



Parish Magazine
February 2026
No. 474

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(Cover photo: The Minster's early medieval dug-out chest)

We were saddened to hear of the deaths of Tony Matthews, a senior bellringer, recently, and of Dickie Paget, a regular at the 8.00am service, who has died at the age of 105 years. There will be tributes to both Tony and Dickie in the March magazine.



The **Annual Pancake Race** around the outside of Minster falls in the school half-term this year, so we hope to see a good number of young entrants. It will take place on Shrove Tuesday 17th February at 11.00am. Helpers are needed to register entrants and ensure safety; please volunteer if you can! There will

also be a pop-up pancake cafe from 10am, with a choice of toppings, and hot chocolate.

If it is wet, the race will be inside the Minster.

Contact Anthony Oliver on 01202 888703 for details.



Wimborne Christian Aid invites you to our **Lent Lunches** which start on Tuesday 24th February at Wimborne

Methodist Church and then continue each Tuesday until 31st March. Come any time between **12.30 pm and 1.15 pm** for Bread, Cheese and Fruit, and a brief 'Thought for the Day' around 1.00pm. There is no charge - donations welcome – and there is no need to book. We hope you will be able to join us.

Further details from Mike Lunt (01202 889487).



Minster Fair Bookstall

It's not too soon to think of June!

If you are having a Spring clear-out of your bookshelves, I am happy to take your books of all kinds for the Bookstall. I can collect, or you can arrange a time to drop them off (not at the Minster, please!) – Rosalind Jensen (rjensen@btinternet.com)

Donating to the Minster

If you would like to support the work of the Minster, you can scan this QR code, which will take you to our giving portal. You can also make donations in the Minster, using the Gift Aid envelopes or as a contactless payment on the terminal by the porch door. Thank you.



Contact details

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Parish Magazine Co-editors: Rosalind Jensen and Andrew Kelley

Please send articles and information to parishmagazine@wimborneminster.org.uk or leave at the Parish Office. Deadline for March issue: **Thursday 12th February**

For advertising information, contact the email address above.

Services at the Minster

Sundays

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

9.30 am 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 11.00 am, Wednesday

(in the Minster)

Morning Prayer 8.30 am, Monday to Saturday

(on Zoom)

Services at St Margaret's Chapel

3rd Thursday

11.00 am 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 January

29th	Funeral of Dickie Paget aged 105 years
------	--

Dates for your diary – February

Sunday 1st, Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

12.30pm

Bring and Share Lunch (Church House)

Tuesday 3rd

10.30am
– 12 noon

Forest Garden Toddler Group

7.00pm

Bell-ringers' AGM (Church House)

Wednesday 4th

1pm – 1.30pm
4pm

Meditation Group (Minster Crypt)

Prayer Circle (Church House)

Thursday 5th	9.30am – 11am	Two by Two Toddler Group (Church House Upstairs)
	12.30pm	OASIS lunch (Church House)
Friday 6th	12 noon – 1pm	Lunch and Chat (Church House)
Tuesday 10th	10.30am – 12 noon	Forest Garden Toddler Group
Wednesday 11th	1pm – 1.30pm	Meditation Group (Minster Crypt)
	4pm	Prayer Circle
Thursday 12th	9.30am – 11am	Two by Two Toddler Group (Church House Upstairs)
Friday 13th	10.30am – 12 noon	Home schooling Group (Forest Garden)
	12 noon – 1pm	Lunch and Chat (Church House)
Tuesday 17th	1am – 4pm	Clothes and Toy Swap (Minster)
	11am	Pancake Race
Wednesday 18th, Ash Wednesday: Lent begins		
	1am – 4pm	Clothes and Toy Swap (Minster)
	1pm – 1.30pm	Meditation Group (Minster Crypt)
	4pm	Prayer Circle
	6.30pm	Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes
Thursday 19th	1am – 4pm	Clothes and Toy Swap (Minster)
	10.30am	Messy Church (Minster)
	1.45pm	Mothers' Union (Church House)
Friday 20th	12 noon – 1pm	Lunch and Chat (Church House)
Saturday 21st	5pm and 7pm	Lumos Live performances (Minster)
Sunday 22nd First Sunday in Lent		
Tuesday 24th	10.30am – 12 noon	Forest Garden Toddler Group
Wednesday 25th	1pm – 1.30pm	Meditation Group (Minster Crypt)
	4pm	Prayer Circle
Thursday 26th	9.30am – 11am	Two by Two Toddler Group (Church House Upstairs)
Friday 27th	10.30am – 12 noon	Home schooling Group (Forest Garden)
	12 noon – 1pm	Lunch and Chat (Church House)
Saturday 28th	10.30am	Muddy Church (Forest Garden)

*Praying for the Wimborne benefice,
the town of Wimborne and the world*

Prayer diary for February

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|---|
| 1 | Our Associate and Assistant Priests | 16 | Archbishops Sarah Mullally and Stephen Cottrell |
| 2 | Lay Pastoral Assistants | | |
| 3 | Families and children at the Minster | 17 | East Borough Housing Association |
| 4 | Claire, our children's and families worker | 18 | Social workers |
| 5 | The Children's Society | 19 | Dorset Wildlife Trust |
| 6 | Bishops Stephen, Karen and Andrew | 20 | Queen Elizabeth's School |
| 7 | Wimborne Library: staff, volunteers and users | 21 | PCC secretaries |
| 8 | Local MPs | 22 | Minster guides and welcomers |
| 9 | Amnesty International | 23 | The Minster Governors |
| 10 | Bournemouth & Poole Hospital Chaplaincies | 24 | The Minster Environment Group |
| 11 | Beaucroft School and College | 25 | Mission Aviation Fellowship |
| 12 | Our Organist and Director of the Choirs | 26 | Our neighbouring churches |
| 13 | The servers | 27 | The Tivoli Theatre and Allendale centre: volunteers |
| 14 | The Minster Green Fair: organisers and helpers | 28 | Refugees and migrants |
| 15 | The Minstead Training Project | | |

George Herbert, Poet and Priest

On February 27th we remember George Herbert (1593-1633), who turned his back on a career in public life to become rector of Bemerton (west of Salisbury). All his poems are on religious themes, and more than ninety have been set as songs and hymns.

Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,
My God and King.
The heav'ns are not too high,
His praise may thither fly;
The earth is not too low,
His praises there may grow.
Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,
My God and King!



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Candlemas to Lent

The weeks from Candlemas to Lent form a gentle turning point in the Church's year, a space where the glow of Christmas and Epiphany gradually gives way to the reflective quiet of Lent.

The light we bless at Candlemas begins to guide us towards the Lenten journey, encouraging us to pause, reflect, and prepare. Epiphany is about the manifestation and revelation of Christ. Candlemas onwards is a short period inviting watchful attentiveness as we look for signs of God's presence in daily life. It encourages renewed commitment through small, faithful choices that shape our discipleship. And it offers a time of preparation, helping us ready our hearts for the deeper reflection Lent brings.



Candlemas, kept on the first weekend in February celebrates Christ as *"a light to lighten the Gentiles"*. The Nunc Dimittis, Simeon's song from Luke's Gospel (2:29), beautifully captures the spirit of the moment. The priest Simeon rejoices that he has seen God's salvation, calling Jesus *"a*

light to lighten the Gentiles" – words that echo through this season and remind us that Christ's light is given for the whole world.

Then the emphasis subtly shifts. In Matthew 6 Jesus says we should not be anxious about our lives – *"Strive first for the Kingdom of God"*. In the Sunday before Lent we encounter the transfigured Christ – a glorious, enlightening, revelation (Matt 17:1). Coming down from the highs of the mountain we are led out into the wilderness as Lent begins (Matt 4:1). *"One does not live by bread alone"*, says Jesus in the face of the evil one, who is trying to deflect the Lord from his mission. The Collect Prayer asks for grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to the Holy Spirit, in our weakness, and know the power of salvation.

So, as we move from Candlemas toward Lent, may we walk with openness, courage, and hope, allowing God's light to lead us onwards.

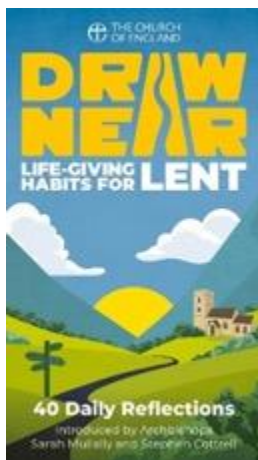
Light and life in Christ,
Revd Andrew Rowland

DRAW NEAR

LIFE-GIVING HABITS FOR LENT

‘Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.’

The Church of England resources for Lent this year focus on the habits and patterns which help us grow as Christians, a rhythm of life that will draw us nearer to God.



The six activities that mark us as Christians are **worshipping** together, **praying**, **exploring the Bible**, sharing **communion**, offering **service** and **sharing the good news** with others. Each week of Lent a different contributor explores one of these aspects, and how we can cultivate these regular practices.

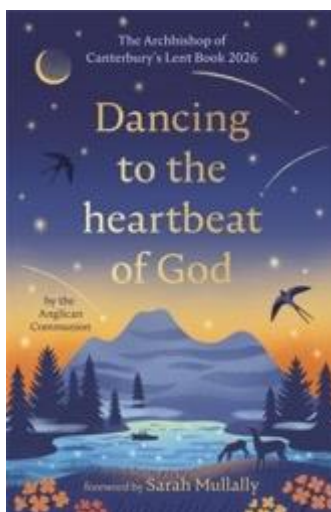
The Everyday Faith app (which you can use every day of the year) will have reflections based on the booklet.



A parallel children's and families booklet focuses on an act of generosity each day, with a Bible verse, reflection and prayer. This has been developed by the organisation 40Acts (<https://www.stewardship.org.uk/40acts>), which runs a 'Lent generosity challenge' that anyone can take part in. Take a look at their website if you haven't met it before!



The Archbishops' choice of Lent book, *Dancing to the Heartbeat of God*, builds further on the same theme, with inspiring stories of discipleship from around the world, that reflect the breadth, diversity, and vitality of the Anglican Communion. Rooted in real experience, these voices speak with honesty, energy, and hope; it's an invitation to rediscover the joy and heart of Christian discipleship today.



You might also be interested in Archbishop Mullally's Lent book from 2021, *Rooted in Love*. It draws on all the then area bishops in London, to give spiritual guidance, practical encouragement and hope, to help you put God at the centre of your life every day.

Christmas Charity Collections

In their November meeting, the PCC chose three charities to support from the collections at Minster Christmas services in 2025: the StreetLight Centre (a local charity), Dementia UK (a national charity), and Sudan Medical Link (an international charity). The collection at the Advent Carol Service is given by tradition to Crisis at Christmas.

Through Advent, there were multiple collections at school carol services, the Dorset Police, the WI, and other special services which collected for 16 additional charities.

Carols in the Cornmarket raised money for the Minster and the Mayor's Charities.

Here is the total raised, excluding the amounts that went to Minster funds. We are very grateful to all who supported these causes.

Crisis at Christmas	£628.75
Three Minster Christmas charities (total shared equally between them)	£1350.86
16 other external charities	£4194.57
The Mayor's charities	£487.00
Total	£6661.18



Wimborne Minster's Chained Library, founded in 1686, is one of only five remaining in England and is still in its original setting. With over 400 books, including a handwritten manuscript from 1343 and printed books from 1495 onwards on subjects such as medicine, building houses and growing vines in

England, this Library is one of the hidden treasures in the South West. We will be re-opening for the 2026 season on 1st April, when we look forward to welcoming visitors from all over the world. If you like books, history and talking to interesting people, why not come and join our team of enthusiastic volunteers? It's a commitment of just two hours per fortnight, either 10:30 am to 12:30 pm, or 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

To learn more, please contact Jayne & Mike Twomey at

chainedlibrary@wimborneminster.org.uk

Music in the Minster



Magical Nights, Timeless Music

We welcome a new musical organisation to the Minster in February: on Saturday 21st, a Lumos string quartet will perform music by Mozart and Vivaldi by candlelight. There will be two one-hour performances, at 5pm and 7pm; you can buy tickets on their website www.lumos-experiences.com.

The website says “at Lumos, we believe music should be more than just heard, it should be felt. Our candlelit concerts transform timeless classics and modern favourites into unforgettable live experiences. From Coldplay to Vivaldi, ABBA to Beyoncé, each show is designed to move hearts, spark memories, and create moments you’ll never forget.” Lumos musicians perform in parish churches in England, and across the United States.



Armonico Consort *Naked Byrd 2*

Thursday 5 March 2026 at 7pm

We are looking forward to welcoming this highly regarded ensemble to the Minster. They will work with the Minster Choir and up to 60 children from Allenbourn and St Michael's Middle Schools to create a varied concert. The performance will move around the building, circling the audience. 'Byrd' is, of course, the famous William Byrd, but the programme of great choral music across 800 years also includes Tallis and Purcell, and chants composed by the 12th-century visionary Saint Hildegard of Bingen. More modern composers in the performance include Samuel Barber and John Taverner.

Tickets are available on <https://www.eventbrite.com> : search for 'Armonico Consort'.



Spring Clean for the Forest Garden

On Saturday 17th January a small group of volunteers met to tidy up the Forest Garden, take down the old bell tent, and put up the new one. This is the same size, but has the refinement of a 'bath-tub' groundsheet, that turns up where it meets the walls of the tent. This should stop the rain getting in as it has in the past. The company that produces



these tents states it can be put up by one person in 15 minutes! They also give clear information about the regular cleaning and maintenance the tent needs. We hope that in the future part of the tent can be kept clear for story-telling in cold or rainy weather. The main play areas were tidied up, the safety netting for the pond replaced (without disturbing the frogs), and some areas were planted with bulbs. There is always more to be done, particularly bulb planting, but this was a very successful morning. A big thank you to everyone who came to help!



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Wooden Chests in the Minster

The Minster has benefited in the past from visits by specialists to study particular objects or aspects of the building. Before Christmas we had a fascinating visit from Rachel Sycamore, a specialist in restoring furniture, with a particular knowledge of historic wooden chests in churches. For her Masters thesis, she studied 250 medieval wooden chests in churches across Herefordshire and Worcestershire, and runs her own workshop in Malvern. Rachel gave us a preliminary report after her visit, which is the basis for this article.



In the Middle Ages, wooden chests were the usual way for the well-off to keep precious objects (as in this 15th-century miniature), and for churches to store vestments and documents, and collect alms. Many church chests were destroyed at the Reformation, but others were kept safe in hiding, and returned to the church later. Subsequently, churchwardens often paid little attention to

their chests, or have repaired them in inappropriate ways with modern products.

The Minster is proud to have three special chests, which all stand in St



George's Chapel; in the past visitors were told various stories about the chests, but the signs now reflect what we know to be accurate information! The



oldest is an early medieval dug-out (i.e. cut from one piece of wood); it is recorded as having kept various relics of saints and objects related to Christ's life. It has been raised on wooden supports so air can circulate around it properly.

We know more about the second dug-out, made to house the records of the

Collett Charity Trustees. (The documents are now kept in the National Archives.) The charity was set up in 1620, with profits from land in Corfe Castle being distributed annually to poor men and women in Wimborne; the chest stands in front of the tomb of the donor Joseph Collett and his wife, which was restored in 1825. There are six locks for the chest, each with a different key, and a smaller wooden box (not shown) sits inside. Damp is a major problem for church chests, so the Collett chest has been left open for the time being. The metal box in the foreground of the photo is a Victorian strongbox from St James', Holt.



The third chest, for holding parish documents, is recorded as far back as 1475. The lid is cut into two, so each compartment

can be opened separately, an arrangement which can be found

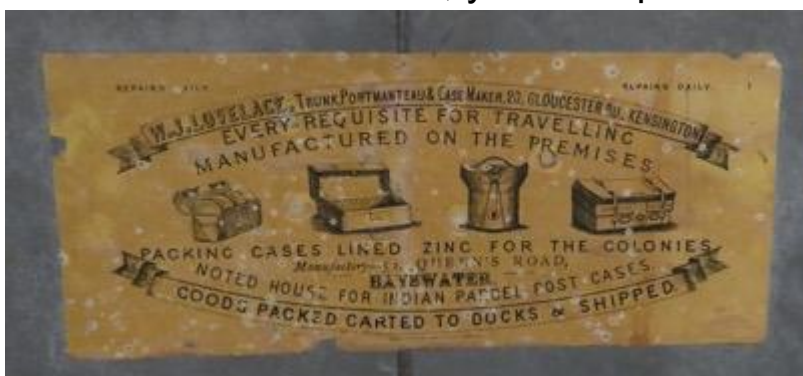


elsewhere (mentioned by Rachel Sycamore in her publications). You can see that it has been mended in several places with inserts of wood; were multiple locks removed at some time?

We also have a dark wooden Jacobean chest, carved with three

figures on the front, which is presently drying out. For a long time it was at the back of church, by the children's corner. All these chests need conservation and treatment. It may be possible to date the dug-out chests using dendrochronology (analysing the tree rings in the wood). We are looking forward to hear more details from Rachel before long, so that the right decisions can be taken.

Elsewhere in the Minster, you can spot two more recent plain chests, one



of which holds the crib figures, and there are five chests in the Chained Library (of which more another time).

We also have a surprising 'relic of Empire', again from St James', Holt. This

is a zinc-lined chest designed for transporting goods and personal effects to 'the colonies'. The maker's label is still inside, so we know it was manufactured in Bayswater by Mr W. J. Lovelace, who was in business from the 1880s to about 1910; he invented and patented this lining. It is still possible to read 'Calcutta' painted on the lid!

- Rosalind Jensen

Sources:

Read more about wooden chests in Rachel Sycamore's article (1920). 'Church Chests' in *Historic Churches. The Conservation and Repair of Ecclesiastical Buildings* (The Building Conservation Directory. Special Report).

<https://www.buildingconservation.com/books/churches2020>

Manuscript image: The poet Guillaume de Machaut puts the portrait of his beloved in a chest. Morgan Library, New York MS M.396. Fol. 174v

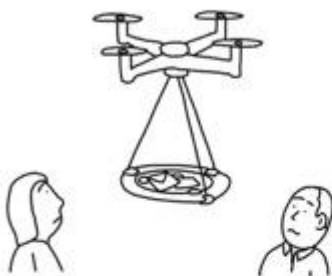
<https://bifmo.furniturehistorysociety.org/>

Mr Lovelace's details from the Furniture Makers' database:

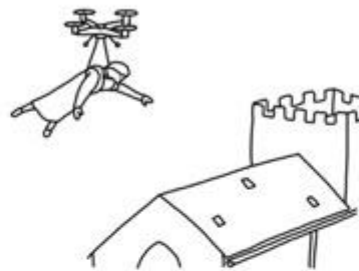
<https://bifmo.furniturehistorysociety.org/>

DRONES

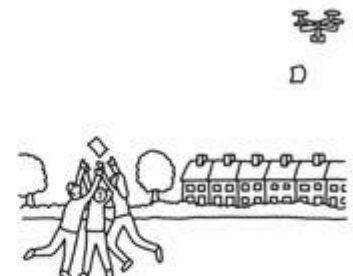
ECCLESIASTICAL USES



TAKING UP THE
COLLECTION



SURVEYING THE
CHURCH ROOF



DELIVERING NEWSLETTERS
AROUND THE PARISH



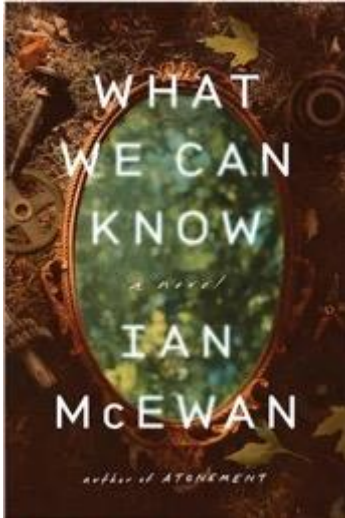
CHECKING UP ON
THE NEIGHBOURS



PUTTING THE STAR ON THE
CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE



SEARCH AND
RESCUE



Book Review: What We Can Know, by Ian McEwan (Jonathan Cape, 2025, ISBN 9781787335738)

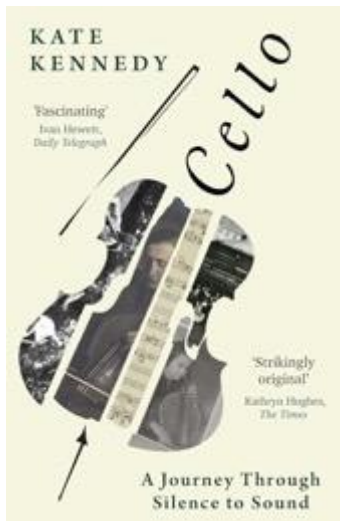
The first two thirds of Ian McEwan's latest masterpiece take place in the year 1009, a time when the lowlands of the United Kingdom have been submerged by rising seas. The country has been reduced to a series of islands with communication between them difficult and dangerous. Hubs of learning have retreated northwards and up mountains for example the Bodleian Library now exists in the wilds of Snowdonia. The survivors line in an age where accommodation is in concrete blocks (academic institutions) or primitive hovels. Food and drink are protein pellets and water, clothing basic and rough. It is an age in which everyone's life and conversations are recorded on camera all the time and preserved. Privacy has vanished. There is great interest in academia in the stories of the history of the people who lived pre the Great Inundation of the early 22nd century. All documentation that survived has been placed on permanent record and is available for researchers: such a person was the great poet Francis Blundy and his wife Vivien. In 2014 dinner was held to celebrate Vivien's 54th birthday: at this, her husband read a poem, held to be his very best, which celebrated their loves. It then disappeared. A century or so later, two academics are determined to find it since many hold human life to have been at its zenith at that time. They are in search of what was held to be a Golden Age. Eventually, they find a casket in the ruins of the Blundy's garden.

The last third of the book is the story of what actually did happen in the lives of Francis and Vivien.

This novel, as are all of McEwan's, is beautifully written using lyrical language. Some of his descriptions of nature are breathtaking. This is a thriller, a romance, a murder story with a worldview, an odyssey of the future, laced with plenty of sex. Above all, it is a record of our present with all its failings and fears. A wonderful read.

- Beryl Balinas

This book won Blackwell's Book of the Year Award in 2025 and was shortlisted for the Nero Book Awards (fiction), 2025. A review by Jon Day in the Financial Times described it as 'McEwan's most entertaining and enjoyable novel for years'.



Book Review: Cello: A Journey Through Silence to Sound, by Kate Kennedy (Apollo, 2025)

Cellist Kate Kennedy suffered an injury as a student which has limited her playing but driven her to think more deeply about it. Through this book she explores the intimate relationship between the cellist and their instrument, with her own experience interwoven with the lives of four cellists and the fates of their instruments.

Lise Cristiani, the first female concert cellist, vanished on a concert tour of Siberia. Far more is known about the other three musicians. Anita Lasker-Wallfisch survived Auschwitz because she was recruited to the orchestra that played for the guards; her predecessor had just died. Amadeo Baldovino and his trio partners were shipwrecked on the way to performing in Buenos Aires, and his cello was recovered, shattered into pieces. Pal Herman, Hungarian-Jewish composer and performer, evaded the Gestapo for years before finally being deported and killed. Kennedy draws us into these four lives through the places they knew, the musicians they played with, letters and survivors' memories. Her travels across Europe bring locations to life, enriched by her own reactions and interactions with musicians and others. I found her trip to northern Poland and Lithuania, in search of Pal Herman's final days, particularly vivid; she travelled just as Russia invaded Ukraine, but also experienced warm hospitality with musicians in rural Lithuania. The four stories are not told separately, but in stages and intertwined, as she gradually discovers more material.

The great cellos described in this book have their own personalities, which is beautifully described, as Kennedy talks with musicians and visits instrument makers, including the famous Stradivari workshop in Cremona. But she is also clear that the cello and cellist change each other, over the years, and tries to describe how this is so. At one point she hears her baroque cello, which she played for 20 years and then had to give away, being played by another cellist in a part that she knows well, and is almost in tears.

Although long, *Cello* is a gripping read. If you play a musical instrument, it will send you back to think about your own relationship with music and performance, but it has many other facets. This is a powerful and personal book about music and musicians, seen from the inside, but also about loss, survival and hope.

- Rosalind Jensen

February Crossword set by Bruce Jensen



Photo1



Photo 2



Photo 3

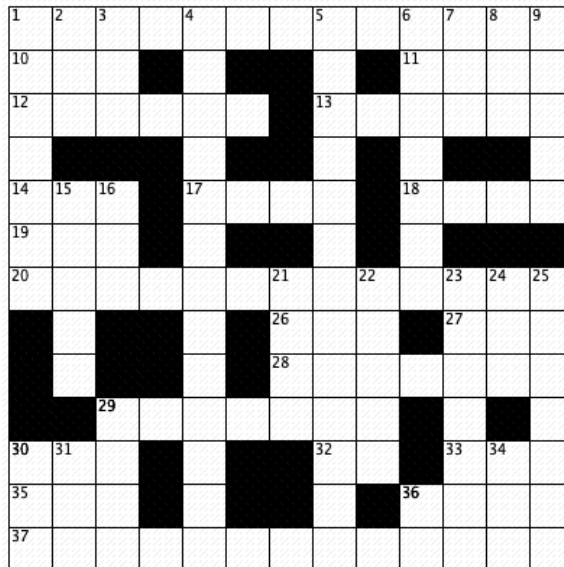
ACROSS

1. Picture No. 1 (7,6)
10. Highest (or lowest) card in the deck (3)
11. Zero cost (4)
12. Lessen, diminish (6)
13. To change or make a difference (6)
14. A charged partical (3)
17. Clean, tidy (4)
18. Something often made of silicon or potato (4)
19. 'Hand me one of those rags: _ one will do.' (3)
20. What either 1-across or 37-across is to a Wimburnian (5,4,4)
26. '_ you listening to a word I said?' (3)
27. Hunger striker Bobby Sands was in this group (3)
28. Unsteady walk, seen in Wimborne on Saturday night (7)
29. Bill was president and Hillary tried to be (7)
30. '_ , humbug!' said Scrooge. (3)
32. Can it be true? There _ no doubt (2)
33. A light brown, the desired skin tone for some (3)
35. The States (abbr.) (3)
36. Crooked (4)
37. Picture No 2 (5,3,5)

DOWN

1. Tired of protests, the dictator imposed _ law (7)
2. Frozen water (3)
3. Nickname for Edward, strangely (3)

4. Adjective associated with science, engineering or computers applied to practical problems (13)
5. [The beast in] Picture No. 3. (5,8)
6. Jurassic Park films are full of special _ (7)
7. Before, poetically: "That will be _ the set of sun" (3)
8. (Birmingham) National Exhibition Centre, for short (3)
9. Put into position: 'The police _ _ a roadblock.' (3,2)
15. Type of 2-way switch (2,3)
16. New York City (abbr) (3)
21. Conical house for drying hops, found in Kent and crosswords (4)
22. _ Court, a Wimborne landmark (5)
23. A light meal served in afternoon or evening with food and a hot drink, at table (4,3)
24. What miners dig (3)
25. Fathers and mothers (7)
29. Indian spiced tea (4)
30. How the carless get from Wimborne to Poole (3)
31. Cleopatra's snake (3)
34. _ Widdecombe, Conservative politician and cat-lover (3)
36. 'To _ or not to _ ' asked Hamlet (2)



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SASHAYED
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