

Winkfield, Cranbourne and Chavey Down Parish Magazine



August 2026

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This magazine is available on the web at www.fosmw.com or 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 Winkfield churches on or after the last Sunday of each month. The printed magazine has 20 pages this month. The Web version has 28 pages.

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Winkfield, Cranbourne and Chavey Down Parish Magazine – August 2026

Notice: A Parish Welcome to Andy Medicott 19/7/26

We are pleased to announce that the Revd Andy Medicott will transfer his curacy from Bray with Braywood to Winkfield, Cranbourne and Chavey Down. Andy will offer consistent ministry after a long period of uncertainty while the benefice was seeking to recruit a priest in charge. He has been invited to work with the benefice to help it discern how it can best organise for a missional and sustainable future. It is planned for Andy to be with Winkfield, Cranbourne and Chavey Down for twelve months. Information about Andy's starting date will follow in due course, but is expected to be sometime in September.

9 August: Mary Sumner – founder of the Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union is now more than 140 years old. It has accomplished a staggering amount in that time, and nowadays numbers more than four million members, doing good work in 83 countries. That is a far cry from the modest circle-of-prayer for mothers who cared about family life, which is how it all began with a rector's wife, Mary Sumner.

Mary was born in late 1828 in Swinton, near Manchester. When she was four, her family moved to Herefordshire. Mary's father Thomas Heywood was a banker and historian. Her mother has been described as a woman of 'faith, charm and sympathy' – qualities that Mary certainly inherited. Mrs Heywood also held informal 'mothers' meetings' at her home, to encourage local women. Those meetings may well have inspired Mary's later work.

Mary was educated at home, spoke three foreign languages, and sang well. While in her late teens, on a visit to Rome, she met George Sumner, a son of the Bishop of Winchester. His was a well-connected family: George's uncle became Archbishop of Canterbury, and his second cousin was William Wilberforce. Mary and George married in July 1848, soon after his ordination. They moved to Old Alresford in 1851 and had three children: Margaret, Louise and George. Mary dedicated herself to raising her children and supporting her husband's ministry by providing music and Bible classes.

When in 1876 Mary's eldest daughter Margaret, gave birth, Mary was reminded how difficult she had found the burden of motherhood.

Soon she decided to hold a meeting to which she invited the local women, not only of her own class, but also all the village mothers. Her aim was to find out if women could be brought together to offer each other prayer and mutual support in their roles as wives and mothers. That meeting at Old Alresford Rectory was the inaugural meeting of the Mothers' Union.

For 11 years, the Mothers' Union was limited to Old Alresford. Then in 1885 the Bishop of Newcastle invited Mary to address the women churchgoers of the Portsmouth Church Congress, some 20 miles away. Mary gave a passionate speech about the poor state of national morality, and the vital need for women to use their vocation as mothers to change the nation for the better. A number of the women present went back to their parishes to found mothers' meetings on Sumner's pattern. Soon, the Mothers' Union spread to the dioceses of Ely, Exeter, Hereford, Lichfield and Newcastle. By 1892, there were already 60,000 members in 28 dioceses, and by 1900 there were 169,000 members. By the time Mary died in 1921, she had seen the Union cross the seas and become an international organisation of prayer and good purpose.

Note. I knew a lady called Lynette Paul, wife of the late Revd John Paul (a strong friend, and one time Chaplain of the Mercers' Company). Lynette was strong, energetic and of deep faith, and was founder of the branch of the Mothers Union based on Holy Trinity church, Sloane Square. She also filled many roles at Holy Trinity, and was not above washing, ironing and mending the robes and vestments of the church clergy and servers. She was an inspirational leader and worker for the Mothers' Union. Sadly, she died in 2017. Ed

From the parish registers for June 2026

Baptisms

Evie Moss-Kelly was baptised in St Mary's Church on Sunday 7 June.

Emilia Semadeni was baptised in St Mary's Church on Sunday 21 June.

Weddings & Blessings

None have been reported.

Funerals etc.

The funeral of the late Pauline Black took place on 15 June in St Peter's church, Cranbourne. The service was led by Revd Graham Theobald, and was followed by burial in St Peter's Churchyard.

A message from the PCC Lay Chair (see also p2)

As many of you know from what has already been announced in our three churches, the Bishop of Reading has approved the placement of a curate in our Parish for one year. The Pastoral Synod Committee has also approved the plan and has agreed the areas of focus.

The details of the plan and its focus are unknown just now, but this week, 13/7/26, the arch deacon has asked me to call a PCC meeting to discuss the issues.

The PCC needs to make sure that the areas for focus are both relevant and achievable, given the necessary support and guidance that we should be getting.

We do know that the plan is to work towards a situation at the end of the year that will allow us to advertise for a permanent minister. We hope and pray for a positive outcome at our meeting.

Andrea Stephens

Notices

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. The website is: www.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: www.winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk/donate.htm

Ranelagh application surgeries

Parents hoping for their children to enter Ranelagh School in September 2027 should consider the notice opposite. More details later.

Safeguarding in the Parish

The Parish safeguarding details are at: www.winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk/safeguarding.htm

Safeguarding is part of our core faith and is an integral feature of

RANELAGH SCHOOL APPLICATION SURGERIES FOR INTAKE SEPTEMBER 2027

by appointment only, from **10am-12 noon** on;

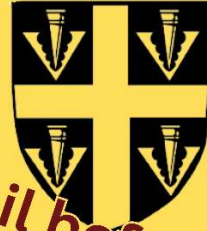
Wednesday **23rd September**

Wednesday **7th October**

Saturday **10th October**

or

Wednesday **14th October**



please email: lesleyphilpot50@gmail.com

www.winkfieldandcranbourne.org.uk



**Please do not email before
1st September**

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.

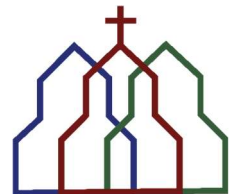
St. Martin's Church Hall

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



The Parish of
Winkfield Cranbourne & Chavey Down

Winkfield and North Ascot Good Neighbours Scheme

Since 1993, we have been providing a vital, low cost, community transport service. The Scheme is run entirely by volunteers, and its aim is to provide a helping hand to our neighbours. We provide door to door transport to essential medical appointments for our less mobile residents. For over 30 years we have made a huge difference to many of our neighbours who would have had to travel alone, take expensive taxi journeys, or struggle using public transport.

Should you need help to attend an appointment, simply call one of our friendly coordinators to discuss your requirements Monday to Friday, giving two days' notice:

Brenda - 01344 882975

Pat - 01344 886144

Local events and reports

Ascot Horticultural Society Late Summer Show

Ascot Horticultural Society will be holding their Annual Late Summer Show on Wednesday the 12 August in the King Edwards Church Hall, King Edwards Road, North Ascot (see flyer opposite).

Entries can be brought to the hall from 7.30pm until 8pm when judging will commence. There is an entry fee of £1 for members and £3 for visitors. Refreshments are provided. For further information, contact Wendy Sivyer, Show Secretary at wendysivyer@aol.com

St Mary's Choirs and services

Following his excellent organ recital at St Mary's, Henry Smith played for two Sunday services while William was travelling with the Founders Choir. He rehearsed the JC and led the choir at Family Matins. He also brought his school chaplain to one of the services, which was excellent.

Our extra singers continue to join us as often as they can. An additional two 9:30am service mothers and their daughters joined the choir at two services during the month.

There was a baptism following the Family Communion service at the beginning of July. William stayed for the service, as hymns had been requested. Once again Canon Dagnall incorporated baptism into the Holy Communion service. This baptism was for the whole family, Mother, Father and two daughters. It was a wonderful service

Family Matins, Family Praise and Crafty Church have continued during the month, with 21 children asking to read at Crafty Church in June. It was well received.

St Mary's Women's Guild

The excellent afternoon tea at Carole's residence has now taken place. There will be a full report in the September magazine. Once we reach September, our usual talks will start again

Ascot Horticultural Society

Summer Show



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

Wednesday 12th August '26

Staging of exhibits 7.30pm-8.00pm

Meeting commences 8.00pm

Entrance: Members £1 Visitors £3

Includes refreshments

For more information contact :

Wendy Sivyer (Show Secretary) on 07999513263 or

wendysivyer@aol.com

www.ascorthorticulturalsociety.co.uk

facebook.com/groups/276880418187911

Woodley Concert Band Saturday 11 July



The award-winning Woodley Concert Band, who for some years have been partners in providing musicians for the St Mary's Music and Merriment concerts, had a very successful concert in partnership with West Virginia University Alumni Band from the USA (top photo)

The West Virginia University Alumni have a European visit every few years, and this year they wanted to visit Windsor before continuing to Paris. They also wanted to partner in a concert with an English band

operating in the area, Their Web searches came up with 23 bands including us, the Woodley Concert Band. They listened to Web recordings of each band and whittled the list down to just one – us!!

The Alumni Band (in the first picture) played in the first half, giving a programme of diverse music that included singers (in a moving setting of Ave Maria) and also the finale of the famous Gustav Holst 2nd Folk Song Suite for Military Band – a great piece of English music that combines the well-known ‘Greensleeves’ tune with another English folksong, one on top of the other! It was composed in 2011 when Holst was Director of Music at the celebrated St Paul’s Girls’ School in Hammersmith. Four of the talented Woodley trumpeters (including John Sayer, a Music and Merriment stalwart) joined with the Alumni trumpet section in a jazzy number that moved us in spirit down to New Orleans! It was a very enjoyable performance.

The Woodley Concert Band responded in the second half with their usual polished performance of their summer repertoire, which included excerpts from ‘Jesus Christ Superstar’, ‘America’ from West Side Story, ‘Guardians of the Galaxy’ and a Frank Sinatra selection.

The two bands had the opportunity to fraternise in a buffet supper preceding the concert, and it was an opportunity to meet adult musicians (mostly amateurs) from a quite different background and culture. Politics was not a topic to be discussed!

Bell Ringers Report – August 2026

Despite the recent hot weather, our tower bells have continued to ring out each week, while many other towers have had to cancel ringing because of the heat. Clearly, we’re made of hardy stock! We’re always pleased to welcome new recruits, so if you’ve ever wondered what bell-ringing is all about, do come and have a chat with us. You’ll find us in church on Sundays or on Monday evenings, or you can always give Tony a call.

Our handbell team is also looking for new members. If you’d like to have a go, please contact me or pop into church on a Wednesday evening to find out more. No previous experience is needed – just enthusiasm and the ability to count!

Recently, the handbell ringers were invited to entertain residents and staff at a care home in Wokingham. We played a selection of tunes before inviting everyone to join in. Using our lighter bell plates, which are much easier to manage than the handbells, we introduced some

'Ring and Sing' sessions that require no musical knowledge at all. Everyone joined in enthusiastically with *My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean* and *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star*, and there were plenty of smiles all round. We then performed a few more tunes on the handbells before finishing with the National Anthem, which was a great favourite. If you'd like to know more about 'Ring and Sing', we'd be delighted to give a demonstration.



Winkfield and the Black Swan bell ringers!

Later that evening, we welcomed our friends from the Black Swan group. Together, we enjoyed ringing handbells and chimes to the delightful *English Country Garden* trilogy, along with a variety of entertaining solo performances. Of course, no Winkfield gathering would be complete without refreshments! We rounded off the evening with a delicious tea of scones with clotted cream and fresh strawberries, brownies, almond dough balls and cheesy bites. We do like our catering here at Winkfield – some people might even say it's worth joining the bell ringers for the tea alone!

At the beginning of August, I'll be taking the bells with me to Aberdeen for the International Handbell Symposium. I'm looking forward to meeting ringers from around the world, picking up new ideas and bringing them back to Winkfield. I'll let you know all about it in the next magazine edition.

Until then, enjoy the sunshine if you can, keep cool, and if you're tempted to give either tower or handbells a try, we'd love to hear from you. There's always room for another ringer!

Jill Glennerster 07821131303

Services in the Parish August 2026

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

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH

Common Worship Services

Date	Day	Time	Service
2	9 th Sunday after Trinity	9.30am	Morning Prayer
		4pm	<i>No service</i>
9	10 th Sunday after Trinity	9.30am	Family Praise
16	11 th Sunday after Trinity	10am	Community Coffee Morning in St Martin's Church Hall
23	12 th Sunday after Trinity	9.30am	Holy Communion
30	13 th Sunday after Trinity	9.30am	Morning Prayer

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Book of Common Prayer Services

Date	Day	Time	Service
2	9 th Sunday after Trinity	10am	Family Worship
9	10 th Sunday after Trinity	10am	Family Matins
16	11 th Sunday after Trinity	9.30am	Family Praise
		11am	Holy Communion
23	12 th Sunday after Trinity	9.30am	Family Worship
		11am	Morning Prayer
30	13 th Sunday after Trinity	10am	Crafty Choral Matins

ST PETER'S CHURCH

Common Worship Services

Date	Day	Time	Service
2	9 th Sunday after Trinity	11am	Family Praise
9	10 th Sunday after Trinity	11am	Holy Communion by extension
16	11 th Sunday after Trinity	11am	Morning Praise & Prayer
23	12 th Sunday after Trinity	11am	Holy Communion

Date	Day	Time	Service
30	13 th Sunday after Trinity	11am	Morning Praise & Prayer

Thoughts of all sorts

Summer Holidays

The story is told of porters who were hired to carry a group's possessions on a jungle safari. The pace increased until the head porter called a halt: *'We've come so far, so fast we need to take a break and allow our souls to catch up with our bodies!'*

How often do we feel like this? August is a month when many of us take time off. Jesus and His disciples often made *'strategic withdrawals'* from the crowds: *'because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, Jesus said to them, "Come with Me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest".'* (Mark 6: 31,32).

Jesus saw how tired and stressed His disciples were and wanted to give them a break in their busy lives. He loved them and cared about their wellbeing. He longs to do the same with us, so that we can restore the balance of work, rest and play in our lives. Going on holiday gives us the opportunity to take time off, to let go the burdens that we carry every day and receive again His rest for our souls: *'Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.'* (Matthew 11:28).

The story is told of the aged Apostle John playing with doves. A passing hunter expressed surprise at what a man as pious as John was doing. John pointed to the bow in the hunter's hand and asked him why he carried it with a loosened string. The hunter replied, *'It loses its strength unless it is given the chance to unbend.'*

John replied, *"Why are you surprised that a servant of Christ should not relax to keep himself stronger for his work?"*

Ukraine church leaders decry 'sacrilegious' war

Ukrainian church leaders have accused Moscow of attempting to revise 'historical narratives' by attacking their country's ancient Christian sites, after two more Orthodox cathedrals were damaged in Russian strikes.

"The ancient Kievan state, whose history they seek to appropriate, has never been part of their historical or spiritual identity," the Greek Catholic Primate, Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk, said.

“While we pray for the conversion of all who destroy our holy places, this tragedy has again shown how this war is truly sacrilegious – a war in which ideals are destroyed, moral principles violated, and the name of God blasphemed.”

Metropolitan Epiphany (Dumenko), the Primate of Ukraine’s independent Orthodox Church, said that he also believed that Moscow “hoped to erase historical truths”. The strike on Dormition Cathedral, in the 11th-century complex, recalled the Nazi bombing of St Paul’s Cathedral in London.

“It was not in Moscow but in Kyiv that the foundations of a Christian state were laid – not in Moscow but in Kyiv that St Sophia has stood for over a thousand years,” told a Greek newspaper at the weekend. “Moscow seeks to erase this historical truth – this is why it attacks and destroys everything which exposes it.”

Episode 66 – The ICL Directory

This episode continues with an account of a critical period of the business life of Anthony Hodson, who worked hard, against difficulties, to establish ICL’s Directory technology

As the late 1980s wore on, the X.500 Directory standards became increasingly stable, with work to finalise the internationally-agreed standards text coming to an end. The result of this was to define how local Directory systems could interwork by digital communications to provide a global directory that could locate entries for people, organisations and specialised services, even if the information was distributed internationally.

As it turned out, the most important and enduring usage of the global X.500 Directory was the support of verifiable digital signatures – a key aspect of Identity Management – for which the X.509 component of the X.500 standards still provides the functional details.

This standards work was augmented by secondary standards, which provided agreed simplifications and conventions that would make it easier to implement the Directory machinery, particularly the interconnected local databases (called DSAs – Directory Service Agents) that stored internationally accessible Directory information.

Development of these secondary standards was mainly carried out by two regional workshop systems. EWOS (the European Workshops on Open Systems) was sponsored by the European community, and they were centred on Brussels. The NIST (National Institute for Standards

and Technology) workshops represented the USA and US influence areas. Some were held at Gaithersburg Maryland (almost a suburb of Washington DC), others in other US locations, such as Salt Lake City.

As a result of my own work on the standards, and of the ICL participation in the THORN directory, I became one of the leaders of the secondary standards coordinating the two workshops, and shared the EWOS chairmanship with Erik Andersen from Denmark, an expert on X.509 standards. I was also, for a time, chairman of the NIST Directory workshop but this came to an end, as Episode 65 described.

The THORN Directory work, described in earlier episodes, was the result of collaboration with experts from eight or nine European organisations. It created a working Directory database that looked up information for human or computer-system users (using Directory User Agent software). Users accessed information using standard X.500 access protocol (DAP -Directory Access Protocol). For THORN, all the information came from a single database within a single computer.

For 'real' X.500, the database was to be distributed worldwide, using DSAs that intercommunicated using a more complex protocol.

Notably, the challenge was to design DSAs that were the working components of a multi-user database, specialised in the kind of information stored in the Directory, and compliant with the agreed X.500 international standards. The full DSA design had to enable users to access, not only information held locally, but also information in directly- or indirectly-accessible remote DSAs. The Directory standards created the means systematically to pass on queries to a DSA that was closer to the requested directory information.

The X.500 standards guided the development of DSAs that could implement this ambitious goal. Developers of DSAs faced many challenges of system architecture, design, testing and performance of development of the complex software systems that would do the trick.

Before committing to having a Directory product, my company, ICL, had to decide whether this was a viable business proposition. At the beginning, the sole internal resource for detailed knowledge was my two-man team. We comprised a very skilled and capable software designer, Peter Gale, and myself, an enthusiastic and confident mathematician with a lot of practical IT experience, including being a key contributor to THORN. By then, I had experience and a deep understanding of the X.500 standards work and had worked out what I believed to be a viable overall design, within which the myriad of technical details had to be resolved accurately. My time with Sperry

Gyroscope had also given me some unique experience of intricate software issues at the very heart of a multi-user systems.

I realised that there was only one way to demonstrate the viability of creating a Directory product to ICL, and that was quietly to develop the software to the point that it was demonstrably working, close enough to the full capability required by the Directory standards to be a practical solution. Doing this should allay corporate doubts about technical viability of the product that it might become. Reaching the point that would convince ICL of this became a fundamental personal goal.

At this time, Margaret-Anne was very busy with her Riding for the Disabled work. We both worked at our projects, getting together enough to maintain a family life through it all. Somehow, we managed to maintain happy family normality while all this was going on

There were practical patterns in my little team's working life at that time. Peter Gale faithfully maintained the detailed continuity of software development, while I was most essentially concerned with broader system design and with any new technology that was needed. There was also much external work to be done, on behalf of ICL, to draw attention to the Company's role in X.500, and this included giving courses on X.500. The secondary standards work was also important, particularly in networking with other experts.

Money was an issue. The critical general challenge was to ensure that the project was funded (and that Peter and I were paid). Without funding our work could not continue. So I had to spend a lot of energy finding related projects that would keep us going, and persuading management that we deserved the funds. I worked a lot of (unpaid) overtime to extend what our funding money could achieve.

In those days, ICL was still recovering from the loss of its big-computer business, and this meant that it had hired relatively inexperienced middle-management whose objective was to ensure that ICL's engineering resources were functioning correctly and doing useful work. Peter Gale and I formed a unit that was theoretically managed by these people, but the fact of the matter was that these middle-managers found it very difficult to understand, let alone manage, what the two of us were up to, although we worked with them as necessary.

There were indeed some important management questions to be answered. Did ICL really want a Directory product? If ICL decided yes, were there alternative products on the market that could be acquired instead of designing from scratch? (The answer was no - all this was new technology). More compelling was the question: was there existing

and accessible database technology that could be adapted (thus avoiding the risks and challenges of developing solutions from scratch)? Pre-existing technology was indeed a strong resource in ICL. Relational Databases (RDBs for short) at that time provided a dominant database technology that had essentially taken over the world of flexible multi-user data access. Over the years, RDB implementations had become universal, familiar, solid, reliable and tuned to efficiency.

ICL had top experts in RDB technology, and my team had to create a strong argument to show that it was unsuitable. The killer issue was that the RDB 'Data Model' (its system of organisation of information) was quite different to that of X.500, and, although an X.500 system could perhaps be created based on RDBs, this solution could not be performance-competitive compared to a custom X.500 solution. Minimising access-time for data held on discs was probably the most critical component of my own design work, in those pre-solid-state mass storage days

Nobody was able at the time to argue successfully for the RDB solution, and certainly not our earlier middle-managers, who just regarded us and our design work as a force over which they had little control.

This meant, in practical terms, that I bypassed middle management by having strong relationships with the very senior management who made funding decisions. Initially, I was able to obtain limited-period funding over several years based on maintaining general Directory work, and I am particularly grateful to Gill Ringland, a senior manager just below Board level, who had enough confidence in us and in our work to keep us going, in the hope that a tangible ICL customer would appear that really needed the product that we were designing.

Peter Gale and I worked on systematically despite all the difficulties – some of the design issues were novel and very difficult to solve. I had a technique of formulating a problem in my head before going to sleep at night, in the hope that a solution would appear in my mind in the midnight hours. I remember two issues where the answer came only a month or two of starting the process.

By late autumn 1990, our core directory design was now complete, and demonstrable, and my strategy of achieving a system that worked well enough to prove viability looked as if it might be successful.

So It was a shock when I was approached one day by my then-manager, Roger Porter, who (unlike his predecessors) had been an experienced IT engineer. A career ICLer; Roger had gone into middle management, and was a serious informed force.

He said to me: "Anthony, if you go on with the work that you are doing now, you will be out of a job by Christmas." – and he meant it!! Just before that occasion, I had solved the last of the most difficult technical problems, and felt now that I had little option but to continue anyway, and hope that some happier outcome would somehow emerge to avert redundancy. By good fortune it did.

Another part of the company, based in Stevenage, Herts, had won a big contract for a highly resilient messaging system with a substantial Texan company, and what they wanted was an X.500 Directory system. My nearly finished product was just what they were wanting. When they saw that it would work for them, at last ICL management had a rationale for wanting an X.500 directory product.

In consequence, my team expanded from two to three with the inclusion of Brian Fermaner. Brian was an old colleague of mine and was able to take on most of the administrative work of our little department. More importantly, a new team was set up in Macclesfield to provide technical support for the Directory product, including developing a range of ancillary support software (I contributed to that), so the ICL product was almost afloat. Our system gained an official name that, after a few variants, became 'i500'.

In 1992 everything was going well; but that autumn a major divisional re-organisation took place, and I now had a new boss, an older man with broad senior management experience, and with strong business instincts. I cannot recall his name at all now.

I think that he perceived clearly the unconventional manner in which my Directory product had come into being, and was determined to regularise the whole project. He decided that the complete Directory team was now to be moved to Macclesfield, and if I didn't want to move, I would be made redundant.

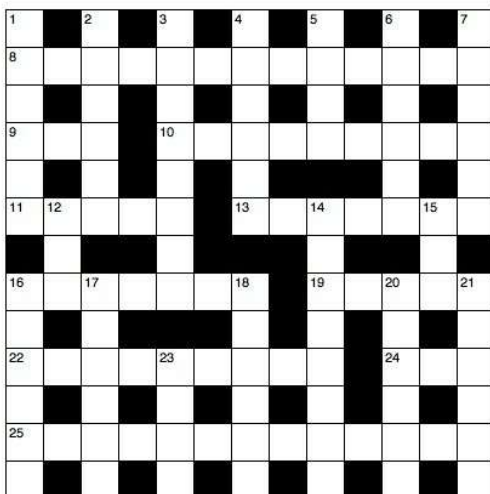
I did not want to move; my family was based in the South (including my aging mother Margaret and father Harry, then aged 80 and 87). The terms of my leaving the company included moderately generous severance pay, but I was not to be permitted to take any ICL subcontract work, even though I was the one person in the world who knew the Directory design inside-out. There was no recognition to be made of my contribution to the initiation, overall concept and detailed design of the ICL product: I was just history as far as the ICL establishment was concerned. Fortunately, I had some very good friends and colleagues in ICL who later bypassed the sanction on

subcontracting, and I was able to provide them with services that nobody else could, to help i500 come to be a real saleable product.

I was cautiously confident that I could 'make it on my own', with the experience that I had in the standards work, and with the resulting contacts that I had in the UK, Europe and elsewhere.

I did an analysis on early years post-ICL income and cash flow (with varying levels of confidence); I set up 'XdotD Associates' –my business entity as a sole trader (D is the Latin symbol for 500), and I managed to set up an initial contract. I bought my ICL company car for a reasonable price, and also the department laser printer. I established XdotD Associates with HMRC, and even became VAT registered. A friend, Dermot Strangways Booth (a retired company secretary) agreed to look after the books.

So one day early in April 1993, I said goodbye to ICL, and started on my one-and-only contract. Six weeks afterwards, it was a Friday morning, and I had completed my one-and-only contract. I sat at my desk, wondering what I was going to do next. A great open gulf of worklessness lay in front of me. The telephone rang. What happened then will be continued in the next episode.



Crossword puzzle

Across

8 One of the titles given to the Messiah in Isaiah's prediction (Isaiah 9:6) (6,2,5)

9 International Nepal Fellowship (1,1,1)

10 Single (1Corinthians7:27)(9)

11 Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's seminal book about Soviet prison camps, The — Archipelago (5)

13 Treachery (2Kings11:14)(7)

16 Of India (anag.)(2,3,2)

- 19 'God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like men condemned to die in the — ' (1 Corinthians 4:9) (5)
- 22 Follower of a theological system characterized by a strong belief in predestination (9)
- 24 'Put these old rags and worn-out clothes under your arms to— the ropes' (Jeremiah 38:12) (3)
- 25 They brought together all the elders of the Israelites in Egypt (Exodus 4:29) (5,3,5)
- Down
- 1 The season when kings 'go off to war' (2 Samuel 11:1) (6)
- 2 Simon Peter's response to Jesus by the Sea of Galilee: 'Go away from me, Lord; I am a — man' (Luke 5:8) (6)
- 3 Beaten with whips (1 Kings 12:11) (8)
- 4 'You shall not — adultery' (Exodus 20:14) (6)
- 5 Encourage (Hebrews 10:24) (4)
- 6 Service of morning prayer in the Church of England (6)
- 7 'Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and — him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving' (4,2)
- 12 Run(anag.)(3)
- 14 Member of 17th-century party that denied the right of autonomy to the Church (8)
- 15 'We will triumph with our tongues; we—our lips'(Psalm 12:4) (3)
- 16 Earnings(1Corinthians 6:2)(6)
- 17 'I rejoice greatly in the Lord that——you have renewed your concern for me' (Philippians 4:10) (2,4)
- 18 How Paul described Philemon (Philemon 1)(6)
- 20 Multiple territories under the rule of a single state (Daniel 11:4)(6)
- 21 'You have been unfaithful; you have married foreign women,—to Israel's guilt' (Ezra 10:10) (6)
- 23 This month(abbrev.)(4)

ACROSS: 8, Prince of Peace, 9, INF, 10, Unmarried, 11, Gula, 13, Treason, 16, In aid of, 19, Arena, 22, Calvinist, 24, Pad, 25, Moses and Aaron.
DOWN: 1, Spring, 2, Sinful, 3, Scourged, 4, Commit, 5, Spur, 6, Malins, 7, Feed on, 12, Urm, 14, Erastian, 15, Own, 16, Income, 17, At last, 18, Friend, 20, Empire, 21, Adding, 23, Inst.

Children's Corner



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS - WE CALL THEM "PARABLES".



JESUS ONCE SPOKE ABOUT TEN YOUNG WOMEN



THEY HAD BEEN INVITED TO A WEDDING - AND THEY WERE WAITING FOR THE BRIDEGROOM.



EACH ONE HAD AN OIL LAMP.



BUT ONLY FIVE OF THEM HAD BROUGHT ALONG SOME SPARE OIL.



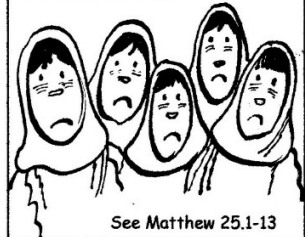
LATE AT NIGHT THE BRIDEGROOM ARRIVED



FIVE YOUNG WOMEN COULD NOT LIGHT HIS WAY.



THE OTHER FIVE FELT VERY FOOLISH - THEIR LAMPS HAD RUN OUT OF OIL!!



See Matthew 25.1-13

Annex

6th Aug - the Transfiguration of Jesus

By Lester Amann

It's an unusual story. One day, Jesus is with three disciples on a high mountain in Galilee, when His appearance dramatically changes. Also, Moses and Elijah suddenly appear, and from a cloud comes the voice of God. What is this all about?

This event was witnessed by James, Peter, and John. They were close friends of Jesus. In the future, they were to become prominent leaders in the Early Church. They needed to see something special that would help them remember Jesus in the difficult years ahead. They had a glimpse of Christ in His divine glory. His face shone like the sun and His clothes turned white as light.

While this was an extraordinary sight for the disciples, it served to encourage Jesus who once had glory and majesty in Heaven. One day He would have it again. But firstly, He had to fulfil His mission: to suffer on the cross and die.

Why were Moses and Elijah standing with Jesus? Moses was the giver of the Law and Elijah represented all the prophets. They had pointed people to the promised Messiah. Jesus was about to complete God's plan of salvation.

God's voice was heard to remind Peter there was no need to build shelters. They were not going to stay on the mountain. God spoke to get the disciples to fix their attention on Jesus. The wonder of the Transfiguration was a short interlude before Jesus had to return to His work and subsequent death on the cross.

This story is a reminder that our times of spiritual blessing have to be followed by down-to-earth commitments and responsibilities. In the same way that Jesus gave His friends a glimpse of His awesome glory, to help them face challenging and traumatic times ahead, our special times in His presence are provided to encourage us and equip us for the trials we may have to face.

Our journey through life may sometimes rise to the peaks but we can't stay on a 'high' all the time – no matter how much we want it! We have to descend to face everyday challenges if we are to fulfil our calling in Christ. From our mountain-top experiences we all need to find a

balance between times alone with God and serving Him in the company of others.

Huddersfield Sept 1985 – by James Hodson

This article continues James Hodson's lively account of his early adult years. The previous episode in the series describes his complicated time working for Peter Dominic in N. London (see '64A Jumped – Enfield Wash in the June 2026 parish mag.) It became clear to James that he needed a university education, and he found the opportunity to achieve this by going to Huddersfield Technical Polytechnic (now a university) to study Accountancy. His account starts with his arrival in Huddersfield.

My green Morris Marina rattled up the driveway of my new hall-of-residence, Bankfield, half-way up Castle Hill in Huddersfield – and fell silent. With its tendency to burn oil, I was relieved to have made the four-hour journey northwards from the parentals in Bracknell without something detaching itself. On the way I had marveled how the landscape changed so suddenly as I pulled off Exit 38 of the M1 into the Yorkshire Dales; the hilliness, the greenness, the yellow and black bricked buildings abounding everywhere.

Fortunately, the directions to Bankfield were clear enough, and I was now looking at a Gothic building crenellated with turrets. I was pleased to discover quickly that I had been allocated one of the turrets, which meant I had one of the few single bedrooms.

I had loaded into the Marina everything I thought I might need for the next few months. This included my HiFi sound system with wooden speaker boxes, built at the school of mechanics at Eton, a black and white TV set – and a radio-controlled slope soarer glider, to take full advantage of the up-currents in those hills.

In total contrast with Eton, I noted that half of my fellow house mates were women. It was also apparent that I was almost the oldest, if not the oldest resident. Most of my new house-mates had only left school that year, and were probably living away from home for the first time in their lives. I felt at an advantage but decided not to crow about it but just to 'fit in'.

Having unpacked my stuff, including my model glider (to looks of admiration or indifference when I was carrying it up the stairs to my eyrie), some of us walked to the local pub that night. Here I found out

that there were four others on my accountancy course who were fellow residents.

The next morning all 24 residents formed up into a sort of school crocodile to walk down the hill to the Polytechnic to enrol on our courses, pick up grant cheques, visit the Freshers' Fair and so on. My fellow Accountancy students, deciding on a safety-in-numbers strategy, stayed firmly together in a sort of 'blob'. Later that morning the Blob and I made its way to the Business Studies and Finance faculty for enrolment where, once again, I met my lecturer, Mike Tayles.

Having checked my A-level certificates forms without blinking, keeling over or changing his mind, he signed me off for three years to do the BA (Hons) Accountancy Studies course.

I was in the bathroom a few minutes later when two of my fellow Blob-mates, unaware that I was in one of the cubicles, came in and were less complimentary about my academic prowess. "Did you see James' A-levels? They were terrible!" said one of the them to the other. They mused about this for a while but then agreed I was a nice enough chap.

I listened in the shadows. Would I be able to cope when the course started in earnest the following Monday? A few minutes later, I rejoined the Blob giving no indication what I had heard. The Blob decided to head for lunch and then to join the Society for Accountancy Students – undoubtedly a society to refresh the soul.

I had other ideas and waved goodbye to them as I headed towards the Freshers Fair. They all turned round and watched me go.

Once at the Freshers Fair, I joined the hang-gliding society. Besides being a good way to escape the Blob, it seemed to be the only society connected with flying, as well as motorbikes, another huge interest in my life.

It also looked like a very quick way of burning up one's grant cheque, but the pictures on display of the North Yorkshire Dales, which was presumably where they flew the hang gliders, were intoxicating. It might be worth one or two trips.

More practical was the drama group society, run by Arts Humanities members. They talked about putting on a show as early as the beginning of November. Taking a chance that I would both be able to manage my course and rehearse in a production, I signed on.

Back at Bankfield that afternoon, and with no serious commitments until the second week of term, I took advantage of a gloriously sunny September day in Yorkshire and decided to take out my model glider for some slope soaring and exploring. I carried the disassembled glider down to the car and was quickly joined by four curious house-mates. The five of us drove up Castle Hill to the highest possible point and I parked near the castle.

Conveniently there was a field where I could launch the glider and land it into wind, so I attached the 72-inch wings to the fuselage and checked the radio gear. Everything seemed to be working fine, so with the other four looking on (I don't think they had seen a radio-controlled plane close-up before – this was 1985), I threw the model heftily into wind.

For a while it seemed to hang there; I gave the transmitter a nudge of down elevator then it began to move forward into the wind. When it was about 100 feet from us, I pushed the right rudder stick. We all heard the electric motor of the servo move the rudder and the glider responded immediately. “Ace” said one of the house mates.

For the next twenty minutes, I flew the model backwards and forwards across the ridge, on occasions diving the glider fast enough to pull a loop the loop. Finally, I brought the plane a few feet back over our heads, turned it into wind again, and fluttered it down onto the ground. We all spent the rest of the afternoon sun-bathing and flying the glider before rattling back down the hill again to Bankfield.

That evening, I discovered one of the other advantages of joining further education later than most: along the way, I had learnt to cook both from home instruction from my mother, and from the three years of living by myself. The others were busy making a mess of the communal kitchen, which then had to be sluiced out by the hard-working cleaner ladies who appeared each morning to deal with the mess that we referred to as a ‘kitchen’.

Finally, the next Monday came, and the BA (hons) Accountancy Studies course started in earnest. It was time to show whether I could do anything on this course, or simply prove to the world that I was an imposter, fit only to heave around cases of claret wine, whilst fighting off the odd shoplifter.

The first lecture was statistics, and I braced myself for the inevitable flow of inscrutable jargon that I would somehow have to master. Instead, the lecturer spent about ten minutes explaining how to switch

on and operate a pocket calculator. It was all extremely simple and I myself had already mastered it many years previously. The Course seemed to have laid on an initial low-bar in all the subjects, and I was soon preparing my first coursework on contract law.

I began to gain confidence in other areas of student life, enjoying the fact that all the effort that I put in went straight to bettering myself, rather than just satisfying shareholders and area sales managers. It seemed like the ultimate selfish experience, but I basked in it.

I made the trip to North Yorkshire, with the Marina now full of wannabe hang glider pilots. The views were breath-taking but the organiser seemed to prefer to use the student trainees to pull the glider up the slope, so other paying trainees could use it, rather than the students themselves. Still, I did manage to gain a few delirious seconds in the air, supported by this kite-like machine.

On the drive back to Huddersfield, I decided that I would adjust my social life, my haircut, and develop an appropriately more contemporary taste in music.

I was on a stronger footing with helping the humanities students to set up a comic review to be performed in the student union – and I had plenty of material to add.

My fellow humanities actors were intrigued they should have a trainee accountant in their midst, and on Saturday night in early November, we managed to put on a lively arts review to a packed Tetley-beer swilling Student Union. Our show consisted of a take-off of other shows, and although well-rehearsed, there was a great deal of unexpected improvisation on the night.

Compared to the rigidity of the acting I had previously done, it was a breath of fresh air. I still have the flyer for our Arts Revue poster somewhere. It starts off, featuring a picture of Noel Coward with images of London, Paris, Batley etc.

The accountancy course picked up tempo, and unlike most of the other much more-relaxed art courses, the accountants were required to do end-of-term exams to show their mettle, and particularly that they had done a bit of work during the term. The end of term exam was set at 2pm in one of the exam halls in the Poly.

Some of the Bankfield Blob took a lift with me into town in the Marina, and disappeared as soon as I got to the car park, but two problems were

now showing themselves; firstly, there were heavy traffic jams and I couldn't find a parking space. Secondly, the Marina's clutch suddenly felt like it was going to fail at any moment. The exam started in 20 minutes and there I was, stuck with almost no parking spaces in an almost undriveable car.

In desperation, I pulled into the forecourt of a Honda dealer on the ring road and a manager approached me. I quickly explained I had no idea what the problem was with the car but needed to get to the exam now. The manager snapped his fingers at one of his salesmen and in no time, I was being whisked to the exam hall in their Honda Turbo demonstration model, with reassurances that that the Marina would all be fixed by the time I had finished my exam; which is exactly what did happen.

And so I got through my first term and lined up for my second term, and I upgraded my Marina along the way. My new wheels were a five-year-old 1.8L 122 bhp Alfa Romeo Giulietta, with the gear box over the rear axle to improve handling. It looked stunning, sounded even better with its twin choke carbs, and was equipped with features and styling that put it years ahead of anything I would normally be able to afford for some years. The big downside was the rust that it also came with.

I settled into the second term, and also auditioned for a play by Carol Churchill called Cloud Nine. There were about eight of us in the cast plus the director. The play was set in a 19th century colonial location. Twice a week, the cast rehearsed and we produced its final version after a few dramatic tweaks. One of these dramatic tweaks (to my surprise) was that I found myself playing a woman but being cast as a man, because a man is what the woman wants to be. It was all a bit weird; I was required to squeeze another cast member's boobs, and it required a lot of make-up before each production. But it certainly beat sitting in a pub with the Blob!

And so Huddersfield rolled on: a sensible academic place that also had a good students union and disco on a Friday evenings – certainly snogs, in fact more than snogs, could be had. Most girls tended to abandon the relationships that they had made at school and to scoop up new amours from the poly. As for me, equipped with my ready wit, I felt about as romantic as the court jester. My polite suggestions that things might be taken a little further were usually treated with peals of laughter. Long before I departed the Poly in 1988, I was resigned to the fact that amours were going to be few and far between, but heck! Did it

matter? I enjoyed the contrast of education I received at Eton and then at Huddersfield, and, ever hopeful, at least there were girls ...

Looking back, Huddersfield gave me a solid grounding in the world of finance. At one point, I became fascinated by stockbroking: there were components of the course that covered this, and I had encouragement from my banker uncle Daniel, but in the end that didn't work out. Huddersfield lecturers were writing text-books in accountancy that the rest of the country were using, so the course was strong and enabled me to reinvent myself into management accountancy. I left Huddersfield with confidence.

The infamous Berlin Wall

It was 65 years ago, on 13th August 1961 that East Germany first sealed the border between East and West Berlin with barbed wire. Construction on the Berlin Wall itself began two days later, on 15th August.

The Wall grew rapidly to become a 96-mile (155km) concrete barrier. It became the physical embodiment of the Iron Curtain for the next 28 years. It was built to stop the 'brain drain' of East German skilled professionals. From 1949 to 1961, more than two million had fled the East.

The Wall entirely surrounded West Berlin, stranding it as an isolated island of capitalism within communist East Germany.

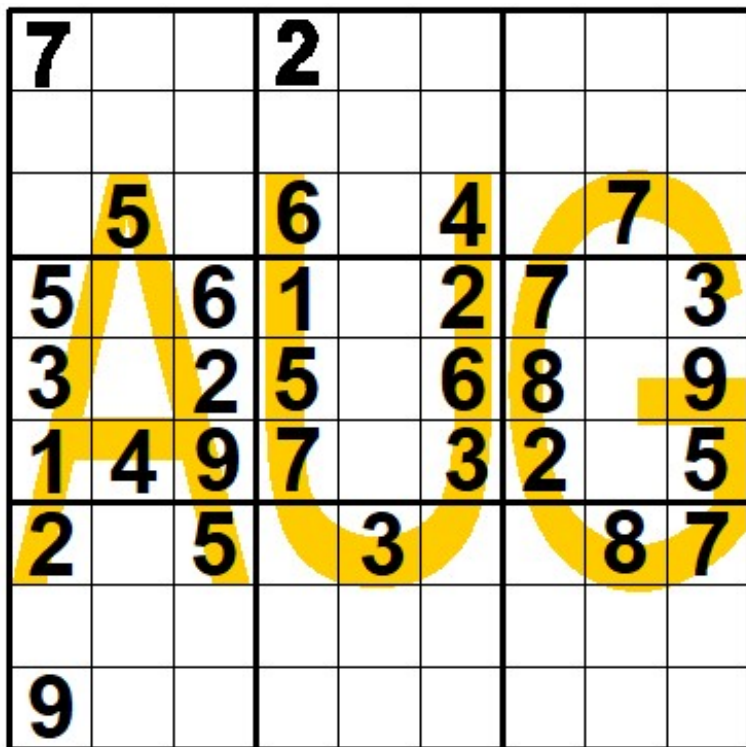
It was actually two walls, separated by a heavily fortified 'death strip' 160 yards wide. It housed watchtowers, guard dog runs and anti-vehicle trenches.

The Wall was a surprise. East German residents woke up one morning to find barbed wire, armed guards and blocks on subways, streets and train lines. The East German border guards had the 'Order to Shoot' – the legal authority to kill anyone attempting to cross. About 140 people died this way.

Yet still thousands escaped. More than 5,000, in fact. They fled by tunnelling, hot air balloons, ziplines, and ramming armoured vehicles through border gates.

When in June of 1963 US President John F Kennedy visited the Wall, he made the famous declaration *"Ich bin ein Berliner"* (I am a Berliner) to demonstrate American solidarity with West Germany.

Sudoku for August (moderate)



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