

From the Vicarage

Summer Recess – Shifting Sands or Solid Rock?

Dear Friends,

Given the scandal of MPs' expenses that has come to light over recent months, there must be quite a few Members of Parliament who are longing for the summer recess! Normally this would provide MPs with an opportunity to take some time out, to get away from the spotlight on Westminster. This year many will doubtless be reflecting on what has gone so badly wrong, and considering what steps are needed to rebuild trust in the body politic.

However the current crisis is not just a political one about our MPs and their expenses. It is part of a much wider and deeper crisis, one that goes to the very heart of our society. We are facing a moral crisis, one which is manifesting itself in various ways – ways which have economic, social, and spiritual, as well as political, dimensions.

For example, it is surely no coincidence that money lies at the heart of some of the most recent scandals affecting the worlds of banking and politics. Selfishness and greed do seem to be deeply embedded in human nature, and we're all affected in some way or another. Perhaps we shouldn't be surprised. For, as St. Paul once reminded Timothy: "The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil" (1 Timothy 6: 10).

The current crisis we face reveals much about the moral climate of Britain today. It is one that should give everyone cause for concern. And Christians are certainly not immune, nor are we able to sit on some lofty moral self-righteous perch. For the Church, too, finds itself struggling under growing secular pressure (even persecution) from without, and facing potentially schismatic conflict (e.g. over sexuality) from within.

There is need for a renewed moral vision – one that we can share, and live by. For many centuries, this nation has had such a vision, rooted and grounded in the teaching of Jesus Christ. Perhaps it is because our society has increasingly ignored or rejected this Christ shaped vision, that we now find ourselves in such a desolate and messy moral wasteland. Yet there is still hope. Hope rooted and grounded in what God has already done for us in Jesus, and continues to do by His Spirit. For as we look to Jesus, and trust in Him for our moral compass, so we come to see life in its true perspective, and we discover what is of lasting worth. In the midst of the shifting sands of our anxious and uncertain times, Jesus invites us to build our lives – and the life of our nation and world – on the solid rock that He alone provides.

Yours in Christ,

John Barr, Vicar

Question of the month

What is the history of the brass eagle lectern?

Until the late 1800's the Priory lectern was of carved wood, quite ornate. The present brass eagle lectern was given to commemorate Lt. General Eardley Wilmot, who died in 1877 (his name is inscribed around the boss of the lectern). The wooden lectern was given away in 1910 to the church of St. Michael at Churchill in Oswaldslow, near Worcester, where it can still be seen. It would be interesting to know how much the brass lectern weighs – not something that could easily be carried away by thieves, although it has happened in other churches.

Why are lecterns so often designed in the shape of an eagle? The simple answer would be that the eagle symbolises the carrying of the Word to the ends of the earth. But of course nothing is ever simple. The symbolism is derived from the description, in Revelation 4:6, of the four living creatures around the throne of God. The creatures are thought to represent the four Gospel writers, and since



Irenaeus in the second century the eagle has been associated with St. John. He is the Gospel writer who spoke of the Word who was with God and was God, and who became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:1, 14). William Barclay suggests that John, of all the New Testament writers, was the one who had an eagle-like gaze into the eternal truths of God, revealed in His Word. Whatever the theory, to me the brass eagle, carrying on its wings the Word of God, reminds me of the penetrating insight of Scripture, its soaring beauty, and its power.

(Thanks to Michael Martin for the information about the old wooden lectern and for the photo of it)

David Webster

Priory People

Mary Dixey

There is no name associated with this Parish Magazine like that of Mary Dixey. In the 1960s Canon Ronald Lunt asked Mary to be first Editor of the new magazine and she continued in that task for over 30 years. It was with sadness that her many friends learnt of her death early on Trinity Sunday, June 7th at the age of 80 years.

Mary Dixey was so much part of Malvern. Her mother was of the Perrins family. Her education was at Lawnside School, of which she was Hon. Secretary of the Old Girls Association from 1978 to the present. Mary taught at Lawnside but most of her long teaching career was at North Malvern School, Infants' Department. Generations of children have had their early learning at her feet. Mary maintained correspondence with many Malvern exiles, a great letter writer and keeper-in-touch, archivist and home-finder for friends' cats and hedgehogs.

Mary has worshipped at the Priory Church all her adult life. She had a strong love of, and preference for, traditional Anglican worship. She also loved peaceful, quiet moments in the Priory and was refreshed by silence.

However the list of her activities is long:- founder of the Priory Bookstall c1978, Christmas Card re-treader, Christmas Crib and Easter Garden creator (after Joyce Austin), founder and host of Meeting Point, major contributor to 900th celebrations, great supporter of the Choir and Bell Tower, Writer and Producer of the New World Players (c1943 - c2000!). No doubt readers will add to that summary.

Whilst conservative by instinct, Mary had great human understanding, compassion and a generosity of spirit. She has also been one of the foremost Priory benefactors principally by her personal generosity, but also by her life-long fund raising schemes.

Mary Dixey has been a somewhat shy but strong presence amongst us for many years. She will be missed very much by her many friends. May she rest in peace.

Bill Richards

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August Evening Walks

The Welcome Group invite you to join us for a walk on the Wednesday evenings in August. These will be walks suitable for all ages and abilities lasting 1 – 1.5 hours and we usually end up at a suitable place to enjoy a drink together. We meet outside the Lyttelton Rooms at 7pm on the 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th August and trust that the weather will be kinder to us than that of last year.

We look forward to seeing you.

If you need further details please contact Jeremy Tudge on 574312.

Confirmation 2009

CONFIRMATION is the way we can make for ourselves the promises made on our behalf if we were baptised as infants. If you haven't already been baptised, then that can happen at around the same time as Confirmation.

It's a wonderful opportunity for anyone (aged from about 10 - 100) to say their own public 'YES' to being a Christian for life!

This year, the Confirmation service for our local church area (Deanery) will probably be held in the evening of Sunday 15th November.

Because you make important promises when you're Confirmed, you need to know what it's all about. That preparation will start in the Autumn.

If you want to find out more, please contact me, Mary Barr - Tel. 563707 or email: vicarage@greatmalvern priory.org.uk.

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Cairo Calling

The Chorlton family moved from Beni Suef to Cairo in January – from a very Egyptian town, where they were almost the only foreigners, to a leafy suburb of the huge cosmopolitan capital city. Chris is now Director of the Episcopal Training Centre – a language school, which teaches Arabic to foreigners in the mornings, and English to Egyptians in the evenings. The vision is “to equip young Egyptians for the workplace at affordable prices”. The problem of a shortage of teachers has been resolved. Now they pray for more students. (See more about the centre on www.etcegypt.org)

Angela teaches part time at Isaac's nursery – an opportunity to exercise her Arabic, and to form new friendships. She is becoming skilled at coping with Cairo traffic, potholes and markets (souks). Anna (5) has settled well in to a small Christian school. Isaac (3) has found it harder to adjust to the move to Cairo, but is beginning to settle in his nursery. His prayer at mealtimes is “Thank you for this food, and can we go to the swimming pool soon. Amen.” Noah (11 months) is, like all babies, the bridge builder, smiling and waving at everyone from his pushchair.

The family are enjoying English language worship at St. John's Episcopal church, and have recently been on a refreshing family conference. Give thanks for Chris's new role, for the fellowship of St. John's, for their flat near to the ETC and church. Pray that they may build up new relationships, especially among the Egyptian community. Pray for the church in Egypt, and for a united voice of hope, grace and love.

David Webster

**PCC Sub-Groups and Standing Committee
May 2009 – April 2010**

<p>Welcome</p> <p>Claire Darnborough Sue Maxfield-Phillips Sue Pain Roger Wilson (Secretary) <i>Co-options:</i> Jonathan Darnborough Helen Ladd Jeremy Tudge (Chair)</p> <p>Witness</p> <p>Rosemary Webster (Chair) Nick Jackson Christine Shepherd Tony Waters <i>Co-options:</i> Peter Buckland (Treasurer) Sarah Chappell (Minute Secretary) Sally Taylor (Secretary) Rosemary Whalley</p> <p>Worship</p> <p>David Webster (Chair) Hilary Babb (Secretary) David Guy Megan Howells Rosamund Ponting <i>Ex-officio:</i> Mary Barr David Iliff</p>	<p>Buildings and Grounds</p> <p>Michael Martin (Chair) Peter Babb Michael Jupe Nick Maxfield-Phillips Alistair Sawers John Tanner <i>Co-options:</i> Michael Angling Peter Young (Secretary)</p> <p>Finance</p> <p>Andrew Horne (Chair) Roy Boyer (Treasurer) Anne Eglington David King Robin La Fontaine Philip Robinson Derek Valentine</p> <p>Standing Committee</p> <p>John Barr (Vicar) Robin La Fontaine (Churchwarden) Rosamund Ponting (Churchwarden) Roy Boyer (Treasurer) Michael Martin (Vice-Chairman) Christine Wells (Secretary)</p>
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A Dentist On The Loose In West Africa

Mercy Ships, a global charity, has operated hospital ships in developing nations since 1978. Following the example of Jesus, they bring hope and healing to the poor, mobilising people and resources worldwide and have served in more than 50 developing countries throughout the world. In recent years Mercy Ships has focused on the massive need found throughout West Africa, which has led to the establishment of permanent land-based programmes.

According to the United Nations Index of Human Development, of the 30 least developed nations in the world, 25 are in Africa. In the countries which Mercy Ships visits, a cycle of war, poverty and disease often keep the majority of the population struggling on the edge of survival.

Since first reaching Africa's shores in 1990, Mercy Ships has conducted programmes in the nations of Benin, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Madagascar, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Togo.

In March I joined the crew of "M/V Africa Mercy", the largest civilian hospital ship in the world, to work as a dentist for 2 weeks. From February to November 2009, "Africa Mercy" is moored in the port of Cotonou in Benin. Patients are treated both in the 6 operating theatres and hospital wards on the ship, and in land based clinics. This was the fourth visit by a Mercy Ship to Benin in the past 12 years. Although statistics on health and education suggest improvements over the past decade, nearly 30 per cent of Benin's population lives below the poverty line. Often described as one of the most stable countries in West Africa, Benin is still ranked by the United Nations as the 163rd poorest nation among 177 tracked by the Human Development Index.

I lived on board the ship along with the other 400 international volunteers, but travelled in a jeep with the rest of the dental team to do basic dental treatment in a land based clinic on the edge of the city. In temperatures of at least 30 degrees C and extremely high humidity the 150 patients for whom I extracted around 300 teeth presented me with interesting professional challenges! I was very conscious of the privilege of returning to an air conditioned, clean ship every night where I could eat a meal knowing that it had been safely cooked, while the patients whom I had treated that day could only dream of such things.

Despite the fact that I had a cabin next to the ship's generator which I shared with 5 other women, and I had a top bunk, and I went to bed at 8.30 every night as I was so tired, the experience that I had was amazing, not least because I felt so sustained and supported by the prayers of so many friends at the Priory. Thank you!

Partners in Christ

Malvern 925 – Wolmirstedt 1000. That is not a fantasy European cricket score, but a rough guide as to how old the two towns are. Twelve Priory members visited our partner church this summer as the German town was celebrating its 1000th anniversary. Appropriately the Mayor of Wolmirstedt was present at the reception when we arrived at the church rooms. Some of us were there for the first time, and we all immediately felt the warmth of the welcome given by both church and town. The Priory now possesses gifts that the Mayor presented, and we later discovered that he is keen on our two towns being twinned.

Malvern has its hills, and many people work in scientific research or in education. Wolmirstedt is flat, its river is the Ohre, and a large potash company provides much employment. We say that our town lies somewhere between Birmingham and Bristol. Our friends' town is equidistant from Hanover and Berlin.

It was asparagus time at Wolmirstedt. This abundant vegetable was piled high on our plates. "It's 80 per cent water" said one of our hosts as he insisted we take more. "Practise hospitality" is a firm piece of advice in the Bible, and that was precisely what our German friends did for us. Apart from meals with our hosts and at restaurants, we went to other homes on the Sunday and made further friends. Language problems were easily overcome.



Our visit has brought people of countries more closely together. in the Holy Spirit has taken on a deeper dimension. The whole resulted in a long article in a newspaper. We have, in a small to show to the wider community Church is living and active and capable of bearing good fruit.

The worship at St. Katharina's church was in German and English. It was conducted by the local Superintendent, Uwe Jauch, as there is no pastor for the church, and I assisted with the administration of Holy Communion. We all felt as one together as we received the sacrament in a large semi-circle. The Whit Monday service was ecumenical with a Catholic preacher. Our group had to leave early, and the congregation applauded warmly as we made our farewell.

Jim and Dorothy Knights presented to the Parish Church Council Chairman, Kirstin Hirt, a picture of the church in Malvern as a thank you for their hospitality. Photo Claudia Labude

our two Fellowship new and event has Magdeburg way, helped that the

Jim Knights

Friends Of Malvern Priory: Outing 13th May

It was with sadness that we had to set forth without our Treasurer, Clare Dewing, immobilised by her fractured hip. The weather forecast was not encouraging, but Anne had arranged for rain to fall when we were in the coach or indoors, so all was well.

The knowledgeable guide at our first stop, Edington Priory, gave us a detailed picture of its development on the site of an earlier church. Beginning in 1351, it progressed from chantry to monastery, through the dissolution of the monastery and onwards as the village church. It suffered its share of neglect until restoration began in 1885. Among the many memorable features were the Perpendicular west window, the double screen or pulpitum, the 17th century altar rail and the variety of masons' marks still discernible.

A short ride took us to the village of Seend, most notable as the birthplace of Norman Savage, where we enjoyed an excellent lunch in the village pub. From there we headed through Devizes to Broadleas Gardens, where dry weather enabled us to wander about and appreciate the beauty of the varied planting bearing testimony to Lady Anne Cowdray's passion since she moved in 60 years ago. We enjoyed tea and cakes here before boarding the coach for home.

This was a day of variety and interest in a lovely area and we are grateful to Anne Savage for her organisation which as always ensured hitch-free enjoyment for us all. Where next, we wonder?

Elizabeth Dunnett

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Gloria!

Come and celebrate with the Priory Choir and the Priory Singers on Saturday 19th September when they will be giving a performance of Vivaldi's energetic *Gloria*. This will be part of a concert to raise funds for RETRAK. RETRAK is a Christian charity working in East Africa among street children, particularly in Kampala and Addis Ababa.

Half of the concert will be attractive piano music, played by Levi Moscovici, himself an African. His programme will include music by Chopin, Rachmaninov and Gershwin. Levi graduated last year from the Royal College of Music, gaining an 'outstanding distinction' for his final piano recital there. He teaches piano at Malvern College and Malvern St. James and supported RETRAK last year when he gave a series of concerts in Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia. He's also David Iloff's foster son.

Tickets will be on sale towards the end of August – watch out for more details or ask a Choir member.

David Iloff

Wolverhampton Link

For over 20 years now the Priory has had a link with Narindar Mehat, and the Asian Christian community in Wolverhampton. Each year the high spot of our link is when they visit us for the day. We take groups of them into Malvern or on to the hills, and we give them drinks on arrival, and tea at the end of the day. They say that, for them, it is a highlight of the year. For us it is a delight to welcome them – some Christians, some Muslim or Hindu or Sikh. This year their visit is planned for Saturday July 18th (watch out on the notice sheet nearer the time for details). If you have time that day to help with the tea, or to take a group out on foot or by car, or even just to pop in when they arrive or at tea time, it would be very much appreciated. Please remember Narindar in your prayers, as she copes with her own disability (following surgery for a brain tumour several years ago), and as she befriends and witnesses to members of the Asian community in Wolverhampton. It is a mission field on our doorstep.

David Webster

Malvern Priory Organ Recital

Monday, 31 August, 12.00 noon

Andrew Wilson

(Milton Abbey School)

Carnival of the Animals (excerpts)	Saint-Saens
Venus from 'The Planets'	Holst
Nutcracker Suite (excerpts)	Tchaikovsky
Chanson du Matin	Elgar
Imperial March	Elgar

Full programme on the website: www.malvernprioryorgan.org.uk

Large video screen projection. Retiring collection for Priory funds

Andrew's eagerly-awaited return to the Priory features a recital to launch his new CD, recorded in the Priory, of popular transcriptions for the organ. We can anticipate an entertaining programme of popular music played with Andrew's typical panache. Make a date in your diary for August Holiday Monday.

Smile Line

Seen in "Bridges – Church and Community Magazine for Upper Coquetdale" June 2009:

“.....where Judy was presented with a cheque for £1500 made up by donations from her parishioners and a large Hydrangea”.

Home-Start Malvern Hills

Home-Start Malvern Hills wants to make sure that every parent in our area has the support they need to give their child the best possible start in life. To this end we offer friendship and practical help to parents with young children.

Families are referred to Home-Start Malvern Hills by health visitors and other health professionals, Children's Centres, nursery staff, social workers, schools and the families themselves contacting us direct to ask for help.

We cover the whole of the Malvern Hills district and thus need volunteers throughout the area. No special qualifications are needed except experience of parenting and an open mind.

Volunteers come from all age groups and all walks of life. Each volunteer attends a Preparation Course and is regularly supervised and supported.

Our volunteers make at-home visits to families who have at least one child under five, and offer them support. Each volunteer has one or two families which they visit each week for a set number of weeks. This support is free, confidential and non-judgemental.

It is both rewarding and demanding — an average volunteer stays with us for two years which means we must continually recruit and train new volunteers. Hence this article.

We also need new trustees particularly people with skills in the areas of funding and fund-raising. The current recession means that we, as a voluntary organisation, have entered a very testing time for charities and we need all the expertise we can muster.

Ideally we would like to hear from people who have experience of raising funds and would like to help our Funding committee identify and secure new income for Home-Start, so that our volunteers can continue to offer local families their valuable support.

If you think you have something to offer either as a volunteer or as a trustee please ring Home-Start Malvern Hills on 01684 893125 or chat informally with Ann Oldfield, Chairman of the Trustees (01684 564500).

The logo for Home Start features the word 'Home' in a large, rounded, black font. The letter 'o' in 'Home' is replaced by a stylized black silhouette of a person with their arms raised. Below 'Home' is the word 'START' in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

**Support and friendship
for families**

Community Action Malvern and District

Community Action has a very busy daily schedule with the phone ringing all the time. We offer several services to the people of Malvern and hopefully after reading this you will want to help us reach even more.

Car Service: The phones are always busiest for our Car Service and we take about 400 calls a month from older people wanting to book a lift to their GP surgery or a hospital appointment. Jane and Kay are our Car Service Organisers and they work very hard to make sure as many people as possible get to their appointments. Helping them to achieve this is our small army of volunteer drivers who give up their time and cars practically every day.

Roaring Success! The Lions of Malvern have been wonderful and donated a Berlingo car to us. This is fantastic and means that we have the only specially adapted car in Malvern for people who use wheelchairs. Up to now, people who use a wheelchair have had to book a whole minibus to transport them. Now they can be more comfortable in our Berlingo and one of their own family can drive them. Altogether a much nicer way to live!

Minibus: Talking of minibuses, we have two at the moment and they can be booked by any small organisation in Malvern to use for their activities. Minibus Organiser Nick uses the bus to do the Half-Key run which brings people into Malvern twice a week.

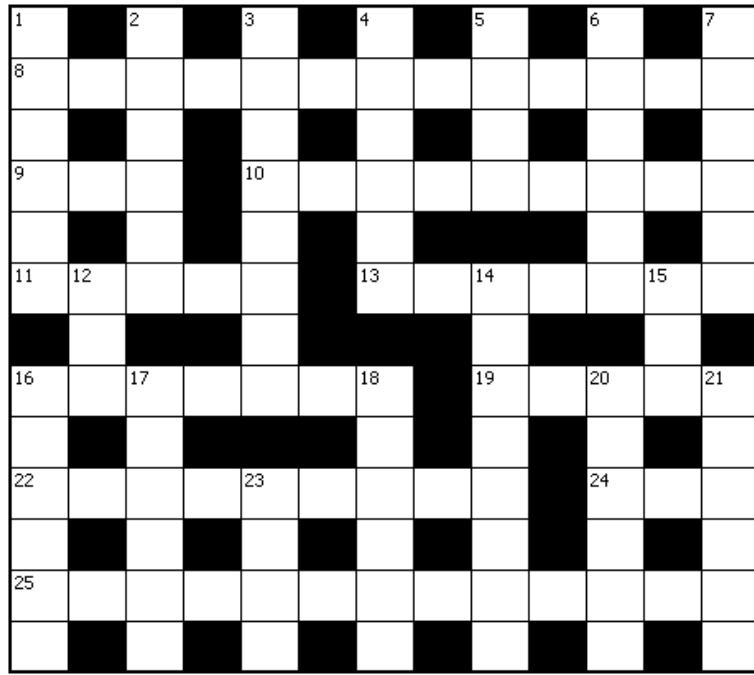
Shoparound: Our Shoparound Service is organised by Aileen and she books a minibus from Nick and fills it with older people who want to keep their independence and do a spot of shopping for themselves. This is a lifeline for many people because it's sometimes the only outing they have for months. Aileen also organises days out to see the bluebells and daffodils.

Resource Centre: Our resource centre is a wonderful place where you can get your photocopying and printing done at a very reasonable rate. We also have paper and pens and all sorts of bits and pieces that you might find useful for your charity. We also have display boards which you can loan for that special event you have planned.

Volunteers: A lot of our work is done by our wonderful volunteers but with the phones constantly ringing with people needing lifts we are always looking for more. Especially during the summer when some of our drivers take a much needed summer holiday. So if you have a few hours a week to spare and have a car then please give us a ring. If you don't drive but would still like to help, we also need people who can push wheelchairs or escort others on our Shoparound trips.

**For more details about our services or to volunteer with us
please ring 01684 892381**

Crossword July / August 2009



June solution



Across

- 8 Academic who studies history of one of Israel's perennial enemies (13)
 9 Take to court (Matthew 5:40) (3)
 10 Absence of guilt (1 Kings 8:32) (9)
 11 Of Tim (anag.) (5)
 13 Deprive priest of ecclesiastical status (7)
 16 Where Paul and Barnabas called en route from Perga to Antioch (Acts 14:25-26) (7)
 19 'The earth is the — , and everything in it' (Psalm 24:1) (5)
 22 'Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a —message when the body of elders laid their hands on you' (1 Timothy 4:14) (9)
 24 Raincoat (abbrev.) (3)
 25 Issue relating to sexual ethics dealt with in the controversial Papal Encyclical Humanae Vitae in 1968(13)

Down

- 1 'The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a — for many' (Matt 20:28) (6)
 2 Upward slope (Nehemiah 3:19) (6)
 3 'God blessed them and said to them, "Be — and increase in number"' (Genesis 1:28) (8)
 4 'What God has — together, let man not separate' (Matthew 19:6) (6)
 5 One of the partners which, with BEA, formed British Airways (1,1,1,1)
 6 'This will be a — — you. You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger' (Luke 2:12) (4,2)
 7 Takers (anag.) (6)
 12 'But the things that come — of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man "unclean"' (Matthew 15:18) (3)
 14 'Then I set bowls — of wine and some — before the men of the Recabite family' (Jeremiah 35:5) (4,4)
 15 Levitical eating laws were much concerned about animals 'that chew the — ' (Leviticus 11:3) (3)
 16 Llama-like animal noted for its wool (6)
 17 The seed which fell among these was choked by them as it grew (Luke 8:7) (6)
 18 Launch an assault against (Genesis 14:15) (6)
 20 'Neither can you bear fruit unless you — in me' (John 15:4) (6)
 21 John says of the healing of the royal official's son, 'This was the — miraculous sign that Jesus performed' (John 4:54) (6)
 23 Inflict pain on (Acts 7:26) (4)