

Malvern Priory Magazine



**The Parish Church of
St. Mary & St. Michael**

April 2010

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From the Vicarage

Could the Christian vote swing the General Election?

Dear Friends,

Who are you going to vote for at the General Election, and why? If you're not sure – or even if you are - there will be an open meeting on Sunday 11th April at 2.30 pm in Christ Church, Avenue Road, during which our local candidates will be making short statements, and answering pre-submitted questions. All are welcome to attend.

But why bother? After all, aren't the main parties simply variations on the same theme, and anyway hasn't the whole system of parliamentary democracy been totally discredited? It's certainly very tempting to be cynical about politics - and not least because all three main political parties seem to be pursuing a secularist agenda, whose 'liberal' views on social issues, and anti-religious (especially anti-Christian) prejudice, are becoming ever more obviously overt.

However, if we are seeking to be faithful servants of Jesus Christ, and witnesses to God's Kingdom, then we must take politics seriously. And the vote we cast might be more important than we imagine. According to the Christian theology think-tank *Theos*, the results of the next General Election could be determined by which party can most appeal to Christians. Current forecasts suggest that we're in 'hung parliament territory'. A *Theos* survey revealed that currently Christians are almost evenly split: with 21 per cent thinking the Conservatives have been most sympathetic to them and 20 per cent feeling this about Labour. Christian attendance at the ballot box is usually strong – and 81 per cent of 18 to 24-year-old Christians told a survey they would be making use of their first vote.

Food for thought, prayer, and action? One thing is clear: whoever forms the next Government will face challenging times, and will have to make tough choices. As a nation, we have been living in a way that is unsustainable – economically, socially, environmentally, and morally. And unless we rediscover the God-given wisdom of our Judaeo-Christian heritage, then things will only go from bad to worse. So we need to pray for all who are involved in the body politic - locally and nationally - that they would be led by God's Spirit, whether or not they are people of faith. For God can work through anyone, even politicians! And in this season of Easter, we need to remember that Jesus is the Crucified and Risen Lord of *all* creation. In the light of His victory over sin and death, and by the power of His Spirit, all things are possible.

Wishing you the joy and peace of the Risen Lord,

John Barr, Vicar

Priory People

Zippy in Uganda

Zippy Chappell is working with the Crosslinks "SMILE" Team in Kampala, Uganda. She teaches Tuesday to Friday in a local Primary school called "Treasured Kids School". There are 70 children in a class, and she teaches RE, PE, Art and music. The tradition in Uganda is teaching by rote, but Zippy tries to introduce participation by the children into her lessons. She and her friend Ellie have started a Bible study group with some of the children. She mentions one boy in particular, Robert, who narrowly escaped being killed as a child sacrifice by witchdoctors. He has been severely traumatised by the experience, and needs lots of prayer and reassurance.

Each weekend they visit Kivolu slum, where they chat and play with street kids, and teach them songs and Bible stories. The children call Zippy and her friend Charlotte "Auntie". Zippy also helps to treat and dress the horrific wounds that many of the street children sustain. On Sundays they worship at Calvary Chapel – exuberant, noisy African worship.

Travel around Kampala always has its excitements – no seat belts, lots of potholes, so it's a case of hang on and say a quick prayer. On a recent journey a tyre exploded when the car hit a pothole. Nearby pedestrians were sprayed with muddy water. Food too has its interests – "Today" she writes "there were crunchy bugs in my beans at school". "There is so much to tell – I could just go on and on. Thank you so much for your prayers and support."

(P.S. The Priory Witness Group administer a Youth Support Fund. £300 has been donated to Zippy. Any contributions to this fund, to support our young people in Christian projects, gap years etc are always welcome.)

Rosemary Webster

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Annual Meeting 2010

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held in the Lyttelton Rooms on Thursday 29th April at 7.30pm. It is a special opportunity to meet together to review the past year and to look forward to the year ahead.

Each year six new PCC members are elected to serve for a three-year period of office. The PCC is a registered charity, so PCC members have an official role as trustees. If you or someone you know feels able to make a contribution, why not consider nomination as a candidate for election to the PCC? Please talk to one of the Churchwardens.

If you have a question you would like to bring up at the meeting it would be helpful if you could forward it to me in advance.

Christine Wells PCC Secretary

A Celebration of Science and Faith, April 19th – 27th

This month the first major event of our 925 celebrations takes place – the Celebration of Science and Faith. Malvern Priory has, from its very beginnings, and over the centuries, had a link with science in its various forms. The second Prior, Walcher, was a quite remarkable man, ahead of his time. He combined a flair for astronomy and maths with piety. The design of our prayer candle stand is based on Walcher's astrolabe. Through the Black Death, the Victorian Water Cure, Darwin's Malvern links, right up to the Radar Establishment and QinetiQ today Malvern has had connections with the science of the day.

So it is particularly appropriate that our first eminent speaker, on Monday 19th April, at 7.30 in the Priory, is Prof Tony Hewish, former Professor of Radio Astronomy at Cambridge, and Nobel Prize-winner for his part in the discovery of pulsars. He is also father-in-law to our own Priory member, Richard Hookham. He will speak on "Cosmology and Creation".

Prof Sir Ghillean Prance follows on Wednesday 21st April. An Old Malvernian, he became Director of Kew Gardens, Adviser to the Eden Project, and President of the Christian A'Rocha environmental project. He brings a wealth of experience as a Biologist. His subject is "Creation or Evolution? No both!"

On Friday 23rd April Prof Ted Evans, Emeritus Professor of Auditory Physiology at Keele University, and developer of the cochlear implant, will speak on "Is Man a Machine? A Neuroscientist's Perspective".

The Rev'd Dr John Polkinghorne, former Professor of Mathematical Physics at Cambridge, winner of the Templeton Prize for Science and Religion in 2002, and widely known and respected as a speaker on this subject, comes to give us 3 opportunities to hear him. He begins with a Forum for Sixth Formers on the afternoon of Saturday 24th April. This will be hosted by Malvern College. That evening he will speak in the Priory on "The Friendship between Science and Religion". The next morning, Sunday, he will be our preacher. The whole of Malvern College will be joining us for that service, so come early! We shall have cameras and screens around the Priory so that everyone can see and feel involved in the service.

Our series of lectures ends on Tuesday 27th, with our very own, and also esteemed, Dr Chris Oliver speaking on "Data, Models and Knowledge. How do we learn and what can we know?" Chris, a physicist, is still doing active research, and is Visiting Professor to University College London and the University of Rome.

We are very fortunate and privileged indeed to have such eminent people, noted both for their Science and their Christian faith, coming to us, all within the space of a few days. It is a rare, almost unique, event in its breadth and scale, and I am sure many from Malvern, and from much further afield, will want to take advantage of this event. I have no doubt that we shall come away with our brains stretched, our minds informed, our thinking challenged and our faith inspired. It will be a week really not to miss.

David Webster

Forty Years of Choral Tradition in Malvern Priory

There is a long tradition of music in Malvern Priory starting with the original Benedictine Monks when the Priory was first built nearly 925 years ago. I cannot vouch for the continuity music over those centuries but can refer the reader to David Cooper's 'The Lyttelton' printed in 1991 which tells of the School which provided boys for the Priory Church Choir which consisted of 32 men and boys in 1874. There was even a Diocesan Festival held in the Priory in 1879. During those days daily rehearsals for the choristers at the school were the order of the day. And, like today, there were organ recitals and singing at other venues. My arrival in 1971 was at the tail end of Durham Holl's long reign as organist and Choir Master. The choir at that time was the strict preserve of boys and men and was a no-go area for ladies desiring to sing. With arrival of Harold Hullah in 1973 the boy chorister numbers dwindled so there was the addition of a few girl choristers. Sometimes Harold would bring a few of The Downs School choristers with him to swell the treble line. Very sadly Harold's time was short lived. Then there was a quick succession of organists and the choir become an all male preserve again. Under the direction of Graham Davies, and later by David Cooper a group of ladies was formed. Initially the group, named The Priory Singers, met to rehearse and sung at occasional services, principally ones like Passiontide and the Midnight Service on Christmas Eve. Gradually, over the years, the singing with the gentlemen of the choir, at the evening services became the norm. The Priory Singers had an informal dress of black skirts and white blouses which remained until just prior to our first tour to Salisbury Cathedral, when by the generous provision of The Friends of Malvern Priory, we were fully robed in the gowns that are in use today. A grand total of 17 tours have been undertaken, under various directors, with an eagerly awaited overseas visit to Brussels due to take place in July 2010.

Throughout this time varying visits to other venues including cathedrals were arranged and an annual Choir camp became a feature for the juniors. During David Cooper's time, in 1992 Margaret Roy became the director of an increasing group of girl singers who sang at occasional services. These girls eventually became integrated with the boys when their numbers became reduced in 1997. Sadly too the male alto line eventually became too thin and female altos are now part of the morning choir.

As well as visits, a number of recordings have been made starting with a tape of an organ recital by Graham Davies, and a vocal one followed. This was followed by more tapes produced by David Cooper. Andrew Wilson, in his time, then produced some very worthy CD's of the choir and his own organ recitals.

There have been some historic moments with some BBC recordings of services, the opening service of The Malvern Conference with the Archbishop of Canterbury and a Sunday Half Hour. An interview and an Advent Service were both televised. Together, with singing at all of the opening services of the Malvern Festival, these

form our rich heritage of music at Malvern Priory. But that is not quite the whole story as in the mid 1980's The Praise Group was formed with music from more modern times being their forte. We are also blessed with some fine instrumental players and, once a month they play for the Altogether Services.

Thelma Scott

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Lunch with St. Benedict

Motto: "That in all things God may be glorified."

The splendidly successful Lunchbox project attracted a record attendance on



25th February. The speaker was Abbot Stuart Burns OSB of Burford Priory, which is in the process of moving to Worcestershire. It was most appropriate that in this thanksgiving year, during which there will be many events celebrating the ministry of the Priory over 925 years, our beginnings as a Benedictine Monastery should be acknowledged in this way.

The central thrust of the Abbot's talk was indicated in its title: 'The Benedictine Rule'. He spoke warmly and delightfully about the Benedictine discipline of prayer. He then took questions, some of which were quite probing, like 'What is the point of it all?'; 'How do you really get on with each other?'; 'Is it a problem living in a mixed community of monks and nuns?'. His responses to one or two

of the more forthright questions began with amused and amusing, almost schoolboyish, noises! The talk had three main themes.

1. Burford Priory, a lovely Thirteenth Century Cotswold mansion, housed an Anglican Community founded seventy years ago. Its principal purpose was to pray for Christian Unity. It was a place of 'Encounter and Reconciliation' having links with Baptists, Lutherans, Orthodox, and Roman Catholics. It was a valued and well-used Retreat House. It became a mixed community of monks and nuns. But numbers dwindled, and the upkeep became impossible, and the decision was taken to sell it and move to Worcestershire. A new monastery is being built, on ecological principles, to be called, interestingly, 'Mucknell Abbey'. The Abbot asked our prayers for the new chapter in his Community's life.

2. St. Benedict is regarded as the founder of Western monasticism. The seventy-three chapters of his Rule cover every aspect of monastic life, and they are characterised by simplicity, flexibility, and humanity. A monastery was to be a family of brothers, with the Abbot as father-figure. Eleven of the chapters concern the Divine Office (prayer-time). The services focussed on the communal reading of Psalms, and the reflective reading of Scripture. Between the Prayer-times there would be manual labour, farming, housekeeping, spiritual reading, teaching; intellectual work, hospitality, and of course sleep. In modern times the monks have also run schools and even parishes. Hospitality and Retreats for visitors are very important.

At the Reformation many of the prayers of the Divine Office were used in the creation of the two daily services of Morning and Evening Prayer.

The Rule is regarded as a masterpiece of spiritual wisdom, and a guideline for happiness and holiness. It is about stability, fidelity, and obedience, and finding God in the ordinary circumstances of life. The Abbot emphasised the human gentleness of Benedict expressed in his Rule. In the prologue the saint explained that he intended to prescribe nothing harsh – nothing that would be burdensome for his followers.

3. The Message for Today.

The Abbot showed that in our age Benedictine values are extremely relevant. They are about an alternative way of living. They are about making each day a revelation of God. His obvious devotion to the Benedictine Rule was expressed with gentle force and genuine humour. It inspired in his listeners a fresh thankfulness for the devotion of the founders of the monastery which became our beautiful Parish Church, and for the wonderful Gospel of Christ which it stands here to proclaim.

Rev'd T.W.Gunter

Elijah Trust

The latest report from Elijah Trust is not happy news. The most recent election in Israel has brought in a government even more extreme in their anti-Palestinian and anti-Christian attitude. As we know, the first and only Christian university in Israel, at Ibillin, had been closed by failure to give promised funding and accreditation following legislation prohibiting the sponsorship from University of Indianapolis. Now the harassment of Christian education is spreading to High Schools with refusal of accreditation to schools in Dabboriyeh and Haifa. The grants from Elijah Trust are now being concentrated on Christian elementary schools.

Gill Dye, Director of the Trust, tells of meeting an inspirational Galilean Christian, Dr Abed Haiek, who has started an organisation, with Muslim co-operation, to bring better education, particularly for girls, to one of the largest Palestinian communities, Beit Hanina.

Basil Dewing

Chernobyl Children Life Line

We look forward to Wednesday June 9th and the four week visit of 4 boys and 6 girls, aged 11, with their teacher, from the Stolin area of Belarus. All the children are coming to England for the first time. It will be a health-giving holiday away from the land contaminated now, and for years to come, by the effects of the Chernobyl catastrophe. Local families host the children in twos and on three days each week there are group activities including some English lessons, craftwork, swimming, and visits to Malvern Outdoor Centre, the Safari Park, and Sea Life in Birmingham. The children enjoy meeting local youth groups for games etc and will be taking part with local schools in Lifepath.

The costs are carried by the local Malvern Group and at the time of writing we have only half of the necessary £5000. Personal donations and gifts in kind are always welcome and this year our focus is on a **Charity Concert at the Priory on June 5th** to be given by Bouvardia Ensemble (with our own Noriko Tsuzaki) and with contributions from our Priory choir. Meanwhile, in the week commemorating 24 years since the Chernobyl catastrophe, there will be a Coffee Morning (10-12) on Wed 28th April at 69 Lower Howsell Rd.

For further information about CCLL click Contact Us on the web site.

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The Cross

“The Cross is the abyss of wonders, the centre of desires, the school of virtues, the house of wisdom, the throne of love, the theatre of joys, and the place of sorrows; it is the root of happiness, and the gate of heaven.

Of all things in heaven and earth it is the most peculiar. It is the most exalted of all objects. It is an ensign lifted up for all nations - to it shall all gentiles seek; the dispersed of Judah shall be gathered to it from the four corners of the earth.

There we may see God’s goodness, wisdom and power: yea His mercy and anger displayed.

There we may see man’s sin and infinite value; his hope and fear; his misery and happiness.

There we might see the Rock of Ages, and the joys of heaven.

There we may see a man loving all the world, and a God dying for mankind.”

Thomas Traherne, “Centuries”

‘Hot Potatoes Facing the Church in the 2010s’

Malvern Bible Ministry: Archdeacon Roger Morris

Malvern Pentecostal Church was full for the Archdeacon’s address on 25th February. His three ‘hot potatoes’ were not the contentious issues that the media think the church is constantly debating, but things we drop, things we are not talking about!

1. We are no longer living in a Christian country

Christianity has enjoyed a privileged position since Constantine in the 4th century, but the church no longer has a reserved seat on the national agenda. It is now ‘playing away’ rather than ‘at home’. Christendom is fading and post-Christendom is coming.

This makes it harder than ever to be a Christian, and affects the way we engage in mission. When the church was at the centre, life brought everyone to church. Many still hold to this ‘attractional model’, but it does not exist. Life no longer brings people in.

Now home is the ‘first place’, work is the ‘second place’, and Caffè Nero or Starbucks is the ‘third place’. We could loiter there with intent! We need initiatives that take the church out of its comfort zone to the edges, such as the new street pastor scheme in Worcester. It is more likely that something that becomes church emerges at the place of mission, rather than that the place of mission becomes a bridge to the church as it was. Vincent Donovan, in *Christianity Rediscovered*, wrote: ‘Go with them to a place where neither we nor they have been before.’

We are called to be incarnational, and this includes sacrifice – laying aside personal preferences. The church that grows out of mission should be core rather than merely tolerated, as Rowan Williams has said.

2. The Church is culturally cut-off

We’ve painted ourselves into a cultural corner and we can’t fit in with the world. The Gospel looks like a foreign product. The age profile of the church doesn’t match that of society. We are hidebound to high culture, using a highly differentiated language.

We have lost connection with people under 50. We don’t recognise popular culture. Martin Samuel, in an article in the Daily Mail last October, wrote: ‘To a lot of people, the C. of E. tastes of nothing....It is when reaching out of the realm of the faithful that the church is at its best.’ We need to cross cultural boundaries, and get out of our cultural captivity.

3. We need to die afresh

Christ commanded us to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow him. Following Christ is all-consuming, not just one of a list of hobbies as is the popular perception. It involves a ‘radical abandonment of self-will’, as George Lings wrote in *Mission Shaped Church*. We need to repent (see Daniel 9), and this means laying aside our preferences.



The Archdeacon left us with a final challenge. If we get it right, the 2010s could be a decade of opportunity. The Good News is NEWS to a lot of people.

Christine Wells

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Use It or Lose It!

Bookshops of every kind are under threat. There are various reasons. There is of course the background of recession. But also people no longer read books so much. And if they do they tend to buy on the internet or even, increasingly, to read e-books – the electronic version. Even such giants as Waterstones are having to take stock, and reconsider how to market themselves. Many secular bookshops have closed, including the large chain of Borders.

Christian bookshops are in no way exempt from this trend. Over 100 Christian bookshops in Britain have had to close in recent months. We all know about SPCK – the whole chain, including our Worcester branch, went into receivership, were bought out by another company, and now that has folded. The huge Christian book distributors, STL (the supplier of books to the Lyttelton Well), has recently gone into administration, and attempts are being made to sell it off in parts. There are tremors and earthquakes going on in the Christian book world – and strong after-shocks.

The Lyttelton Well is now the only Christian bookshop for many miles around. This is both an opportunity and a challenge. It is an opportunity to supply books to a much wider catchment area of churches and Christian individuals. But this will only happen if those churches and individuals use it. The challenge for the Well is to track down the publishers of, and supply quickly, books that are not in stock – and our stock is limited by space. Experience shows that the Well does this very efficiently, and at very competitive prices.

But if we don't all use it we shall inevitably lose it. Already last year painful measures have had to be taken to keep the Well profitable. But this need not be so. There are huge opportunities to be grasped, with the support of Christians and churches. When you next want a Christian book; when your church next needs to order Bibles, or hymn books, or lectionaries, or church supplies – communion wafers, palm crosses, electoral roll forms, annual meeting forms, whatever; PLEASE think "Lyttelton Well!", not "Amazon!". The Well can match Amazon for speed. It can often match Amazon for price. Amazon doesn't need you – it's rolling. The Well does need you. And we need the Well – somewhere to browse among Christian books, and to get helpful advice from the friendly, knowledgeable staff. And then there is always the chance of a coffee and scone too. Amazon doesn't do those!

The Well is a very precious place. Let's use it or we shall lose it!

David Webster

Who's who in the Priory

Meet the Angling family

Matt, Sarah, and Kira and Lily

Lily, who is 3½, has a favourite toy called Kelly who is a baby doll, because she likes to play Mummies and Daddies. She also likes hospitals and making people better. Lily would also like to be a scuba diver. Lily is in Scramblers. She likes the story of the house built on the rock. Her favourite song is:

Who dunnit? God dunnit

He has done amazing things.

Who dunnit? God dunnit. God is good.

which she heard at the St Andrews holiday club family service.

Kira, who is 7½, likes doing gymnastics, which she has been doing since she was four. She also loves horse riding, which she does every other Sunday. Kira is in Explorers, she likes the story where Jesus gets lost in the temple, and her favourite song is:

Peace, perfect peace is a gift of Christ our Lord.

Thus, says the Lord, will the world know my friends.

When did you come to Malvern?

Matt: In 1993 to work at DERA (now QinetiQ). We were both at St Johns College Oxford, where I studied physics.

Sarah: I studied French and Russian and came to Malvern two years later in 1995 after a year in St Petersburg, Russia. Julian Charley married us in 1996 in Malvern College chapel. We lived in a school flat for a year, then in Bosbury for four years before buying our house in Malvern.

Why did you come to the Priory?

Matt: While in Oxford I contacted Julian Charley to help find accommodation, and lodged with the Hutchinsons. They attended the Priory, so it seemed the obvious place to come. We feel at home here.

How would you describe your relationship with God?

Kira: Jesus is my friend.

Sarah: My relationship with God is rushed and intermittent at the moment. Communion is a wonderful time to focus. The music is so helpful, I would like to thank the musicians who play during communion, they play so beautifully and it helps me to be calm and still.

Matt: Church has always been a part of my life. My parents brought me, then I went to chapel at school in Brecon. When I went to Oxford, continuing with church life was a deliberate choice.

Do you have a favourite scripture?

Sarah: Jeremiah 29:11 *"I alone know the plans I have for you, plans to bring you prosperity and not disaster, plans to bring about the future you hope for."* (GNB). I learned this in Crusaders and Sunday School and liked the idea that God has a plan for me. It might not be what I have in mind, but it's what's right for me.

Do you have a favourite hymn?

Matt: "Guide me O thou Great Redeemer". We sang it at school a lot!

Sarah: I really like "How great thou art" for two reasons: because I have loved walking and being outside in the woods and fields ever since I was a child; secondly because it was the only hymn I could recognize in Russia (it is originally Russian), and even if I could not understand all the words I knew what it was about.

What is most important to you?

Kira: My elephant.

Sarah: My family, by far the main thing. I also love my job and my friends.

Lily: Brushing my teeth.

Matt: Peace and quiet, which is in short supply!

Do you have any desires?

Kira: A horse.

Sarah: For my children to grow up happy and have wonderful lives.

Matt: Twice as many hours in a week.

Do you have any interests?

Sarah: Rock climbing, swimming, speaking Russian, and I love reading.

Kira and Lily: We do too.

Sarah: I'm a part time teacher at Malvern College, teaching mostly French, and also outdoor pursuits, I teach rock climbing.

Matt: Reading, when I have time. Old cars; I have a 1971 Triumph Herald and a 1964 Triumph Spitfire, I am attempting to restore them.

What do you do in the Priory?

Sarah: I help with Explorers and am the Scripture Union rep, so if anyone is in need of Bible notes etc I would be happy to help!

Matt: I am a regular member of the congregation, representing my family when they are attending Scramblers and Explorers.

Sylviane Outram

Chernobyl Children Life Line Coffee Morning

Wednesday 28th April 2010 at

69 Lower Howsell Road, Malvern Link

10 -12 noon

Entry including Coffee and Biscuits £1

Raffle, Bring and Buy, Table Sale including Books, Cakes and Bric-a-Brac

For further details of Chernobyl Lifeline see page 11

Walking Barefoot For The Women Of Ethiopia

A number of people have stopped and asked me lately whether I'm OK- they have been worried by the sight of my walking barefoot round the lanes. Then I explain that I'm going to walk barefoot to Birmingham in June - that's when the conversation really starts!



Why am I doing it? Like many women in the UK I was well looked after when I gave birth. I was in safe hands. But for most young women in Ethiopia the business of giving birth today is just as dangerous as it would have been for us in Medieval England. Many of them develop something called a fistula.

A fistula develops after a long, obstructed attempt at childbirth - very often a stillbirth to a girl too underdeveloped to carry a baby successfully. It leaves her permanently and totally incontinent - perhaps at the age of just 14. She becomes an offensive smelling outcast - no good as a wife or a daughter, and she faces a life of misery, isolation, poverty and shame - an untouchable, a leper of her community.

Fistula is very common in Ethiopia where the birth rate is high, the average age of marriage well below 18, and the antenatal and obstetric care dismally sparse - especially in rural areas. If the girls want treatment they have to walk - normally barefoot - to the capital city, Addis Ababa - often a journey of many days. Even if they have money for a bus they smell so bad that they are not tolerated on public transport. The Hamlin Hospital in Addis Ababa treats and cures these young women. It makes no charge and it sends over 90% of them home cured, each one wearing a new dress. It has also opened a midwifery college and is doing all it can to educate people so that these awful injuries can be prevented.

When I found out about this terrible condition I asked myself how would I feel if it were one of my daughters who had suffered an injury like this? My mind kept returning to these poor girls. I kept thinking about their long, lonely journeys to find help. I thought about Christ's compassion for the most revolting, the most unlovely, the unclean and the demented. And I decided that, like these girls, I was going to walk. So from June 9th-12th I will be walking - barefoot - to the Women's Hospital in Birmingham from my home in Eckington - about 35 miles. I'm walking to raise money for some young women I never expect to meet, but whose need has become very real to me.

Will You Help? The complete treatment for one woman - surgery and rehabilitation - costs about £400, but just a few pounds would buy that new dress or a day's good food, so that a woman can go home - clean, well fed, restored to health.

You can donate at www.justgiving.com/walkingbarefoot, where you can also find a link to Hamlin Fistula UK, the registered UK charity that supports the work of the hospital. Alternatively cheques to "Hamlin Fistula UK" can be posted to me at "The Old Vicarage, Pass Street, Eckington, WR10 3AX" or if you want more information, email me at kalantha@brewis.net.

Thank you!

*Kalantha Brewis, Lay Reader, parish of Eckington with
Defford cum Besford, Pershore Deanery.*

Kabale Calling

Our mission partners with Crosslinks, Craig and Claudia Smith (and Leo and Bethany) are now half way through their first term of service at Kabale, in south-west Uganda. Craig continues to teach Maths teachers how to teach Maths. But he does a lot else besides. He is also teaching Christian student teachers in the NTC how to lead Bible study groups. The large water tank that the Priory contributed towards is now built and in use, and it will save many people a 2 hour walk each day to collect water. Other water tanks in the area, originally built by the Government, have remained vandalised and empty for years. Craig is driving an initiative to repair



these, and to put a guard on each, paid for by nominal charges for water. The Bakiga Community Project, initiated by Craig, and led by a man called Emmy, is to teach people how to grow crops efficiently and effectively, so as to produce an income to pay school fees.

Claudia meanwhile is running training for Sunday School teachers at the NTC. At a recent Diocesan conference she helped to lead sessions for about 200 children, while 2000 adults met separately. She is involved with counselling and counselling training for NAFODU – the National Federation for Democracy and Human Rights, and she has opportunities in connection with this to speak on the local radio. With financial help from supporters the Smiths are selling Bibles at one third of their actual cost (about £1-50), and so far have distributed over 400.

Leo and Bethany are both at pre-primary school, enjoying, with their African friends, learning songs and doing lots of marching.

To read the Smiths regular blog see <http://www.smithsinafrica.blogspot.com>

To read more about the Bakiga Community Project see

<http://smithsinafricaprojects.110mb.com>

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Summary of General Synod, February 2010

The General Synod met in London from February 8th to 12th. Among other matters, it discussed:

Children and young people: Synod discussed Going for Growth, the Board of Education's strategy for working alongside children and young people, which offers both a theological framework and priorities for practical action at diocesan and parish level.

Mission: Synod considered research from the Mission and Public Affairs Council into the growth of the 'mixed-economy Church', and carried a motion encouraging further development of pioneer ministers and the making of Bishops' Mission Orders. The Rt. Rev'd Graham Cray, Archbishops' Missioner and Fresh Expressions Team Leader, gave a presentation on Fresh Expressions.

TV coverage of religion and ethics: The Synod carried a motion expressing appreciation of the vital role played by those engaged in communicating religious belief and practice through the media, while also articulating deep concern about the overall reduction in religious broadcasting across British television in recent years.

Science and religious belief: Synod carried a motion urging the House of Bishops to promote a better public understanding of the compatibility of science and Christian belief.

Church buildings: The Synod carried a motion calling on government for a substantial increase in the amount of money available for the repair of listed church buildings, including a commitment to continue the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme.

Relations with the Anglican Church in North America: Synod carried a motion expressing its awareness of the distress caused by recent divisions within the Anglican churches of the United States of America and Canada, and recognising and affirming the desire of those who have formed the Anglican Church in North America to remain within the Anglican family. The motion asks the Archbishops to report back to the Synod on the issue in 2011.

Other Private Members Motions and Diocesan Synod Motions

Synod carried a motion expressing concern about the potentially damaging effects on young people of computer games containing violent and sexual content, congratulating the government on the action it has taken in this area and calling upon it to continue to keep under review the regulatory system for advertising video games.

Synod also carried a motion requesting dioceses, deaneries and parishes to undertake initiatives to celebrate and teach the Bible to mark the 400th anniversary of the King James Version.

Background papers for each debate, alongside links to an audio archive of each session, are available at:

<http://www.cofe.anglican.org/about/gensynod/agendas/feb2010/index.html>

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The Priory Bell Ringers

A new decade and renewed optimism to find an acceptable long-term solution to the Priory bell-frame. The Bells Action Group continues to stoically work towards an amicable conclusion.

Despite the long winter, only two practices were cancelled due to snow. We regularly average 16 ringers for Thursday practice nights and Sunday service, which, with experienced ringers, enable us to ring 8 bells.

Our AGM in February was also well attended when the Rev'd John Barr kindly officiated as Chairman and John and Felicity Goldrick officially joined the Band. Trevor Still briefed us with the progress of the bell-frame.

Since then, the Ringing Room has benefited by chair replacement; upgrading with the old "newer-looking" chairs from the Priory nave. (No photographs of the tricky ascent and descent – you just have to visualise the scene).

Joan Lever has sadly given up ringing; yet, despite a recent broken wrist, often comes to visit her friends in the Ringing Room and check on her card sales which are sold in aid of the bell funds.

Our Tower captains, John Clements and assistant Gill Munro are currently committed to Saturday morning tied-bell practices as we have three ringers who will be attending the forthcoming annual 4 day Hereford Ringing Course in April. A pre-requisite skill is the rise and fall of a bell (raising and lowering in peal). With this extra help, Judy and Graham Baker and Jane O'Brien will be well placed to take full advantage of the course. This year too, Cynthia and Tony Palmer will be assisting the ringing, making the Priory well represented. They have over 60 years ringing experience between them.

The Ringing Room and Belfry will open on 6 occasions throughout the 925 anniversary year, beginning on Easter Monday 5th April from 1pm until 4pm, when visitors young and old will be made welcome.

The Ringing Team



Liz Watson will talk about her work with the Sudanese church

*Rob & Liz Watson have spent over 10 years working
in a variety of roles including reconstruction, training
and education, and sending of local missionaries*

All are welcome, event held at:
St Stephen's, Worcester, WR3 7LA
Wednesday 28 April 2010
7:30 pm
bring & share supper at 9:00

Charity 1131655

More information:
01684 892117 or
01905 453616

Book Review

The Other Side Of Israel - My Journey Across the Jewish-Arab Divide

Susan Nathan (Harper Collins)
ISBN 0 00719510 9 & 0 00 721192 9

Susan Nathan went to live in Israel as a dedicated Zionist and was taken aback to find that so much of what she had been led to believe about the country was grossly misleading. She says, "The traditional Zionist account of the 1948 war is entirely mythical". A common slogan is that Palestine was "a land without people for a people without land". In fact there was a population of 1.3 million of whom 750,000 were driven out of the country and many of their villages flattened. Nathan tells us that there are still 250,000 internal refugees; that is Palestinians who live in Israel but have had their homes and lands taken from them. One of the examples quoted by Nathan is Sakhnin in which 24,000 Palestinians live in 2,500 acres of land while there are only 18,000 Jews living in the 50,000 acres of land which has been taken from the original inhabitants. In Tamara, the Arab town where Nathan went to live, the original population of 2,000 has been increased to 25,000; the Israeli authorities plan to increase this to 42,000 (88 per acre) by 2020 by further displacements. Commonly in these situations there is a desperate shortage of water in the Arab ghettos while the Jewish neighbours have swimming pools and sprinklers. Nathan quotes numerous examples of Arabs who are told that their houses have not been given planning permission despite their families having lived there for many generations. Arabs are rarely given permission to build.

Nathan tells us that the Israeli authorities do much to inhibit education for the Arab population. They have separate schools which get half the funding granted to Jewish schools. There are occasions when joint projects between Jew and Arab are publicised but Nathan says that they are invariably superficial and insincere on the part of the Jewish participants and set up to spin a false image. Israeli Palestinians (i.e. those living within Israel and holding Israeli passports) are not permitted to marry Palestinians from the occupied areas. This may even mean people living either side of an arbitrary border drawn, or even separated by a wall, through a village or town. The repeated description of Israel as being a democracy is a perversion; Nathan compares it to apartheid South Africa where she lived for a few years.

When she went to live in Tamara, Nathan was struck by how similar many of the family rituals were to those of the Jewish community which made her realise that the Palestinians and Jews are both Semitic people. The Palestinians are more purely Semitic than the Jewish immigrants, many of whom have Gentile ancestors from their time as Diaspora. Indeed Nathan's own mother was not born a Jew. Critics of Israel are often labelled as being anti-Semitic. Probably the most virulent anti-Semitism is the hatred of the Zionists for the Palestinians.

Basil Dewing

Meet the Candidates

Media speculation continues (at the time of writing this) to predict a General Election on 6th May. Churches Together in Malvern are organising a public meeting in April where the parliamentary candidates can be quizzed over their views on a range of topics. The format will be similar to previous pre-election meetings whereby the candidates will each have a chance to make a short personal statement and then to answer previously submitted questions for not more than two minutes. We ask for the questions to be submitted in advance so that we can ensure that the audience can hear the candidates' views on a wide range of issues.

The meeting itself will be held in Christ Church, Avenue Road, starting at 2.30 pm, on Sunday 11th April. The chairman for the afternoon will be the Rev'd John Barr, Vicar of Malvern. Questions for the candidates should be sent to "Meet the Candidates", 19 Priory Road, Malvern WR14 3DR, by the morning of Tuesday 6th April. A small group will then sift through the submissions to choose ten or so questions to be put to the panel. This small group reserves the right to abridge, amend or even merge the questions. My letters to the candidates have stressed that the audience wants to hear their personal views on the topics – not their party's official line! It looks as though there will be at least five candidates in the election.

I am pleased to say that all four who have already declared themselves candidates for this election have stated their intention to take part in this hustings meeting. This is likely to be the only chance in Malvern of hearing them together in one place so do come and take this opportunity of meeting them and hearing their views.

*Philip Wetherall
for Churches Together in Malvern*

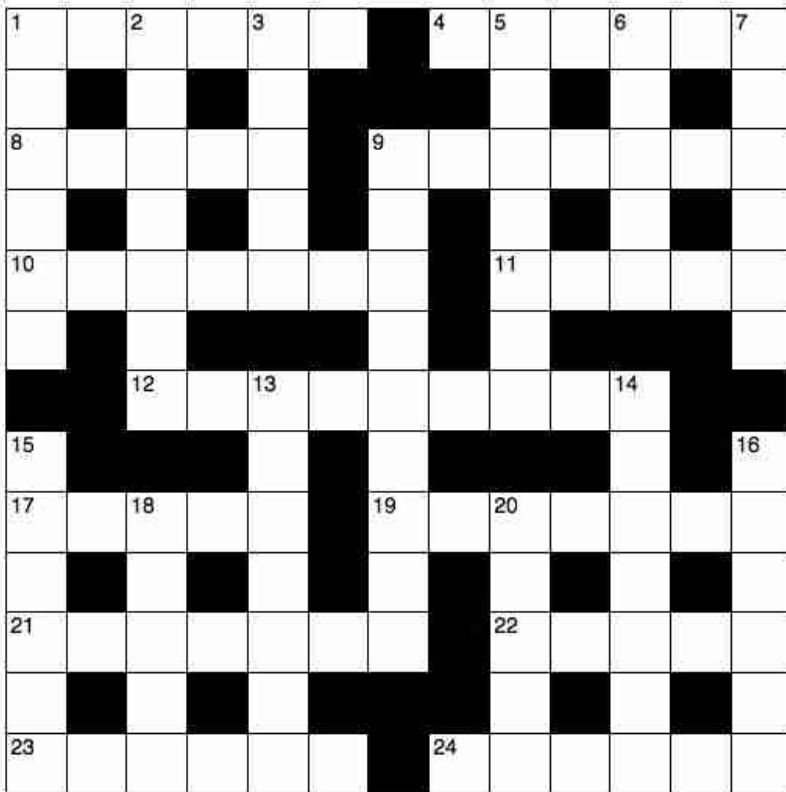
CARE Recommends

In a letter dated February, 2010, Rev'd Lyndon Bowring, Executive Chairman of CARE writes:

In the early days of CARE, many people believed that, as Christians, we shouldn't have anything to do with politics. It was deemed worldly and we were reminded that 'we are in the world but not of it'. However, people's views have now changed, recognising that **the holistic mission of the Church includes the proclamation of the gospel, and the exercise of our gospel responsibility to be effective light and salt in our society.** A survey of 500 Christians carried out last year found that 91 per cent of them believed Christians should be more engaged with politics!



Crossword April 2010



March Solution

P	L	A	N	E	T		R	U	G	G	E	D	
A		D			R		I		U		X		
T	R	U	E		A	U	G	U	S	T	U	S	
H		L			C		I		T		D		
	A	T	T	I	T	U	D	E		B	E	D	
S		E		R		R		S		L		E	
P	A	R	T	I	C	I	P	A	T	I	O	N	
E		E		S		E		U		N		Y	
W	A	R		H	I	L	L	S	I	D	E		
	W		O		D		Y			N		L	
B	A	L	D	H	E	A	D			B	E	D	E
	K		E		A		I			S		A	
C	E	N	S	U	S		A	R	I	S	E	N	

Across

- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
- 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
- 8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)
- 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message (Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
- 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)
- 11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)
- 12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)
- 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3-4) (5)
- 19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord' (Exodus 34:29) (7)
- 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)
- 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
- 23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the — apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)
- 24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)

Down

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
- 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
- 3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
- 5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)
- 6 11 Across is certainly this (5)
- 7 He reps (anag.) (6)
- 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
- 13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27) (7)
- 14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)
- 15 The human mind or soul (6)
- 16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — ' (Graham Kendrick) (6)
- 18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not — ' (Matthew 11:17) (5)
- 20 Bared (anag.) (5)