



# Malvern Priory Magazine



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

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**December 2011 / January 2012**

## From the Vicarage

### Giving ... for Life

Dear Friends,

Giving seems to go with this time of year. We give Christmas presents, send cards to keep in touch, and give New Year greetings. As well as presents, we also give of ourselves through our seasonal presence among family and friends, and we look out for those around us who we know find this time of year to be especially difficult.

Yet this year, there will be belt-tightening in many homes, due to the continued impact of the global economic crisis, and the austerity measures that governments – such as our own – are having to implement. And those whose incomes have not kept pace with inflation, or who have lost their jobs, will have to think even more carefully about how much they can afford to spend in giving to others over the festive season.

However, amidst the widespread financial anxiety and anger, fear and frugality, one thing will be as true this Christmas-time as every other. In his message on the back of the Priory Christmas and New Year greeting cards, David Webster (always good to keep in with the magazine editor, isn't it?!) expresses this truth in these words: "There is one thing that will not be in short measure – and that is the gift of Christmas itself. There is no frugality, no belt-tightening, with God. His overwhelmingly generous gift to us is not simply something He gives us at Christmas, but it is the gift of Christmas itself. Christmas celebrates God's gift of love to the world – to you and to me. He came as a baby, setting aside the glory of heaven, to be born into the ordinary world. Why? To live, and die, and rise again, in order to restore our relationship with Himself. He gave everything for us. He gave Himself, in the form of Jesus. No, there is no stinting of God's love this Christmas."

No stinting indeed. And it is in the light of this priceless gift, that we can be inspired anew to reflect more of the grace of giving which lies at the heart of Christmas. Whatever our circumstances, there is always something that we can give to others. Whether gifts of money or presents, presence or greetings, prayers or practical care, you and I can always find ways of expressing a gift of love and concern for others.

Christmas and the New Year do seem to be especially good times to reflect afresh on the grace of giving. So are we becoming more or less generous in the way that we give to others, and especially to those in greatest need? When did we last review the level of our giving to support the work of the church, including the Priory? And how much does our giving reflect the grace and generosity of God's Christmas gift to us?

Wishing you the joy of Christ, God's unstinting Christmas gift, and every blessing for the New Year,

*John Barr, Vicar*

## Priory People

### Elizabeth Dawson 1942 – 2011

Liz was born in Glasgow, but when her father was demobbed after the war the family settled in Surrey. After school she did teacher training, as an RE and PE teacher. Swimming and athletics were her passions, and she competed at regional level in swimming. Horse riding was another passion that persisted throughout her life. Liz committed her life to Christ as a teenager, and it was when she took up a teaching post at Woking, and attended her local church, that the vicar introduced her to Mike. They married in 1966. In those early years they did a lot of walking and climbing together, including many of the Munros. In 1969 Mike's job as a chartered accountant took them to Birmingham. Here Joanna and Sarah were born. But they missed the country life, and in 1974 moved to Worcestershire and then Gloucestershire. In the early 1980's Peter and Caroline were born.

In the mid 1980's Liz's back problems commenced, and they were to persist for the rest of her life. She had several operations, but without much benefit – she lived with severe pain for the rest of her life. She had to give up teaching, as standing became so painful. She took up a career as a carer, sitting with elderly and lonely people, and often staying with them overnight, so that admittance to a Care Home could be avoided. She pursued more sedentary skills, such as dress making (she had made her own wedding dress, and those of the bridesmaids). She designed and made clothes, and did knitting, sewing and tapestries. She also took up the washing, repairing and reproofing of pony blankets. Liz loved to sing, and joined choirs in Tewkesbury and Pershore. She took up flower arranging, and joined the rota at the Priory. She made many posies for Mothering Sundays.

Liz loved animals. The RSPCA would often phone her to ask her to look after animals while they looked for homes for them. As often as not these animals stayed until they died. The home was surrounded by and filled with dogs and cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, goats, geese and orphan lambs, not to mention ponies. An amusing poem, read at her funeral by Mike, Jo and Caroline, told of how the animals often took precedence over everything and everyone else. Each verse ended with the words, spoken by

Mike, "I wish I was a pony!" Liz was very supportive of the Chernobyl Children's project, and organised rides in her pony trap and visits to a local farm at milking time.

Liz lived every day of life to the full, fulfilling the words of the hymn "Live this day as 'twere thy last". Each day she spent time with God and His Word. Her faith and courage during her last illness was an inspiration to us all. Though clearly very ill, she worshipped with us until not long before her death. We thank God for Liz, and pray for Mike and the family in their loss.

*Ed*

## Joyce Owen

Joyce was born in Manchester, an only child. Her father's family came from Malvern, the connection dating back to the 1400's. He grew up in Malvern, and was a chorister in the Priory choir, and later played the organ. As a child Joyce used to visit kind but formidable aunts in Malvern, and attended worship in the Priory – but was always taken out before the sermon. As a teenager in Manchester she showed great concern for those made homeless by the first bombs of World War 2. She always had a deep care for people. Her ambition was to become a nurse, and in due course she trained in Manchester, graduating with the Gold Medal. She became a ward and theatre sister, setting very high standards for herself and the nurses under her.

After the war Joyce met a young hospital finance officer, Maurice Owen, and they married in 1953. Work took Maurice to Norwich, where he became the Group Hospital Secretary for the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital. Joyce concentrated on bringing up their family, Nigel and Elizabeth. On a visit to the hospital by the Queen Mother, she was escorted by Maurice. The Queen Mother asked where his wife was, and he told her that at that time she was actually a patient in the hospital. The Queen Mother insisted on being taken to see Joyce, who only had a few minutes warning to spruce herself up! Maurice tragically developed a progressive wasting disease, which made him increasingly dependent on Joyce's care.

In due course she moved to the Malvern she had come to love in her childhood. She revelled in the hills, and in music, especially that of Elgar. Wherever she lived she got involved in serving others – whether in the WRVS, Red Cross, Meals on Wheels, Hospital Car Service or in the Priory. She loved travel, making solo journeys to South Africa and Rhodesia. Her Christian faith was her rock, and she believed passionately in timeless truths and values. Her light burned steadfastly, and now she rejoices in a greater light.

*Ed*  
*(based on the Tribute at her funeral prepared by Canon Ivan Bailey,  
and read by Nigel Owen)*

## **Greater Churches Network Conference - 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

The Greater Churches Network, of which the Priory is a member, met here in October with delegates representing many of the larger (non-cathedral) churches from all over England. This was the eleventh such conference and the theme was "Change or Decay: Managing Change". Bishop Rupert Hoare (former Dean of Liverpool and Bishop of Dudley) gave brief but challenging sermons at services in the Priory each day, including a Choral Evensong ably led by the Priory Singers, and two early morning services for those up early enough to come into the Priory before breakfast!

Delegates from outside Malvern stayed at the Abbey Hotel, where most of the main talks took place. On the first day John Truscott, a freelance church consultant and trainer led three excellent sessions on the practicalities of managing necessary change in our churches, with plenty of helpful tips for clergy and PCCs on how to decide what changes might be needed, how to identify the correct process and how to help people through a difficult time. (His subtitle was "Does there have to be blood on the Greater Church carpet?"). He stressed that although God himself does not change, he is definitely in the business of changing us, in a world that is itself constantly changing.

The second day started with the group's AGM, followed by a talk and workshop by Gill Alexander, Director of Children's Services for North Tyneside (and Lay Chair of Hexham Abbey PCC), introducing us to a method of identifying where we need to be going by asking a series of questions about our life as a church. These in turn led to more detailed questions to help us identify the core issues that we needed to address. After lunch the conference decamped to Tewkesbury Abbey, where the Rev'd Canon Paul Williams, Vicar of Tewkesbury and Conference Chairman, described how they had managed some of the changes made there, before attending Choral Evensong in the Abbey. In the evening, residential delegates returned to enjoy the Conference Dinner before being entertained by Phillip Serrell, the well-known auctioneer, antiques expert and TV personality.

The morning of the third day saw a very helpful session by staff from Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, who sponsored the conference, with useful pointers on practical matters such as fundraising, safety, disaster management and the problem of metal theft. This session also included input from Joe Elders of the Church Building Council who act as advisers both to the Government and individual parishes and who lobby government on major areas which affect churches.

The Conference culminated in a Pilgrim Eucharist, where David Walker, Bishop of Dudley led us in stages from the font to the chancel, with reflections by Bishop Rupert at each stop. This was a fitting climax to an excellent conference. Full credit must be given to all those who helped organise it, but particularly to our own Pat and Stuart Wollaston who worked tirelessly as Conference Secretary and Treasurer respectively and without whose considerable efforts this very useful and enjoyable conference could not have taken place.

*Peter Babb*

## Reflections from the Lee Abbey Youth Camp

A group of young people from the Priory had a wonderful time in Devon on the Youth Camp at Lee Abbey from 20<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> August this year. Here are some of their reflections on that experience:

"Lee Abbey has given me that extra little push that everyone needs in their relationship with God. We learnt about being an apprentice of Jesus. The leaders were amazing and to learn about being a disciple they washed our feet. In one of the evening sessions they told us that even when times get tough Jesus is always there, loving us and helping us. It reminded me of *Footsteps in the sand*. Going to Lee Abbey has helped me see that God loves me and accepts me for who I am."

"About Lee Abbey, I guess for me as well as all of us it really helped me to focus on God for the week - there were no distractions (much) and the beautiful, breathtaking scenery reminded us of and brought us closer to God's presence. I brought away from Lee Abbey the reassuring thought that God loves and cares for us ALL the time, and the confidence to be a self-assured Christian in this world, as well as the challenge to spend more time with God and improve relations with family and friends."

"During my time at Lee Abbey, I became closer to God through the experiences I shared with friends new and old. I enjoyed learning new styles of prayer, Tent prayers first thing in the morning was good."

"What did I get out of Lee Abbey? I learnt that everybody has doubts about their religion not just me; and even though it sometimes feels like God is not helping us, he is. The leaders told me, "Just because you believe in God doesn't mean it's going to be an easy ride - our faith is always tested". I never thought so many young people believed in God - that's what's so amazing about camp, we all came together no matter what our history. We learnt how to be an apprentice of Jesus by helping other people and confessing our faith. Overall camp has made my faith stronger."

Next summer, as well as the Priory Weekend at Lee Abbey for all ages from 6<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> July, there will be another opportunity for 13 -18 year olds to go on the Youth Camp from 18<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> August 2012. The price of £155 is excellent value for a full week with everything included and transport costs can be saved by sharing lifts. See the Youth notice board or Sarah Guy or Mary Barr for further details.

## Thought for the Month

On New Year's Day in 1948 I resolved to keep a diary, briefly recording the happenings of each day. Looking through the diary in later years, I found the brief jottings jogged my memory, bringing to mind minor events I would never have remembered but for the diary entry.

All went well until the last week of August, when we went on holiday to Bournemouth. I forgot to take my diary and never resumed keeping it after our return, though I suspect that nearly eight months is longer than many New Year resolutions are kept. Many of us find that when it comes to making a fresh start on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January, the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. Sometimes people decide, very sensibly, to give up smoking only to find that the nicotine habit has got the better of them after only a few weeks. Mark Twain was about right when he said: "Giving up smoking is the easiest thing in the world. I've done it dozens of times!"

Smoking is only one example. Speaking generally, too often we find that in the words of the General Confession in the Book of Common Prayer: "We have left undone the things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done".

We may genuinely want to live as Christians should but find we fail too often. It may be of some comfort to know that no lesser person than St. Paul was in the same boat. In his letter to the Romans he points out in verse 19 of chapter 7 that what he does is not the good he wants to do but the evil he does not want to do. We all know the feeling.

But Paul not only describes the problem, he provides the answer: the power of the Spirit of Jesus. He can give us strength to do what is right and avoid what is wrong. If we trust and believe in Him, He will give us the strength to live as we should right through 2012 (not just to the end of August) and beyond.

*Tony Waters*

**Come and Sing Carols**  
**with the Malvern Chase Brass Band**  
at Christ Church, Avenue Road, Malvern  
at 3pm on Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup>  
with seasonal refreshments.

## **The Bible Society – Malvern Priory December Mission of the Month**

**The need we address:** Bible Society exists because millions lack the Bible in a language they can understand, in a form they can use, or at a price they can afford. At the same time millions still have no understanding of the Bible's value for them and their communities.

**The vision we have:** We are working to see a day when the Bible's God-given revelation, inspiration and wisdom are shaping the lives and communities of people everywhere.

**Our task is urgent:** This is because of what people, communities, and nations lose when the Bible's life-changing message is not theirs.

**Our task is huge:** More than 4,400 languages still wait for even one book of the Bible. Though a billion people can't read, only 3 per cent of languages have the Bible in audio. Every 5 seconds, someone goes blind but the complete Braille Bible exists in only 35 languages.

**The work we are doing:** Around the world we work in partnership with 140 other national Bible Societies, helping them respond to the needs and opportunities they face. In England and Wales we work especially with the worlds of the media, politics, arts and education to show how the Bible connects with life. We are presently involved in more than 550 translation and retranslation projects.

**Making the Bible affordable:** A billion people in our world live on just 60p a day. That makes owning a Bible a luxury they can't afford. More than that, it is among these poor communities that the Church is growing fast – including China, Nepal, Vietnam and many parts of Africa. This creates an urgent need for the Bible at a price people can afford. For some, like prisoners and refugees, that means free of charge.

**Demonstrating the Bible's relevance:** In our own country the Bible is readily available and affordable, but is no longer a point of reference for everyday life. Christians often lack the confidence to apply the Bible's message in a society that increasingly sees it as irrelevant. The Bible is no longer shaping the nation or enriching its life. Landmarks include 'Winterval' replacing Christmas, 'faith' words omitted from a children's dictionary and fewer people knowing the Bible's stories.

This is why the Bible Society is:

- Running initiatives designed to make the Bible, rather than religion, the issue, and for it to be taken seriously and viewed positively.
- Equipping the Church: Many assume Christians are avid Bible readers and well able to live out what it has to say. The reality is that most churchgoers:
  - Seldom read the Bible.
  - Lack confidence in their knowledge of the Bible.
  - Struggle to apply the Bible's message to their daily lives or the decisions they make.

This is the reason the Bible Society is working to help churchgoers and their ► leaders engage with the Bible more effectively. This includes:

- “You’ve Got the Time” in which a church listens to the whole New Testament together in 40 days. Over thirty Riding Lights actors took part in recording the New Testament which can be heard in just under 20 hours i.e. 28 minutes per day. It comes as a free download to computers and MP3 players.
- *lyfe*, a way for small groups to relate the Bible to their daily lives (see [www.lyfe.org.uk](http://www.lyfe.org.uk) for more info).

### **The Malvern Bible Society Action Group**

The Malvern Bible Society Action Group has been busy all year preparing for our major fundraising event, which this year was “The Autumn Craft Market”. This was held at the URC hall in Malvern Link on October 8<sup>th</sup> and raised £1026.84. We also raised money through a quiz, “Biblical Phrases” to reflect the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the King James Bible”. On November 25<sup>th</sup>, Regent’s College will have presented “Word Play”, dramatic sketches inspired by the Bible for the Bible Society Action group. It is hoped that more awareness for the work of Bible Society will have been raised as well as more funds. This year’s project is Bibles for Ethiopia.

Phone 01684-568731 for information about our craft days, which are held throughout the year. There is also a stock of crafts always available if anyone would like to have a coffee morning where crafts can be sold, or if anyone would like to find that perfect handmade item for a gift!

*Sylviane Outram*

*Bible Society representative for Malvern Priory*

– o0o –

### **Happy Christmas From The Magazine Team To All Our Readers.....**

.....and best wishes for the New Year. We would like to thank:

- Those who provided articles, reports, notices and all the other items that go to make each issue such an interesting read. Perhaps, after reading Tony Water’s ‘Thought For The Month’, you may like to make a resolution to submit an item or two in 2012?
- Our advertisers for their support – please mention the magazine when you have the opportunity to let them know that their adverts are read and noticed.
- And by no means least, each of you who has purchased and read the magazine each month – we hope you have been enjoying the various items. If you have any suggestions, comments, criticisms.....then please get in touch with any one of us.

If you do not know, the magazine team is....

*David Webster (Editor) Roger Sutton (Finance & Adverts) Colin Hagger (Compiler)*

## Priory Power Point

What is Power Point? For those who have not heard, or do not know, it is a time of prayer and worship, held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month for an hour (7.30 pm to 8.30 pm) in the North aisle. The hour is a precious time, of sometimes listening to God and being aware of His presence, and of joining in worship and interceding for the world, the nation, Malvern and the Priory – and of giving thanks for answered prayer. “Power Point” began in January 2007. It is exciting to see what God has done and is doing.

Of course there is prayer going on in all sorts of ways at the Priory – every morning at 9am in the north aisle; during our regular services; at home groups; and in Prayer Ministry, to name but a few. “Power Point” then is another time of unhurried, focussed worship and prayer in the peaceful setting of the North Aisle. Why not join us when you can? Prayer is a Priory priority, and needs to be at the heart of our life. Surely we all long to seek and touch the heart of God, as we journey through life.

A quote by Wesley Duewel perhaps describes our longing:

“The deeper you desire to see God’s answers, the deeper your hunger to see God at work, the more powerfully the Holy Spirit can pray through you. Holy desire is a holy power that energises prayer”.

– o0o –

### Molly Fuller’s Poster which was highly commended in the Priory’s Recycling Competition in July



## **Lifepath 2012**



This is to let all the Volunteers who took part in last year's Lifepath, and may want to be involved again, know that Lifepath will take place next year during the week Monday 18<sup>th</sup> – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

Letters and Application Forms will go out in February to those Volunteers who took part this year inviting them to complete the form if they wish to be involved again in 2012.

If there are others who haven't helped before but would like to, please register your interest with an email to [Lifepath.Malvern@gmail.com](mailto:Lifepath.Malvern@gmail.com) or contact 01684 561307 so that an Application Form can be sent out in February.

**– o0o –**

### **From The Friends**

We would like to thank those who have already renewed their annual membership and remind those who haven't that this was due at the beginning of October. In addition, donations are always gratefully received. If you are reading this and are not a member of the Friends, why not consider joining and help support the upkeep of the Priory building. Forms are available on our Notice Board in the South Aisle.

Thanks those who took time to enter the Logo Competition. Results will be announced at our AGM on 1<sup>st</sup> December (see below) and published in the next issue of the magazine. Keep an eye on the Friends Notice Board!

*Mike Selby, Chairman*

### **The Friends of Malvern Priory**

(Registered Charity No 503383)

### **Annual General Meeting**

The Friends will be holding their AGM on

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011

In The Lyttelton Hall

at 7.30 p.m.

Please come and support us.

A copy of the 2010 minutes will be displayed on the Friends Notice Board in the Priory.

## Visitors from our Link Church in Eastern Germany

The eleven from Wolmirstedt came in for the best of English weather. Not even in Wales did it rain! The first ever visit in Autumn brought friends old and new, and the Priory rose to the occasion, more people joining in than ever before. As they came on Friday evening a coffee morning on Saturday first brought the two parties together and the Barn Dance that evening flung us together in a rich mixture of age groups. The representatives of St. Katharina's Parish Council took the opportunity to present their commemorative gift to John Barr, who also presented the Priory's gift to them on Sunday morning after Parish Communion.

"The Outing" on Monday was to Wales as mentioned, but only just inside. The well-filled coach followed the west side of the Wye Valley to Tintern, and then to Chepstow where we enjoyed a long and conversational meal in a room looking across the river to England on the further bank. Tuesday morning was long enough to take our friends somewhere they had never been before -- up the winding stair to see the Hills and Severn's Vale from the top of the Priory Tower; then at 2 o'clock they departed to the airport.

Our visitors have expressed much appreciation towards their hosts, and we certainly enjoyed their company, finding that the time together strengthened our link with them in Christ.

We look forward, all being well, to a visit to them in 2013. Anybody coming on board?

*Edwina Hawker*

*On the next page are some photos of our visitors at the Priory, and on the back page photos of the trip to Tintern and Chepstow.*

*With grateful thanks to our photographers Hilary and Peter Babb, Sarah and David Guy, Dorothy and Jim Knights, Jan and John Maycock, and Christine and Howard Wells.*

### **Priory Coffee Morning at Crellin House, 33 Priory Road**



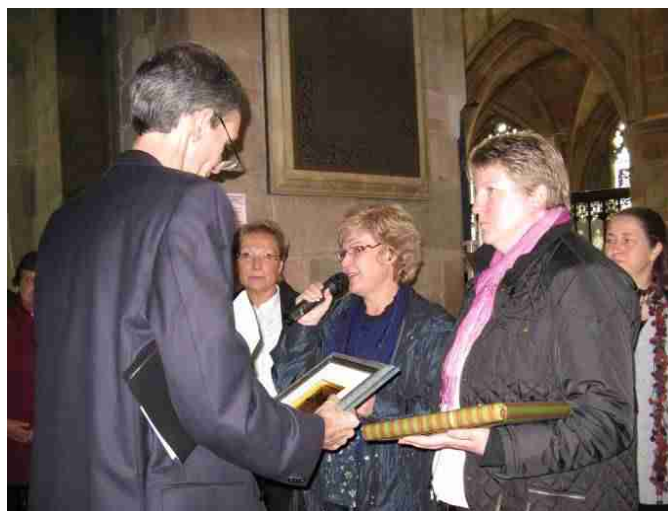
at 10.30 am Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January

An Opportunity For "Old" And "New" Priory Members To  
Meet Over A Cup Of Coffee

## The Wolmirstedt Visitors At The Priory



## Presentation and Barn Dance on Saturday



## Presentations on Sunday in the Priory



At the top of the tower.....



.....and at the bottom!

## January Mission Focus: 'Care' And 'Care For The Family'

CARE operates under the slogan "Making a Christian Difference" and seeks to make the Christian voice heard in our increasingly secular society. Current issues of concern include the status of marriage, the importance of healthy family life, assisted suicide, human trafficking and slavery and many others. Ensuring that there is Christian input in education and supporting Christian parliamentarians also provide challenges. When approached by church leaders, politicians and others in influential posts, CARE helps with research, briefings and different forms of hands-on involvement, and joins with other bodies focusing on a particular problem, such as the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Prostitution and the Global Sex Trade. Its Leadership Programme gives young graduates the chance to combine their faith with politics and the world of charity by placing them with MPs or charities such as Tearfund. From there, they often go on into positions in national organisations. Two of our current Members of Parliament went through this programme.

You can find out more about CARE at [www.care.org.com](http://www.care.org.com), or phone 020 7233 0455 and ask to be put on its mailing list.

CARE FOR THE FAMILY was established in 1988 by Rob Parsons, a well-known author and speaker. Its work is motivated by Christian compassion, and its resources and support are available to everyone, of any faith or none. It bills itself as "a Christian response to a world of need" and is especially concerned with family values and relationships. It develops presentations which deal with typical problems encountered by families today and offers support and innovative ideas for dealing with them. Its newest venture is snappily titled "Getting your Kids through Church without Them Ending up Hating God" which will tour some of our major cities. It is based on a book of the same title by Rob Parsons. Another, aimed at new parents, is called "Let's Stick Together", sadly reflecting the numbers of children who face parental separation in their early years. Advice on life after your children leave home for university and an evening entitled "Mum's The Word" are just two of the other areas covered. Practical help for exhausted lone parents was offered in the summer in the form of a week's holiday entitled "Take a Break".

More about this organisation can be found at [www.cff.org.uk](http://www.cff.org.uk) or 029 2081 0800.

Both these charities would value your prayers for their work.

*Elizabeth Dunnett*

– o0o –

A Sunday schoolteacher was carefully explaining the story of creation to his small charges. When he had finished he asked them to draw a picture illustrating what they had been taught. He went around admiring and commenting on their various efforts when he came to Jimmy. His picture puzzled the teacher. There was a drawing of a car with two people in the back and one in the front. Finally in desperation he asked Jimmy to explain the picture.

"Why, don't you see, it's God driving Adam and Eve out of Eden".

## Who's Who in the Priory

### Meet the Fullers – Jemimah, Tony, Heather, Molly

#### When and why did you come to Malvern?

**Tony:** 17 years ago, I was working in Cyprus in 1991, living there with Heather and our two older children Bethany and Richard, and then was relocated back to the U.K. in 1994.

**Heather:** Our friend who lived in Malvern had us to stay before we went to Cyprus, and I fell in love with Malvern and said “Tony, if you get relocated back to near here, Malvern would be a lovely place to live.” During a holiday we stayed here and attended Parkside Fellowship where the Lord confirmed that Malvern was the right place for us.

#### Why did you come to the Priory?

**Heather:** Jemimah befriended Whitney and Danni Farrier at Dysons and chatted about Priory activities. Jemimah asked if we could go to the Priory. At the time we were part of the Parkside Fellowship, so we said that we might one day. In fact within six months Parkside Fellowship was led by the Lord to finish, so we came to the Priory and knew it was right. I had many connections already through the primary school where all the children went, so I felt at home.

**Tony:** From my perspective I felt very welcomed, especially by Sue Pain and John and Mary Barr, Peter Edwards has been great as well.

#### How would you describe your relationship with God?

**Heather:** The Lord is my closest friend and is everything to me. I believe God has spoken to me about collecting my “manna” each morning. The word of God is very important to me and very powerful for my relationship with God. I am aware of God's presence through the Holy Spirit throughout my day.

**Molly:** God is always there for me. I know He will always answer my prayers and look after me.

**Jemimah:** My relationship with God grows stronger as I go through struggles and difficulties. I can trust Him to help and guide me each day, to keep His promises, answer my prayers and protect me. God is at the centre of my life; I don't know what I would do without Him.

**Tony:** He is my friend, encourager and prodder. I am very conscious that He is always with me and that I can talk with Him at any time.

#### What is your favourite scripture?

**Heather:** I find that the Lord speaks to me through a scripture that will really mean something to me for that particular time, but I do love the Psalms.

**Tony:** Isaiah 53 and John 3:16. Isaiah 53 points to Christ's ministry on earth and John 3:16 is the culmination of that.

**Jemimah:** My favourite is Proverbs 3:5-6, because I feel that God spoke to me with it and it helped me through a difficult time: <sup>5</sup> *Trust in the LORD with all your heart. Don't lean on your own understanding.* <sup>6</sup> *Acknowledge Him in all your ways and he will make your path straight.* (NRSVB)

### **What is your favourite hymn?**

**Molly:** I love *Lord of the Dance* because it's a really nice song to sing, and *Shine Jesus Shine* because we sang it quite a lot at my primary school.

**Jemimah:** *Lord of the Dance* is my favourite because it is upbeat and it makes me feel positive and happy.

*Dance, then, wherever you may be;  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.  
And I'll lead you all wherever you may be,  
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

**Heather:** I like *The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases*, which comes from Lamentations 3:22, because of His faithfulness that is new every morning.

<sup>22</sup> *The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;  
His mercies never come to an end;  
<sup>23</sup> they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.* (ESV)

Also I walked down the aisle to this music on my wedding day.

**Tony:** *In Christ alone*. Basically the title says it all. I sang it when I was in the X-men choir a couple of years ago and learned to love it.

### **What are your interests?**

**Molly:** I love music, singing, photography and drawing. I particularly like to draw manga, which is a Japanese comic style. I would like to learn piano.

**Heather and Tony:** Reading, music, film, art and historic buildings. We share an interest in French Citroën cars.

### **Have you any hobbies?**

**Tony:** Walking, computing and photography.

**Heather:** Walking, sewing and writing letters. (Tony: We might not have been together if it weren't for Heather's letter writing!)

**Jemimah:** I love reading, especially the classics; Jane Eyre is my favourite. I also love writing stories and acting.



### **Have you any desires?**

**Molly:** I would like to be baptised in the sea at Lee Abbey in July and be confirmed after that. I want to be an artist or a book illustrator when I am older. Also I would love to travel round the world to meet people from different cultures. I have already been to Thailand, France, Cyprus, Portugal, and even Wales and Scotland 😊.

**Jemimah:** I would like to work with children and help others.

**Heather:** I have a desire to visit my lovely aunt and uncle in Vancouver.

**Tony:** I would like to travel more.

### **What are you passionate about?**

**Tony:** Family. Seeing the church looking and reaching outwards.

**Heather:** My children and other people's children. I pray for my children and their friends, and the Compassion children we support in Kenya and Ghana.

### **What are your roles in the Priory?**

**Tony:** I'm on the PCC and in the Welcome Group. I do various computer bits for the Priory, and have just set up a Priory Facebook page (please go and "like" The Priory Church at Great Malvern). Heather and I are members of the Golden Group housegroup, which is one of the post-Alpha groups.

**Molly:** I am going to be a rowdy shepherd in the Christmas sketch!

**Jemimah:** I am part of sketch club and FEATv. I am also taking confirmation classes.

**Heather:** I am on the crèche rota.

*Sylviane Outram*

## **Malvern Link United Reformed Church**

### **A Series of Short Reflections for Advent 2011**

**Led by the Reverend Duncan Tuck**

### **Why Did Jesus Come? (and what's it to do with me anyway?)**

**To be held at Malvern Link U.R.C.**

Starting at 10.00am

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December                      To Fulfil – Preparing for Advent  
(to be held in the Hall)

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December                      To Call – The Words of God  
(to be held in the Church)

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December                      To Divide – The Judgement of God  
(to be held in the Church)

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December                      To Save – The Love of God  
(to be held in the Hall)

**All Are Welcome**



## The Archdeacon of Worcester's Letter

### Have an Enchanted Christmas

Some years ago, high above the heaving pavements of London's Oxford Street and surrounded by dazzling Christmas lights (sponsored by Disney) was the message 'Have an Enchanted Christmas'. I wondered what it might mean for someone to have an 'enchanted Christmas'.

Enchantment takes us beyond the physical. It's about the heart and about the soul. It's about realising that the ground on which we are standing is holy. It's about heaven in the ordinary. It's about God being with us.

There are three things that might make this Christmas an enchanted one. The first is play. Play takes us beyond the physical. It's about the heart and the soul. Sometimes play can help us to imagine a future that is radically different from the present. Christmas 1914 saw British and German soldiers sing carols before leaving their trenches to play football in no-man's land near Armentieres in France. Of course, hostilities resumed shortly afterwards, but that playful encounter helped those soldiers to imagine a time when wars would cease and peace would reign. (Incidentally, Germany won 3-2 – though I don't know if that was after penalties). It really is important to play together; to laugh, to joke, to imagine, to dream, to explore – and to do it together.

Love is another ingredient of an enchanted Christmas. To love and to be loved is perhaps the most enchanting thing of all. We show our love in the exchanging of presents or simply cards but, as Betjeman said, 'the only cards that really count are that extremely small amount from real friends who keep in touch and are not rich but love us much'.

The final ingredient of an enchanted Christmas is worship. On that first Christmas, angels sang of God's glory, the shepherds glorified and praised God for all that they had heard and seen, and wise men from the east knelt down and paid homage to Jesus. But if Christmas is to be an enchanted Christmas then worship must mean more than coming to church. The whole of our festivities must be punctuated with times of thanksgiving and praise. A moment's reflection in the morning, grace before meals, and maybe even a song or two – anything that focuses and refocuses our attention on Jesus.

Have an Enchanted Christmas – all of you.



## Broadcasting your Message

As part of their Sunday morning show each week, BBC Hereford and Worcester broadcasts an act of worship between seven and half past seven. The Dioceses of Hereford and Worcester share the opportunity to be part of that broadcast, and churches across the region are asked if they would like the chance to participate. Many do and thoroughly enjoy the experience of both making the broadcast and hearing themselves on the radio (not necessarily at 7am on Sunday, as the 'Listen Again' facility allows a chance to hear the programme for seven days at any time). Listeners of BBC Hereford and Worcester are treated to a range of different types of service, all with interesting themes.

'The Bridge' at St. Luke's Church, Headless Cross in Redditch, took part very recently in a broadcast which was recorded in their church on a Monday night over a two hour period and was broadcast the following Sunday. The congregation of the Bridge offered an informal 'Cafe Church' service, which included musicians, readers and contributions from members of the congregation. The service was to be broadcast on 'Back to Church Sunday', so various people shared their experiences of coming back to church. Cafe church, unsurprisingly, starts with a cup of tea or coffee; the service includes an opportunity for people to chat to each other about the service theme, as well as coming together for hymns, readings and a reflection. It's a lovely relaxed format which is really inclusive and welcoming.

The Rev'd Jo Musson, who is part of the Bridge team said, "We really enjoyed taking part in a radio broadcast. It was fabulous to see people from all our different services and congregations, gathered together and sharing something new. In particular it gave our musicians a chance to shine. Everyone was thrilled to share our worship with listeners across the region; particularly those who can't get to church. What's more, the following week, new people came to church having listened to and enjoyed the broadcast."

The Acts of Worship which are broadcast on BBC Hereford and Worcester are very well received across the two counties. For some people, it is the only experience of church that they can take part in all week, as they may be housebound or ill. The broadcasts that the Diocese of Worcester offer are recorded either by two or three people in a studio, or by a congregation on location in their own church. In either format, they allow participants to explore themes of their choosing and offer audiences a wide range of interesting themes. If you would like to take part in a broadcast, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please email: [ssetchell@cofe-worcester.org.uk](mailto:ssetchell@cofe-worcester.org.uk) .

## Book Review

### God Hunting

by Joanna Swinney

(published by Scripture Union 2011)

During my time of convalescence from an operation I have had the God-given luxury of time and space to read. One of the first things I read was the Mothers' Union bi-monthly magazine "Families First" which my mother passes onto me after she has read it. It is a great publication – see Sarah Bevan for any enquiries.

Normally I flick through but this time I read it cover to cover. One article caught my attention. It was entitled "Living Simply" and was the synopsis of a chapter in this book. This is what Jo wrote: "I am surrounded by piles that grow and shrink but never go away....stuff saps energy, it needs organising, tidying and maintaining. It takes thought, space, money and attention". Wow! I thought – she's talking about me! I must read this book. So I ordered it from the Lyttelton Well.

God Hunting is honest and real. Jo Swinney, the very busy mother of two small children, set herself the challenge of trialling one spiritual discipline a month: prayer; fasting; Bible study; worship; solitude and simplicity. She says, "I long for intimacy with God that keeps me safe from things that don't matter...I want to give my busyness and exhaustion to God, see what he will do with it and through it and discover what life lived to the full really looks like.....Maybe you can relate to that desire. Maybe, like me, you long for spiritual depth. You would love to have a connection to God that moors you in choppy waters." Jo goes on to say, however, that you "cannot expect to feel connected to him if you don't invest in your relationship". This was a challenge to me. As I read each chapter I wrote notes and underlined the particular parts that had spoken to me so my copy is looking a bit tatty!

Each chapter has a podcast link to it. Listening to them is very helpful. You can hear them at [www.scriptureunion.org.uk/godhunting](http://www.scriptureunion.org.uk/godhunting). Included among the podcasts, Jo talks with Pete Greig (founder of 24-7 Prayer) about Prayer and to Fiona Castle about Simplicity.

I found this book really challenging and would definitely recommend it. If we search for God he will be found by us and then there is no knowing what might happen. Hunting is a potentially dangerous, exciting and terrifying pursuit. Beware!

*Sarah Chappell.*

– o0o –

### Lunch Box in the Priory

**December 1<sup>st</sup>** Christmas Concert by children from Malvern Parish School

**January 19<sup>th</sup> 2012** The Elim Community at Regents College, Malvern – talk by Nigel Tween, Principal.

*Bring your own lunch at 12:30 – tea/coffee available. Talk/concert begins at 1 pm*

## The Priory Bell Ringers

We have had an excellent year so far; ringing for a good number of weddings with the last one in November.

The social events of Picnic and Outing were well attended. Mari Brown (ex. Priory) organised the Picnic in her locality, ringing at Grosmont and Skenfrith in June with an unexpected rain-free picnic by the River Monnow to follow. Trevor Still arranged the Outing in September. We rang at six Towers in the vicinity of Ludlow where some bells were easier to handle than



***Suckley & Priory Ringers at Stanton Lacy, Shropshire***

others. At Ludlow itself, a ten-bell Tower, there were over 135 steps ascending to the ringing chamber, which has a section of glass floor in the middle to look down on the choir stalls below – useful for ringing signals.

Since our last report, David Roskelly (steeple keeper) and Jane James have undertaken successful training for new ringers, giving regular sessions before Thursday practice evenings. Tanya (Jane's daughter) has progressed amazingly well and is now learning how to raise and lower a bell. Unfortunately we lost a recruit due to work relocation, although Katherine will continue to ring in Shropshire.

Our next Open Day will be on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December from 1 – 4 pm when we hope to welcome as many new faces and recruits as possible. May we wish you all a very happy and joyous Christmas season.

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## Diocesan News

As we mentioned in the March 2011 magazine, the Diocese ceased producing the Diocesan News at the end of 2010. Since then we have printed the Bishop's letter and selected items (when available) in this magazine (see pages 18 and 19 for the items this month).

The full text of the Diocesan News, which is still produced but only in web format, is available on the Diocesan website - <http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/> - follow the link in the lower right corner to "Diocesan News". There are also links to "Events", "Press Releases", "News" and "Diocesan Mailing".

We will continue to include the Bishop's Letter and any relevant items from the Diocesan website in each issue of this magazine.

## Cathedral Chaplains

If you are in Worcester cathedral, and the clock is striking the hour, you may hear a voice booming around the building. It is probably coming from the day chaplain standing next to the brass eagle, introducing a prayer. Sometimes that voice is mine. The hope is that visitors will stand still for a couple of minutes and be quiet. It doesn't always happen. The vergers may not have pressed all the control buttons for the sound system, and the petitions only reach half of the cathedral. Occasionally nothing is switched on and the chaplain is praying to the eagle.

When everything is functioning, people may come up afterwards and express thanks for meeting their needs at that time. That makes the five or six hour shift worthwhile. About fifteen of us volunteer for duty, clerics and lay people and not all Anglicans. It's very much a general duties job. The hourly prayers are the important bit, but availability to anyone present comes a close second. Cathedral staff, welcomers and visitors may value a chat or want directions to King John's tomb, the tower or the toilets.

On any day there could be school visits, groups of foreign students, organ practice or tuning, even someone falling down the choir steps. First aid will be given by the vergers. A cathedral couldn't function without the vergers. They make sure that everything is set up and ready for worship services. Day chaplains are invited on certain days to preside at the Eucharist, so I have been attended to by a verger for that privilege.

Highlights could be ministering during the Three Choirs Festival, enjoying exhibitions of children's art work, celebrating Communion in the crypt, blessing a newly-bought crucifix for a visitor. Challenges come in the form of certain "regulars" who head straight for the nearest clerical collar, and people who ask for money. The chaplains are just a few out of the 300 or so volunteers who are glad to be in the cathedral from time to time. Do we deserve our free jacket potato in the prior's parlour at lunch time? Probably not, but the monks in the old days could easily have asked themselves the same question.

*Jim Knights*

### **Saltmine Theatre Company Presents**

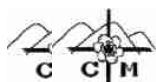
### **A Christmas Carol**

Dickens classic tale comes to life this Christmas  
in a theatrical spectacular, suitable for all the family!

**on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm  
at the Elim Arts Centre, West Malvern**

Tickets: Adults £7, Concessions £5  
Family ticket (2 adults, 2 children) £20

Box office: 01684 588975; or email [trudi.smyth@regents-tc.ac.uk](mailto:trudi.smyth@regents-tc.ac.uk)  
Tickets also available at Regents Village Shop



## Churches Together In Malvern

**Week Of Prayer For Christian Unity – 18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> January 2012**

**Events in Malvern to which all are invited**

**Theme: ‘We will all be changed’**

### **Lyttelton Well Prayer Room**

Lunchtime Led Prayer Meetings 12 noon – 1 pm

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>, Friday 20<sup>th</sup>,

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>, Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>

- |                            |             |   |
|----------------------------|-------------|---|
| Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> | 7.15pm      | Somers Park Methodist Church<br>Unity Games Evening   |
| Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>    | 10.30am     | United Reformed Church Malvern Link<br>Shoppers’ Service followed by Prayer Vigil   |
| Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>    | am          | Link and Central Groups<br>Morning Service – Exchange of Pulpits  |
|                            | 4.00pm      | Christ Church, Avenue Road – Unity Service with<br>Unity Choir<br>Speaker – Canon Dr Ann Holt O.B.E.<br>Director of Programme – Bible Society |
| Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup>   | 7.30-8.30am | ‘Prayer on the Hills’ meet Beacon Car Park  |
|                            | 7.45 pm     | Somers Park Methodist Church<br>Open invitation to Ladies Club – Speaker the<br>Rev’d Eric Knowles  |
| Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> | 7.45pm      | St. James West Malvern<br>Prayer and Praise Evening for all   |

### **Unity Choir**

We hope once again to have a Unity Choir to take part in the Unity Service on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January. This year it will be under the leadership of Barbara Brickwell as Penny Vere will be away.

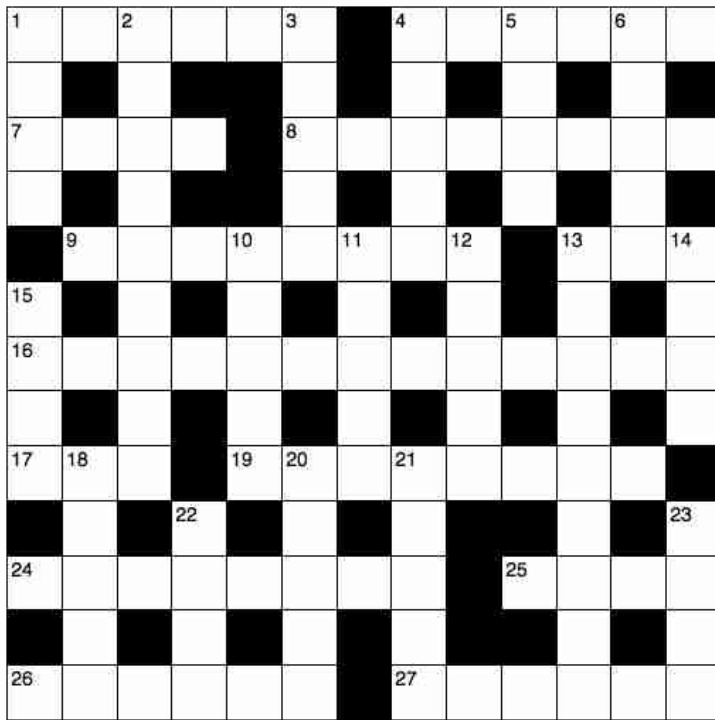
The choir is open to all who enjoy singing and there will be two rehearsals at 7.30pm on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January and Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January in Christ Church. If you wish for further details please contact 01684 568655.

**– o0o –**

### **Camels**

In Jane’s Christmas drawing, two of the camels were approaching the inn, over which was pictured a huge star. The third camel and its rider were going directly away from it. “Why is the third man going in a different direction?” her mother asked. Jane replied, “Oh, he’s looking for a place to park.”

## December / January Crossword



## November Solution

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

### Across

- 1 Rely (Psalm 62:7) (6)  
 4 'He stretches out the heavens like a —, and spreads them out like a tent to live in' (Isaiah 40:22) (6)  
 7 What the dove carried the olive leaf in, when it returned to Noah's ark (Genesis 8:11) (4)  
 8 Annoy (1 Samuel 1:6) (8)  
 9 Judah's last king, who ended his days as a blind prisoner in Babylon (Jeremiah 52:11) (8)  
 13 'They all — and were satisfied' (Luke 9:17) (3)  
 16 Eliphaz the Temanite was one; so was Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite (Job 2:11; 16:2) (4,9)  
 17 National Association of Evangelicals (of the USA) (1,1,1)  
 19 Popular song for New Year's Eve, Auld — — (4,4)  
 24 Able dock (anag.) (8)  
 25 The number of stones David chose for his confrontation with Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (4)  
 26 Elgar's best-known 'Variations' (6)  
 27 Soak (Isaiah 16:9) (6)

### Down

- 1 Money owing (Deuteronomy 15:3) (4)  
 2 Conciliatory (Titus 3:2) (9)  
 3 'Do this, whenever you — it, in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (5)  
 4 A group assisting in the governance of the Roman Catholic Church (5)  
 5 One of the gifts Joseph's brothers took with them on their second journey to Egypt (Genesis 43:11) (4)  
 6 'Reach out your hand and — — into my side. Stop doubting and believe' (John 20:27) (3,2)  
 10 Be outstandingly good (2 Corinthians 8:7) (5)  
 11 'What — — that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?' (Psalm 8:4) (2,3)  
 12 Horse's feet (Judges 5:22) (5)  
 13 Notice (Deuteronomy 17:4) (9)  
 14 Comes between 2 Chronicles and Nehemiah (4)  
 15 One of Israel's northern towns conquered by Ben-Hadad (1 Kings 15:20) (4)  
 18 Narnia's Lion (5)  
 20 One of the two rivers in which Naaman would have preferred to wash (2 Kings 5:12) (5)  
 21 Avarice—one of the evils that come from inside people (Mark 7:22) (5)  
 22 Knight Grand Cross of St Michael and St George (1,1,1,1)  
 23 Jacob's first wife (Genesis 29:23) (4)

# Visit to Chepstow and Tintern with our Wolmirstedt Friends



Tintern – West Front (above) and Chepstow Bridge and Castle (below)

