

Winkfield, Cranbourne and Chavey Down Parish Magazine



January 2026

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This magazine is available on the web at www.fosmw.com or <https://www.winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk> For correspondence with the Editors please write to aeh@xdotd.co.uk or info@fosmw.com including 'parish mag' somewhere in the subject. Some paper copies are available in the three churches on or after the last Sunday of each month. The printed magazine has 24 pages this month.

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Epiphany thoughts

An Epiphany contemplation by Bishop Michael Colclough

We must never relegate this feast of the Epiphany to the annals of history. Preaching during this season 600 years ago, the renowned German Dominican friar and theologian, Meister Eckhart challenged his congregation with his customary bluntness: *“What good is it to me if Mary gave birth to the Son of God 1400 years ago and I do not give birth to the Son of God in my own person and time and culture? ... We are all meant to be mothers of God”*.

Eckhart reminds that we are not idle bystanders to the events of that Bethlehem birth. He reminds us of our high calling as both devotees and followers of Jesus and of the joy and privilege that goes hand in hand with that calling: you and I giving birth to the Son of God in our own lives. Christmas and Epiphany are not sentimental trips but serious responsibilities in our lives.

St Matthew's Gospel gives us that wonderful description of the Wise Men's visit to the Child Jesus. And it's these last words that always resonate with me: 'They returned to their country by another route'. Yes, we know that the Wise Men had been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, but I think there's more to it than that. Who could encounter Jesus and not be changed? Not go away different? The gospel pages abound with examples of people whose lives were challenged, changed, healed because they encountered the Word made Flesh; they allowed Jesus to enter their hearts and lives: people who then 'returned to their country by another route'.

Whenever we meet Jesus - be it in prayer, in worship, in caring for others - the experience will always be transforming, will bring a change in us. It's important to remember, when we minister to others: they also minister to us - and that leads to our growth, our transformation into the glory of the Epiphany Christ Child.

My favourite Epiphany painting is by the sixteen century Dutch artist, Pieter Bruegel the Elder and I think it helps us understand preacher Eckhart's words. In the centre of the painting, the Blessed Virgin holds

up the Holy Child to show him to His exotic visitors while looking tenderly at her Son with fond motherly love and devotion.

The painting gives a typical stable scene with soldiers and farm animals standing in the background, watching as the three Magi offer their gifts. But looking closely at the painting we mustn't be too distracted by those symbolic gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh if we are to catch an important message from the artist.

Looking at the Wise Men as they offer their gifts and you see that none of the three is actually looking at the Holy Child. They bring precious, symbolic gifts but the eyes and the attention of all three Wise Men are on the gifts of the others and, sadly, each looks with a face disfigured by envy and suspicion.

There's no rejoicing in each other's gifts, no sense of joy in their communal offering; instead, signs of competition, envy and a wondering about how they are judged, valued by the gifts they bring, how they are compared with the others. No wonder Bruegel paints the Christ-child pulling back from His visitors, clutching on to his mother's robes, almost in fear.

A real sign of Christian maturity is the ability to rejoice in the gifts of others - others whose gifts are often so very different from mine - but gifts no more important than mine before God - simply because they are all God-given gifts. Sadly, lots of Christian energy has been lost over the years because individual people and different Christian communities collectively have failed to grasp the utter worth of their own gifts - and have looked over their shoulders in anguish, envy and suspicion at what they perceive to be the higher gifts of other people. It is, at times, sadly true of all of us, be we people in the pew, choir, servers, priests or bishops. We can all suffer from it - and it speaks of our lack of confidence in our own worth before God, a failure to own our great status as loved children of our Heavenly Father.

St. Paul, writing from his prison cell to the Christians at Ephesus, bids us rejoice that, yes, we "have become fellow-heirs ... sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus". As a result of this blessing, we are called to bring to others "the boundless riches of Christ". It is in that knowledge, that atmosphere, if you like, that we are called to "live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28).

From the parish registers for November 2025

**No Baptisms, Confirmations, Weddings or Blessings have been reported
Funerals etc.**

The funeral and burial of the late William James Hopkins took place on Friday 14 November in St Peter's Church, Cranbourne. The service was led by Reverend Roy Burgess.

The funeral of the late David Ralph Walton Masters took place on Friday 14 November in St Peter's Church, Cranbourne, followed by a cremation service at Easthampstead Crematorium; both services were led by Canon Guy Wilkinson.

Notices

A message from the lay chair on behalf of the PCC

It was expected, but it's still sad to report, that we have had no valid applicants for our post of interim minister. We were warned that it could take many months and several advertisements; and this is the picture, both locally and nationally.

The Archdeacon also did not know of anyone locally who is actively looking for a position. We are also the case that a minister might not want to move to us for just three years, especially if they have children.

Anne, Lesley and I met online with the Archdeacon's team to discuss the way forward. We will be advertising again mid-January and will have to wait to see what happens.

We thank you all for your support as we continue with all the extra work, whilst we are in vacancy. We especially thank all the church teams, and we all pray that the right person is out there who *will* apply.

On behalf of the PCC, we send our best wishes for a happy and healthy 2026.

Church Office

Office hours are Monday-Friday 9:30am-12noon. The Church Office is open to 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

Website: <https://www.winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk> Note. This link will not work without including the www part of the URL.

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>

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 is 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.

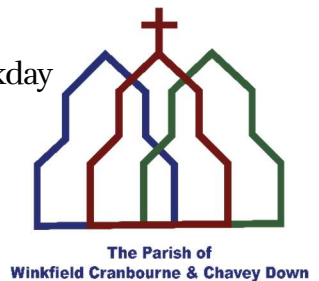
Should you have any Safeguarding concerns, please contact the Church Office at safeguarding@winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk (please begin the message with 'SAFEGUARDING'), or on 01344 882933.

St. Martins Church Hall

St Martin's Church Hall is available for Hire Weekday Evenings & Weekends

£17.50 per hour (community/charity rate also available. Sorry - no 'bouncy castles'.

For enquiries, please contact Amanda Carter at churchhallstmartins@gmail.com



A letter from the Parish Administrator – please read this!

As you will have been made aware during Sunday morning's services, and also from Andrea's message above, our search continues for an Interim Minister to lead us for the next three years.

We are exploring every possible avenue to find the right person, using advertising in the Church Times and Pathways Recruitment as well as the Oxford Diocesan website; and it was suggested at our Archdeacon Team meeting that we should pass on the word through social media, including Facebook.

Please pass on to friends and colleagues that we are looking, as there may be somebody who just needs pointing in the direction of one of our advertisements and Profile: we pray that this person will come forward.

In the meantime, we need your help! please follow this link to our Facebook post: the more 'Shares', comments and 'likes' this post can

receive, the more people we are able to reach, so your help will add value to our search

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=742752978868103&set=a.108587162284691>

We have not had a long-term permanent Minister since 2015, so shares and prayers are gratefully received.

Kind regards

Mrs Stephanie Lund

Parish Administrator

Winkfield, Cranbourne & Chavey Down Parish

(St Mary's, St Peter's & St Martin's Churches)

Church Office, c/o St Martin's Church, Church Road

Chavey Down SL5 8RR

Local events and reports

Music and Merriment 6 December

This community concert took place in St Mary's church with a good audience, and featured children's and adult choirs, organ and instrumental support, St Mary's Handbell ringers, readers and entertainers, not to mention mince pies and mulled wine in the interval. Two brilliant child musicians displayed astonishing talent.

It was a wonderful evening. One Junior Choir parent wrote: "thank you ... for creating such a fabulous night of music and celebration. It's the highlight of our year!"

See full write-up on page 11. There is also a collection of photos and video clips accessible on the Friends of St Mary's Winkfield' website www.fosmw.com



Christmas Tree Festival 2025

The Fifth Christmas Tree Festival opened on Saturday 13 December after many helpers had decorated the 18 trees and set up the stalls the previous day. The church looked beautiful with so many Christmas lights shining on the trees.

The children gave two performances – one in the morning and one early afternoon. The Junior Choir sang and they all recited a verse from ‘Twas the Night before Christmas’ in the morning and ‘The Littlest Christmas Tree’ in the afternoon. Two piano solos, a violin duet – mother and daughter – a Ukulele solo and a wonderful video of our young gymnast. A successful day.

Family Matins 14 December 2025

Family Matins the following day was the Nativity and Crib service. The children told the Christmas story, read the prayers and took the figurines to the crib. The Junior Choir, all beautifully robed, led the singing. One of the older members of the Family Matins congregation is now the regular crucifer for this service. It truly is *their* service.

St Mary's Choir

The choir with our extra singers sang at the Holy Communion service and also at Crafty Choral Matins in November, the First Sunday of Advent and also St Andrew's day. The Junior Choir also sang at that service and read several prayers.

Three additional singers (ladies) joined the choir for Family Communion in December. The Nine Lessons and Carols service was inspirational, with handbells, great singing by the choir, and a fine voluntary by William, the organist and was, led by Canon Dagnall. A service of Said Communion followed the Nine Lessons and Carols.

St Mary's Women's Guild

Members were invited to the home of a Guild member for the December meeting. The business of the meeting was conducted quickly and was followed by a short service. Then we were treated to a delicious tea.

There is no meeting in January, but we are meeting for lunch at the White Hart early in the New Year.

Family Praise, Crafty Church and Family Matins.

Family Praise in November was the story of Moses and the Ten

Commandments, and the activity at Crafty Church in November was making decorations for their very own tree!

The children read the bible passages and prayers as usual.

Family Matins in December was the Nativity and Crib service, with many of the children taking part.

This followed the day of the opening of the Christmas Tree Festival. The children gave two performances that day – singing, reading and playing their musical instruments. One member of the group is an excellent gymnast and a video of her and her team performing was shown. Family Praise in December was the Christingle service.

Friendly Faces

This group meets on the second Thursday of the month in the church office at 10am. The group endeavours to keep members aware of anyone in the Parish who might not be able to get to church regularly and needs help. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact lesleyphilpot50@gmail.com

Bell Ringers – November 2025



As always, the end of the year has been busy for the handbell team!

We hosted the annual 'Christmas Together' event when the Black Swan group joined us for an afternoon of ringing and feasting! We rang three French-themed pieces provided for us by the region, specifically for the

purpose of getting together in small groups to enjoy the festive season. As well as these pieces, the Black Swans rang a selection of Christmas Carols, and we rang our Music and Merriment pieces for them. We enjoyed delicious savoury and sweet treats with a cup of tea before running through the set music again – a great fun afternoon!

As November included a 5th Sunday, we rang during the service – this time we chose ‘Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending’, a really lovely Carol to start our Advent ringing.

Music and Merriment was, as always, a huge success with an enormous selection of talent along with the ever-popular audience carols. Thanks to Anthony for all his hard work organising this wonderful event for us. Well done to the kitchen team who provided very welcome mulled wine and mince pies during the interval.

The hand bells have visited a couple of nursing homes this year, ringing Christmas carols and giving the residents the opportunity to ‘Ring and Sing’ using the bell-plates - these are so much lighter than the bells and easier to manage.

We rang once again at Savill Gardens on Friday 19th between 11am and 12noon – it is always beautifully decorated and a lovely place to visit.

We also played during the glorious ‘Nine Lessons and Carols’ service on Sunday 21 December, led by Canon Dagnell, and were ably augmented by William on his tambour. Thanks to Lesley and John Kimbell for all that they did to put it together, to the choir for their great singing, and to William for his rousing voluntary.

The tower bells continue to ring before all the services and will be ringing in the New Year. Our regular practice night is Monday at 7:30pm

Do get in touch and if you would like to have a go at tower ringing – it is great exercise for both mind and body! Also, the hand bell ringers would welcome new recruits – we practice on Wednesday evening at 6:30pm for one hour.

Our regular quiz night is on 21 February 2026 – make a note and join us for this fun event with a Ploughman's Supper!

Jill Glennerster
07821131303



Services in the Parish - January 2026

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH Common Worship Services

Date	Day	Time	Service
4	Epiphany	9:30am	Morning Prayer
		4pm	Family Craft Café
11	1 st Sunday of Epiphany	9:30am	Family Praise
18	2 nd Sunday of Epiphany	10am	Community Café <i>in St Martin's Church Hall</i>
25	3 rd Sunday of Epiphany	9:30am	Holy Communion led by Revd Alan Dibden

ST MARY'S CHURCH Book of Common Prayer Services

Date	Day	Time	Service
4	2 nd Sunday after Christmas	10am	Family Communion led by Revd Alan Dibden
11	1 st Sunday after the Epiphany	10am	Family Matins
18	2 nd Sunday after the Epiphany	9:30am	Family Praise
		11am	Holy Communion led by Canon Dagnell
25	3 rd Sunday after the Epiphany	9:30am	Crafty Church
		11am	Morning Prayer

ST PETER'S CHURCH Common Worship Services

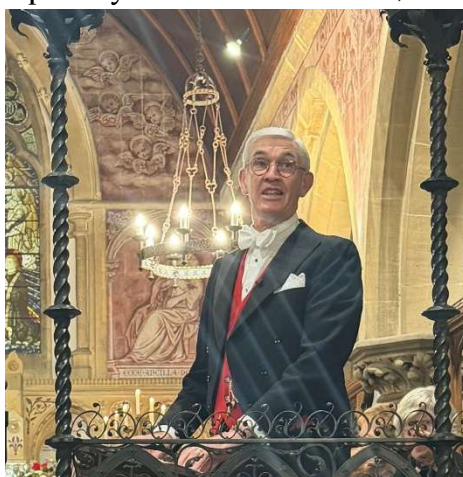
Date	Day	Time	Service
4	Epiphany	11am	Epiphany Family Praise
11	1 st Sunday of Epiphany	11am	Holy Communion led by Revd Roy Burgess

Date	Day	Time	Service
18	2 nd Sunday of Epiphany	11am	Morning Praise & Prayer
25	3 rd Sunday of Epiphany	11am	Holy Communion led by Rev'd Roy Burgess

Music and Merriment

The Music and Merriment Christmas Concert took place on the evening of 6 December. It was billed as 'a unique concert celebrating local talent' – and it lived up to this magnificently. A Junior Choir mother wrote: "It was such a fabulous night of music and celebration. It's the highlight of our year! My daughter loves being involved, thank you so much for including her in the Junior Choir."

The concert is inspired by the joy of Christmas, and singing is at the core, with a junior choir of children specially trained for the event, a senior choir of experienced local singers, and an enthusiastic audience who join in on the audience carols. But there is more: the St Mary's handbell ringers, local readers and entertainers; an organist supports the singers, and a well-known local brass quintet adds its own flavour to the music, not only in the carols, but with its own characteristic Christmas music. All under control by our experienced compère Tony Bish.



Perhaps of most significance is a unique contribution to local talent: each year we give a performance-opportunity for super-talented young instrumentalists and singers; and, in past performers, we have even had a then-future winner of the BBC Young Musician of the Year (Ewan Millar, oboist).

Over the last eight years we have been blessed by having Sarah Aizawa, aged just 17, a violinist of huge talent and technique that we have seen (and heard) grow in technique year by year. She played the virtuosic Prokofiev 1st Violin concerto, combining lyrical sensitivity with the daunting technique demanded by the composer's novel sound-world – amazing complex music flowing from one so young.



Sarah was sensitively supported by pianist John Sayer, who did a great job in emulating the orchestra that accompanies soloists in real concerto performances – it's a job with a real challenge, both technically and in supporting the changing moods of the solo part.

We welcomed for the first time 12-year-old Sergey Druzhinin, who played a Rachmaninov prelude characterised by a complex lyrical lower part accompanied by a fast flurry of upper notes like a cloud. His teasing but high-speed jazzed-up Alla Turca (originally by Mozart) was hilarious while stunning in technique.



Both of these amazing young musicians have a bright musical future in serious musical venues, but both treasure the opportunity to entertain and be acclaimed by a really friendly audience like this. It is not easy at this time in their career to find occasions where they will be so welcomed, and it is a joy for the audience, too, to experience young talent at this level before it blossoms into professional success and, with luck, fame.

We had a Junior Choir of 15 girls from six different local schools, all but one primary schools. The parents apply to have their children included in the choir – no audition needed – and on four Sunday evenings in November, the JC Director Lucy Head trains them to sing with clear confidence. The children rose magnificently to the challenge!

The Junior Choir, as always, started the concert by processing up the darkened church singing 'Once in royal David's city', lit only by their glowsticks, led by Lucy. They neatly established themselves on the chancel steps for the second verse, after which the Senior Choir sang a verse under William Bishop, the SC director, followed by the last two verses for the audience.



The concert was on, and the carol ended with a glorious descant and the bright trumpets of the 5Ts Brass quintet soaring over everybody's enthusiastic singing. The JC later gave a lively and beautifully sung mini-recital of, from celebrating stars, finding Jesus, and the days of the Christmas season. The children, in two groups, sang their counterpoint with effective confidence. They later contributed two solo verses to 'The first Nowell'.



Eila, manager of the Senior Choir, wrote after the concert: "The atmosphere was lovely and the Junior Choir were the star attraction, plus of course the young pianist and violinist." Len Tyler, 5Ts director and a senior local musician wrote: "To give those youngsters such a lovely experience is something that will stay with them for life, and that is something that nobody can take away. What a great legacy!"

The Senior Choir, under William, played a core role in the audience carols, supported instrumentally by Alan Rapley on the organ and the 5Ts brass quintet, and the last of these was the glorious 'Joy to the

World'; and, again, our ears rang with descant and high trumpets. The middle audience carol was 'The 12 days of Christmas' and the two sides of the audience bobbed up and down energetically for the odd and even bizarre gifts from the 'true love' The senior choir was excused the bobbing – to the relief of the older members!



The Senior Choir in its own contribution sang out the Christmas message, starting with Anthony Hodson's new anthem – a setting of Robert Louis Stevenson's 'A prayer for Christmas Day' (only its second public performance), they also three joyous and familiar carols from the Choir repertoire. 'We wish you a merry Christmas' was their final accomplished message to a delighted audience!



The St Mary's Handbells are always an important part of the concert, and, under the capable baton of Jill Glennerster, they gave a very polished rendition of three carols as the last number of the first half of the concert.

They perform just in front of

the altar, and the atmosphere of their performance is magical. This is the epitome of inclusive parish music – parishioners working together as a team, learning new skills as they learn new pieces, and entertaining us all with their achievements.

In between the set-pieces of the choirs and the instrumentalists, we have the readers and the entertainers. John Kimbell explained why he wanted



a hippopotamus for Christmas, John Edwards told Hoffnung's sad but funny up-and-down tale of the bricklayer and his painful encountering of a tiresome barrel of bricks on a tall building, Caroline Loveys took us through C.S Lewis's Wardrobe to a magical world, and Sue Bish entertained with 'Another night before Christmas', the moving word-world of Carol-Anne Duffy (past poet laureate).



The 5Ts Brass quintet entertained with Len Tyler's inventive Christmas sound world, including a rendition of the drama of a Cluedo adventure in an imagined Christmas-tide game.



And at 'half-time', we all enjoyed the Women's Guild's delicious mince pies, washed down by mulled wine, kindly donated by Margaret-Anne, together with the community pleasure of talking together after the moment-by-moment enjoyment of the first half.

We have been very lucky in having photographic and video-clip contributions from two Junior Choir parents, Suki and Kiaya, and the concert's web page presents these. Thank you very much to both of them. Kiaya's words sum up the concert in a way that would give joy to any organiser of such a complex event:

"Wow! What a fabulous extravagant talent filled evening last night was. Everybody involved, whether organising or performing, should be so proud of the Music and Merriment concert. The child musicians especially were breathtaking in their performances. I thoroughly enjoyed every aspect of it."

Putting together a concert like this is a big team effort, and well over 60 people played a role, including singers and other performers and directors, and not forgetting people behind the scenes, including our wonderful kitchen people and those who have assisted with our parish publicity and social media outreach.

Many have taken part year on year, and will be happy to go on doing it. We have also been helped by sponsorship of costs, and by being able to use the Friends of St Mary's website for publicity and communications.

A million thanks to all these wonderful enthusiastic people who made the concert work, as well as the St Mary's Women's Guild for their lovely mince pies that powered the concert interval

And we must warmly also thank the wonderful audience for coming out on a cold winter night (fortunately not raining) expecting great entertainment. The concert was designed to be a great treat, not only for parish people, but also for supporters further afield, and it was good to have support from these lovely people. All the same, we are primarily supported by parish people and we loved entertaining you, our fellow parishioners. The concert will have made nearly £2000 for St Mary's.

We look forward to another great evening like this in 2026!

Go to www.fosmw.com for photos and other post-concert resources.

Thoughts of all sorts

Epiphany 6th Jan: gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh?

The story of the coming of the Magi grew in the telling. By the 6th century they had acquired names: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. By medieval times they were considered to be kings. Whoever they were, we do know from Matthew that they brought three gifts to Jesus.

What about their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh? While we cannot know for sure what was in the minds of first century Magi, one Victorian scholar has offered a possible explanation as to the significance of their gifts. He was the Rev John Henry Hopkins, an American Episcopalian minister, who in 1857 wrote his much-loved Christmas carol, 'We Three Kings of Orient Are'.

Gold, said John Henry Hopkins, was a gift that would have been given to a king. Frankincense had traditionally been brought by priests as they worshipped God in the Temple. Myrrh was a spice that the ancients used in preparing bodies for burial.

If that is true, then you could say that the Wise Men, in choosing their gifts for this infant, honoured Jesus with gold because He was King of the Jews, with frankincense because He was to be worshipped as divine, and with myrrh, because He would also become a sacrifice and die for His people.

The Wise Men were the very first gentiles ever to worship Jesus. What faith they had! They travelled for months over difficult terrain, they never saw any evidence of Jesus' kingship, His divinity or His sacrificial death. They worshipped Him through faith in God's promises about Him. Isaiah foresaw this response to Jesus: 'Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.' The Magi's eyes of faith saw clearly and far into the future.

Compare that with the High Priest and religious leaders whom the Wise Men saw in Jerusalem when they first arrived. These head priests knew all about the prophecies of their own coming Messiah, but NOT ONE Jewish religious leader travelled to look for Him in Bethlehem. And it is only six miles down the road! (*Credits to Canon Paul Hardingham.*)

Episode 59– The ICL saga continued

(Anthony Hodson continues his serial memoirs.

Whatever happened to ICL in 1980? My memoirs can only record a worm's eye view, since I was embedded deep in the organisation as a lowly research consultant in a small team, working in a company whose business was at the time dominated by the world of big 'mainframe' computers – machines requiring large halls for accommodation. These halls were also needed for ancillary equipment such as large-scale printers, big data-storage discs and tape-machine: every large corporation needed this kind of computer and all the extra kit.

ICL was the product of a complex story of pioneering enterprises in business computing. Market development and attrition of early leaders by merger left ICL as the largest business-computer manufacturer outside the USA. It had powerful modern technology in both hardware and software, now mainly focused on the 2900-series machines that were competitive with the IBM 303 and 370 series, the market leaders. Issues of compatible software being passed down from computer generation to generation had resulted in a forced decision to make the 2900 series compatible with the IBM 360 architecture that was becoming the industry standard. ICL did not have the resources to develop both large and small-scale computers, but had acquired presence in the latter market by acquisition of the US Singer range. Singer was the descendant of Singer Sewing Machines.

The 2900 series had many teething problems, and the compatibility with IBM meant that ICL customers could switch to IBM. So ICL's hold on its customer-base was precarious. When Maggie Thatcher's high-teen bank-rate measures to conquer the high inflation inherited from Callaghan's Labour government kicked in, the 2900 market collapsed. Customers went elsewhere. ICL was now in catastrophic financial straits with an un-needed army of people who had been involved in manufacturing, marketing and support of the 2900 range.

I seem to remember that about 30,000 employees were immediately made redundant, and all employees knew that the whole company was in severe danger. However, Brian Millis and his team of forward-looking consultants, including myself, were considered part of the future and so we weren't safe, but we were not priority for redundancy.

ICL had to restructure its board, and the company brought in Robb Wilmot as MD. Robb had been the energetic and pioneering chief executive of Texas Instruments, a leader in silicon chip developments and a world leader in hand-held computers, and he now had the task of reshaping ICL and pointing it in a new direction, bringing in a new balance of work-force to support major technological challenges.

On 6/4/1981 Thatcher's government approved Kenneth Baker's bill to bail out ICL by guaranteed loans, and this meant that ICL had a future that was quickly taking shape in the general direction of networking small computers, while retaining a much-simplified 2900 range.

Although I only ever met Robb once (being a mere techie), I regarded him as an inspirational leader who gradually drew the organisation into

one that began to understand its own future in a fast-evolving technical world where more and more people in industry and government were working directly with computers. Personal computers were also making their way to familiarity at that time. 'Workstation' was the commonly used term for a personal computer in an office or business context.

I found myself working on word-processing and the issues of delivering it in businesses, and as a result became regarded as ICL's WP expert. Today, products like Microsoft Word dominate, but did not exist then. One evening I was told to go to a secret location for a secret purpose. It turned out that ICL was considering acquiring an existing product in the form of an attractive stand-alone word processing system that worked on a dedicated microcomputer (based on Intel 8086 chips).

My task was to make a technical assessment of it as a potential ICL product. This was the Logica VTS system, and I decided that it *was* good. As a result, ICL acquired it as a product, giving it an ICL brand-name DRS 8801. It became very successful, and 'was voted in a Marplan poll as ICL's most popular product with its customers and won for Logica the Queen's Award to Industry for Technological Innovation.' (<https://www.computinghistory.org.uk/det/4961/ICL-DRS8801/>).

One day I was still at work at 6pm in my office (then in Reading). The telephone rang and would I report immediately to Robb Wilmott's office in ICL's Putney headquarters? So, I caught the next train to Putney and reported. Robb and two or three others grilled me about how the product could be developed further, and I advised that this would be very difficult unless ICL acquired the technical ownership rights of the word-processing software. They probably tried to do this, but didn't succeed, and by 1986 the product was superseded, mostly by Microsoft Word running on personal computers.

I later became involved with developing a new potential email product for ICL, creating a network of workstations (meaning personal computers in a work environment) that supported exchange of 'electronic mail'. At this time there was no Internet, and no universal method for exchanging email messages such as exist today as SMTP. (the acronym for a now-universal 'Simple Message Transfer Protocol'; SMTP was invented in 1982 to support the ARPANET, a US Department of Defense computer network that led directly to the Internet).

So, for most purposes, messaging at that time emulated Telex, which gave a means of sending text messages from one point to another. For the exchange of bulk digital information, there were similar point-to-point methods. 'Floppy discs' had by then been invented for easy data interchange locally between personal computers and workstations,

Floppy discs were invented by IBM way back in 1971 as a means of portable storage on a 'floppy'. This used a plastic disc with a coating of magnetic material that could store digital information in magnetic patterns. This led to the development of small mechanisms that could both read and write floppy discs, and these were compact enough and became cheap enough to support personal computers when these began to appear in 1976. The 5.25 inch 'floppy' became the universal standard. The ICL word processor DRS 8801 used floppies.

Read-write meant that one could change the information on a floppy and could use and re-use the disc – a useful and economical feature. The CD (Compact Disc) and DVD technology that eventually replaced floppies were write-once. Data once written was permanent. CDs were primarily invented to support the music industry from 1983, and made use of solid-state lasers to read patterns of tiny pits in the plastic as computer bits. Later, mid 1990s, DVDs were introduced using similar technology but with more complex geometry and shorter-wavelength laser. This gave much bigger storage size and data rate.

The fact of the matter was, although computer systems had been 'talking to each other' for many years - and 'distributed computing' had been a major focus of the work that I had been doing as a research consultant with the Diebold Research Programme, there were many complex needs and issues in the technology but no standardised universally accessible solutions.

The world leader in this development of such standards was IBM, still the world's biggest computer corporation at that time. IBM was developing its own solutions, of which SNMP (Simple Network Management Protocol) was a key component, and IBM dominance at that time was considered a major threat to other suppliers of computer systems.

Open standards were progressing as the generic solution: standards that were developed as public solutions to avoid locking-in to a particular product. For distributed computing, this led to the International Standards endeavour called OSI (Open System

Interconnection). At the time, the internationalisation of telephones and telephonic communications was the function of CCITT (Comité Consultatif International des Télégraphes et Téléphones), an organisation developing international telephonic standards that over many years had enabled international telephony, telex and other developments. Now new standards were needed that would do the same thing for intercommunications between computers. This International Standards work would potentially cut across IBM's own initiatives, but the authority in CCITT was there for international standards to be developed – with IBM as single a partner with many other organisations.

ICL was one of the big organisations that played a very active part in developing OSI, and I found myself selected as one of the ICL consultants involved as UK representatives in the big International Standard process that developed OSI. That is for another episode.

ICL, under Robb Wilmott and his dynamic development and implementation of ICL's strategic direction, was taking off, and the government bail-out was working. The anxiety of its potential collapse had gone, and my salary now topped £10,000 for the first time (and in the 1980s that was a high salary, although by no means enough to support my son's Eton education, even with a bursary). I was also given a company car, a Vauxhall Cavalier, a good family-sized car. I mostly worked in ICL's big new office building in the Western Industrial Estate, (except for a year working in Reading in 1982), so my journey to work was only about three miles, but it was good to be able to sell off my trusty moped, which had conveyed me, summer and winter, to my office in Bracknell, first with Sperry and now with ICL.

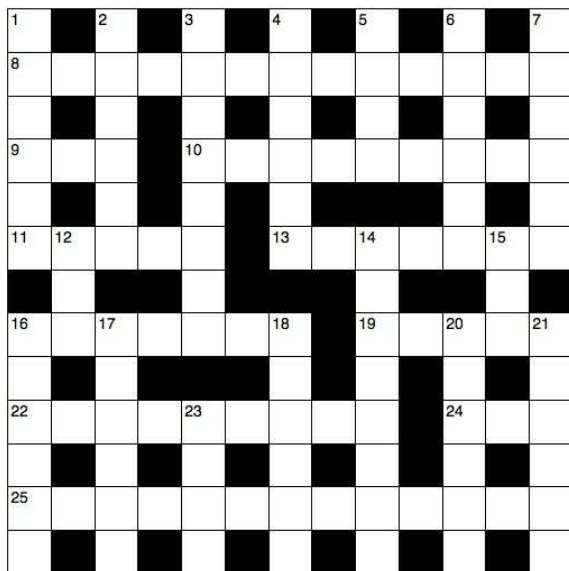
Margaret-Anne was fortunate enough to have modest independent means, and when we moved from London to Sunninghill in 1971, she bought a second-hand Volkswagen Variant - an interestingly different estate car that anomalously had its engine under the floor of the 'cargo' area. It therefore had luggage space under its bonnet where its engine would have been with a standard car as well as 'cargo' space.

This remained our one (and much loved) personal car until 1983, when it had my Vauxhall as a companion. It was a good car, but developed various quirks – in cold weather it became temperamental, and could only be started by making an electric puffer-heater blow into its engine area. Later, the passenger heating system gave up. We sold it for a

hundred pounds after Margaret-Anne purchase a newer second-hand Lada 4-wheel-drive estate car, another quirky but useful machine.

This had eight forward gears and at its lowest gear could tow almost anything. It was invaluable for Margaret-Anne's equine activities, but it was sometimes a complex car to drive. Its four wheels were placed almost in a square, so that when it encountered an icy surface, it was quite happy to rotate with all four wheels.

Its engine was not designed for convenient servicing. Bailey's, our service garage in Winkfield were kind enough to take it on for service and maintenance, but when picking it up after service, Margaret-Anne would be warned off wandering into the work area for fear of learning new words from the engineers as they struggled with jobs like tightening a bolt in a nearly inaccessible area of the engine space.



More about life in the '80s in the next episode. All episodes so far are on www.fosmw.com/parishmag/an-interesting-life.pdf

Crossword Clues

Across

- 8 How the Abyss (NIV) is described in the Authorized Version (Revelation 9:1) (10,3)
- 9 Frozen water (Ezekiel 1:22) (3)
- 10 The Ten Commandments (9)
- 11 In Roman Catholic theology, neither heaven nor hell (5)
- 13 Des cons (anag.) (7)
- 16 'Though [your sins] are red as — , they shall be like wool' (Isaiah 1:18) (7)

- 19 Keen (Romans 1:15) (5)
 22 Repugnant, loathsome (Jeremiah 24:9) (9)
 24 Drink like an animal (Judges 7:5) (3)
 25 First and last (Revelation 22:13) (5,3,5)

Down

- 1 Father of Ahi, a Gadite (1 Chronicles 5:15) (6)
 2 Where David found the stone with which he killed Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (6)
 3 'Hour by hour fresh lips are making thy — doings heard on high' (8)
 4 'And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their — at night' (Luke 2:8) (6)
 5 United Society for Christian Literature (1,1,1,1)
 6 'If he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would — — or a tax collector' (Matthew 18:17) (1,5)
 7 Where Paul was taken when things became difficult for him in Berea (Acts 17:15) (6)
 12 Istituto per le Opere di Religione (Vatican Bank) (1,1,1,1)
 14 'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new — ; the old has gone, the new has come!' (2 Corinthians 5:17) (8)
 15 Used to colour ram skins red for use in the tabernacle (Exodus 25:5) (3)
 16 Vat car (anag.) (6)
 17 'Be joyful — — , patient in affliction, faithful in prayer' (Romans 12:12) (6)
 18 'The parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts — — special treatment' (1 Corinthians 12:23) (4,2)
 20 Ancient rowing boat (Isaiah 33:21) (6)
 21 Say again (2 Corinthians 11:16) (6)
 23 What Jesus did in the synagogue in Nazareth after he stood up (Luke 4:16) (4)

ACROSS: 8, Bottomless pit 9, Ice, 10, Decalogue, 11, Limbo, 13, Seconds, 16, Crimson, 19, Eager, 22, Abhorrent, 24, Lap, 25, Alpha and Omega.
 DOWN: 1, Abdiel, 2, Stream, 3, Wondrous, 4, Flocks, 5, USCL, 6, A pagan, 7, Athens, 12, IOR, 14, Creation, 15, Dye, 16, Cravat, 17, In hope, 18, Need no, 20, Galley, 21, Repeat, 23, Read.

Children's Corner

The Good Samaritan

ONCE, A LAWYER TRIED TO TRICK JESUS WITH A CLEVER QUESTION.



...WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?

JESUS REPLIED BY TELLING THE LAWYER A STORY.



A MAN WENT FROM JERUSALEM TO JERICO. ON THE WAY...

HE WAS ATTACKED BY ROBBERS!!



HELP!

THEY TOOK EVERYTHING HE HAD AND LEFT HIM FOR DEAD!



LATER A PRIEST PASSED BY, BUT DID NOTHING TO HELP - NOR DID THE RELIGIOUS MAN FROM A TEMPLE!

BUT A MAN FROM A FOREIGN COUNTRY STOPPED TO HELP THE INJURED MAN. HE DRESSED THE MAN'S WOUNDS AND EVEN PAID FOR HIM TO STAY AT AN INN.



JESUS THEN ASKED "WHO WAS THE NEIGHBOUR?"

- ☐ PRIEST
- ☐ TEMPLE MAN
- ☐ FOREIGN MAN

WHICH DO YOU THINK WAS THE ONE THE LAWYER CHOSE?

Annex

The St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival

This article explains the Christmas Tree Festival, which started on 13 December with stalls singers, instrumentalists and the video of a young gymnast, and provides beautifully decorated Christmas trees in St Mary's church. until after Christmas Day.

The Christmas Tree Festival was an idea suggested by the St Mary's Women's Guild, in memory of a Member of the Guild who had always hoped a Christmas Tree Festival be arranged. It was introduced to St Mary's church as a practical event five years ago.

Several local companies were written to asking whether they would wish to take part and sponsor a tree. St Mary's organisations, Guild, Choir and Bell Ringers were also asked. Several individual members asked if they could sponsor.

Once agreement is reached on those wishing to sponsor, the trees are ordered, delivery dates are agreed and trees paid for. The first four years the trees were paid for by Lesley Philpot and Jonathan Hemsley.

The sponsors receive a letter thanking them for wishing to take part and informing them of what type of trees are being ordered, date of delivery, instructions for decorating tree and where to pay the money with all PCC bank details. Two FOSMW Trustees are also sponsors and receive a copy of this letter.

On the day of the opening of the Festival, there were several stalls, including refreshments available, in the church.

The money taken on the day is paid to the person who paid for the trees (via Colin for the PCC etc). I was very surprised the first year that the money taken on the day was just £3.45 short of the cost of the trees. This meant that the sponsorship money was all profit.

This has been the case each year so far. Sponsorship this year is in excess of £2000. Proceeds are going directly to the PCC

Lesley Philpot, President, St Mary's Women's Guild,

How to keep those New Year Resolutions

We are full of good intentions at the start of each year. How come we usually fizzle out by February? Here are some tips to keep you going...

Be realistic. If you have several goals, don't attempt them all at once. Research has found that if you stagger your goals, you will have more success. So, for example, if this year you want to spend less money, do more exercise and spend more time with your family, start one change this month, another in February, and start the third in March.

Be specific. For example, don't tell yourself: Lose weight. Decide exactly how much you want to lose. When do you want to lose it by? How will you do it? If you want more time with your family, how and when will you do that? The more exact you can be, the more likely you are to succeed.

Write it down. There's something about committing thoughts to paper that helps to cement your resolve. Why not start some sort of journal this year, to track your thoughts, your hopes, your goals – and your successes!

Tell other people. If you intend to do something, tell someone, and therefore you will feel more obliged to get going with it... your pride may keep you going when all else fails!

Focus on GAIN, not loss. Ever notice how many resolutions are about giving something up? Why not put it the other way round - instead of saying you will eat less, tell yourself you are headed for those skinny jeans....

Give yourself rewards. If you are quitting smoking or sweets, for example, put the money that you would have spent in a jam jar, and treat yourself to something nice (and healthy) with it.

Break your resolution into steps. Some goals will take months to achieve. So, break each one down into tiny steps, and simply head for each step. Build in some time frames, to prevent you procrastinating.

Finally, don't let failure defeat you. You will make mistakes. But the secret is to simply get up again and to keep going. Only if you stop are you *really* defeated. None of us are perfect, and the Bible encourages us to always start again.

What, oh what, is that person's name?!

Do your New Year Resolutions include the forlorn hope that you will be better at remembering people's names in 2026?

Many of us – and not only those of the older generation – have difficulty remembering names. It's not just TV personalities and so on, but people we meet in the street. We know exactly who they are, we see

them every week in church or the supermarket, we know what job they do and which school their children go to. But as for their name – it's a blank.

Help is at hand, however. Not to solve the problem, but at least to name it. 'Anomic aphasia' is the clinical name for the inability to remember a name, even when we can remember everything else about someone.

There is also the strange truth that the cure for anomic aphasia comes spontaneously, often in the middle of the night, when that elusive identity pops unbidden into our memory. We must be sure, of course, to put the light on and write it down, because for sure it will be gone again with the morning light!

Please think about donating with the Parish Giving Scheme

REGULAR GIVING: YOU CAN SET UP A DIRECT DEBIT THROUGH PGS THAT COLLECTS YOUR GIFT, MONTHLY, QUARTERLY OR ANNUALLY. THERE ARE NO PROCESSING FEES, AND YOU REMAIN IN CONTROL OF YOUR GIFT. GIFT AID IS ALSO CLAIMED ALONG WITH YOUR DONATION

ONE-OFF GIFT: YOU CAN USE A DEBIT, CREDIT CARD OR YOUR GOOGLE OR APPLE PAY WALLET TO MAKE A SINGLE ONE-OFF GIFT TO YOUR CHOSEN PARISH.

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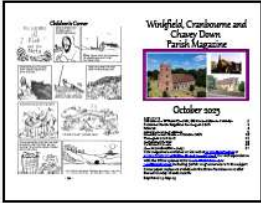
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☐ Auto-rotate pages within each sheet

Comments & Forms
 Document and Markups Summarize Comments

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Page 1 of 10 (1)

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This printed mag, on 20 pages, will omit the Annex, which amounts to extra material on page 21 and beyond. It is perfectly possible to print the whole mag in booklet form, Annex and all, although Service Information will no longer be on the middle pages. To do this, just leave Pages to Print in the print menu, and it will print the whole mag complete with Annex, on 7 sheets for this mag edition.