Bloomsbury, recently visited by members and friends of St Mary's Women's Guild.

The London plane trees looked beautiful in the pale sunshine; we had a thoroughly good tour with Volunteer Guide Robin, and lunch of our choice at one of the many places-to-eat in the nearby Marchmont Centre.

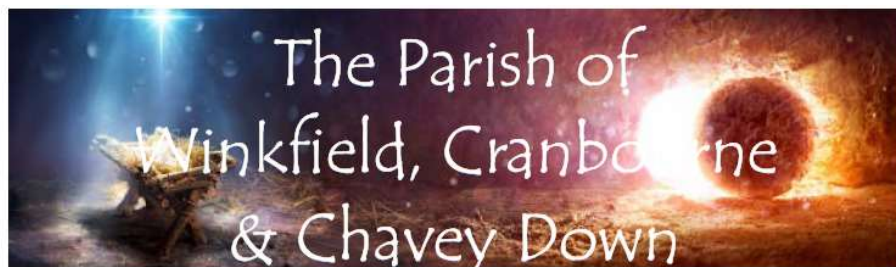
Thomas Coram (1688-1751) was the founder of the original Foundling Hospital in 1739, with a Royal Charter from King George II, after 17 years of striving to achieve it. He was clearly a kind, thoughtful, sensible man, as may be seen from his pleasant and natural appearance (no fancy wig for him) in his portrait by William Hogarth at the Museum.

He had been appalled at the shocking numbers of foundlings – abandoned babies and small children, left by the poor, the disaffected, and by unmarried mothers – and was determined to try to help at least some of them. Infant mortality and deprivation were heartbreakingly rife. Mr Coram's heart was in the right place.

The foundling children were taken in, renamed and carefully looked after. When old enough, they would begin education. A heart-searing element was the 'tokens,' some very small items, providing a clue to the original identity, in case the children were ever reclaimed. There are hundreds of these, found with the abandoned little ones or handed in with them if, as sometimes happened, they were brought in by a family member or someone involved in their lives.

The Museum is on the site of the Hospital, which was rebuilt in the 1930s, but which incorporates many features of the original building. Handsome inside and out, it contains history and art galleries, a reconstructed elaborate 'Court Room' and a Handel section. Handel was a benefactor and left his autograph will, including the bequest of his 'Messiah' manuscript, to the Hospital. An extensive library of Handel-related books, as well as being an invaluable research source, has special chairs with built-in sound systems in which to sit and listen to his music.

*Continued on page 14*



# Advent Events 2023

## 26<sup>th</sup> November

5pm Reflection on Handel's Messiah<sub>pt3</sub> St Martin's Church

## 29<sup>th</sup> November

11am Advent Religious Art Discussion St Martin's Church

## 2<sup>nd</sup> December

4pm Chavey Down Village Carol Service St Martin's Church

7.30pm Music & Merriment  St Mary's Church

## 3<sup>rd</sup> December

9.30am Crib & Gift Service  St Martin's Church

11am Family Gift Service  St Peter's Church

3-5pm Berks Recorder Consort Concert St Peter's Church

4pm Christingle Service St Martin's Church

## 6<sup>th</sup> December

11am Advent Religious Art Discussion St Martin's Church

## 9<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> December

10am-4pm  3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Christmas Tree Festival St Mary's Church

## 10<sup>th</sup> December

10am Family Matins Nativity Crib Service St Mary's Church

4pm Confirmation Service Reading Minster

## 13<sup>th</sup> December

11<sup>am</sup> Advent Religious Art Discussion St Martin's Church

## 17<sup>th</sup> December

9.30<sup>am</sup> Carols & Christmas Readings St Martin's Church

9.30<sup>am</sup> Family Praise with Christingle St Mary's Church

11<sup>am</sup> Carols & Christmas Readings St Peter's Church

4<sup>pm</sup> 9 Lessons & Carols St Mary's Church

## 24<sup>th</sup> December

8<sup>am</sup> Said Holy Communion St Mary's Church

2<sup>pm</sup> Carols & Candlelight  St Mary's Church

3.30<sup>pm</sup> Carols & Candlelight  St Mary's Church

4<sup>pm</sup> Carols & Candlelight  St Peter's Church

6<sup>pm</sup> Christmas Nativity & Communion St Martin's Church

8<sup>pm</sup> Communion by Candlelight St Peter's Church

11.30<sup>pm</sup> Midnight Communion St Mary's Church

## 25<sup>th</sup> December

9.30<sup>am</sup> Christmas Morning Family Service St Martin's Church

11<sup>am</sup> Christmas Matins *followed by...* St Mary's Church

11.45<sup>am</sup> Christmas Said Holy Communion St Mary's Church



### Music & Merriment

E-tickets are available at [www.fosmw.com](http://www.fosmw.com)



### Gift Services

Please bring; a new toy for a child, toiletries for an adult, Christmas biscuits or sweets for the Foodbank



### 2nd Annual Christmas Tree Festival

[www.winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk/whatson.htm](http://www.winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk/whatson.htm)



### Carols & Candlelight

Free entry by reservation only, maximum group size: 10

Reservations can be made from noon 15<sup>th</sup> November (*no early bookings*)

**St Mary's**; Lesley Philpot [lesleyphilpot50@gmail.com](mailto:lesleyphilpot50@gmail.com)

**St Peter's**; <https://StPeters-ChristmasEve-CarolsandCandlelight.eventbrite.co.uk>

# Services in the Parish – December 2023

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

Please note the tagged items in the service tables. See below the tables for the relevant information about the tags.

## ST MARTIN'S CHURCH

### Common Worship Services

Date	Day	Time	Service
2	Saturday	4pm	Chavey Down Village Carol Service
3	1st Sunday of Advent	9.30am	Crib & Gift Service 📖
		4pm	Christingle Service 🍎
10	2nd Sunday of Advent	9.30am	Family Praise
17	3rd Sunday of Advent	9.30am	Carols & Christmas Readings
24	Christmas Eve	6pm	Nativity Communion Service
25	Christmas Day	9.30am	Christmas Morning Family Service
31	1st Sunday of Christmas	9.30am	Family Communion

## ST MARY'S CHURCH

### Book of Common Prayer Services

Date	Day	Time	Service
3	1st Sunday in Advent	10am	Family Communion
		11.45am	Holy Baptisms
10	2nd Sunday in Advent	8am	Said Holy Communion
		10am	Family Matins, Nativity & Crib ✨
17	3rd Sunday in Advent	9.30am	Family Praise with Christingle
		11am	Holy Communion
		4pm	9 Lessons & Carols
24	4th Sunday in Advent	8am	Said Holy Communion
		2pm	Carols & Candlelight 🎵
		3.30pm	Carols & Candlelight 🎵
		11.30pm	Midnight Communion
25	Christmas Day	11am	Christmas Matins ✝
		11.45am	Said Holy Communion

Date	Day	Time	Service
31	Sunday after Christmas Day	8am	Said Holy Communion NO 10am service at St Mary's Church morning Please join us for a 9.30am service at St Martin's Church

### ST PETER'S CHURCH

### Common Worship Services

Date	Day	Time	Service
3	1st Sunday of Advent	11am	Family Gift Service 🎁
10	2nd Sunday of Advent	11am	Holy Communion
17	3rd Sunday of Advent	11am	Carols & Christmas Readings
24	Christmas Eve	4pm	Carols & Candlelight 🎵
		8pm	Communion by Candlelight
25	Christmas Day		NO service at St Peter's this morning Please join us at St Martin's & St Mary's Churches
31	1st Sunday of Christmas		NO service at St Peter's this morning Please join us for a 9.30am service at St Martin's Church

### Key

- 🎁 Please bring; a new toy for a child, toiletries for an adult, Christmas biscuits or sweets for the Foodbank
  - 🕯️ The collection is to be shared with the Church and the Children's Society
  - ✚️ Nativity Play
  - ✚️ Followed by Said Communion at 11.45am
  - 🎵 Entry by reservation only  
Group booking no larger than 10  
Reservations open from 12 noon on 15<sup>th</sup> November (no early reservations will be accepted)
- St Mary's reservations** please contact Lesley Philpot  
[lesleyphilpot50@gmail.com](mailto:lesleyphilpot50@gmail.com) / 01344 427561
- St Peter's reservations** <https://StPeters-ChristmasEve-CarolsandCandlelight.eventbrite.co.uk>

## *Continued from page 9*

He was not the only well-known person to endorse and help the Hospital. Hogarth, Gainsborough, Zoffany and other artists donated paintings to it, which were and are displayed. The place became a fashionable venue, to which the upper echelons of society would go to gather, look at the art – in Britain's first public art gallery - and listen to music.

The Hospital closed in 1954 but the Museum, which opened in 2004, continues holding events, including concerts and weddings, bringing in revenue for 'Coram' – 284 years later the Coram charity continues working with vulnerable children and young people. The Museum is utterly worthwhile to visit.

Patricia Powell

### **The Coram Charity**

The Coram charity, reg. no 312278 is a very modern charity with a short statement of purpose: 'Better chances for children since 1739'. You can read more about this remarkable institution, and the many facets of children's lives that it supports, by visiting its website

[www.coram.org.uk/about-us/coram-today/](http://www.coram.org.uk/about-us/coram-today/)

### **Tale from the Vienna Woods**

*A short story, created around many composers.*

I took the dog *Fauré* walk and, after crossing the *Bruch*, I came across my neighbour who was *Bizet Chopin* wood for the *Falla*. He could *Handel* an axe expertly.

Nearby was another dog trying to *Berio* bone but, when it saw us, it began to *Bach*. Does he *Offenbach* I asked its owner? Only when he is *Straussed*, then he *Boulez* other animals. Afterwards, I heard *Birtwistle* to the dog to come *Bach*.

There was a *Byrd* in a nearby tree, and a cat, which had been *Haydn* behind a pile of logs, was climbing towards it. I said *Schumann* and *Debussy* ran off. I crossed a field where a *Rameau* sheep was grazing, so letting the dog *Orff* the lead was a *Nono*.

I entered a farmyard where there was a *Weill* smell coming from a bucket. I had to *Telemann (Franck)* to *Tippett* out, *Henze* better atmosphere was achieved.

Finally, I crossed dog-walking off my *Liszt* of chores, and went to the pub for a *Glass* of beer. Ah, what *Bliss!*

Adrian Hoare

### Episode 34 of 'An Interesting Life' – Oxford life Part 3

Oxford was primarily a place of academic study, and the social and musical opportunities, important though they were, had to defer to that.

In mathematics, the first year's work created a foundation for the second and third years, which would lead to a BA Oxon degree (this morphed into an MA Oxon degree after four years – embarrassing to have to explain). I did very well at the Honour Moderations exam that terminated the first year, with 1<sup>st</sup> Class Honours, and moved on to serious Pure Mathematics.

Prof Jack de Wet, my mentor for the first year, gave way as my tutor to Dr (later Prof) Graham Higman, a specialist in Group Theory, an area of pure mathematics rooted in symmetry and other ideas. It brought a large volume of mathematical theory to be learned, some of it extremely difficult.

Doctor Higman was a dear man, a leader in the field and a conscientious tutor, with a sense of mathematical humour that lightened up our relationship. My careful attention to his personal tuition and attending his lectures, right up to the finals, led to my leaving Oxford with a first class honours degree. For this result I am deeply indebted to Prof. Higman, even though he was said to be disappointed that I did not stay in the academic world as a mathematician. Other matters intervened.

The requirement for deep abstract thinking was a very good basis for the progression of my technical career, even though Group Theory was not related to the branches of mathematics that I subsequently used in that kind of work. What I did gain was a confidence in being able to solve mathematical and other problems, and I did encounter quite advanced mathematics in my technical career. In later life, though, I came upon all too many problems that defied solution – my youthful optimism had to give way to practical reality and compromise from time to time.

In 1958, the year of my Honour Moderations, another important seed was sowed that, like my strong mathematical base, would have life changing consequences in later life, although totally different in nature

In 1958 I reached my 21st birthday, and that entitled me to be admitted by Patrimony as a Freeman to the Mercers' Company of the City of London. My father Harry Hodson was a Mercer, as had been his father and grandfather, the main membership route for becoming a Mercer being father to son – the meaning of Patrimony – or being a close relative.

I was admitted as a Mercer by the then Master Mercer, Norman Watney, a remarkable man who, until he retired, had run the huge enterprise of

maintaining the rolling-stock of the whole of post-partition India, with a workforce of around 18,000. However, for a time the Mercers had no major impact on my life.

For many years, I was just an ordinary Mercer, progressing from Member to Liveryman; I attended many General Courts when I could; these gave news of what the Mercers had been doing, and were a source of long friendships with a common interest.

Many years later, in 2001, I became Master Mercer playing a big role in the Mercers admitting women members for the first time for 180 years. Patrimony became extended to fathers or mothers of sons or daughters, a massive change to the Company for the better.

This amazing organisation is a leader in philanthropy in London and well beyond. Its original Royal Charter, in 1403, established it as a Trade Guild with many other trades in the City of London, set up to maintain quality of the trade within a fraternity of members. Starting with the well-being of members who traded as Mercers, out of this grew philanthropic interest in the church, education, old people and social benefaction.

In recent years, the Mercers have given grants to St Mary's Church for renovation of the organ and other costs and expenses. They also gave a big grant to the Winkfield St Mary's School when I was Master Mercer, and this went towards the school's Mercer's Library.

Earlier parish mags have general accounts of the Mercers' Company, including the December 2016 parish mag (p18) and the July 2018 parish mag (p16). These editions can be found via the parish mag web page <https://fosmw.com/parishmag/>

Going back to Oxford days, academic work was core but my musical and social life was expanding. In the latter, I was to a small degree (through my well-connected, although not rich, parents) involved in what was termed 'The Season' – the social 'launching' of girls of upper-class background.

At that time, girls of high social status 'Came Out' by taking part in big expensive balls, in which they had the opportunities to meet eligible young men. These took place from spring to autumn each year, and the process was called 'The Season', At the beginning of the season girls were 'Presented at Court' to Her Majesty the Queen, and in May the big balls started with the Queen Charlotte's Ball. (All this stopped many years ago as inappropriate extravagance. If I had been a girl, my parents could never have afforded it.)



I did get invited to a number of these great dances, and failed to impress any girls that I met there with my modest social skills, and lack of appropriate 'small talk'.

But there was one big dance, on the fringes of 'The Season' that did lead to a very special introduction. My brother Nick had a flat in Chelsea next to a well-connected lady, Pam de Meo, who arranged her own Ball to celebrate her son Roland's 21st birthday, and many girls doing The Season were invited. Pam invited Nick and asked if he knew any other young men of suitable age to invite. Nick suggested me, so I went to this great occasion.

It was later reported that two sisters, daughters of Hazel Incedon, an old friend of Pam (who had Come Out in the same year), compared notes later in the Ball. The younger sister, Heather said: "I've been dancing with an atomic scientist", and the older sister Margaret-Anne responded: "well, I've been dancing with a mathematician". That was Nick and myself. I was clearly very impressed by this direct, natural, funny, easy to talk to girl and, yes, she was very pretty. Although she had been Presented at Court, at age 17 her un-sophistication matched mine!

I had noted Margaret Anne's uncommon surname 'Incedon', and on return from the wonderful skiing holiday that I had spent after Christmas (1958) with Tomt and her friends, I knew that I had to take things further. The London telephone directory had only one possible Incedon entry, so I rang this number. "Yes, Margaret-Anne was there," the voice answered, "and would I like to speak to her?" Of course I did, and we dated and got on well.

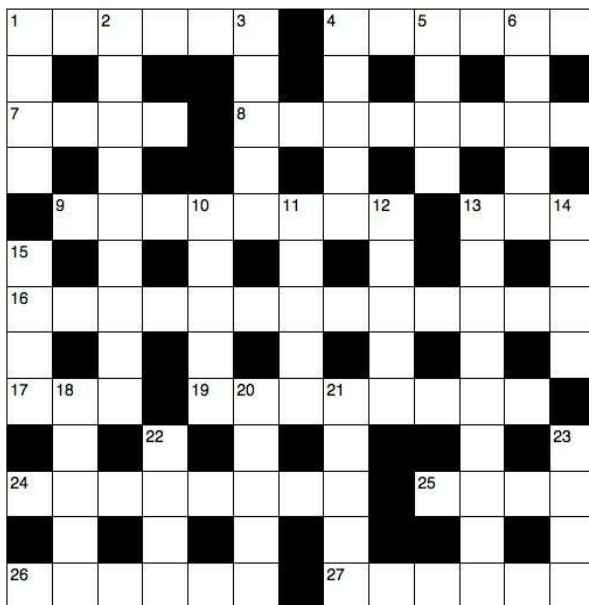
I was soon invited to spend a day with the Incedons at their house in Woldingham, a Surrey commuter village. I was met at the station by Margaret-Anne's father Gerald, and a few minutes later arrived at Highlands, to meet the family. Gerald Incedon was a successful businessman, a man of considerable charm who was head of the family business Incedon and Lamberts; his beautiful wife Hazel was a thoughtful and delightful hostess, and mother of five daughters. Margaret-Anne, now just 18. was the oldest. Next was Heather, quieter but practical and competent. Next was Susan aged 14, bubbly and confident. Amanda, aged 12, was introverted and complex as she approached teenage years. Moya was the baby of the family. Apart from humans, the family incorporated two dogs, several cats, two horses and a donkey.

I was warmly welcomed, particularly by Gerald, who was happy to have another male to hand. Coming from a family of four boys, a family of five girls was something of a culture shock., but I was made to feel very much part of the family, and, being practical and useful with my hands, was soon helping to repair stables and catch donkeys and suchlike. All of this led to a strengthening bond with Margaret-Anne, reinforced by a shared sense of gentle humour that found fun in ordinary happenings and things.

All episodes are in: <https://fosmw.com/parishmag/an-interesting-life.pdf>

## Puzzles

### Crossword Puzzle



#### Across

- 1 Rely (Psalm 62:7) (6)
- 4 'He stretches out the heavens like a — , and spreads them out like a tent to live in' (Isaiah 40:22) (6)
- 7 What the dove carried the olive leaf in, when it returned to Noah's ark (Genesis 8:11) (4)
- 8 Annoy (1 Samuel 1:6) (8)
- 9 Judah's last king, who ended his days as a blind prisoner in Babylon (Jeremiah 52:11) (8)
- 13 'They all — and were satisfied' (Luke 9:17) (3)

16 Eliphaz the Temanite was one; so was Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite (Job 2:11; 16:2) (4,9)

17 National Association of Evangelicals (of the USA) (1,1,1)

19 Popular song for New Year's Eve, Auld — — (4,4)

24 Able dock (anag.) (8)

25 The number of stones David chose for his confrontation with Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (4)

26 Elgar's best-known 'Variations' (6)

27 Soak (Isaiah 16:9) (6)

### Down

1 Money owing (Deuteronomy 15:3) (4)

2 Conciliatory (Titus 3:2) (9)

3 'Do this, whenever you — it, in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (5)

4 A group assisting in the governance of the Roman Catholic Church (5)

5 One of the gifts Joseph's brothers took with them on their second journey to Egypt (Genesis 43:11) (4)

6 'Reach out your hand and — — into my side. Stop doubting and believe' (John 20:27) (3,2)

10 Be outstandingly good (2 Corinthians 8:7) (5)

11 'What — — that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?' (Psalm 8:4) (2,3)

12 Horse's feet (Judges 5:22) (5)

13 Notice (Deuteronomy 17:4) (9)

14 Comes between 2 Chronicles and Nehemiah (4)

15 One of Israel's northern towns conquered by Ben-Hadad (1 Kings 15:20) (4)

18 Narnia's Lion (5)

20 One of the two rivers in which Naaman would have preferred to wash (2 Kings 5:12) (5)

21 Avarice — one of the evils that come from inside people (Mark 7:22) (5)

22 Knight Grand Cross of St Michael and St George (1,1,1,1)

23 Jacob's first wife (Genesis 29:23) (4)

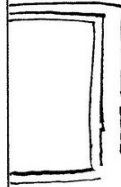
ACROSS: 1, Depend; 4, Canopy; 7, Beak; 8, Irritate; 9, Zedekiah; 13, Ate; 16, Job's comforter; 17, NAE; 19, Lang Syne; 24, Blockade; 25, Five; 26, Enigma; 27, Drench.  
DOWN: 1, Debt; 2, Peaceable; 3, Drink; 4, Curia; 5, Nuts; 6, Put it; 10, Excel; 11, Is man; 12, Hoofs; 13, Attention; 14, Ezra; 15, Ijon; 18, Aslan; 20, Abana; 21, Gred; 22, GCMG; 23, Leah.

# Children's Corner

## The Big Bash!



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A RICH MAN WHO DECIDED TO HAVE A PARTY

HE SENT OUT LOTS OF INVITATIONS

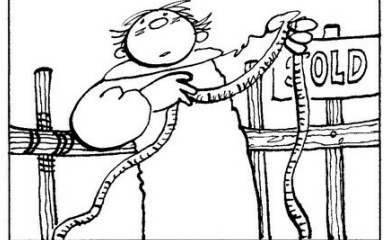


OH!  
NO!!

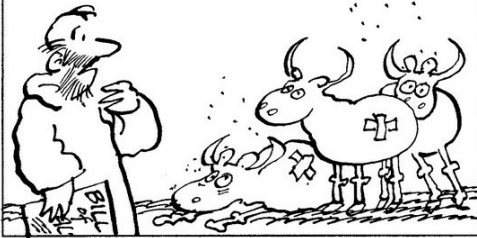


BUT PEOPLE STARTED MAKING EXCUSES

ONE MAN SAID HE HAD BOUGHT A FIELD, BUT NEEDED TO MEASURE IT



ANOTHER MAN SAID HE NEEDED TO TEST DRIVE THE OXEN HE HAS JUST PAID FOR



ANOTHER MAN SAID HE HAD JUST GOT MARRIED - AND HIS WIFE WOULDN'T LET HIM OUT!

SO THE RICH MAN INVITED ALL THE POOR AND NEEDY INSTEAD.



YES - I CAN COME TO YOUR PARTY

THE PARABLE MEANS WE SHOULDN'T MAKE EXCUSES FOR NOT FOLLOWING JESUS.