



Town of Culture

2026

WIMBORNE



Wimborne
Minster



Parish Magazine

April 2026

No. 476

Take a Break



Enjoy **4 weeks**
for the **price of 3***

*Terms & conditions apply. †Correct at time of post.

BROOK VIEW
WEST MOORS

Residential and Nursing Care

01202 891333 | BrookViewCare.co.uk



(Cover photo: Good Friday procession, photo by Anthony Oliver)



Love puzzles? Come to our
Giant jigsaw puzzle sale

on Saturday 2nd May, in the Minster.
Refreshments available.
Proceeds to Minster funds.

Choristers taster afternoon

Sunday May 24th 2pm – 4pm
See what it's like to sing in the Minster Choir!
To find out more, contact Colin Davey,
organist@wimborneminster.org.uk
or Claire Lehmann
claire@wimborneminster.org.uk



National RSPB Bird Watch

Results from this year's Bird Watch across the country haven't been published yet. However, we have the results from one hour's observation in God's Acre (Saturday 24th January, 10am - 11 am):

1 great tit, 2 blue tits, 1 pigeon, 1 crow,
2 jackdaws, 4 rooks, 1 robin, 4 goldfinches
(see photo). This was a total of 16 birds.
Last year, the team counted 33 birds in one
hour: 8 starlings, 7 jackdaws, 5 crows,
2 dunnocks, and 2 great tits.
For advice on encouraging birds in your garden,
please visit the RSPB website



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

Rector	Canon Andrew Rowland rector@wimborneminster.org.uk	01202 882340
Churchwardens	Mr Andrew Patrick andrew-churchwarden@wimborneminster.org.uk Mr Peter Cook peter-churchwarden@wimborneminster.org.uk	01202 886871 01202 885470
Assoc. Priests	The Revd. Heather Waldsax heather-assocpriest@wimborneminster.org.uk The Revd. Bill French bill-assocpriest@wimborneminster.org.uk The Revd. Steve Atkins steve-assistpriest@wimborneminster.org.uk	01202 884753
Assistant Priests	The Revd. Elise Harding elise-assistpriest@wimborneminster.org.uk The Revd. Canon Nigel LLOYD nigel-assistpriest@wimborneminster.org.uk The Revd. Derek Butler derek-assistpriest@wimborneminster.org.uk	01202 884775
Curate	The Revd. Marianne Mangham marianne-curate@wimborneminster.org.uk	
Organist	Mr Colin Davey organist@wimborneminster.org.uk	07870 518046
Families' Worker	Mrs Claire Lehmann claire@wimborneminster.org.uk	
Facilities Manger	Mr Martin Smith facilities.manager@wimborneminster.org.uk	01202 886667
Vergers	Mr Elton Barker elton-verger@wimborneminster.org.uk Mr Gerald Chissell gerald-verger@wimborneminster.org.uk Mr John Hughes john-verger@wimborneminster.org.uk	01202 886667 01202 886667 01202 886667
Safeguarding	Mrs Jane Davidson safeguardingofficer@wimborneminster.org.uk	07962 718724
Stewardship	Mr Dennis Child stewardship@wimborneminster.org.uk	07973 698576
Villages Admin.	Mrs Judith Lane villageadmin@wimborneminster.org.uk	
Finance & Admin. Parish Secretary	finance.manager@wimborneminster.org.uk Mrs Ruth Marshall	01202 884753 01202 884753

Parish Office email: parishoffice@wimborneminster.org.uk
www.wimborneminster.org.uk



socialmedia@wimborneminster.org.uk

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 May issue: **Thursday 19th April.**

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

11.00am, 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 March

22nd Baptism of Alexia Vos Kempton

Dates for your diary - late March and April

HOLY WEEK

Sunday 29th March, Palm Sunday

9.15am

**Palm Sunday Procession
from the Allendale Centre
to the Minster** for the 9.30am
Parish Eucharist

11.15am

Minster Praise with Donkeys
on the Minster Green

Monday 30th

8.00pm

Compline by Candlelight

Tuesday 31st

8.00pm

Compline by Candlelight

Wednesday 1st	1pm – 1.30pm	Meditation Group (Minster Crypt)
	4pm	Prayer Circle (Church House)
	8.00pm	Compline by Candlelight
Maundy Thursday 2nd April		
	10.30am	Messy Church
	7.30pm	Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altar , with Venerable Paul Taylor, Former Archdeacon of Sherborne
Good Friday 3rd April		
	12noon – 2.00pm	The Way of the Cross with Venerable Paul Taylor
	2.00pm – 3.00pm	Solemn Liturgy
	3.15pm	Bun Walk from The Minster to St Stephen's Church, Pamphill
Saturday 4th April	10.00am	Friends of the Minster Coffee Morning (Church House)
Easter Day, 5th April		
	6.00am	Dawn Service followed by breakfast in Church House
	8.00am	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Parish Eucharist
	11.15am	Minster Praise with Easter Egg Hunt
	6.30pm	Festal Evensong
Wednesday 8th	1pm – 1.30pm	Meditation Group (Minster Crypt)
	4pm	Prayer Circle (Church House)
Friday 10th	12 noon – 1pm	Lunch and Chat (Church House)
Saturday 11th	10.30am – 2.30pm	Youth Music Festival on the Green: Town of Culture event
Sunday 12th	12.30am	Baptism of Poppy Eirllys Trevelion
Wednesday 15th	1pm – 1.30pm	Meditation Group (Minster Crypt)
	4pm	Prayer Circle
Thursday 16th	2.15pm	Mothers' Union (Church House)
Friday 17th	12 noon – 1pm	Lunch and Chat (Church House)
Sunday 19th	12.30pm	Baptism of Esther Jean Peek

Wednesday 22nd	1pm – 1.30pm	Meditation Group (Minster Crypt)
	2pm	Wedding of Dawn Thresher and Jason Cowan
	4pm	Prayer Circle
Thursday 23rd	10am – 11.30am	Two by Two Toddler Group (Church House Upstairs)
Friday 24th	10.30am – 12 noon	Home schooling Group (Forest Garden)
	12 noon – 1pm	Lunch and Chat (Church House)
Saturday 25th	9.00am – 3.30pm	Planet Wimborne Spring Green Festival (Minster Green)
	10.00am – 3.00pm	Donatell (Minster)
Sunday 26th	1.00pm	Wedding of Rebecca West and David Chiu
Wednesday 29th	1pm – 1.30pm	Meditation Group (Minster Crypt)
	4pm	Prayer Circle (Church House)
Thursday 30th	10am – 11.30am	Two by Two Toddler Group (Church House Upstairs)

In April we welcome back cellist Rebecca Gilliver, who is working with young professionals in classes in Church House over a week. This year the final concert, open to all, is at Merley House.



**THE DORSET CELLO CLASSES
CELEBRATION CONCERT**

Join us for a delightful concert showcasing the young professionals and students of The Dorset Cello Classes. Always a very special event, this concert is presented by London Symphony Orchestra principal cellist, Rebecca Gilliver, with renowned pianist, Paul Janes.

SATURDAY 18TH APRIL 2.30PM

**MERLEY HOUSE,
MERLEY HOUSE LANE,
WIMBORNE BH21 3AA**

Free entry, tea and coffee provided before and during interval.

Call 07971 440850 for information



Earth Day – Our power our planet

Spring Green

Come and join us and our fellow green groups on 25th April from 10.30am till 3pm on the Minster Green.

Advice on: helping pollinators, bee homes, why flowers and trees are so important, as well as activities you can do to help wildlife and our planet.





Email planetwimborne@gmail.com
<https://www.earthday.org>
[Planetwimborne.org](https://www.earthday.org)



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

Prayer diary for April

1	Our Rector	18	The police, PCSOs, the Probation Service
2	Those in training for ministry	19	The Sudan Medical Link
3	The OASIS group; the bereaved	20	Ambulance services, paramedics and firefighters
4	The Lunch and Chat team	21	Churchwardens
5	The Society of St Francis at Hilfield	22	Young people in the Wimborne area
6	Wimborne Deanery; the Rural Dean	23	PCC members
7	Wimborne Town Council	24	The Chained Library: custodians, volunteers
8	Dorset County Council	25	The MARS Trust
9	Christian Aid	26	Diocesan links with Evreux and Latvia
10	Victoria Hospital; Streets Meadow	27	The Citizens' Advice Bureau
11	Our Associate Clergy	28	New housing developments
12	Parish administrative staff: Martin, Ruth, Jess	29	Wimborne Dementia Action Alliance
13	The Mothers' Union	30	Wimborne First School
14	Housegroups: prayer and study	31	A cause dear to your heart, not listed elsewhere
15	The Bible Society		
16	Staff of the Diocesan offices		
17	East Dorset Heritage Trust		

Exultet – Rejoice!

At the dawn Easter Service, we bring light (new candles) into the dark church, and, in a thrilling moment we hear the great proclamation calling on the whole of creation to rejoice at the resurrection of Jesus. It begins:

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!
Exult, all creation around God's throne!
Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!
Sound the trumpet of salvation!

Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendour,
radiant in the brightness of your King!
Christ has conquered! Glory fills you!
Darkness vanishes for ever!



HEATHLAND
HOUSE

CINNAMON LUXURY CARE

TAKE A
PERSONALISED
TOUR
BOOK TODAY



PRE-OPENING PROMOTION NOW AVAILABLE

SHOW SUITE
NOW OPEN

Heathland House Care Home is opening soon in Ferndown, Dorset bringing first-class care and superb facilities for older people to the local community.

Call the team today on 01202 147 101 or email heathland.enquiries@cinnamoncc.com for more information or to book your personal tour of our Show Suite.

RESIDENTIAL CARE

DEMENTIA CARE

RESPITE CARE

Luxury Care Home in Ferndown
Heathland House Care Home, 405 Wimborne Road East, Ferndown, Dorset BH22 9LZ
www.cinnamoncc.com/heathland

@HeathlandHouse



Holy Week



It was in the year 70CE that the full might of Rome descended on the Jewish people in Jerusalem with the Temple being destroyed. This had begun with the Jewish revolt against Roman rule, beginning in 66CE. Two years later, in the year 72 CE, the Christians were expelled from the synagogues and Christianity emerged as a separate faith, discarding its original Jewish overcoat. The earliest Christians had continued to worship in the synagogues. This had led to debates (see the letter to the Galatians) about whether or not a man needed to be circumcised in order to become a Christian. St Paul's firm answer was no! What was different about the emerging Christian community was that, in Jesus, they believed that the long awaited Messiah had arrived. Sunday became their sabbath day, for Sunday was the day of the resurrection. The core festival for the Church became the celebration of The Lord's Passion, including Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Day itself. It is certain that the celebration of these three sacred days (known as the Triduum)

predated the Gospels by many years (and indeed shaped the Gospel account). This celebration continues as the most holy time in the Christian year. It should be seen as one liturgical celebration and observance, spread out over these three special days. On Maundy Thursday evening, we remember the Last Supper, when not only did Jesus share in bread and wine, but he also washed his disciples' feet. On Good Friday it is usual to have a three hour service (12 noon to 3pm) during which we stand with Christ at the foot of the cross (or, if you cannot manage the full three hours, then please join us for at least an hour of it). Holy Saturday (as it is called – not Easter Saturday!) is usually kept as a quiet day, for Jesus rested in the garden tomb. Then there is Easter, a day of explosive joy and celebration, for death is defeated. Jesus is risen from the dead and, in a broken world which seems in such an appalling mess, there is hope, there is joy and there is the possibility of new life.

You are welcomed to join in with the liturgy of these days (indeed you are encouraged to do so). It is not a matter of slavishly reenacting the



events marking what once happened at the end of Jesus' earthly life but, rather, worshipping together in a way that enables us to stand with Christ and to reflect on his saving Passion. It allows us to do so in a way that helps us to re-engage with what God once did for humanity, and indeed with what he reaches out to do in our lives, today, in the present moment of our experience. It is a declaration

of hope and joy in a very wounded world.

I pray that we might share many blessings this coming Holy Week, until we come to a joyful celebration of Easter in which we can cry, from the bottom of our hearts, **Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

Canon Nigel LLOYD

*Image by Dawn Hudson,
www.publicdomainpictures.net*

Join the PCC – Your Church Needs You



Could you help shape the future life of the Minster? Joining the PCC is one way to play an active part in the church

community. Have you ever thought about becoming more involved in the life of the Minster? Perhaps you have considered it but quickly dismissed the idea: *"I haven't got the time."* *"Committees are boring."* *"I hate meetings."* *"I'm shy and don't like speaking in public."* These reactions are very common, but there are many positive reasons to take part. If you are a regular worshipper at any of the Minster services and are on the Minster electoral roll, you are eligible to join the PCC. The Parochial Church Council plays an important role in the life of the church, helping guide its governance and supporting its ongoing development. As members of the Minster family, this is our church, and the PCC provides an opportunity for each of us to contribute to its future. Everyone brings different life and work experiences, and new members

often offer fresh perspectives and ideas. PCC meetings can involve thoughtful and sometimes lively discussion about the life of the church and how we can continue to serve our congregation and community well.

"Fresh ideas and new perspectives help keep the life of the church moving forward."

The PCC usually meets around six times a year, so the time commitment is manageable. Members are elected at the Annual Parish Meeting in May and normally serve for a three-year term. A second term may be served, after which members step down for at least a year. For this reason it is important that we continue to welcome new people onto the council. At present many PCC members are well into retirement, so we are especially keen to encourage the next generation to become actively involved. If you care about the future of the Minster and would like to play a part in shaping it, please consider putting your name forward.

Andrew Kelley, PCC member

Commissioning of Lay Pastoral Assistants



On 8th March I attended a Service of Commissioning of Lay Pastoral Assistants in Wimborne Deanery. This was held in Canford Magna Parish Church and was conducted by The Venerable Penny Sayer. It was such a joyous occasion and an opportunity for many of the churches in the Wimborne Deanery to come together. 21 LPAs were to be commissioned, including Martin Smith and Trish Hitchins from Wimborne Minster, although, unfortunately, Trish was unable to be present. As part of the service, the Archdeacon addressed the LPAs with the following words: "A Lay Pastoral Assistant is trained and authorised to engage in pastoral ministry on behalf of the local church, working as part of a team of clergy and laity. Each individual's ministry will vary according to their gifts and skills and according to the local situation. Some will be involved in visiting the sick or housebound in hospital or at home, others will exercise their ministry through supporting the bereaved or through visiting baptism families. In all cases, however, the ministry of an LPA calls

for a loving and compassionate heart and a willingness to listen to and support those in need."

After the service, we met for tea and cake and the chance to chat to other people doing similar work. It is always so interesting and useful to hear about pastoral work in other churches and to talk with like-minded people. Is this something you feel you would like to do? It is such a worthwhile and rewarding role and you could do as much or as little as you wanted. As the Archdeacon said, "Each individual's ministry will vary according to their gifts and skills". This is so true in the Minster. We need more LPAs to support the clergy in their pastoral work. You would receive all the training and support you need and you would not be working alone.

If you are interested in attending a training course, or if you would like more information, please contact me by phone: 07730941160 or by email: susanann44@btinternet.com. I am always happy to chat to you about this valuable and enjoyable work.

Sue Tipping

Modernising the Minster: Spring progress report

Our vision for the Minster is a centre for mission, traditional and modern worship, musical excellence, and community use, with imaginative interpretation of our faith and heritage. For that we need toilets, a Welcome Zone (glazed doors, safe and accessible entrance, servery, and shop) accessible Chapel of Remembrance & Reflection, more storage, central dais, Choir School and Music Library.

Those require (a) a Faculty granted by the Diocesan Chancellor on the advice of the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC), (b) Building Regulation consent for drainage or structural work, and (c) planning permission (PP) for any extension. Feasibility studies began in Autumn 2022. The Minster community gave broad support upon consultation in Spring 2023, but Dorset Council officers made it clear getting PP for an extension would be very difficult, if possible at all.

So, to achieve the most urgent needs without requiring PP we are focussing, as Phase1, on how to achieve toilets and the Welcome Zone.

Toilets in Trinity

'General use' toilets are urgent for mission and safeguarding, and use of the Minster as a music venue. The only readily available sewer connection is south-east of the Minster, so after DAC informal advice, and a very great deal of thought and consideration, we propose a "Toilet Pod" in Trinity (no longer used for worship). Whilst not ideal – there



is no ideal available – it should be soundproof and will be plumbed, drained, and ventilated via the existing heating duct. Reflecting the organ casing in appearance, it will be out of sight of the main body of the church, especially the nave and high altar, but easy to get to for parents with small children or those with mobility issues.

The Welcome Zone

Our entrance should be welcoming, safe, and accessible for everyone. But the main doors are dark, heavy, and difficult to open, and the steep steps are potentially hazardous and an obstacle to baby buggies or mobility devices. Thus we propose glazed main doors, shallower carpeted steps away from the doors, a carpeted ramp for buggies and mobility scooters, and push-button door operation. The old shop counter is important to the Minster's mission, acting as make-shift servery



for Minster Praise, Messy Church, concerts, and cream teas, with potential for more. But it is too small, with no plumbing or drainage. The shop is partly redundant, so we propose reducing it to enable a large "tea & cake" servery, plumbed and drained (but with no cooker, fridge or dishwasher).

Faculty Application

These toilet and Welcome Zone proposals were supported by the vast majority of the Minster community who responded to the Spring 2025 consultation, so the PCC resolved to apply for a Faculty. This involved further detailed design work and the completion of 30 drawings by our architects, Benjamin & Beauchamp, who specialise in old buildings, especially churches. The drawings were accompanied by 189 pages of documentation, half by the architects, and half by myself using my past experience as an architect, town planner and in conservation. The Faculty was submitted in October 2025. The DAC had queries about some details, so some minor changes were made to the appearance of the servery cupboard doors, and the carpeting, which will

be ribbed, and grey to match the stone floor. Formal consultation, which is a legal requirement, with organisation such as the Victorian Society, is taking place at the time of writing (mid March) and will conclude during April. Hopefully the DAC will then recommend the faculty application to the Chancellor, which means it then has to be advertised for 30 days before the Chancellor says "yes" or "no"! We are hoping that will be before the end of Summer.

Building Regulation Application

This was also submitted in 2025. We have been exploring ways of draining the servery sink that avoid excavating through the consecrated grounds, and extensive burials both inside and outside the Minster. At the time of writing (mid March) we are finalising the most practicable route, via a pump in the adjacent boiler room through a new internal drain to be laid in the existing central heating ducts which extend all the way to Trinity.

Finance and Construction

If Building Regulation consent is achieved, our architects will put the Phase 1 works out to competitive tender on our behalf. This will tell us if Phase 1 can be financed now out of funds currently held by the Minster and associated organisations, including the £16,000 raised by the Flower Festival for the steps and ramp. It will also indicate how long contractors expect to be on site – much of the work is high quality joinery which will be made in off-site workshops. If we are granted the Faculty for Phase 1, if we can fund that now, and if the on-site contract

period fits in, it is possible that work might be undertaken in Autumn 2026, but January – Easter 2027 might prove more likely.

Andrew Patrick,

Church Warden and Lay Worship Leader

Forest Garden News

The daffodils and primroses are open in the Forest Garden, with more flowers emerging in the raised beds. During the wettest weather, the group took refuge in the Minster, but it is lovely to be outside again.

As well as enjoying the space and toys, children have been making projects for Mothering Sunday and for Easter.



SEMLEY

AUCTIONEERS




Free Valuations Every Friday



8a West Borough, Wimborne BH21 1NF
 T: (01202) 842 900
 W: www.semleyauctioneers.com

Repairing the Beaufort Window

After the cleaning of the South Transept window during other repairs last year, attention turns to the Beaufort window in Trinity Chapel. This is opposite the tomb of John and Margaret Beaufort, parents of Lady Margaret Beaufort. This and two other windows in the Minster were installed in 1838-9, before the major restoration of 1855-57. (*The engraving below shows the Minster in 1838.*) They were made by Thomas



referring to the origin of the family name. Later, in 1848, Willement also provided heraldic windows for the Duke of Beaufort's chapel in Badminton House. The fine painted detail on the glass between the main motifs is quite worn, and unfortunately there is no way to restore it. The glass panes are also bowing inwards, and the proposed work is to add new ties

fastening the glass to the cross bars. Happily, the leading between the glass panes is probably fine for another 30 years! Subject to final approval from the diocese, Salisbury Cathedral's own stained glass experts will be carrying out the work needed.

to the cross bars. Happily, the leading between the glass panes is probably fine for another 30 years! Subject to final approval from the diocese, Salisbury Cathedral's own stained glass experts will be carrying out the work needed.

The Beaufort window features the arms of the Beaufort family on the left, the arms of the Beauchamps family on the right (for Margaret Beaufort, née Beauchamps, wife of John Beaufort), and in the middle, two chained portcullises.



Two daily media picks worth discovering

It is always interesting to come across resources that add a little depth to our reading and reflection during the week. I have recently stumbled upon two excellent online media alerts which others may also find worthwhile.

The first is a weekday email summary from the Church Times, the wellknown independent newspaper covering news, commentary and culture from across the Church of England and the wider Christian world.

On any given day the daily update might include discussion of church governance, a historical feature, or coverage of religious events and anniversaries. For example, recent items have ranged from discussion about proposed reforms to Church structures, to reflections marking the 800th anniversary of the canonisation of St William of York.

The email also points readers towards thoughtful book reviews and notices of forthcoming events. You can explore it at: www.churchtimes.co.uk. The second recommendation will particularly appeal to anyone with an interest in religious art. *The Visual Commentary on Scripture* (<https://thevcs.org>) produces a feature called *Bible and Art Daily*, which pairs biblical passages with works of art and thoughtful commentary. At present I have been following a series on "Trees of Life", and there was recently a fascinating set of reflections on doorways and thresholds in art and architecture. The essays are well researched, accessible and often open up fresh ways of seeing familiar biblical themes. If you enjoy thoughtful reading during the week, both of these resources are well worth exploring.

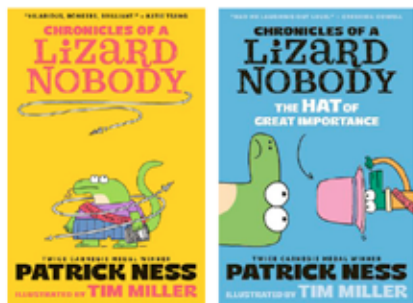
Andrew Kelley

Armonico Consort in concert with local schools

An audience of 200 gathered to hear the unaccompanied voices of the Armonico Consort, as they travelled through time from the music of St. Hildegard (11th century) to contemporary composers. The choirs of Allenbourn and St Michael's Schools had learned three pieces, and worked with the adult singers in two workshops before the concert. Rather than singing on their own, their parts were wound in with the adult voices. The Minster Choir also sang a piece from the baptistry. The Heads of both schools were at the concert, as well as their music teachers. Perhaps the Minster could become a venue for a Three Choirs' Festival in future?



Book Review: Chronicles of a Lizard Nobody and The Hat of Great Importance, by Patrick Ness (2025, 2026)



Patrick Ness is well known as an author of YA fiction (including the Chaos Walking trilogy), for which he has won a series of awards, and he has also written adult fiction. I was astonished and delighted to discover his new series for children aged 8+, which is full of a quirky humour that was only hinted at in some of his other fiction.

These are American school stories with a difference: all the characters are animals of different kinds. Zeke and his friends Daniel and Alicia, all three of them monitor lizards, are new to this school, and the Principal (a wombat) makes them hall monitors, to check that no one is out of lessons without permission – not, of course, just because they are monitor lizards. Unfortunately they run up against the school bully, the pelican Pelicarnassus, who then sets out to get revenge by wreaking wholesale destruction. Other students at the school include lions, who play (American) football, and the gentle pandas who hang out together under the playground slide. In the second book, Daniel decides

to wear a hat, which dismays Zeke because 'only the birds wear hats'. We see each story through Zeke's eyes. He is large, gentle and unsure of himself. At home he is coping with his mother's depression, described as a real 'black dog', although his friends' parents are kind and helpful. In school he learns to stand up for himself, but also to listen to and understand his friends better. Other issues are present in the stories, such as poverty and disabilities, but these aspects are part of a fastmoving funny story, that includes the country of France (which is on Zeke's knee – long story!), a would-be supervillain, and a blind hawk with a very loud voice. I couldn't pick out one favourite character from these books, but I loved the friendship between the three lizards, and how they get to know, like and respect Miel, the blind hawk.

The first book in the series is on the current shortlist for this year's Carnegie Awards, the most prestigious award for children's and YA books. Groups of students around the country will be discussing and enjoying it as part of shadowing the award. Like the best children's films, these books are full of subtle jokes for adults to enjoy, whether or not younger readers pause to notice them, and the line illustrations are lively and expressive. I look forward to future books in this series!

- Rosalind Jensen

April Crossword set by Bruce Jensen

ACROSS

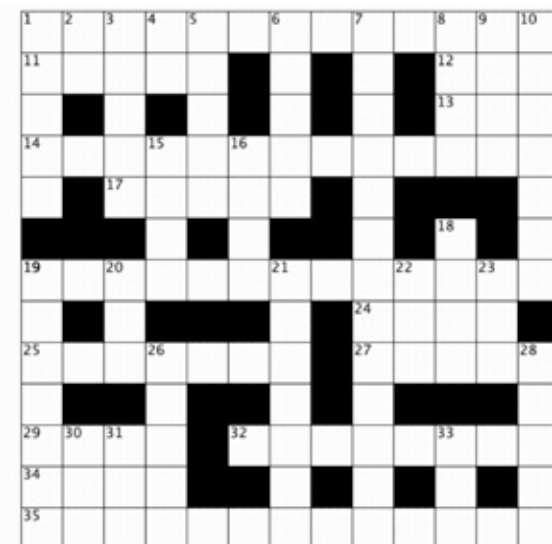
1. Adventure novel set in the world of rabbits (9,4)
11. 'Why did you jump off the roof?' – 'I did it for _ _' (1,4)
12. Birth name (3)
13. nil-nil or 2-2, for example (3)
14. What you need when the lamp cord won't reach the socket (9,4)
17. Slacked, loosened, relented (5)
19. Jack London's novel of a man and a dog (4,2,3,4)
24. 'Days of _' (olden times) (4)
25. Unceasingly (7)
27. Under, beneath (5)
29. Scottish film star McGregor (4)
32. Snakelike fish, which can bite (5,3)
34. Intense anger (4)
35. Famous film made from a fantasy book by LF Baum (3,6,2,2)

DOWN

1. The ocean's full of it (5)
2. Annoying spot on TV (2)
3. The sense associated with buds (5)
4. Famous hospital TV drama (2)
5. Pull back on these while shouting 'Whoa' (5)
6. To be this makes a hot day worse (5)
7. It has 88 black and white notes (5,8)
8. Why would you climb up _ the roof? (4)
9. A low dam to create a pool (4)
10. Provoked or annoyed (7)
15. The husband of a countess (4)
16. Worker tied to the land (4)
18. Female child (4)
19. Music show (7)

Solution to March crossword

DOCTOR ZHIVAGO
OWE R E M A T E R
UNLOCK S N E E D
B L H T H U G E
T E S T I F Y V O T E R
E E D R G O V
R Y A N S D A U G H T E R
O N E E B B
P U T T M O L E H I L L
E M O R E E A
P R E V E N T K N E L T
S O Y A E D E N E
I C E C O L D I N A L E X



20. It's short for Local Area Network (3)
21. Starchy pudding made from cassava roots (7)
22. 'For never was a story of more _ than this of Juliet and her Romeo' (3)
23. Mr DiCaprio, to his friends (3)
26. Tendon (5)
28. Triple-time dance, v. popular in Vienna (5)
30. (Repeated) cry of a baby (3)
31. Important number on a bio (3)
33. Santa's little helper (3)

DOUCH & SMALL

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

CREMATIONS • SIMPLE FUNERALS • CEMETERY BURIALS
WOODLAND BURIALS • GREEN FUNERALS • NON-RELIGIOUS SERVICES



TRUST

Trust us with
the details; spend
more time with
your thoughts

At times like these, with arrangements to be made – and where little details just add to your burden – it's good to have someone you can trust. Whichever way you want to say goodbye, you can rely on us to help you say it well.

DOUCHANDSMALL.CO.UK

OFFICE@DOUCHANDSMALL.CO.UK • 01202 882 936

7 LEIGH ROAD, WIMBORNE BH21 1AB

