



Parish Magazine
March 2026
No. 475

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(Cover photo: The crypt in February, photo by Ruth Marshall)

Dear Friends

Many of you will know of the sudden death of my daughter, Becky, just before Christmas 2025 in a car collision.

The manner of her passing was deeply shocking to myself and her siblings so it is with much gratitude that I can say that your prayers, cards and messages gave us great comfort; also our heavenly father has poured his love and grace upon us, giving to us his Peace for the now and much, much hope for the future.

With God's blessings to you all, and our heartfelt thanks.

Revd. Bill French



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

Wimborne Methodist Church and continue each Tuesday until 31st March. Come any time between 12.30 and 12.45pm 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).



Lent Study 2026. The diocese has recommended a course of reflections, 'Journeys and Resting Places'. You can find the resources online at <https://www.salisbury.anglican.org/whoweare/making-jesus-known-/journeys-and-resting-places/journeys-and-resting-places-lent-2026.php> , and some copies are available from the Rector. On our journey through Lent, we follow five physical journeys made by people in the Bible. The course is designed for both individuals and home groups. Home Groups and individuals are invited to follow this five session Lent Course.

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.



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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 April issue: **Thursday 19th March**

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 February

8th	Baptism of Henry Albert McMahon
9 th	Funeral of W Derrick (Dickie) Paget, aged 105 years
11th	Funeral of Sally Christine Arnold, aged 76 years
23rd	Funeral of Penny Sandra Taylor, aged 73 years
26th	Funeral of Anthony F R (Tony) Matthews, aged 88 years (at Woodland Burial Ground)

Dates for your diary – March

Sunday 1st, Second Sunday of Lent

12.30pm

Bring and Share Lunch (Church House)

Tuesday 3rd	10.30am – 12 noon	Forest Garden Toddler Group
Wednesday 4th	1pm – 1.30pm 4pm	Meditation Group (Minster Crypt) Prayer Circle (Church House)
Thursday 5th	9.30am – 11am 12.30pm 7.00pm	Two by Two Toddler Group (Church House Upstairs) OASIS lunch (Church House) Armonico Consort concert
Friday 6th, Women's World Day of Prayer	12 noon – 1pm	Lunch and Chat (Church House)

Sunday 8th, Third Sunday of Lent

Tuesday 10th	10.30am – 12 noon	Forest Garden Toddler Group
Wednesday 11th	1pm – 1.30pm 4pm	Meditation Group (Minster Crypt) Prayer Circle
Thursday 12th	9.30am – 11am	Two by Two Toddler Group (Church House Upstairs)
Friday 13th	10.30am – 12 noon 12 noon – 1pm	Home schooling Group (Forest Garden) Lunch and Chat (Church House)
Saturday 14th	10am – 4pm 10am – 12.30pm	Wedding Fair (Minster) Posy making for Mothering Sunday (Church House)

Sunday 15th, Fourth Sunday of Lent, Mothering Sunday

Monday 16th – Friday 20th	Between 10am and 4pm	Experience Easter (Minster)
Saturday 21st	7.30pm	Dorset County Orchestra concert

Sunday 22nd, Fifth Sunday in Lent, Passiontide begins

Tuesday 24th	10.30am – 12 noon	Forest Garden Toddler Group
Wednesday 25th	1pm – 1.30pm 4pm 7.15pm	Meditation Group (Minster Crypt) Prayer Circle PCC meeting (Minster)
Thursday 26th	9.30am – 11am	Two by Two Toddler Group (Church House Upstairs)
Friday 27th	10.30am – 12 noon 12 noon – 1pm	Home schooling Group (Forest Garden) Lunch and Chat (Church House)
Saturday 28th	7.30pm	Wimborne Choral Society concert

HOLY WEEK

Sunday 29th, 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 April

8.00pm

Compline by Candlelight

Maundy Thursday 2nd April

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

The Minster will be open on Bank Holiday Monday



We are again collecting donations to pay for **Real Easter Eggs**: with the rise in the cost of cocoa, each egg will cost £5.50 this year. As always, donations for eggs can be placed in envelopes labelled 'Easter Eggs' and put in the collection box. The Easter eggs will then be passed onto foodbanks and local families with information about Services at the Minster.



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

Prayer diary for March

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|---|
| 1 | Museum of East Dorset,
Walford Mill and Model
Town | 14 | The Friends of
Wimborne Minster |
| 2 | Our vergers, John,
Gerald and Elton | 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 | Our facilities manager,
Martin | 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 and all
children's groups |
| 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 |



On March 25th we mark the **Annunciation to the Virgin Mary**, the moment when the young girl Mary said 'Yes' to the great purposes of God, and became the mother of Jesus.

This painting by Antonello da Messina shows a Mary who has been interrupted from her reading and is listening intently to the angel's message. Unlike most depictions of this moment, Mary does not seem startled and afraid, but prepared to accept the extraordinary future in store for her. Because we don't see the angel, we can focus fully on Mary's own reaction and thoughts.



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Time for a spiritual spring clean

How is your Lent progressing?

It is a time which many associate with giving up something, such as alcohol or chocolate but do not get much further than that. Over the centuries fasting, prayer and self-denial have featured strongly. Perhaps you started off on Ash Wednesday by receiving ashes on your forehead. These ashes are traditionally made

by burning palm crosses from the previous year's Palm Sunday. Palm Sunday celebrates Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, so when the palm crosses are converted to ashes, we are reminded that suffering and pain on the way to crucifixion swiftly followed this triumph. It is also a reminder to us of our mortality and the fragility of life.

Lent is a time of preparation and reflection. Jesus spent forty days and nights in the desert as preparation for his work, fasting and praying.

Fasting is now rather fashionable, all with the purpose of cleansing the body of toxins and losing weight. Prayer and fasting focus the mind on God rather than on the material things of life, an opportunity for spiritual spring cleaning and a realigning of our priorities.

We get on the treadmill of life, some habits are good, others are not. Just as our homes need more than a quick dust, so do our lives. A deep clean can sometimes be painful but the outcome is always good.



The word 'Lent' means 'lengthening' and relates to the lengthening of the days as we move into Spring. The snowdrops are being followed by crocuses, hellebores, daffodils and narcissi, irises, the catkins are waving in the breeze. The lambs are being born, new life is stirring all around us.

There is more light and with light comes hope.

This year's Lent reflections from the Church of England are *Draw Near – Life giving habits for Lent* – they are available on the Everyday Faith App which can be downloaded. There is also a Lent challenge of *40 Acts for Families* with a wallchart to help keep track of progress. We are encouraged to give time, give encouragement, practise a generous way of living that helps build love, hope and joy in the communities we live in. As we journey towards Holy Week and Easter, make good habits, look around you and see what you can do for God and others.

Revd Heather Waldsax

Image: Laidbackgardener.blog

We are going to be demonstrating!

Would you believe it? Last year, the flue from Wimborne Minster's boiler room emitted 45 tonnes of CO²e into the atmosphere. That's the weight of about 45 small cars and is the waste produced by our church gas boiler. We know the weight because each year we enter our gas usage into the Church of England Carbon Footprint Tool and it calculates the number of tonnes of greenhouse gases (CO²e) produced by the burning gas. If we include gas used in Church House and our total electricity usage, Wimborne Minster emitted a whopping 60 tonnes of CO²e into the atmosphere last year and that amount hasn't changed much



over the last 4 years. You don't have to be a climate activist to know that this is contributing to climate breakdown which, in turn, is threatening the survival of species.

That's the bad news. But there is some good news too. In 2020 General Synod voted for the Church of England to achieve net zero carbon by 2030. The vote recognised that the global climate emergency is a crisis for God's creation and a fundamental injustice. The Church of England has provided webinars, energy audits and action plans to support and encourage churches along the pathway to net zero carbon. And now, it is targeting the 114 most polluting of its 6,000 or so churches. It has awarded them Stage 1 Demonstrator grants of £18,000, funded by the Church of England's Demonstrator Churches project, so they can get specialist advice and prepare a 'spade ready' project to reduce their carbon emissions. And Wimborne Minster has been awarded one of these grants! Good news indeed.

We shall be a 'Demonstrator Church', so called because a key aim of the scheme is that recipients share details of their journey to net zero and actively encourage similar churches. These can then benefit from the ideas, learning and experiences as they embark on their own journey. We want Wimborne Minster to be a welcoming and reasonably warm space, safeguarding the church's unique heritage and particular architectural features, while minimising its carbon emissions. Specialist advice will help us find a way to pull these sometimes conflicting priorities together and decide on a reasonably priced, low carbon heating system suitable for our particular building and grounds. To begin with, our new gas boiler may be part of a hybrid system until it is eventually phased out (a condition of the grant) when we approach net zero carbon. We'll keep you updated about progress.

To qualify for the larger £50,000 Stage 2 Demonstrator grant towards any capital works, we will need to find 50% matched funding. But for now, we're celebrating the award of our Stage 1 preparatory grant and the opportunity it gives us to become better stewards of God's creation and a helpful resource for other churches.



The Circle of Life at Salisbury Cathedral

A year-long project is approaching completion. To celebrate the 400th anniversary of their charter, the Worshipful Company of Upholders (i.e. 'Upholsterers') of London commissioned a new work of embroidery, shared between 12 cathedrals and a prison project (Fine Cell Work), and supported by the Royal School of Needlework.

The various sections show episodes from the company's history, with a goldwork image of each cathedral. In April the pieces will come together to form a 2.3m-diameter pall (formal coffin covering for a funeral). The completed work will be used by the Company, but will also tour the country to the participating cathedrals.

The embroidery style is Opus Anglicanum, a method which in the Middle Ages made England the leader in fine religious and secular embroidery; gold, silver and silk threads are stitched on velvet or wool to create complex images. The illustration here is of the Great Fire section stitched by St Paul's Cathedral.

At Salisbury Cathedral on Mondays in March you can see the 'Saintly Stitchers' at work on their panel, and add a stitch to their Visitors panel. Why not also take the tour of the Cathedral's own textiles? Details are on the Cathedral website.



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Rare Tudor Story Brought to Life in New Exhibition at the Museum of East Dorset



The Museum of East Dorset is currently hosting a fascinating temporary exhibition exploring the dramatic life and legacy of Gertrude Courtenay, a Tudor noblewoman whose story is closely intertwined with royal intrigue, political danger, and local history. Gertrude Courtenay, Countess of Devon and Marchioness of Exeter, lived at the heart of

Tudor power. Her husband, Henry Courtenay, was a cousin of King Henry VIII, yet remained loyal to Catholicism following the King's break with Rome. Gertrude herself became entangled in political suspicion and was imprisoned in the Tower of London after being associated with diplomatic correspondence critical of the King and potential marriage plots involving her son and the future queens Mary I and Elizabeth I. Despite being accused of treason, she was spared execution - possibly due to her close friendship with Catherine of Aragon and her daughter Mary. Ironically, she was also godmother to Elizabeth, daughter of Anne Boleyn.

In her later years, Gertrude lived in quiet internal exile at Canford Manor. Following her death in 1558, she was buried in a place of honour near the high altar of Wimborne Minster, opposite the Beaufort tomb. The reasons for her burial there, rather than at Canford, remain uncertain and continue to intrigue historians.

One of the exhibition's most remarkable elements centres on an extraordinary and macabre incident during restoration work at the Minster in 1838. When Gertrude's tomb was accidentally opened, her body was reportedly found in an exceptional state of preservation, with vivid red hair still intact. Contemporary accounts describe how curious townspeople gathered, and locks of her hair were briefly taken as souvenirs before most were returned. A surviving lock of Gertrude's hair eventually came into the possession of the museum and now forms the centrepiece of the exhibition.

This unique exhibition sheds new light on one of Dorset's most remarkable historical figures, connecting national Tudor history with the rich local heritage of Wimborne Minster. The exhibition is running until late April.

- Andrew Kelley

A big thank you to Vanessa Joseph, MED trustee who created the exhibition and Gordon Edgar, Head Guide at the Minster for his invaluable background information.

Minster Pancake Race, Tuesday 17th March

More than 130 runners in the Pancake Race enjoyed a bright crisp morning, and were supported by a keen crowd. Inside the Minster, children enjoyed pancakes and sweets, and as well as the generous local sponsors of prizes, this year we received extra support from French conserve brand Bonne Maman - well known for their iconic red gingham lids. There were plenty of delicious Bonne Maman mini jars to share with participants and some Bonne Maman lovely goody bags for race winners.



Joshua Dawson won the Toddlers race (£5 prize), then the fastest wheelchair team (5 entries) was Christopher Rolfe pushed by Stephen, from Streets Meadow, with a prize of a large bag wild bird food donated by Wimborne Pet Centre. 47 First School age runners ran several heats: winner Rex Tarbard received £20 donated by Dan from the Card Gallery. In the Middle School age

group of 25 runners, Thomas Ward was the winner, with a £20 prize donated by Maurice from Piccolo Mondo. Hollie Sawyer was the winner in the Upper School age group, receiving £20 from Bonne Maman.



The 31 runners in the adult section included a team from the Minster, and regular competitors from MJP Law and the Teachers Building Society, joined this year by two chefs from The Wimborne Pig. The final winner, and Pancake Champion 2026 was Stuart Faulkner (from Oxford, but was staying in Wimborne). He received the John Loader Memorial Trophy

from Kathy and Martyn Curtler presented by Kathy Curtler (which he holds for a year) and a colourful kitchen worktop saver and decorated jug from the Viewpoint/Dorset View Magazine presented by News Editor Marilyn Barber.



A huge thank you to the generous donors of prizes, to all the volunteers who make this event possible, from first aiders to marshals, to Mayor Jeff Hart and the Mayoress, and to Town Crier Chris Brown and his deputy Mel Gudger who started off the races. Donations for Minster funds raised £334.29, including a donation from Bonne Maman.



We look forward to next year's race, on 9th February. Save the date!

Photos by Gordon Edgar, Bruce Jensen



Belated Congratulations!



Congratulations to Ben Avery (back row, right) and Esther Davey (front row, left) for completing their first peal as Minster Ringers, on December 30th last year at Bradford Peverell. The band rang Plain Bob Triples in 2 hours and 56 minutes, during the Salisbury Guild of Ringers Peal Week.

You may know Esther as Head Chorister at the Minster, and Ben also sang in the choir for many years!

Obituary: Sally Christine Arnold (1949 –2026)

Born and raised on the Isle of Wight, the daughter of a shipwright, Sally spent 2 years in Newcastle before her family moved back south when she was 18. She met her husband Chris when they were both working at Seventy Systems in Hamworthy, and they were married in the Minster in 1972. Gemma was born in 1980; Sally was a stay-at-home mother in the daytime, but became involved in youth work in the evenings for many years, helping young people in areas such as Turlin Moor, Rossmore and Broadstone. She also became an RSPCA inspector, which led to many rescue animals finding a home with the Arnolds!

Over the years, Sally had a variety of daytime jobs ranging from working at Wimborne Hospital, Ferndown Health Centre, 999 Ambulance Control, Steele Raymond Solicitors and East Boro Housing Association. One of her proudest achievements during this time was becoming a Magistrate on the Poole Bench. She was asked to join because of her exceptional reputation of working in Youth Services, and maintained the role for many years.

In 2011 she had a major operation for a large brain tumour, which was successful. Following six months of determination and hard work, Sally returned to work at East Boro Housing, until retirement in 2015.

2013 saw Gemma's marriage to Sam, also in the Minster, and two years later Sally became a granny; grandson Hugo brought her immense joy. She was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2022, which progressed rapidly. We remember with gratitude Sally's work in the community, both paid and voluntary, and give thanks for her life.



Obituary: Dickie Paget (1920-2026)

Dickie was born in 1920 in Leicester, and won a place at Nottingham High School, where he acquired the nickname “Dickie”, and was in the rowing team.

He joined the Civil Service in London a few weeks before his 19th birthday, not long before war was declared, at which point he had to pack for an office move to an unknown destination – Bath, as it turned out. In his spare time there, he joined an amateur theatre group and met his wife Margaret,

who was singing in the chorus.

He married Margaret in December 1944 and they went on to have two daughters, Elizabeth (Libby) and Diana. Libby moved abroad about 55 years ago giving Dickie Canadian grandchildren Kim and Robyn and great grandson Daniel.

After a year in the Civil Service, Dickie joined the RAF as a wireless mechanic. He was stationed in India, in five different locations. Some of the time, he was lent by the RAF to the US army, as they didn't have signal staff. He was eventually sent home from India for extra training, but the war ended while he was in England. He remained on an airfield in Taunton (American run) until he was demobbed in 1946. After that he had to go back to very standard English rations! Meals in Madras were a choice between bully beef, salad or curry. Dickie said the cooks in Madras knew how to make a really good curry, and back in England Margaret made curry quite frequently.

During his time in India a colleague lent him a copy of a railway modelling magazine, which sparked his interest. He upgraded Diana's clockwork train to an electric one, mounting the tracks on board, creating a corner tunnel out of plaster of Paris, and adding a magnetic coupling and device. Dickie also made radios for his daughters, including the housing. Back in the Civil Service in London, he trained as an auditor at LSE; many years later he transferred to the Department of Health and Social Security as a financial administrator and attained the level of Assistant Secretary. He dealt with several Ministers, including Barbara Castle, and was heavily involved in the building of a Leeds hospital. He continued to be active in amateur theatre, acting, stage managing, directing and running the lighting – not all at the same time.

Dickie and Margaret moved to Wimborne in 1984 and he soon after joined the EM gauge society. The ‘Gang of Four’, Dickie, Andy Webb, the late Geoff Greenwood and late Ron Hersey, evolved the Flintcombe layout. This represents the end of a fictional spur running to the south

west from the Somerset and Dorset Joint Railway at Sturminster Newton.



Thomas Hardy's novel *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* provides the name and location, but the layout portrays the system as it might have been in the late 1930s when the S&DJR was being run jointly by the LMS and Southern Railways. [You can find film of the layout on Youtube – Ed.] Latterly, as his eyesight failed, Dickie couldn't model or run the layout, but still loved going to the

shows, as exhibitor or visitor. He said it was like an 'Old Boys Reunion', but he also felt that he could give history and technical advice to interested viewers. More recently, model railway friends continued to have some of their meetings at his house; he loved hearing about their engineering trials and still feeling involved.

He loved to bake his own bread, kneaded by hand no less, and to cook. Wednesday concerts by the BSO in Poole, and weekly Thursday visits from Andy, were a good excuse for pub lunches at White Hart and Green Man. He also loved poetry and could quote appropriate verses. When asked by his son-in-law whether his daughters were not allowed to talk as children, his – typical – response was to recite

*Father heard his children scream
So he threw them in the stream
Saying as he drowned the third
Children should be seen not heard.*

The family are especially grateful to Michelle and Wendy for their care for Dickie over the last 10 years.



Obituary: Tony Matthews (1938 – 2026)

The late Tony Matthews became a member of the Wimborne Minster Society of Church Bellringers in 1960, and continued to ring at the Minster until ill-health prevented him from climbing the stairs around the time that the bells were augmented to twelve in 2012. In his earlier years he acted as a server, and later as a steward for the Chained Library. He was one of the named 'Minster

Ringers' who rang for Sunday morning services – the 7th bell was Tony's bell, usually ringing touches of Grandsire Caters.

He was a cheerful, kind and warm person who was always interested in how other people were and what they were up to. In his working life he

was employed by the local council and involved with the Housing Association. When the council decided to extend the King Street parking charges to Sundays, the Minster ringers were horrified to receive parking fines on the very first Sunday morning. Tony was able to get them all rescinded. In 2007 he was awarded a Certificate of Merit by East Dorset District Council in their Community Service Awards scheme. Tony had also been an active member of the Wimborne Horticultural Society, holding several offices in that organisation.



Tony got very involved with ringing in the surrounding area, and rang in quarter peals at Wareham, Corfe Mullen, Blandford and Witchampton. But it was at Wimborne St. Giles and Cranborne where he made his mark most distinctly away from the Minster. He attended their practices on Mondays and rang for Sunday evening services and weddings, also joining their ringers on annual

tours. He was especially helpful when they had learners and his advice was based on many years' experience - always patient and kind and ready with helpful hints to improve. He could be heard to whistle for

attention if someone got lost in the method and instructed them where to go for the next stroke.

Tony was made an Honorary Life Member of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild for achieving 50 years' membership. He rang three full peals – the first at Witchampton in 1975 was a first peal for all six ringers. His second was a peal of Grandsire Triples at Cranborne, conducted by Laurie Turner, and his final peal was one of Plain Bob Triples at Wimborne St. Giles in 2002.

On January 18th, the Minster ringers rang a 1346 Yorkshire Surprise Maximus as a tribute to Tony.



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.

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Chained Library: Tanquam Explorator

This Latin phrase translates as “like a spy” or “as if an explorer”.

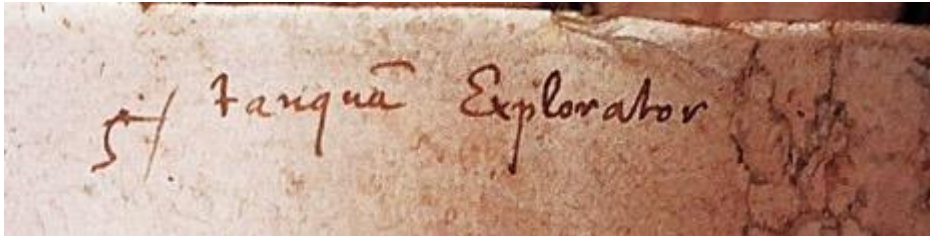
This was used by the influential playwright and poet Ben Jonson (1572-



1637) as a personal motto which he wrote on the top of books in his own library. It represents Jonson’s portrayal of his own intellectual approach, investigating, observing and gathering knowledge from a range of sources, which he would then use in his plays and other writings.

One of our books, *Opera of Saint Jerome*, ed Mariani Vol II Tomes V-VII, printed by the Nivellium press in Paris (1602), has just such writing on the top right corner of the frontispiece

page. This work was part of the bequest by the Reverend William Stone,



the founder of the Chained Library in 1686.

This inscription was found during our annual Spring

Clean, where members of the volunteer team take down all the books and wipe down the shelves, removing any dust that has accumulated over the year. We also thoroughly inspect a third of the books (on a rotational basis), so that we can look in case the condition of these books has deteriorated since their last inspection. We can then use some of the money we receive in donations to conserve these precious and historically valuable items; we are custodians, looking to preserve the books for another 400 years, for future generations to study, admire and be astonished by, just as we are now.

We leave you with this thought. Does this hand-written message, ‘tanquam explorator’, signify that this book was once owned by Ben Jonson himself before becoming part of the Reverend William Stone’s Library (in Oxford)? We know that Jonson had a significant personal collection of classical texts in Latin and Greek. We would like to think so ... how about you?

If you are interested in books and history, why not join our team of volunteers to share the Library’s story with visitors to the Minster? It’s a two-hour session per fortnight. Please contact

parishoffice@wimborneminster.org.uk for further information.

Mike Twomey, Senior Librarian

Image: Portrait of Jonson (1617): Wikipedia



Book Review: *Starter for Ten*, by David Nicholls (2003, Hodder & Stoughton)

David Nicholls' most recent novel, *You Are Here*, has again reached the top of the fiction lists and been transferred across to film. His first novel, *Starter for Ten*, rocketed him to the top of the best-selling fiction lists. I missed out on it at the time and decided to read it. If you enjoyed – as I certainly did – Kingsley Amis' *Lucky Jim* and David Lodge's series of campus

novels, you will certainly enjoy this. It is a funny, fast-moving view of student life in the 1980s. It also has some very thought-provoking undertones.

The plot hinges round the TV show *University Challenge*, masterminded at that time by Bamber Gascoigne. The 'hero' of the book, Bri, is a first generation student reading English Literature at an unnamed university. He is a first year student and a Kate Bush fan. His father died when he was thirteen and, unusually for their household, they watched *University Challenge* together, his father predicting his son would one day be on the programme, since he seemed to know all the answers.

Bri leaves his mates Spence and Tone behind to pursue their anti-social, layabout behaviour patterns and, for the first time in his life, at 19, encounters the 'posho' class. To his delight the Students' Union are advertising for members to join the university team to participate in the TV series and, against the odds, he is recruited: Patrick, a 'posho', is the captain, Alice, with whom he falls in love, is a 'posho' thespian and Lucy, an American Chinese who is reading medicine, is the great peacemaker. On the eve of the first broadcast round, Bri's world falls apart: his longtime mate Spence has a near-fatal car accident, his mother announces her re-marriage, and Alice is found to be unfaithful (again!). The consequences are catastrophic.

This is a brilliant comedy of love, class, growing up and the important difference between knowledge and wisdom. A good enjoyable light read.

- Beryl Balinas

Solution to February crossword



March Crossword

set by Bruce Jensen



1A. 1965 epic historical drama with Omar Sharif and Julie Christie (6,7)



25A. 1970 romance film starring Robert Mitchum and Sarah Miles. (5,8)



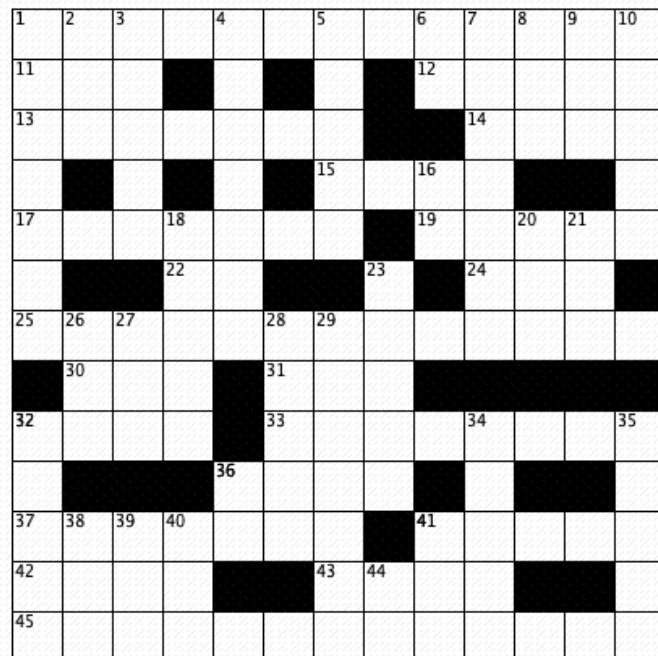
45A. 1958 war film set in the desert starring John Mills (3,4,2,4)

ACROSS

1. See photo
11. To be in debt (3)
12. Alma _ (Latin for 'soul mother') (5)
13. Uses the key (7)
14. Necessity (4)
15. Violent, aggressive person (4)
17. State under oath in court (7)
19. 'The best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average _.' -Churchill (5)
22. Short for Edward (2)
24. www._.uk (Govt website) (3)
25. See photo
30. The loneliest number (3)
31. Recede, like the tide (3)
32. Golfer's short shot (4)
33. Don't make a mountain out of it (8)
36. 'Less is _.' (dubious design principle) (4)
37. Keep (something) from happening (7)
41. 'Kneeled', old-style (5)
42. Non-dairy milk (4)
43. Adam's garden (4)
45. See photo

DOWN

1. Skeptic (7)
2. Better than to rent (3)
3. 30 trillion of these in the human body (5)
4. Exotic blooms (7)
5. Tangy flavour adjective, as from citrus peel (5)
6. '_ a little teapot, short and stout.' (2)
7. He famously painted sunflowers (3,4)
8. 'Don't bother, I already _' (3)
9. American exclamation, sometime followed by 'whiz' (3)
10. 'Clean the latrine', for example (5)



16. Ultraviolet (abbr) (2)
18. Main principle or belief (5)
20. Measure of the daily rum ration (3)
21. First lady (3)
23. Russian currency (5)
26. 'It's not _, it's me' (3)
27. Tiny worker (3)
28. One of the Devil's helpers (5)
29. Given up, scrubbed. 'The launch was _ mid-countdown.' (7)
32. Coke's competitor (5)
34. Reddish dye, for hair or body (5)
35. Stretchy, rubbery fabric for gloves (5)
36. 'It's not you, it's _' (2)
38. Giant mythical bird encountered by Sinbad (3)
39. 'Look me in the _ and say that!' (3)
40. Short for the holidays. 'What are you doing for summer _?' (3)
41. Barbie's man (3)
44. The King's first wife, Lady _ (2)

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