In October 2015, I had the opportunity to go to Marsabit with a fantastic group from Malvern Priory. The aims of the trip were primarily to do with construction work and education: to raise money to build a water tank and a classroom, to promote awareness of menstrual health and the dangers of FGM. Fortunately for me, the opportunity came at a time when I was preparing for a gap year, unsure how to make the most of my year before University.

The Marsabit team had an extraordinary amount of support from Malvern Priory in many different ways. We managed to raise funds to build an extra water tank and had enough to build the classroom using more substantial materials—inspiring the continued support of the classroom with potential plans for expansion into a school. A number of us helped to educate women about menstrual care so that fewer girls will lose out on an education due to poor sanitation. We strengthened our links with the Marsabit diocese—links which may give way to more opportunities for Priory mission work in the future.

From my individual perspective, the trip exposed me to an entirely foreign culture that I could not have experienced otherwise. It gave me the opportunity to help people whose freedom is restricted by their culture and climate, which in turn altered my perceptions of the world around me. The trip also conceived and nurtured relationships, bringing me closer to members of the church, some of whom I had known for years, others to whom I’d never had the chance to speak. It also allowed me to learn more about myself, my relationship with faith and God, as well as my mental and physical limits (how many opportunities do you get to mix concrete by hand in the middle of a desert?). The support from the Priory helped me to realise the power and strength of the Church as a community—the power of faith uniting us in the complex execution of a missionary project.

Among many other things, the mission work at Malvern Priory gives young Christians the opportunity to exercise and develop their faith. However, for many young people—particularly students—this can be financially unfeasible. In this case, Danni Farrier and I were fortunate to receive an anonymous donation towards the cost of the trip, but now a fixed fund exists, the “Young people doing Christian work fund.” I strongly encourage anyone of any age who is interested in becoming involved with mission work to go for it and exceed the comfort zone; and if you are a young person, I urge you to apply to the fund for support, initially contacting Hilary Babb, the Children and Youth Ministry Co-ordinator (01684 568342)

Freddie Wolff

“YOUNG PEOPLE DOING CHRISTIAN WORK FUND” – WHAT IS IT?

Freddie and David (Webster) at Marsabit
Dear friends,

The last few days have brought a distinct autumnal flavour to the mix: how quickly the year moves round—and Harvest celebrations have been and gone! October brings gathering darkness to the days, and we see the first Seasonal cards—oh help!—in the shops.

This month also sees the Priory Profile ratified and the first advertisements for our new incumbent going out. We will all, I am sure, be praying that God will bring the right person to us. The Priory is an exciting, challenging place and there is much to do, so it will need someone who is energetic and dynamic, and ready to take on all those challenges.

We hope that as you continue to enjoy your colourful magazine, you will continue to post articles and ideas to the magazine email address which now goes direct to Meryn, our compiler. Please also continue to pray for the team who are ‘keeping the pot boiling’ in the Priory, working hard to ensure the smooth running of the services and all the other activities, and to pray for our new vicar—whoever he or she may be!

Chris Shepherd

SUMMER REFLECTIONS

Throughout the summer, we were privileged to have our worship led by members of our so called “retired” clergy. I should like first of all to thank them, and assure them that they regularly sent me home with points to ponder.

Amongst those points was Colin’s echoing of God’s question to Elijah: “What are you doing here?” This question applies at any time in our earthly journey, but perhaps even more so when we have reached, as Tim Gunter put it, “the coming out after the tea interval” phase of our lives. It is entirely possible that we (I) cannot hurtle around at the speed we once did, or spend time on our feet arranging flowers, cleaning brass, welcoming, serving in the shop etc. So do we retire gracefully and put our feet up, or…?

Pondering the question, I decided that I am here to share God’s love. At about the same time, a debate ran in the Church Times on how we could as a church reach ‘the poor’. The first thing I queried was what was meant by ‘the poor’: the financially hard-up, or the spiritually starved? I suspect that our Priory church does not include people who really do not know where their next meal is coming from. Yet here in Malvern, there are such families and individuals: why else does the Food Bank flourish? As a church, we support Church Action on Poverty, give generously to the Food Bank and keep in touch with our friends in Wolverhampton as well as round the world: but do I personally CONNECT with the hungry? I’m not sure; so what am I doing here? The varied and stimulating teaching we receive in our worship feeds our spiritual hunger, and for that I am grateful… but what AM I doing here?

Well, you can’t see me at it, but I pray; and I know many of my contemporaries do too. Ask anyone who has requested prayer via the prayer vine or after the 10.30am service, and you will be made very aware of prayer’s power. Answers may take time, and are often unpredicted, but the feeling of being uplifted in prayer is almost tangible. So be grateful for everyone, active or less mobile, who are praying for us and for the world.

Which brings me to the point made by Tony Whalley in his service based around the verses from Romans 12 in which we are reminded that we are all one body; but just as each part of the physical body has a different role to play, so we each have a different role to play in the church. If I thought I was indispensable in flower arranging, our church building would not be as attractive as we love to see it. On the other hand I will lead intercessions if requested (or write for the Magazine…).

And when I feel that the problems of the world are so large I don’t know where to start my prayer, I try “Think global; act local.”

Elizabeth Dunnett

The European Union of Women, Severn Vale Branch, is hosting a presentation on Eleanor of Aquitaine at the Worcestershire Golf Club in Malvern on Wednesday, 1st November. Both women and men are welcome to attend.

Coffee will be served at 10.30am, followed by the presentation by Howard Robinson at 11:00am. Lunch will be at 12:15pm.

The cost of the event, including lunch, will be £15:00; the price for coffee and lecture only will be £8.00. To find out more or to register, please contact Margaret Renney on 01684 573249, or email mwrenney@btinternet.com

MALVERN ACTION GROUP invites you to a Chinese meal
at ST ANDREW’S CHURCH CENTRE, WR14 3JX
7.00pm on THURSDAY, 2nd NOVEMBER
£5 on the door

We are fundraising to provide training for new pastors and Bible teachers in China. Over one million new Christians are coming to faith in China every year.

This is exciting but it means that there is only one trained pastor for every 6,700 Christians!

Please donate now to provide quality Bible teaching to train new ministers today
BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE
A Remembrance Book is kept in St Anne’s Chapel where the names of loved ones who have been associated with Malvern and the Priory can be recorded. It is kept open at the current date and shows the people who have died on that day.
If you would like someone’s name included, please ask for an application form at the Parish Office and return it there once you have completed it. If you have any queries, please write to Roy Boyer, Hon. Secretary, C/o Parish Office, Church Street, Malvern, WR14 2AY, or email him at r.boyer@talktalk.net. There is no charge for this but a small donation to go towards the cost of maintaining the Remembrance Book is always appreciated.
If you would like to make a donation or bequest towards the work of the Friends, and the increasing cost of maintaining the fabric of our magnificent Priory, please contact Derek Valentine, Hon. Treasurer, at theforgeholdfast@aol.com

PRIORY AREA LINKS - OTHERWISE KNOWN AS PALs
I sometimes describe this as the Priory’s social network, but in practice it is much more than a social networking scheme. There are currently 34 PALs. They are all members of the congregation who are prepared to give up varying amounts of time to keep in touch with Priory folk who live near to them in Malvern. This ‘time’ can be used in various ways—it can be welcoming a newcomer to the Priory church family, it can be a visit to the housebound, an offer of practical help when required or passing on requests of help to the Pastoral Team who can then look for the appropriate solution. It can be a request for a prayer to go on the Prayer Vine and Sunday prayers or it could be a friendly invitation to join them for coffee. Recently PALs have delivered some of the Harvest posies. There are many, many ways that we can all try to support and encourage one another.
Being a big church with a large congregation is wonderful, but it also needs time behind the scenes if we are to help and care for one another and there are so many folk in the Priory who do just that. The retired clergy and lay ministry are not only keeping our services vibrant and running during the Transition, but also take Holy Communion to the housebound, keeping in touch with those who cannot get to church either permanently or temporarily after an illness. We are very thankful for all that they do. And, of course, the Priory staff who are in touch with many of you too.
However, returning to the PALs; you can see who they are by looking at the noticeboard in the South Aisle near to the clergy vestry. Do you know your PAL and does your PAL know you? If you don’t then please let me know. Keeping our records up to date is challenging and only as good as the information we receive, so it really is a combined effort.
A big thank you to all the PALs spread around the Malvern area; your time volunteering in this role is greatly appreciated and it is a fantastic part of the Priory’s ministry. May God continue to bless you in all you do.
Anne Eglington, PALs Coordinator
Would you like to join the Mothers’ Union (MU) at the Priory? We are around thirty members—a part of the Worcester Diocese within the worldwide MU which has over four million members! Members may be Christian women or men who are especially concerned with family life. We pray regularly together or at home. Our monthly MU Newsletter (following prayers at 10.00am in church on the first of the month) is available with the Missionary Newsletters in the Priory.

The name ‘Mothers' Union’ should perhaps have been changed years ago to something more 21st Century to describe those who can join? It is still MU at the request of most members. They are Christian mothers, in Africa and other places within the Anglican Church. Here at the Priory, we are closely linked to Marsabit, Northern Kenya where Alice leads the MU. St Mary’s, Pickersleigh is linked to a church in Morogoro, Tanzania. In these African churches, the MU is very active. We hope that a project from Worldwide MU will soon improve literacy skills in Marsabit where 80% of women cannot read! In Morogoro, a visiting priest told me of MU work to support widows.

We are active in Malvern too, in our daily working lives, our family lives and the life of the church and community. Our presentation at Lunch Box on Thursday, 26th October will be about our projects here and worldwide. On Sunday, 22nd October, our MU Worcester President, Liz Green, will be present at the morning service when we hope several new members will join MU. Further information can be had from Jill Crofton (01886 833376) or Dorothy Knights (01684 561358).

Dorothy Knights
WHOS WHO IN THE PRIORY

MEET THE CASKIES

Andrew, Rebecca, Samuel and Nathan Caskie moved to Worcestershire last year and have swiftly become invaluable members of our community.

When did you come to Malvern and why? We moved as a family to Worcester in May last year from Scotland. Andrew made a career change from engineering in taking up a new role as Assistant Managing Director of Malvern-based pipe organ builders, Nicholson & Co—a big change for all of us, and an exciting new start. Rebecca has since taken a job as Team Administrator for the Worcester South East team of churches.

How did you meet? We share a history of having lived and worked in West Cumbria for the early part of our careers following graduation, but not at the same time! We met on one occasion when Rebecca—at that time having moved on from West Cumbria to Edinburgh—was visiting friends in the Lake District, and crossed paths with Andrew who had just moved to the area from Edinburgh! With our shared interests in singing, making music and involvement in church life, many mutual connections unfolded between us within these relatively small worlds. Being a Scot, the draw to then join Rebecca and return to Edinburgh was too hard to resist for Andrew! This is where we started married life and our two boys arrived, Samuel (10yrs) and Nathan (8yrs).

Why the Priory? We have both been involved in a number of different types of churches over the years so wanted to be open to finding the right place to which God would have us belong. Although some aspects of the Priory have been quite new to us, we felt we could find a place to both ‘fit’ and hopefully also be of some use. We were drawn to the sincere, dignified and heartfelt approach to worshipping God and also appreciate the range of musical styles used. We have been encouraged by the examples of so many in the Priory who clearly wish to serve the Lord, seek His will through the Bible and for it to transform our lives. We are grateful for the welcome we have received from so many.

How would you describe your relationship with God? We both feel very conscious (though often after the event!) of God’s guiding hand throughout life and how each experience has moulded and shaped the next. We thank God for His goodness to us despite our inadequacies, and are keen to discover His purposes for us as a family in this new phase of our lives.

Have you a favourite scripture? Rebecca: One of my favourite scriptures has always been from Jeremiah 29.11 "For I know the plans I have for you... plans to give you hope and a future." It’s a great promise of assurance that He is always there and has a purpose for us, in good times and bad. Andrew: Psalm 84:1 "How lovely is Your dwelling-place”—an uplifting reminder to keep an eternal perspective.

And a favourite hymn? Rebecca: O how the grace of God amazes me—E T Sibomana. Andrew: When peace like a river—Horatio Spafford. Samuel: Anything with a good beat! Nathan: Bless the Lord, O my soul (10,000 reasons)—Matt Redman.


Have you any hobbies? Rebecca: Singing soprano with the Elgar Chorale and baking. Andrew: Reading, listening to music, and the odd bit of DIY. Samuel: Learning the piano and trombone, playing with Worcester City Brass Band, reading. Nathan: Learning the piano and making things.

Hopes and desires? Rebecca: To continue to settle here at church and in Worcestershire, building good friendships and foundations for our family life. Andrew: To see the bottom of my in-tray, and one day to cycle from Land’s End to John O’Groats (LEJOG). Samuel: To memorise Pi to 100 decimal places, and to do LEJOG with Dad. Nathan: To own a Bugatti Chiron, and to do LEJOG with Dad before he gets too old.

And your roles in the Priory? Andrew sings bass in the Priory Singers at evening service on Sundays, plays the piano for The Gathering and occasionally for the Praise Group, and plays the organ for services regularly. Rebecca sings with the Praise Group. Samuel has joined the orchestra and both boys enjoy Explorers.
Lesotho is a mountain kingdom in the middle of South Africa about the size of Wales and Cornwall combined but with a fraction of the population. It is very poor due mainly to the climate—only one rainy season each year—and the altitude. It used to be called Basutoland and was designated a Crown Colony in 1884 at a time when the Afrikaners were moving north into Natal and towards Zululand. It provided considerable support for the Allied cause in both World Wars and gained its independence in 1966.

It first appeared in the papers in 2006 when Prince Harry and Prince Seeiso of Lesotho jointly co-founded Sentebale [Forget-me-Not], a charity set up to ensure the most vulnerable children in Lesotho get the support they need to lead healthy and productive lives. The charity Send a Cow was set up by a group of Christian dairy farmers from the UK almost 30 years ago. Outraged at EU milk quotas, which were forcing them to slaughter healthy dairy cows, and in response to an appeal from Uganda for milk, they embarked on a project which was set to become an innovative and practical charity. Uganda was just emerging from a long civil war, communities and their farmland had been destroyed and much of the country's livestock wiped out. Several of the UK farmers flew to Africa to investigate how they could help and subsequently flew out almost 300 in-calf dairy heifers to provide a long-term hand up, with the milk arriving 'in the cow'.

Mary Stafford came to the Priory on Thursday, 14th September to talk about the charity for which she is a volunteer and her personal experiences in visiting a number of African countries on self-funded trips to meet the local people and monitor progress. Although the charity was started in Uganda, it is now offering its support across much of East Africa including Ethiopia, Rwanda, Kenya and Zambia, and at the same time that Sentebale was being established, moved into Lesotho. The needs of the people in each country are different and, in the case of Lesotho, it was clear that importing cows was not appropriate to the climate and terrain are not conducive to supporting cows—the principal livestock being sheep and goats. Parts of Lesotho are now dotted with keyhole gardens—the pioneering vegetable-growing method that the charity introduced to Lesotho. These gardens produce food throughout the extreme heat of summer and cold of winter so families can eat better and earn an income. Sustainable farming is the priority in the country. They also provide some poultry, rabbits and goats. Milk from dairy goats is considered particularly beneficial for those with HIV/AIDS—around a quarter of Lesotho’s adult population.

Lesotho faces the environmental challenge of regular rains and hailstorms, which can wash the country’s fragile soils down hillsides in hours. Send a Cow combats this by providing hail nets to protect vegetable gardens, by terracing sloping land, and by planting trees—the roots of which bind soil together.

Send a Cow has an established presence in its target countries to provide local and long-term support; many other charities are merely project-based and leave the country at the end of the project. A collection was taken at the end of Mary’s talk and the proceeds will be sent to Send a Cow.

The next Lunch Box will be on Thursday 28th September starting at 1.00pm. Geoff Fearnehough will be talking about ‘the Building of the Severn Railway Tunnel and its Challenges in the Nineteenth Century. Refreshments will be available from 12.30. Bring your own lunch; all are welcome.

Roger Sutton

BUYING CHRISTIAN BOOKS

Do we buy or order books at the Lyttelton Well, or are we lazy and order on-line with one click from the giant Amazon? This is a plea to support our local Christian bookshop, on our doorstep. We are really blessed to have this shop in Malvern, where we can browse, enquire, and purchase Christian books. If books are not available in the shop they will always order for you, and deliver in a short space of time—at a competitive price. All Christian books, Bible reading aids, teaching materials, DVDs and CDs, and larger orders for church use, can be bought through the Well. Shop locally! Support the Lyttelton Well!

Rosemary Webster
PASSCHENDAELF REMEMBERED

A one day event to commemorate the centenary of the end of the battle of Passchendaele which cost the lives of around 500,000 soldiers from both sides including several hundred men from Worcestershire.

Saturday 4th November 2017 10.00am–3.30pm
St Helen’s Church, Fish St, Worcester
Entry is free for this event.

Read the stories, listen to short talks relating to 1917, listen to readings of original letters home from the soldiers and nurses at the front, visit the various stands and exhibitions.
A rare chance to see inside the ancient church of St Helen’s, believed to be the oldest site of Christian worship in the city.
Light refreshments available in support of Worcester Foodbank.

For further information contact:
Sandra Taylor, tommy@remem berthefallen.co.uk

MALVERN PRIORY ORGAN RECITALS 2017
Saturday, 28 October, 12.00 noon

Peter King
(Organist Emeritus, Bath Abbey)

Peter King’s recital will be a highlight of Priory recitals. He is an eminent organist of international fame who has given recitals in major venues all over Europe and also in the USA including the opening recitals of the organs of Symphony Hall, Birmingham and Bilbao. He was organist on Sir Simon Rattle’s CDs of Mahler’s 2nd and 8th Symphonies. His Malvern programme includes works by Mendelssohn, Liszt, Stanford and Whitlock.

“a virtuoso of world class…plays with such élan and passion” - Chris de Souza
“life-affirming playing” - BBC Music Magazine

Look out for his full programme in publicity material and on the website: www.malvernprioryorgan.org.uk

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A LETTER FROM NIKKI GROARKE, ARCHDEACON OF DUDLEY

Have you ever had a moment when something from the Bible you know to be true, takes on a much deeper meaning, or impacts you at a deeper level? This happened to me when I was privileged to attend a service in St Stephen’s, Redditch celebrating the lives of transplant recipients, organ donors and their families.

‘Gifts Beyond Price’ was the brainchild of Elaine Whitfield, a relatively new member of the church, and she planned the most beautiful and moving event, attended, to her surprise, by people from all over the country. Elaine’s father, Arthur, died in 2016. For the last 25 years of his life, his blood was pumped around his body by a donor heart—he had benefitted from a transplant which had saved his life, and given him many more years than anticipated. It was this that Elaine wanted to express her thankfulness for, both to donor families, and to God.

In a profound symbolic act as part of the service, Natasha, recipient 16 years ago of a donated heart and lungs when in her early twenties and close to death, lit eight candles, representing the lives one donor can save. Wendy, the mother of Jack, who died in a tragic accident last year and whose organs were donated, then extinguished a large central candle, amidst hugs and tears, after speaking movingly to each other as representatives of each group, giving thanks for the lives involved. The Lead Retrieval Surgeon & Transplant Specialist from the QE hospital articulated some of the challenging dilemmas involved for his team, and both the joys, sorrows and weighty responsibility he experiences in making time-sensitive decisions about life and death amidst tragedy. As a Muslim, he spoke powerfully about our shared humanity. The Reverend Paul Lawlor picked this up in his address too. Never have Jesus’ words in John 15 had such resonance: “There is no greater love than this, that someone should lay down their life for their friends.”

Jesus, in a sense, donated his life, that we might live life in all its fullness forever. After the service, talking with many who had received the gift of new life through the gift of a friend, or the death of a stranger, the love of God for each person he has made impacted me afresh. God so loved the world that he gave his Son…

I resolved that day to live my life more fully, more gratefully, more aware of what it cost. I also spoke to my family making clear that should they ever be put in that awful place of decision, my bodily organs should, if possible, be used to bring life to others, as my life with God will continue into eternity—because Jesus laid down his life and lives in me.

Nikki Groarke
QUIET THANKSGIVING

Our annual Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance provides an opportunity for us all to remember our family members and friends who have died, whether recently or some time ago. It is a time for quiet reflection. The names of those who have died in the past year will be read out, and those who wish may light a candle in remembrance.

This year’s Service is being held on Saturday, 28th October at 3.00pm. We hope this day and time will make it easier for those who come by bus, and those who wish to be home before dark, to join us. We shall also invite everyone present to join us for a cup of tea and cake afterwards.

The Service will consist of music, hymns, prayers and a short address from Bishop Michael Hooper. The Book of Remembrance, usually kept in St Anne’s Chapel, will be on the altar throughout the Service. Please come, with your family and friends, to join us for this special time.

Elizabeth Dunnett, on behalf of the Priory Bereavement Support Group

REMEMBRANCE PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR US ALL TO REMEMBER OUR FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS WHO HAVE DIED, WHETHER RECENTLY OR SOME TIME AGO. IT IS A TIME FOR QUIET REFLECTION. THE NAMES OF THOSE WHO HAVE DIED IN THE PAST YEAR WILL BE READ OUT, AND THOSE WHO WISH MAY LIGHT A CANDLE IN REMEMBRANCE.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

AN ARCHANGEL REQUIRED…

Idly perusing the Parish Profile recently, and looking at the list of desirable traits in anyone applying to become our new incumbent, I was reminded of the time someone grumbled of such Desiderata, ‘Only the Archangel Gabriel need apply.’ Of course in my time we’ve had some really wonderful incumbents; I particularly recall the graciousness and charm of our recently lost Julian Charley, (and our hearts go out to Claire and the family) and the steadfast inspiring ministry of the Barrs; and they did indeed manage to fulfil a lot of those criteria. And yet I thank God that He does not have such a list before He decides to love us.

Admittedly no-one puts up an ad for a post saying, ‘the applicant is allowed to have quite a few failings— it’s perfectly OK to be irritable on occasions—we’re not looking for perfection, just for someone who can do some of the job reasonably well…’ Or at least I’ve never seen it! I’ve gone for jobs—and got some of them!—where the list of what the successful applicant is required to do goes on for pages and would presumably, if fulfilled, take 24 hours a day and preclude any private life! In the end, job applications are filled by people who don’t, probably, tick all the boxes, but tick an adequate number, and still remain human and therefore not perfect.

Luckily God does not peruse us so carefully. We all get through and are loved unreservedly by our Creator and Father. He is not an employer, but a parent. I love that saying, ‘Home is where, when you HAVE to go there, they HAVE to take you in.’ How much more does God long to take us in however inadequate we may be, however numerous our failings.

The Church has had a culture, partly to do with its desire to keep a grip on power, which likes to impose rules—IF you are good, THEN God will love you. This is dangerous because it has kept people away from God. Richard Rohr, in one of his recent daily meditations, said: “For the sake of our own job security, the priestly message is often: You can only come to God through us, by doing the right rituals, obeying the rules, and believing the right doctrines. This is like telling God who God is allowed to love!” Father Rohr is very critical of what he calls ‘the priestly class’, because he wants people to be liberated. “We get trapped in chains of guilt and low self-esteem, focusing on our imperfect church attendance and inability to live up to the law’s standard. As if the goal of religion is ‘attendance’ at an occasional ritual instead of constant participation in an Eternal Mystery!” Leaders need to emphasise “… God’s unconditional and unmerited love in response to our shortcomings. God is always breaking the approved ‘rules of God’ by forgiving sinners, choosing the outsider or the weak, showing up in secular places.” He continues: “Our job is to love others the way God has loved us. In my life, I’ve experienced God’s unearned love again and again. God has persistently broken the rules to love me at the level I needed, could receive, and was able to understand throughout my life. The magnanimous nature of divine love keeps liberating me at deeper levels where I’m still entrapped.” Richard Rohr is a contemplative and as such exercising his faith using meditation: but we all need this same message. God didn’t make us perfect, and He loves us. BECAUSE He loves us, we will be good, not SO THAT…

Chris Shepherd

TREE OF LIGHT

The Malvern Rotary Club’s Tree of Light is a popular symbol for people to remember relatives and friends no longer with us whilst at the same time giving support to charity. For an application form, please contact: Greville Megson, 16 College Grove, Malvern, WR14 3HP or print one from the Malvern Rotary Club website — www.allaboutmalvernhills.com/malvern_rotary_club
BOOK REVIEWS

“The Night the Angels Came” by Chrissie Chapman
Published by Monarch ISBN 978 0 85721 722 6

A remarkable, challenging and inspiring book about Chrissie, who went to Burundi in 1990 to open a maternity unit. She wasn’t expecting to stay more than a couple of years. 25 years later, and still in Burundi, she recounts her remarkable experiences of God’s guidance and provision during years of civil war, when most expatriates left. She was led to work with orphaned children caught up in the crisis, and she opened a home for abandoned and orphaned babies. Some died from starvation or HIV; but many have grown up into professionals and artisans now serving their country.

Her story reminds us that God really does more than we can ever imagine. Ephesians 3:20 “Now to Him Who is able to do immeasurably more than we can either ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us…” Chrissie’s story is inspiring and reminds us that, with God in control, protecting and providing, nothing is impossible, if in line with His will.

Rosemary Webster

“The Heart’s Time: A Poem a Day for Lent and Easter” by Janet Morley
SPCK Publishing ISBN 978 0 28106 372 7

Poetry, on account of its initial apparent inaccessibility, does not appeal to everyone but this book of meditations on a thoughtful selection of 46 poems is one which opens doors in perception. Each week from Ash Wednesday through to the Saturday after Easter (Sundays excepted) six poems are presented within a chosen theme. These themes focus on personal issues in the Christian Life, eg loneliness; struggle; being at home with our selves; facing suffering and death. Janet Morley is skilful in drawing out the meaning within the poems she has chosen having first shown the reader how to understand poetry for themselves. In her excellent introduction which is full of extractable quotes she writes: “many Christian writers have found that writing poetry is a profound way to engage in prayer…” She observes how poetry, as opposed to liturgy, is able to explore “irony, doubt, humour and idiosyncratic perspectives…” and “investigate just one part of truth.”

Every poem with its accompanying analysis and meditation is followed by a brief challenge to engage a relevant response. I was ‘hooked’ from the very first by her comments on R S Thomas’ poem “The Bright Field’ where she observes, among other things, how we often fail to “stop and notice the present moment with its right blessing…” as, reaching for the future, we find “it recedes as each moment becomes that present in which … we may miss the open opportunity. And the past … tends to become a closed selective conversation about which we can feel nostalgic—’hankering for its imagined simplicity.’” Other poets, together with some much lesser-know names, include Milton, Robert Frost, Seamus Heaney, Elizabeth Jennings, Rowan Williams and George Herbert.

I particularly related to Janet Morley’s suggestions that the book be used as the foundation for a weekly Lent discussion group in the certain knowledge that additional insights would be forthcoming from this kind of sharing as participants talked about those poems which had appealed or spoken to them. I thoroughly recommend The Heart’s Time—a serendipitous pleasure and challenge—a book to keep and enjoy again.

Sue Appleby

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**ST LUKE'S FEAST DAY**

On Wednesday, 18th October, the church keeps the Feast of St Luke, patron saint of doctors. In the Diocese we are inviting people to observe this as a day of prayer for this country, compared to many places in the world. We give thanks for all those who have dedicated themselves to serving the health and well-being of others, not only as front-line medical and care staff, but also those who provide administrative and support services in our hospitals and medical practices.

We pray for all those who are stressed and burdened by the ever-growing demand on the resources of the health service, and the responsibilities they carry on behalf of society. We pray also for those who face hard new decisions of life and death which are made possible only by advances in technology.

We give thanks also for the many dedicated people from other countries who come and serve in the NHS, and pray that our needs may not simply drain resources from less wealthy and privileged nations. We pray for a church which bears witness to a vision of health and wholeness for all in society.

On Saturday, 4th November, the Festival of Healing will take place in Worcester Cathedral, which is a further opportunity to pray for specific needs for healing.

Sam Setchell, Diocesan Communications Officer

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**GREAT MALVERN PRIORY WEBSITE**

www.greatmalvernpriory.org.uk

Webmaster: webmaster@greatmalvernpriory.org.uk

For information on services, events, outreach, people, history and much more. Members’ section gives access to the notice sheet and other information not publicly available. Register or Login to access (link at top of all pages except the Home page).

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**PRIORY PARISH OFFICE**

Church Street, Malvern WR14 2AY

Church Secretary: Mary Weatherill

Tel: (01684) 561020 (answerphone)

Email: office@greatmalvernpriory.org.uk

Open to Public:

Monday 11:00am-12:00 noon;
Tuesday 10:00am-12:00 noon;
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 9:30am-1:00pm

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**LYTTELTON WELL**

(Christian Centre at entrance to Priory)

Tel: 01684 573702

E-mail: office.info@lytteltonwell.co.uk

Enquiries about Priory bookings of the Lyytelton Rooms should be made at the Priory Parish Office (see contact details)

The Well Counselling

Tel: 01684 563456

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**NEXT PRIORY SUNDAY LUNCH - 15TH OCTOBER**

Do come and join us at the Foley Arms from 12.30pm in the downstairs room. Please give your name to Sue Pain (01684 564998 or sue@thepains.org) or Anne Eglinton (01684 567640 or anne.eglinton@hotmail.com). There is a varied menu at all prices to suit everyone and it is a great way to get to know one another in a relaxed atmosphere.

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**MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS**

Please send all contributions for the magazine by email whenever possible to mag@greatmalvernpriory.org.uk with the deadline of the 10th of the previous month at the latest. Written articles should be clearly marked “Magazine” and placed in the “M” pigeonhole at the back of the Priory. The deadline for these is the 8th of the previous month. Contributions should be limited to a maximum of 500 words and, where accompanied by relevant photographs, reduced accordingly. Where photographs of young people are provided, please confirm that parental permission has been obtained to publish in this magazine. Articles will also be considered for inclusion on the Priory web site - if for any reason this is not acceptable, please mention when submitting articles. Some photographs, especially of young people, may not be published on the web pages.

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Malvern Goldsmiths

Three years ago whilst walking in Malvern, I first saw the old pharmacy shop here on Belle Vue, first opening around 1849, as soon as I saw it I knew it would make a beautiful Jewellers. I went into the shop to see if they intended to stay there. They took my details and promised to contact me should they consider closing their business, at that time the shop was called Kellett.

Unfortunately, because of a partner's death their business was closed last year. I have been in the jewellery business for 54 years, having first served a retail jewellers apprenticeship at W.A. Perry in Birmingham. For the past 25 years I have had Quarter Jewellery in the Shambles in Worcester. Having been trained in an old-fashioned jewellers I have always endeavoured to offer the range and quality service of the past. Almost as a duty I have tried to match the new shop fittings to the old, as well as restoring the old where possible.

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