



Parish Magazine
March 2025
No. 463

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Shrove Tuesday Pancake Race at 11am on 4th March

Join the runners and spectators at the Pancake Race around the Minster, and cheer on the teams and individuals taking part. There are prizes to be won in all age groups, and of course a cup and awards for the adult champion. If it is wet, the races will be held inside the Minster. A big thank you to everyone who is helping with organising, including first-aiders.



An Invitation to Afternoon Tea, Thursday 20th March 2.30 pm- 4.00pm

Mothers' Union will be holding an afternoon tea in Church House Lounge. We wish to raise funds to help a mother, and a young son connected with the Minster to enjoy a holiday in the Mothers' Union holiday home at Rockley Park. Everyone is welcome and gifts for a raffle would be greatly appreciated. Please speak to Di Hiscock.

The Real Easter Egg



We are again raising money to buy a quantity of Easter eggs for distribution by the Foodbank and Community Food Supply. The Real Easter Egg comes with a child friendly booklet about Easter. Our goal is 250 eggs - costing £5 each. There will be special labelled envelopes to make your contribution. These Easter Eggs are not available in supermarkets this year, but the Fairtrade shop has a limited supply. Thank you for your support!

Lent Lunches in support of Christian Aid

The traditional Lent Lunches will be held from 12:30pm until 1:30pm at Wimborne Methodist Church, every Tuesday from March 11th until April 15th. A light meal will be available (bread, butter, cheese, fruit, tea and coffee). There is no admission charge but donations to Christian Aid will be welcome. A short talk by a member of one of the local churches will be given at 1:00pm.

The Minster will be providing the food and the guest speaker on Tuesday, April 8th.

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The Parish office is open Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 10am-12 noon. Tues evening 6-8pm
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Parish Magazine publication details

Co-editors: Rosalind Jensen and Andrew Kelley

Please send articles and information, by email if possible,
 to parishmagazine@wimborneminster.org.uk or leave at the Parish Office.

Copy deadline for April issue: **Thursday 20th March.**

For advertising information, contact the e-mail address above.

Services at the Minster

Sundays

8.00 am
9.30 am

Holy Communion (BCP)
Holy Communion (Common Worship)
with prayer for healing on the 4th Sunday of the month

11.15 am

Minster Praise with Communion on the last Sunday of the month

6.30 pm

Choral Evensong

Weekdays

Holy Communion
Morning Prayer

11.00am, Wednesday (in the Minster)
8.30 am, Monday to Saturday (on Zoom)

Services at St Margaret's Chapel

11.00 am 3rd Thursday Holy Communion (Common Worship)

We continue to stream the 9.30 am services at the Minster. Look for the "Wimborne Minster official" Youtube channel for live and recorded services.

Minster Praise offers all-age informal worship every Sunday from 11.15 until noon, and includes Kids in the Crypt for children.
 Come as you are, relax, and enjoy

In February

9th **Batism of Alfie James Merrick and Willow Grace Brierley Merrick**

Dates for your diary - March

Saturday 1st	11 am – 3 pm	Wedding Fayre (Minster)
Sunday 2nd	12.30pm	Bring and Share Lunch (Church House)
Tuesday 4th, Shrove Tuesday	10.30 am – 12 noon	Forest Garden for toddlers
	11 am	Pancake Race
		continued over page

Wednesday 5th, Ash Wednesday
11 am

1 pm - 2 pm

7.30 pm

Holy Communion with
Imposition of Ashes
Meditation Group
(Minster Crypt)

**Holy Communion with
Imposition of Ashes**

Thursday 6th

9.30 am - 11 am

Two by Two Toddler Group
(Church House upstairs)

Friday 7th

10.30 am - 12 noon

Forest Garden for
Homeschooling families
Lunch and Chat
(Church House)

12 noon - 1pm

Saturday 8th

10.30 am

Muddy Church
(Forest Garden)

Sunday 9th, First Sunday in Lent
12.30 pm

Monday 10th

5 pm

Baptism of Edward Griffin
Minster Governors' meeting

Tuesday 11th

10.30am - 12 noon
12.30pm

Forest Garden Toddler Group
Lent Lunch (Methodist
Church)

Wednesday 12th

1 pm - 2 pm

Meditation Group
(Minster Crypt)
Prayer Circle (Church House)

Thursday 13th

4 pm
9.30am - 11am

Two by Two Toddler Group
(Church House Upstairs)

Friday 14th 10.30am - 12 noon

Forest Garden Home
Education Group
(Forest Garden)
Lunch and Chat
(Church House)

12 noon - 1 pm

Sunday 16th, Second Sunday in Lent
12.30 pm

Monday 17th

10 am - 12.30pm

**Baptism of Henry James
Alexander Easthorpe**

6.30 pm Taize service

Tuesday 18th

10 am - 12.30pm
10 am - 12 noon
12.30pm

Experience Easter (Minster)
Experience Easter (Minster)
Forest Garden Toddler Group
Lent Lunch (Methodist
Church)

2.30 pm
7 pm

Pilgrim Walk (Minster)
PCC

Wednesday 19th

10 am - 12.30pm
1 pm - 2 pm

Experience Easter (Minster)
Meditation Group
(Minster Crypt)
Prayer Circle (Church House)
Pilgrim Walk (Minster)

4 pm
7.30pm

Thursday 20th

10 am - 12.30pm
2.30pm - 4pm

Experience Easter (Minster)
Afternoon Tea organised by
Mothers' Union
(Church House)

9.30am - 11am

Two by Two Toddler Group
(Church House Upstairs)
Minster lit up in purple for
CLAMPI charity

From 4 pm

Friday 21st

12 noon - 1 pm

Lunch and Chat (Church
House)

Saturday 22nd

10.30 am - 12 noon
7.30pm

Messy Church (Minster)
Dorset County Orchestra
Concert

Sunday 23rd, Third Sunday in Lent

Tuesday 25th

12.30 pm

Lent Lunch
(Methodist Church)

Wednesday 26th

1 pm - 2 pm

Meditation Group (Minster
Crypt)

Thursday 27th

4 pm
9.30am - 11am

Prayer Circle (Church House)
Two by Two Toddler Group
(Church House Upstairs)

Friday 28th

10.30 am - 12 noon

Forest Garden Home
Education Group (Forest
Garden)

12 noon - 1 pm

Lunch and Chat
(Church House)

Saturday 29th

7.30pm

Wimborne Choral Society
Concert

Sunday 30th, Mothering Sunday

Experience Easter and the Pilgrim Walk



As in past years, representatives of several local churches are working together in the Minster to offer local school-children an experience of the Easter story as they move around the Minster.

Schools will be visiting from the 17th to 21st March, but this year there will also be an opportunity for families and for housegroups to walk the Experience Easter stations. This 'Pilgrim Walk' for families will be in the late afternoon on Tuesday 18th, while house groups are invited for the evening of Wednesday 19th. Details will be circulated to Minster groups first, but the 'pilgrimage' leaflets will be available for all visitors.

Living Hope - Lent 2025



This is the official Church of England Lent book: you can follow the daily reflections for Lent, on the theme of Living Hope, in booklets for both adults and children, or receive daily emails by subscribing at - [Living Hope - Lent reflections | The Church of England](#) . If you already have the Everyday Faith app, it will automatically send you the Living Hope reflections.



This material is adapted from the Lent book *Wild Bright Hope*, which features 12 dynamic voices, writing passionately about what gives them hope. Themes include unity, peace, politics and suffering; we are urged not only to embrace a more hopeful perspective, but also to consider how we ourselves might play a full part in bringing in the kingdom of God. *Wild Bright Hope* has also been chosen as a Big Church Read, which means you can find videos of each of the authors discussing their contributions at <https://thebigchurchread.co.uk/lent/>

Lenten Walks

You are invited to join walkers and dogs for a series of short Lenten walks between benefice churches. For the first, on March 12th, meet at 11am at Chalbury Church (please car share as parking is limited) setting off for Hinton Martell Church at 11.15am. At Hinton Martell, there will be refreshment including warm light bites. The second walk, on March 19th, is from Hinton Martell to Witchampton.



The Beauty of Holiness: Praying the Psalms

Mondays, 7:30-8:30pm, North transept, Salisbury Cathedral followed by Compline at 8:40pm

The Psalms are songs of the soul, a treasure trove of hymns and prayers that express a wide range of human emotions, from joy and gratitude to sorrow and repentance. This series of Lenten talks with different speakers, with time for questions and discussion and followed by a short service of Compline, looks at the place of the Psalms in Christian spirituality and their value as a resource for prayer. Themes include the psalms in Jewish worship, the psalms in Anglican worship (with two of the Cathedral organists), and 'What should we make of the angry psalms?'

Praying for the Minster and the Northern Villages, Wimborne and the world

Prayer cycle for March

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|---|
| 1 | Museum of East Dorset, Walford Mill and Model Town | 14 | The Friends of Wimborne Minster |
| 2 | Our vergers, John and Martin | 15 | Church Mission Society |
| 3 | Lay Worship Leaders | 16 | The Anglican Community in all its diversity |
| 4 | Prayer groups | 17 | Twinning Associations |
| 5 | The Mission to Seafarers | 18 | Prison chaplains |
| 6 | Archdeacon Anthony | 19 | Local farmers |
| 7 | Wimborne Civic Society and Wimborne in Bloom | 20 | Allenbourn School |
| 8 | Local businesses, the Chamber of Trade, the BID | 21 | PCC Treasurers and Safeguarding representatives |
| 9 | FairTrade | 22 | Two By Two |
| 10 | GPs, nurses, carers, physiotherapists | 23 | The Minster bellringers |
| 11 | Our retired clergy | 24 | God's Acre Group |
| 12 | The Minster Choir, children and adults | 25 | Pramacare |
| 13 | The flower arrangers, silver polishers | 26 | Dioceses of Yambio and Nzara in South Sudan |
| | | 27 | Vision Wimborne |
| | | 28 | The financial sector |
| | | 29 | Climate emergency |
| | | 30 | Local Hospices |

Please use this diary as a part of your own prayers. In this way we can pray together as a parish for our common concerns.

It's not too soon to think about the Minster Fair, Saturday 8th June

Are you decluttering? I am starting to collect books for the bookstall at the Minster Fair, and I'm happy to come and collect whatever you want to pass on. I can take all sorts of books, but not recent encyclopedias & atlases; jigsaws (complete!), older maps, CDs and vinyl. The Friends will start collecting your bric a brac and plants for their stall closer to the day, and Sarah Steele will be grateful for contributions of good quality jewellery. Thank you!

- Rosalind Jensen (tel. 01202 848889)



Being a Family

In the lead up to being Confirmed, young people from across our parishes have been attending classes and reflecting upon what it means

to be a family, and what it means to be the Body of Christ. To help us in this exploration, we played the 'Drawing the Body, Fold-over Game.' Each member of the group drew a part of a body, which was folded over and passed on! As you can see from one of the final masterpieces, the Church family can be made up of some very diverse parts! Yet, we are called to cherish difference and seek to understand how each part is vitally important and has a special part to play.

Our own nuclear families, workplaces and indeed anywhere all relationships gather to work together can feel like this too. Furthermore, as families or groups go through seasons of growth or loss or change, we are called to re-evaluate and see how we can continue to work together for good.



It strikes me that the most important thing is to be the person that God designed you to be. We can all feel strange or unusual at times, but the truth is every person on the planet is uniquely created by God for a special purpose and we need each other.

There are many times we can feel insecure and seek to be like another person, but again the key is to relax and accept our own giftings and then accept and enjoy what others can bring to the group, or body, or family. As Christians we are beginning to look ahead into Lent and onwards to Easter. If we keep our eyes focused on Jesus, even when we make a mistake, there is an opportunity to look to the Cross and be forgiven. Wherever you are in your family, friendship group or church situation please know God loves, sees and values you.



To end, let's reflect and seek to work together for good.

*Christ has no body now on Earth but yours,
Yours are the only hands with which he can do his work,
Yours are the only feet with which he can go about the world,
Yours are the only eyes through which his compassion can shine forth upon a troubled world.
Christ has no body now on Earth but yours.*

(Prayer of St. Teresa of Avila)
- Revd Marianne Mangham

PCC meeting on January 22nd

The PCC had some important matters to approve, but the busy lives that so many members lead meant that we were short of a quorum as the meeting started. Several anxious minutes later, two more members appeared and were probably slightly surprised to find their arrival bring out some spontaneous applause from the rest of the meeting!

The Treasurer was able to confirm that 2024 had allowed some monies to be transferred into our reserves, although exact details would have to wait as the changeover in Finance Managers and a glitch at the bank had caused some (temporary) problems. Somehow, not only had both Finance Managers and the Treasurer been locked out of our bank account, but the necessary paperwork to correct the situation had then been lost somewhere between Wimborne Post Office and the bank's filing system. A second set of papers is already on its way, so the end is in sight. Further good news was that the government planned to extend the scheme whereby listed buildings can claim back VAT for building work for another year.

Churchwarden Bruce updated us on building repairs and then

presented a graph that showed our single, old boiler was keeping the building warmer than two had previously done; although this is more a comment on an unusual thermostatic control, rather than the boiler's strength. The latest in a long line of heating consultants to visit the Minster made encouraging noises which makes it much more likely that our plans for replacing the boilers will go ahead (and even attract a grant).

Churchwarden Andrew showed us the latest architectural drawings of the proposed toilets in Trinity Chapel and Welcome Zone which were approved. These will now be brought to the March PCC meeting in final form before being shown to the rest of our congregation and others for comment. Attendance at our Christmas services was significantly higher than in 2023, which is good news on several fronts; and Churchwarden Emeritus Peter informed us that an exciting programme of music for 2025 has nearly been finalised.

Barring the expensive removal of an unattractive, self-seeded conifer, the new Rectory is one step closer to approval, overall, 2025 has started on a very positive note.

The next PCC meeting is on March 18th

New members will be elected to the PCC at the Annual Meeting in May. Please consider whether you would like to serve on this vital and active body. You need to be on the electoral roll at the Minster to stand for election: ask for a form from the parish office if necessary.

A check up on our 'Green' credentials



Many of you will know that in the past the Minster has been given awards from Eco Church. We have bronze and silver awards achieved by completing the Eco Church survey. We (Minster Environment Group – MEG) feel it is now time to repeat the survey. Are we anywhere near the gold award? What do we need to do (or not do) to achieve it? The survey covers five areas of church life – Worship and Teaching, Buildings and Energy, Land and Nature, Global and Community and Lifestyle. These categories cover pretty well all of church life and our individual lives. The survey has been updated and covers more topics than before, so it is more challenging! We are currently working through it and this involves finding answers from many different people; you may be one of them! Finding the answers in the Lifestyle section involves everyone! Are we living our lives in ways that keep our carbon footprint as low as possible? Are we shopping, eating, gardening, travelling in ways that are sustainable for our planet? So, in coming editions of the Parish Magazine, there will be Eco Tips, to give guidance, information and ideas to help everybody to think about their habits and practices. We are not 'Eco Police'! We won't be checking up on you – just gentle reminders to identify where we have perhaps slipped up in our practices and where we can take action to lift our scoring.

- Alison Francis (MEG)

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Light up the Minster

The Rector and Churchwardens have agreed to light up the Minster in purple on March 20th to publicise a charity working with an extremely rare disease. **CLAMP1** is a specific genetic mutation that affects the development of babies in embryo, resulting in a range of disorders, including seizures, poor muscle control and movement, speech and language delays, autism, and specific physical symptoms. There are only 200 diagnosed sufferers in the world at the moment. This charity has been set up by a local family. Read more about **CLAMP1** and donate at <https://champ1.uk/whatischamp1/>, and look at the charity's Facebook page too.

Choristers in the Cathedral, Saturday March 15th



The Minster choristers have been invited to sing Evensong with the girl choristers in Salisbury Cathedral on March 15th. This is an exceptional and exciting opportunity for our young musicians, and we look forward to hearing their thoughts about the experience afterwards!

New Season Starts at the Chained Library

The shelves have been cleaned; the books have been dusted and examined for any deterioration that may need restoration or repair; new editions to the library have been catalogued and listed; new books have been selected for the display cabinet, and new volunteers have been recruited and trained. We're ready for the new season. All we need is YOU, our visitors. Last year was a record year for us with over 8,000 visitors, as well as academics and researchers using our

library to further their studies and understanding of the past- the true and historic meaning of our library as envisaged by our founders in 1685. Our season runs from 31st March to the 31st October 2025, with our opening hours 10:30 to 12:30 and 14:00 to 16:00, Monday to Friday and the first and third Saturdays mornings of the month. We are also open during the various festivals held in Wimborne.

- Mike Twomey (Chained Library Volunteer)

Unusual Dogs in the Minster



On Saturday 15th February we welcomed professional dogs being trained by Dorset Dog Training: they need to get used to unusual spaces while detecting objects by smell. It was a delight to see the dogs at work, and they and their owners were respectful and appreciative of the space.

Music Notes: March



March will see two major concerts performed at the Minster. First on 22nd March we once again welcome the Dorset County Orchestra. They are performing Rachmaninov's *Third Piano Concerto* and Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*. The soloist in the Rachmaninov will be our own Sam Hanson; this will be the third time he has played this work, the first being 15 years ago also at the Minster. This is a mature work with some beautifully lyrical melodies and rich orchestral colour. *Pictures at an Exhibition* was written in 1874 as a piano suite in ten movements as a musical depiction of paintings by Viktor Hartmann. This orchestral version was written by Maurice Ravel. Conductor Arturo Serna is a Venezuelan/British conductor who enjoys a dynamic career as a conductor, cellist and teacher. He is the second generation from El Sistema in Venezuela and was guided in his beginnings by his mother who is a violinist in the Simon Bolivar Symphony Orchestra. He is now based in Sherborne, Dorset. The following week Wimborne



Choral Society present their Spring Concert with a performance of Brahms *German Requiem*, performed in English under their new conductor, our own Colin Davey.

The Requiem is a very personal work with text taken from the German Luther Bible rather than the Latin text of other requiems. The theme is that from anguish or sadness towards blessed rest. The version for this concert is that with piano duet accompaniment with Christopher Dowie and Sam Hanson at the piano. The programme will also include three of Brahms' *Liebeslieder Waltzes*, a set of folk songs and love poems, possibly inspired by his love for Clara Schumann. Finally, Chris and Sam will also perform Schubert's *Fantasia in F minor* which was completed in 1828. The work was dedicated to Caroline Esterházy, with whom Schubert was in (unrequited) love.



Matthew Kelley who has been our Organ Scholar and an assistant organist for the last 18 months is leaving us for a post at Hexham Abbey in March. Everyone is welcome to join us for his last service with us, Choral Evensong on 30 March at 6.30pm.

- Peter Cook

News from St. Margaret's



The St Margaret and St Anthony's Chapel Communion Service with Carols held on 19th December, led by our Rector Andrew and Curate Marianne, was a very happy occasion. We were almost a full house with 24 in attendance, and many were welcomed from the Almshouse Community and Trustees. We were blessed with the harmonium leading our musical worship by a guest musician Mrs Maggie Davis, who we would like to thank most sincerely for helping us out on this occasion. The harmonium has been part of the chapel services for over 100 years, most recently being regularly played pre-Covid times by Dr Maurice Stack, now aged 102, and whom we were delighted to welcome to our service too. Festive refreshments and fellowship were enjoyed by all following the service. At the first service of 2025, on January 16th, we had something to celebrate. During the spring clean at St. Margaret's last year, it was decided to see if a few of the historic books retrieved from the ancient storage chest could be restored. A member of the Wessex Guild of Bookbinders kindly visited us to give advice, and

agreed to work on three of the books free of charge if we could cover the cost of materials. The books selected were: an 1870 King James lectern-style Bible, a 19th century book of church services with illuminated pages, and a BCP Service Book with a Collect for "thy Servant VICTORIA, our Queen". At the very next chapel service, the congregation greeted the proposal with enthusiasm and immediately delved into pockets and wallets, raising the full amount required within minutes. That same afternoon, the books were taken away for the work to commence.



complete with meticulously refurbished spines, new endpapers and newly restored covers. After being hidden away for many years, they are now on display to provide a tangible link with past users of the chapel. We are grateful to Phil for his careful restoration, and to the generous donors at St. Margaret's. *On the third Thursday of each month at 11 a.m. there is a Holy Communion Service at St. Margaret's, followed by refreshments served in the chapel.*

- Sue and Dinah

Scenes from Minster Life



With the visiting Keble Choir singing a setting by Langlais, a High Mass took place on Saturday 1st February. The thurible and incense were borrowed by kind permission of the Churchwarden at Wimborne St Giles, and the gold High Mass vestments by kind permission of Father Adrian Pearce at St Ambrose Church in Westbourne. The choir also sang Compline later in the evening. (Photos: Beatrice Dopita, Bruce Jensen)



On Wednesday 5th February we were delighted to welcome a working party of Queen Elizabeth's School students to the Minster. They participated in the readings for the midweek communion, planted bulbs in the shade of the cross in preparation for Easter and updated our displayboards while learning about the day-to-day life of the Minster. We are hoping to see groups from QE coming once a month to share in Minster activities.



Credo in Deum - exploring the faith of the church

The Nicene Creed is 1700 years old, as mentioned in last month's magazine. This series will look more closely at the Creed, what it means, and the questions it raises. This is an edited version of articles written by the Rector in 2008.



1. Establishing orthodoxy

'Credo in unum Deum...We believe in one God';

thus opens the Creed that we recite at our principal services. It was initially agreed on at the First Council of Nicaea in AD 325, then strengthened and added to at the First Council of Constantinople in AD 381.

We recite the creed in order to proclaim and preserve the faith of the church, the pure and original faith of those closest to Jesus, who were directly empowered by the Holy Spirit. The are other authorised creeds - the Apostles' Creed often used at baptisms, which is simply three questions and answers, and the longer Athanasian Creed - but the Nicene Creed is

fundamental.

As Christianity spread, thought and belief sometimes deviated from the truths taught by scripture and established by the early church. The Creeds were developed to establish orthodoxy (= correct belief) and refute heresy (= wrong thought). The Council of Nicaea was called to settle the dispute over Arianism (belief that Jesus wasn't divine); Arian tendencies are still around, whenever people talk or write of Jesus as a man with special status, but not one with God.

Looking at the Creed, we have many questions: How can one God also be three? What does it mean that Jesus descended to the dead? What is the resurrection of the body?

2. Faith and Facts

We are talking here about the faith of the 'one holy, catholic (= universal) and apostolic church' - the church that adheres to the traditional beliefs enshrined in the catholic/universal creeds of Nicaea from which we (the Church of England) originate.

I consider that the prime indication of the true church is the 'fruit' of its members. Jesus taught us that we have a personal responsibility to employ the unique gifts we are given, to share the love he exemplified, our 'works' are the fruit of the Holy Spirit given to us. Clearly some change in thinking through history is more political than biblical, but from the earliest times the Church Fathers



debated, intrigued and fought over definitions of the faith. For example, the doctrine of the Trinity (the threeness of the one God) is not clearly defined in the Bible. It is deduced through experience living as a person of faith.

How can we describe the nature of the Godhead and define the nature of Christ? The Trinity is a way of preserving the Jewish understanding of the 'oneness' of God whilst incorporating the Son, Jesus Christ, who is believed to be truly God and truly man, and then including the agency of God in the Holy Spirit. Wrestling with this difficult concept led to a multitude of heresies: Jesus' human nature and body was an illusion and he was really pure spirit; Jesus was a human adopted by God at his baptism or ascension. There are still theological arguments over the nature of salvation (among other issues): are we saved through our own faith or by the faithfulness of Christ - or indeed is it a

combination of both?

Our starting point has to be to know more about the settled faith of the church, and so working through the creeds must be helpful. As far as is practical, we will look at the Apostles Creed in parallel with the Nicene. It may get technical, but I have attempted to use plain English.

3. In God the Father

Nicene Creed: "I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible."

Apostles Creed: "I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth..."

All the Abrahamic faiths (Judaism, Christianity and Islam) profess the oneness of God. It is true that Christianity is seen by the other two faiths as errant, in that it seems to believe in three gods. The Hebraic Shema ('Hear O Israel, the Lord your God is one...') is the creed that Jesus taught. Islam's faith is declared in its call to prayer, 'There is no God, but God...' The Christian Creeds also accentuate the oneness of God and then go on to talk of Father and Son and Holy Spirit as persons of the Trinitarian One God.

First, though, what do we mean when we say God?

We believe that God is a reality. If we do not owe our existence to a creator/maker then we only have the self to satisfy and perhaps some others who add value to our lives. If we do not have to give account and be judged by God, then we can do whatever we can get away with. Without God we are selfish, but conversely with God we are obligated to be unselfish; Jesus added to the



Hebraic Shema ('Love God') the command to 'Love one another' and taught us to serve others, not self - as he modeled in his life. For those who do not readily accept the claims of scripture, how can God be proved?

(i) In human consciousness. Vast numbers (I contend a huge majority) of humans past and present have sought and seek the other, some entity beyond themselves and the ordinary physically provable, knowable world in which we exist.

(ii) From the order and design increasingly apparent in the universe. The beginnings of science put doubts in man's mind as knowledge proved challenging to scriptural belief. However, the incredible purposeful and 'intelligent' design of the universe continually revealed by the insights of science strengthens my faith, so I believe all the more that there is a 'maker of all things visible and invisible'.

(iii) Many ancient writings (including scripture) point towards a search for, an experience and development of

understanding towards God. I don't think God has changed, but human conceptions of God have; since the time of Abraham humans have been move towards a perception of God as compassionate and merciful.

If I could define God, it could not be God. God surpasses the limitations of physics and philosophy, and to describe God is to try to contain the unknowable and immeasurable. Perhaps the most important doctrine is the oneness of God. He is before and after (both outside and inside time and space). He is unrivaled, unlimited and undivided. He is one. God created everything from nothing. All things that are and became, have their origin in God. - Revd. Andrew Rowland

Images: Bishops and the Emperor with the text of the Nicene Creed; the famous icon of the Trinity, by Andrei Rublev (both at Wikipedia Commons); the Cat's Eye Nebula (https://hubblesite.org)

Next month: The Trinity, and Jesus

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A volunteer in the Chained Library

For as long as I can remember I've been interested in history. It's a fascinating subject and one I've become increasingly passionate about over the years, so much so that back in October 2023 I took the plunge and registered for a BA (Hons) Degree in History with the Open University. As a mature student with over



six years experience working and volunteering in the heritage sector, I've always been aware of the benefits of volunteering at historic locations and the opportunities it can bring to those with a passion for the subject. This led me to wonder whether I could find a volunteering opportunity which could assist me with my studies. This was how I discovered the Chained Library in Wimborne Minster.

My introduction to the Chained Library was everything a history lover could wish for. Books dating back to the 14th century and handwritten by medieval scribes, others made during the early years of the printing press, titles by famous authors such as the theologian Erasmus of Rotterdam and some books which are still in print and available in book shops today. This experience filled me with enthusiasm to learn more about this historically significant collection and after a few weeks of shadowing my fellow librarians, a lot of reading, researching and memorising key

facts and dates, I was ready to begin my new role as a volunteer at the Chained Library and share that knowledge with the 'visiting public'. At my University we're encouraged to actively participate in discussions and debates with fellow students regarding the topic we're currently studying, this often

leads to engaging and eye opening conversations and is an element of my studies which I thoroughly enjoy. Happily, this is something I also experience in my role at the library. Each week myself and my fellow volunteers welcome visitors who are full of enthusiasm for the collection and brimming with interesting and diverse questions. Having the opportunity to meet people who are eager to learn more about the library has led to many an interesting conversation and some particularly stimulating questions about the collection which have challenged my knowledge. I have also learnt a great deal from my fellow librarians, who are a font of knowledge and were very helpful during my early days at the library. Engaging in interesting conversations with like-minded people about all things history has improved my knowledge of the collection and I quickly put this to use in my studies.

I began my university autumn term that year by studying the global

impact of the printing press and the affect this had on the production of books and dissemination of knowledge during the early modern period. What better place to volunteer than at an historic Chained Library. I learnt about the early printing workshops in Antwerp, the technology of printing and how all this came together to create early printed books. I was particularly pleased to be studying Polyglot Bibles as held within the library's collection is its very own copy in six volumes, printed in England between 1654 and 1657. These bibles contain the same religious text translated into multiple languages and are particularly useful for studying the different ways in which the text has been interpreted. The typesetting required to produce them was extremely complex and the efficient and methodical way in which the text was organised into columns on the page is testament to the technological advancement afforded by the printing press. It was a privilege to learn about this epoch in history whilst working alongside

books that were present during that time. The Chained Library at Wimborne Minster is a treasure trove of historical artefacts, and to have the opportunity to volunteer in such a location and spend time in the presence of books dating back centuries is a history lover's dream. As I continue to learn about the collection and the ongoing conservation process, I look forward to the upcoming season and to sharing that knowledge with our visitors. I'm also excited to see where my future studies will take me and the ways in which this will overlap with my time spent at the library. The Open University's motto is 'Learn and Live' and whilst I am most definitely learning I am also living, as I build upon my passion for history and gain knowledge and skills all of which will, I'm certain, be of great benefit in my future career development.

- Lucy James Chained Library Volunteer

From Salisbury Cathedral's Development Newsletter Winter 2024
(courtesy of Neil Davies, and edited for length)

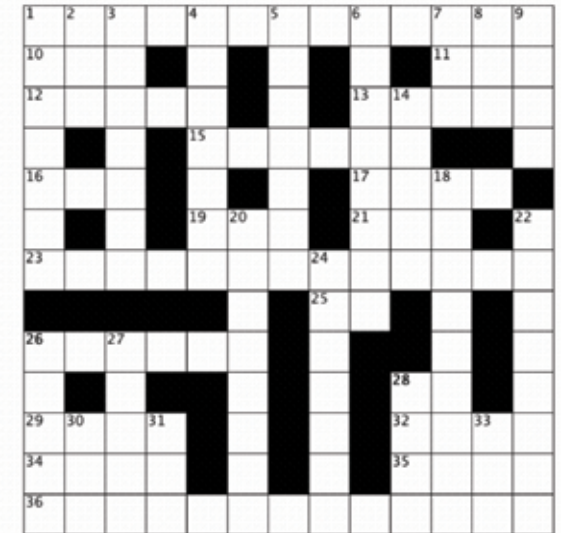
Imagine flying through the Cathedral...

This was the inspiration behind a new film of Gustav Holst's The Planets arranged and performed by Assistant Director of Music, John Challenger. The Planets: Out of Darkness premiered on the Cathedral's YouTube channel in September as part of the celebrations to mark the 150th anniversary of Holst's birth. Drones were used to create some beautiful footage of the empty Cathedral at night - probably the most extensive use of drone camerawork in a British cathedral. In addition to the film there is also an audio recording available to purchase on CD (from the Cathedral Shop) or as a download.

Take a look; this is a beautiful film! - Ed.

ACROSS

- The Jets battle the Sharks while Tony loves Maria in this musical (4,4,5)
- Decades after the Germans, they bombed London (3)
- An _ for an __, a tooth for a tooth (3)
- A type of spear or corporal (5)
- Example or exemplary: 'He is a _ citizen' (5)
- 'The horse was _ to exhaustion.' (6)
- What's put into the poker pot when you're out of dough (3)
- Quick thinking: 'She learned to survive on her _.' (4)
- The enemy (3)
- Garden implement (3)
- He dreamed the impossible dream to write Don Quixote in this musical (3,2,2, 6)
- The shortest Steven King title (2)
- The British one is God Save the King (6)
- 'He's not straight or gay, he's _' (2)
- A percussion instrument or an MBE (4)
- Unit of land, esp on a farm (4)
- Trendy, at the forefront (4)
- Bigger cousins of mice (4)
- Javert pursues Jean Valjean in this musical based on a French novel (3,10)



DOWN

- The first name of Shakespeare (7)
- Important period of history (3)
- Capital city of Puerto Rico, it means 'Saint John' (3,4)
- Lawman of the Old West (7)
- Salt lake between Israel & Jordan (4,3)
- A moderate amount; 'His attitude is _ improved.' (8)
- The Oxford English Dictionary (abbr) (3)
- 'Gin a body meet a body, comin thro' the _' (3)
- Cry of pain, surprise, or delight (4)
- A multi-layered vegetable (5)
- Complicated: 'I can't explain it in a sentence, it's _.' (9)
- World sport event, every 4 years (8)
- The absence of light (8)
- A former monastic church, found at York or Wimborne (7)
- 'The _ Gabriel from heaven came' (5)
- They're used for lifting hot items (5)
- Thorn or spur (4)
- Beethoven's ' _ to Joy' (3)
- Where you work out (3)
- Short for 'route' or Raidió Teilifís Éireann (3)

Solution to February crossword





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