

Malvern Priory Magazine



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

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February 2012

From the Vicarage



Dear Friends,

In a rapidly changing world, what enduring values do we treasure, and how do they shape our lives? Last December, our Prime Minister David Cameron spoke about this in an address he gave at Christ Church Cathedral in Oxford, marking the 400th anniversary year of the King James Bible. After pointing out how the Bible has helped to shape the Christian values that define our country, the Prime Minister went on to highlight the importance of living by a shared moral code:

“Let’s be clear. Faith is neither a necessary nor sufficient condition for morality. There are Christians who don’t live by a moral code. And there are atheists and agnostics who do. But for people who do have a faith, their faith can be a helpful prod in the right direction. And – whether inspired by faith or not – that direction, that moral code, matters. ... Whether you look at the riots last summer... the financial crash and the expenses scandal... or the on-going terrorist threat from Islamist extremists around the world... one thing is clear: moral neutrality or passive tolerance just isn’t going to cut it anymore. Shying away from speaking the truth about behaviour, about morality... has actually helped to cause some of the social problems that lie at the heart of the lawlessness we saw with the riots. ... Put simply, for too long we have been unwilling to distinguish right from wrong. ‘Live and let live’ has too often become ‘do what you please’. Bad choices have too often been defended as just different lifestyles. To be confident in saying something is wrong... is not a sign of weakness, it’s a strength. But we can’t fight something with nothing.”

Amen to that! And, in the Bible, we have the God-given key to finding a framework for life, one that can relate to everyone, whatever their situation. Over the coming weeks from Candlemas (29th January) to Palm Sunday (1st April) – including the season of Lent – we shall be using material by J. John (website just10.org) which explores (in reverse order!) how the 10 Commandments (*just 10*) continue to be vitally relevant to individuals and society alike. Further details about the Sunday 10.30 sermon series, and weekly showing of the *just 10* DVDs, are elsewhere in this magazine (see page **7**).

In the light of Jesus Christ, may you and I come to discover more of how God’s 10 laws of love can come to shape our lives, and to transform our world.

Wishing you every blessing in Jesus Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'John Barr'.

John Barr, Vicar

Priory People

Colin Rodway 1944 – 2011

Colin was, throughout his life, a staunch member of Holy Trinity church, serving there as verger in recent years. He was also, since 1971, a member of Round Table and then of Rotary, serving in various capacities, including President in 1990/91. After school he served an apprenticeship at RRE before joining the family hardware business in Malvern Link. His drive led the business to expand with branches in Barnard's Green and Ledbury. His expertise and reputation in the hardware industry led to him becoming National President of the British Hardware Federation.

So what was Colin's link with the Priory? An extra Trustee was needed for the Friends of Malvern Priory, and it was required that the Trustee should have no "conflict of interest" i.e. should not be a member of the Priory. Colin was approached, and readily agreed to serve in this capacity. He became a valuable member of the Friends Council. He was appreciated for his wisdom and expertise, but also for his friendliness and approachability, and his sense of humour.

Colin leaves his wife Angela, son Simon (who was married in 2010) and daughter Virginia (married last year). In spite of his final illness Colin was immensely proud to walk Virginia down the aisle. Colin's name will be added to the Priory's Book of Remembrance.

Ed

– o0o –

From the Registers

Marriages

November

Ben and Stacey Eiser

Funerals

October

Liz Dawson

Joyce Owen

Priory Coffee Mornings

10.30 am Saturday 11th February at:
4 Severn Drive, (off the Guarlford Road).

And

10.30 am Saturday 3rd March at:
9 Warwick House, 1 Wells Road.

An opportunity for "old" and "new" Priory members to
meet over a cup of coffee

Junior Choristers' Concert

Saturday 3rd March 2012 at 6.30 pm

The Malvern Priory Choirs' Association invite members of the congregation to join us on Saturday, 3rd March at 6.30 p.m. for the Junior Choristers' Concert.

The concert will take place in the upstairs Lyttelton Room and will include a ploughman's supper. This not only gives everyone the opportunity to enjoy instrumental and vocal performances by our talented young choristers, but also to meet friends and enjoy supper together. The choristers will join together during the evening for a performance of 'Captain Noah', which is a favourite of many.

Tickets are on sale now, £6 for adults £3 for children and are available from chairman, (01905 831070) and secretary (01684 565188). The final date for tickets is Sunday 26th February, so please contact us soon to avoid disappointment.

Eileen Wilson

– ooo –

Christmas Services in Great Malvern Priory

The Priory was packed for all our Christmas services, and we owe a debt of gratitude to our clergy, the choir, the custos, and the wardens for all their hard work - not forgetting Mary in the office, and the flower arrangers. Who said that the Church of England is dying? For the Christingle service there were over 800 in church.



With thanks to John Willis for the photo

Doug Hall – Priory Chorister



Presentation to Doug Hall on his retirement from the Priory choir after nearly 30 years of faithful membership.

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Women's World Day of Prayer 2012

Friday 2nd March

Malaysia is home to the Rajah Brooke, the world's largest butterfly, to the world's largest plant, the flowers of which can measure a metre across and to the Rhinoceros Hornbill, one of the world's largest birds. The colour and diversity in the Malaysian forests is reflected in the country's painting and sculpture, in the joy of kite flying, bird singing competitions and shadow puppetry.

Malaysia is one of the wealthiest and most developed countries in South East Asia. Women have made important contributions to its social and economic development but, nevertheless, they still face discrimination and violence in the areas of education and employment. There are many migrant workers in Malaysia and human trafficking is a problem that needs to be faced.

The theme for the 2012 Women's World Day of Prayer which has been prepared by the women of Malaysia is: "**LET JUSTICE PREVAIL**"

Two services will be held on Friday 2nd March:-

At 2 pm at Somers Park Methodist Church when the speaker will be Loun Ling Lee who has lived and worked in Malaysia and is now the Director of Asian studies at Redcliffe College, Gloucester.

At 7.30 pm at St. Mary's, Sherrards Green.
Everyone is welcome to attend.

Thought for the Month

What makes a good church service? There are many answers to this question; some helpful, others less-so. In the Catholic and Anglican tradition we generally make use of something called 'liturgy'. This word literally means 'the work of the people', and it refers to the way in which we order our worship, based on forms and structures that people have found helpful over many centuries. Liturgy enables us to use the Bible creatively, in context, and ultimately in a way that helps us to meet with the living God.

Every liturgy will incorporate things that are fixed and things that are flexible. For example, in a parish communion service we generally use the Gloria and the Creed, but the readings, prayers and hymns will vary according to the time and season. Those parts of our worship that do **not** change are there because they are particularly important; so our tradition is to repeat them regularly. If you attend Evensong at the Priory, you will hear different readings, psalms, prayers and anthems every week. But you will have two passages of Scripture that never change – they are both from St. Luke's gospel: the Magnificat and the Nunc Dimittis. The Magnificat is Mary's song of praise on learning that she is to bear the Son of God, Jesus Christ. The Nunc Dimittis is the response of Simeon in the temple, when he takes the baby Jesus in his arms and recognises him as the Messiah, God's anointed one.

It is no accident that the Book of Common Prayer appoints these two canticles for every evening of the year. In her Christmas speech of 2011, the Queen said: 'God sent into the world a unique person, neither a philosopher nor a general – important though they are – but a **Saviour**, with the power to forgive.' This saviour was recognised by the Virgin Mary (before his birth), and by Simeon in the temple (soon after his birth); this was the saviour who was to change the world forever.

On the second day of this month, we celebrate Candlemas – the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. It is an event that we must ponder, for it reminds us that Jesus came to save the world. He is the light that no darkness can ever put out. I shall leave you with the Nunc Dimittis, words of Simeon himself, uttered on that day when he encountered Jesus: 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

Peter Edwards



Sunday 10.30 am Sermon Series

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|------------------|
| 29 th January | <i>Find Contentment</i> | Exodus 20.17 |
| 5 th February | <i>Hold To The Truth</i> | Exodus 20.16 |
| 12 th February | <i>Prosper With A Clear Conscience</i> | Exodus 20.15 |
| 19 th February | <i>Affair Proof Your Relationships</i> | Exodus 20.14 |
| 26 th February | <i>Manage Your Anger</i> | Exodus 20.13 |
| 4 th March | <i>Catch Your Breath</i> | Exodus 20.8 |
| 11 th March | <i>Take God Seriously</i> | Exodus 20.7 |
| 18 th March | <i>Keep The Peace With Your Parents</i> | Exodus 20.12 |
| 25 th March | <i>Know God</i> | Exodus 20. 4 – 6 |
| 1 st April | <i>Live By Priorities</i> | Exodus 20. 2 – 3 |

Wednesday lunchtime showing of DVD of J. John's live *just 10* Presentations

Starting at 12.30 pm in the Choir Vestry each Wednesday from 1st February to 4th April. Each presentation lasts between 30 – 45 minutes, and no tickets are required – just turn up!

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Malvern Churches Justice & Peace Group

February 12th 2012 at 3.00pm
at the Friends Meeting House, Orchard Road

“Life in the West Bank – Palestine”

Ann Farr, from Birmingham, an accompanist with EAPPI (Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel,) will speak on her recent experiences “surrounded by olive trees and settlers.”

There will be a further opportunity to chat with Ann over tea and cake at the end of the meeting.

There will be a stall selling Palestinian olive oil, dates, and other products, especially olive wood carvings. Free literature will be available.

All are invited so do come and bring your friends.

Evensong on Sunday 5th February

Poverty and Homelessness Action Week (28th Jan – 5th Feb)

There will be a special service in the Priory on Sunday 5th February at 6.30pm, marking the annual Poverty and Homelessness Action Week (28th Jan – 5th Feb). This year, the theme of the week is 'Breaking Barriers' and the speaker will be Jonathan Greenwood, who is Manager of Young People's Projects at Malvern Hills Foyer.

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Priory Giving to Mission 2011

For many years it has been the Priory's policy to give away 10% of our income to mission. In 2010 a potential shortfall was more than made up by a gift day. It is a matter for thanksgiving that in 2011 we were able to give the 10% without resorting to a gift day. The following allocations were proposed by the Witness Group, approved by the Finance Committee, and passed by the PCC.

| | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Total amount allocated: | £16,570.00 |
| CMS | £ 3623.40 |
| Crosslinks | £ 3623.40 |
| Tearfund | £ 988.20 |
| CPAS | £ 988.20 |
| Bible Society | £ 988.20 |
| Boulders | £ 988.20 |
| Open Doors | £ 823.50 |
| Scripture Union | £ 823.50 |
| Care Trust | £ 658.80 |
| Care for the Family | £ 658.80 |
| MAF | £ 658.80 |
| Life Words | £ 658.80 |
| St George's Baghdad | £ 494.10 |
| UCCF | £ 494.10 |

The retiring collection before Christmas, for personal gifts to our mission partners (Chorltons, Smiths and Websters) raised £488.50, which was divided between them. Great appreciation has been expressed.

Priory Winter Welcome Day

MMM, Three Thousand, 3,000 whatever way you look at it that's a lot of people!



Just in case you've been hibernating or haven't the foggiest idea what we are talking

about. That's how many people came into the



Priory on Saturday 3rd December. To say the Priory was buzzing would be an understatement there just seemed to be a steady stream of people coming in to listen to the music, have a drink or just look around the Priory. It is great that we had so many visitors but it does create a logistics problem in that you can't talk to all of

them or serve them all drinks but with more help we can. But it wasn't just on the 3rd – we had in all 4 Welcome Days during November and December – an ideal

opportunity to reach out to the community and spread the message of Christmas.



The Traders Carol Service on the 17th was a great success with more attending this year than last. Christmas 2012 is already in the planning and whether you like it or not will soon be upon us.

A big thank you to all those who helped in whatever way to make 2011 so good.

We want 2012 to be even bigger but we can only do it with your help.



The pictures of the Priory Welcome day are of the activities in the nave, the churchyard.



Thanks to David Guy and Irene Lacey for the photos.

Event co-ordinators Ann Oldfield and Peter Young

– ooo –

Fairtrade Fortnight 2012: 27th Feb – 11th March

What is Fairtrade? Fairtrade is a simple way whereby each of us can make a difference through our everyday choices. It's about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world. Fairtrade aims to enable the poorest farmers and workers to improve their position and have more control over their lives.

In 2012, everyone is encouraged to "Take a Step" for Fairtrade and bring a brighter future to farming communities in the developing world. A simple step like putting one more Fairtrade item in your basket could be just the start of a journey for communities that farm Fairtrade crops. For example, buying Fairtrade chocolate can offer cocoa farming communities a brighter future. In Bipoa, Ghana, they were able to invest in clean water. Another example comes from Padampur where farmers want to sell more Fairtrade cotton so that they can

invest in different ways to earn a living when harvests fail. Many more people could benefit if you join thousands of others across the UK and take a step for Fairtrade in 2012. Together, each step leads to the better deal that millions of farmers and workers so urgently need.

The Malvern Fairtrade Group will be organising various events to encourage you to "take a step in 2012." As last year, displays about Fairtrade will be shown in Great Malvern Priory and the Tourist Information Centre during the Fortnight. Other events, including a Shopping Competition, will be advertised closer to the time.

Malvern Fairtrade Group

Malvern Priory Lunch Box

David Mead, Treasurer of the Darjeeling Railway Society, gave a talk about the railway project which started in 1997 in the Priory on Thursday 17th November.

Building of the Railway started in 1879 and the line opened in 1881; it runs for fifty-one miles and climbs over two thousand metres; it was built to facilitate the export of rice and tea.

It is now a UNESCO World Heritage site but needs continuing heavy investment to keep it running; apart from the cost and maintenance of the engines and rolling stock, the track is under threat from heavy monsoon rains and land slips;



operation has also been disrupted in the recent past by political unrest.

While the principal aim of the Society is the preservation and improvement of the railway, the underlying purpose of the project is to inject funds into the local community and encourage education and medical support. India has a free education and health service but these facilities are quite often difficult to access because of the distances

involved.

After the meeting a hundred and sixty pounds was collected as a donation to the Darjeeling Railway Community Support Group. A collection of local craft work from the Darjeeling region was also on sale.

Although road access to Darjeeling is now available and steam traction is not the most effective way of reaching the foothills of the Himalaya, the railway is still an important artery linking local communities.

The Support Group are always looking for people who are willing to help in any way with fund-raising efforts, spreading the message or running the Charity. You can become a Trustee, set up an area group, give a talk or run a fund raising event. They can provide information and other resources to help.

Contact help.drcls.sec@talktalk.net

Or see the web site: <http://www.drcommunitysupport.org.uk/>

Photo Directory

It has been suggested that the Priory ought to have a photo directory to enable people to put names to faces. Being a part of it would be purely voluntary, and nobody under 18 years will be included. I am going to be asking people over the next few months if I can take their photo for the directory. It would be great if people volunteered because I may miss people out. I shall do my best to ask everyone. The directory will be available to those who ask for one, and will not be left out in church.

So far we have over 100 people but it would be helpful to have head and shoulder photos sent to me via Contact Us on the website. Also if you see me wandering around with my camera do approach me if I haven't already taken your photo.

Sylviane Outram

Who's Who in the Priory

Meet Marita Christian



I was born in Handsworth Wood, Birmingham, evacuated during the war to Llwyngwrl in Wales, and returned to Birmingham to finish my education at Edgbaston High School. I had a very forward-looking grandmother (she was the first lady to ride a bicycle in Bath), who encouraged me to seek a career in orthoptics (treating eye conditions). I trained at Birmingham children's hospital, then worked in Derby, then Taunton Somerset where I met Leo who was working for the Southwest Electricity Board. Our son Simon was born in Dover and Tim was born in Churchdown Gloucester. We then moved to Newbury.

When and why did you come to Malvern?

In 1964 Leo's job brought him to Worcester, but we decided to live in Malvern on Summerfield Road. After Leo retired he became the Priory Administrator, working in the office with Sue Pain for ten years. We then lived at College Grove.

Why did you come to the Priory?

Canon Lunt noticed us as newcomers, welcomed us and immediately introduced us to another family and got us into a new house group at Barbara and Tim Wilson's. Celia Lunt was running a very active ladies group that met at the old vicarage in Tibberton road. Ronald Lunt organized an annual church weekend at Cropthorne with illustrious speakers, which is how we met David Payne, who introduced the Priory to the healing ministry. During Bill Richard's time I was chairman of the Pastoral Committee and we started up the Care Scheme, one of the first in the Malvern churches.

How would you describe your relationship with God?

Totally essential. My relationship with God has changed throughout my life, but the most important side is my prayer life. I have always been fortunate enough to be in a house group and I found house groups to be a support and a stimulus.

What is your favourite scripture?

My favourite scripture varies according to where I am in my life. I do daily Scripture Union readings, so different verses will affect me at different times.

What is your favourite hymn?

*I lift up my eyes to the quiet hills
In the press of a busy day:
As green hills stand
In a dusty land
So God is my strength and stay.*

because it speaks of God being the centre of each day.

What are your interests?

I enjoy the different societies that I am a member of in Malvern, which involve history and travelling. I also enjoy singing in the Praise Group. I enjoy seeing the progress in my two sons' families. Simon lives near Glasgow and Tim is based in Malvern.

What are your roles in the Priory?

I have been an official Welcomer for many, many years with Leo and I continue to enjoy welcoming people in a relaxed way. I am in the house group meeting at Trisha Hutchinson's.

Sylviane Outram

The Friends of Malvern Priory

(Registered Charity No 503383)



WITH BRING AND BUY

SATURDAY 31st MARCH 2012

At Ivydene, 12 College Road, Malvern

by invitation of the Chairman

10 a.m. until 12 noon

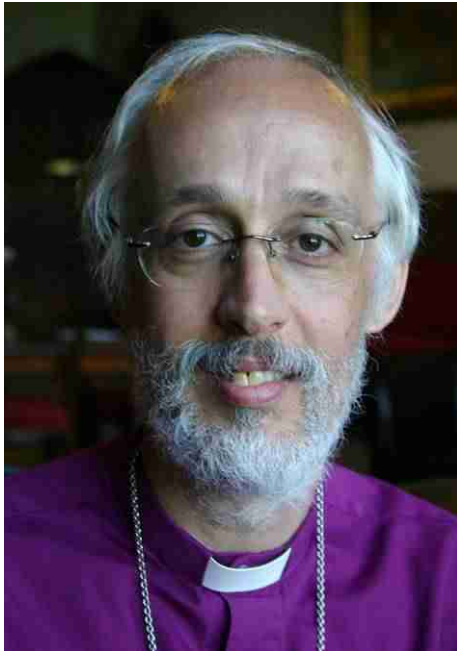
To raise funds to help pay for the maintenance and preservation of Malvern's historic Priory Church.



The Bishop's Letter – from Bishop David

Managing Expectations

For something like 150 years the majority of the population of the UK have



enjoyed a better standard of living than their parents. It's become ingrained in our culture that those of us who are parents can anticipate our children exceeding our own accomplishments. When a pattern like this becomes established over such a long period it moves from being something we hope for, and are grateful if it happens, to something we expect, as of right, and are frustrated, angry or resentful if it does not come about. Every year on year, with occasional exceptions, we expect things to improve – so that what we have afforded one year becomes part of our expectations every year: consumer goods, fancier cars; bigger homes; more foreign holidays or whatever.

It wasn't of course true of the world in which Jesus grew up. Things often did get worse, steadily worse. Indeed, the Bible is framed in a world view of decline – from the Garden of Eden to the destructing of the Jerusalem temple. And you and I may now be entering a prolonged period when it won't be true in our society either. Whilst overall the world economy can and will continue to grow, the greatest beneficiaries of that growth will not be in Europe or North America, and for some years the present economic crisis may well more than offset the modest growth we might otherwise achieve.

The question for 2012 is whether as a society we can adapt to that, learn to make do without the expectations of growth, and continue to play a full part in reducing the environmental impact of our lifestyles, for the sake of those who will follow. For Christians, who hold to a higher value than the accumulation of wealth and possessions, there will be a vital part to play; not least because when the cake gets smaller the squabbles over the sizes of the pieces get harder. Recent research has shown attitudes in the country hardening against the poor. Paradoxically the fewer jobs there are, the more we seem inclined to blame those without work for their own plight. At the same time, the rhetoric of the debate on the welfare benefits suggests we would rather see ten innocent people impoverished and humiliated than allow one to milk the system.

I believe that we are called to stand up to this harshness, to be a people who look to see that neither the poorest in our society, nor generations yet to come, are made to bear the brunt of our failure to recognise that, unlike the song, it isn't always the case that "things can only get better".

Messy Church

We Wish You A Messy Christmas.....!

The inauspicious weather forecast did not dampen the enthusiasm of the thirty or so volunteers as they gathered at the Lyttelton Rooms on a dull Sunday afternoon to make final preparations for the first 'Messy Church' session at Malvern Priory on December 11th. Several months of prayer, planning and preparation were all coming together. Activities had been devised and resourced; food requested and brought in; a session of celebration put together. All the children of Malvern Parish School had received invitations but no one knew how many children and families to expect – if any!

An hour later the first visitors arrived. After being registered they were shown upstairs by a member of the Welcome Team. As they walked through the door of the Main Hall, they were confronted by attractive tables, covered in red spotted tablecloths, with all the necessary resources for the various craft activities. Their Welcomer explained the options. They could make a Christmas card, a paper flower or a table decoration. They could visit the quiet corner and write a prayer to hang on a tree. They could sort Christmas cards into groups and stick them on a big board. They could learn to 'sign' a carol. They could make a collage of the nativity scene or, last but not least, they could make some edible donkey dung out of chocolate, icing sugar and mashed up shredded wheat. Needless to say, this activity was very popular!

More children and families arrived – about forty altogether. The atmosphere was relaxed and there was a buzz of purposeful activity as the children moved from one activity to another assisted by their parents.

After forty-five minutes everyone was shepherded downstairs for a short, informal celebration. The essential message of Christmas was explained and the point was made that the first Christmas – in the stable at Bethlehem – was also messy. We sang two carols, the second of which – We wish you a Messy Christmas – had been adapted to fit the theme and was also 'signed' by those who had attended the signing activity earlier.

What a feast for the eyes awaited when we came back into the Main Hall for tea! The catering team had produced a wonderful spread and everyone tucked in. There were fresh-cut sandwiches, cakes and plenty of healthier options too. Photographs had been taken during the activity session and these were projected onto a screen to remind everyone of the things they had done.

The end of the afternoon was upon us in no time and, as our visitors filed down the stairs, there were many positive comments. All those helping felt this had been a very enjoyable and worthwhile venture. Thanks should go to all those who helped but particularly to the Messy Church Core Team for their vision, hard work and attention to detail, which resulted in such a successful afternoon.

The next Messy Church session is on Sunday February 5th. Do get involved!

And further Messy church dates for this year are:

April 1st, May 27th, July 1st, September 9th, October 28th and December 9th.

The Friends of Malvern Priory

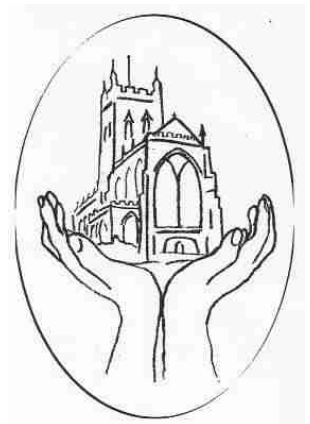
Colin Rodway (Trustee). As many readers will know, Colin was admitted to the Royal Free Hospital in London in June to start a six month course of chemotherapy as he had a very rare form of cancer. Colin was one of our three Trustees who had given much support to the Friends. Unfortunately Colin lost his battle and died just after Christmas. A letter of condolence has been sent to Colin's wife and family.

Annual General Meeting. Our AGM was held on 1st December 2011 and the weather this year enabled 32 people to attend, almost three times the number who braved the perilous conditions in 2010.

- The Treasurer reported that the accounts had been audited and approved; income from investments had been volatile in the past year with a steep drop on 30th September, the last day of the Friends' financial year.
- The Chairman explained that the emphasis of the last year had been on 'raising the Friends profile'. Highlights of the previous year included establishing a computer membership database, use of email communication, the outing to St. Mary's Priory and Penpergwm Lodge Gardens in Abergavenny, Choral Evensong and the Logo Competition. Since the last AGM grants totalling £9,622 had been made to the PCC with a further £2,600 for work still outstanding.
- The three officers Mike Selby (Chairman), Derek Valentine (Treasurer) and Elizabeth Dunnnett (Secretary) were re-elected unanimously as were the current members of Council with the exception of Judith McGregor who had tendered her resignation. The Chairman recorded the thanks of all members for her service to the Friends.

Outing 2012: In the absence of Anne Savage, the Chairman gave details of the plan to visit Forde Abbey and Gardens near Chard on Wednesday 9th May. Anne will be pleased to hear from all who are interested in this trip.

Logo Competition: The Council had judged the entries. Peter Cotton won the under 12 section. Clare Dewing won the adult section (see design on right) for which the prize was Life Membership of the Friends. She has since donated the prize to Peter Young (Custos) who was delighted to accept.



Dates for your Diary:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Coffee Morning (at 12 College Road): | Saturday 31st March |
| • Outing to Forde Abbey: | Wednesday 9th May |
| • Friends' Choral Evensong and Cream Tea: | Sunday 15th July |
| • Next AGM (in the Guesten Room): | Thursday 6th December |

Mike Selby

Priory Lighting Scheme

“Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord.....”

.....the prayer used by monks worshipping in the gloomy candle-lit Priory during the Middle Ages and continued by local parishioners to this day in The Order for Evening Worship.

Despite the arrival of gas and then electric lighting the Priory remains gloomy by today’s standards on all but the brightest days. Forms of worship have become more varied and a wide range of other activities in the Priory mean that the existing lighting no longer meets current requirements.

A growing number of visitors wish to view and understand the nine hundred and twenty six years of history represented in the Priory. On a bright day visitors are richly rewarded with glimpses of life in a Benedictine Priory and a Parish Church through the ages, but on a dull winter’s day – the heritage and beauty of the building are lost in the stygian gloom.

The installation of new lighting in the Priory will enable the many aspects of the work of the church to move forward and be seen in a new light!

The new lighting installation proposed for the Priory takes into account the needs and views of the congregation and the views of the PCC, together with those of the Diocesan Advisory Committee, English Heritage, lighting designers and others.

The Chancellor has granted a faculty for the work to proceed and has commented “this seems to be a very well thought out scheme.” He also concurred with the view of English Heritage that “the potentially differing needs of various uses and the conservation of the historic building have been so well reconciled.”

The new installation consists of two separate elements:

- to provide appropriate levels of illumination for the activities of the many and varied users of the Priory, and
- to enhance the beauty and heritage displayed by the Priory building.

The new installation will be energy efficient and it is an objective to increase the illumination while not increasing the energy consumption.

Where they are visible, the new light fittings will complement the different building styles in the Priory, while others will be placed discreetly so as not to interrupt the splendid internal views.

The estimated cost of the proposed new lighting, together with some essential renewal and adjustment to other parts of the Priory electrical installation, is £150,000. A Priory Lighting Fund has been established to raise this sum in order that the new installation can be commenced.

Individuals and groups are invited to contribute to this major initiative in the development of the work of the Priory. There are many ways to contribute including:

- Making a cash donation – which can be “Gift-Aided” by taxpayers



- Pledging to make a monthly donation for 12 or 24 months.
- Sponsoring some of the materials needed, ranging from £5 which will buy three metres of fireproof cable, to light fittings costing between £100 and £1,000 each.
- Organising a fund raising event either in the Priory or elsewhere which can be almost anything from a coffee morning to a concert.

Any donations by cheque should please be payable to: "Great Malvern Priory PCC" with an indication that the donation is for the lighting fund, and whether it can be "Gift-Aided".

The Parish Office is the first point of contact for any further information:

Or see details on the Lighting Appeal page of the website- linked from the Home page.

Watch for further information about the new lighting and think how you can help to LIGHT UP THE PRIORY.

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Malvern Holiday For Children Affected By The Chernobyl Disaster

We invite you to consider hosting two children aged 10/11 years from Belarus. They are coming to Malvern for four weeks from June 13th for a health giving holiday. This is our tenth year and fourth for children from the small town of David Gorodok. Each child stays in two families and there are group activities on three days each week.

Please ask for details (Tel: 01684 561358) or pick up a flier from the Priory.

MALVERN PRIORY ORGAN RECITALS

Saturday, 25 February, 12.00 noon

Peter Shepherd *(Malvern Priory)*

You've heard Peter's astonishing playing before, during and after our services. Don't miss this opportunity to hear his first Priory recital. His programme includes:

Durufié *Prelude and Fugue on the name Alain*

Bach *Trio Sonata No. 6*

Nielsen *Two movements from Symphony No. 3*

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

Large video screen projection.

Retiring collection for Priory funds

Ethiopian Odyssey – Part One

In November 2011, Basil and Clare Dewing with Ian and Sylviane Outram travelled to Ethiopia. The following is Clare and Basil's impressions of the trip.

Basil and Clare Dewing: Our guide Dawit was a notable scholar able to tell us much about the history of this very early Christian country and the sociology of today. We walked through open-air markets which gave us insight into every day commerce and had invitations into private homes, both substantial houses and primitive structures of timber poles covered with mud daub. Amongst our party was a specialist in the theology of the early Christians of Ethiopia. He amazed the priests when he read the 12th century text directly in the Ge'ez language and



script. At Axum, in the compound of the new Church of St Mary of Zion, is a very small chapel (to which access is not permitted) that is reputed to contain the Ark of the Covenant. Probably the most astonishing church was Giyorgis (the Church of St George) at Lalibela. The building was not constructed but made in 12th century by excavating a rectangular trench about fifty feet deep into solid rock leaving a block which was then

carved to form doors and windows into the interior of the building. It is incredible to see the roof of the church, with a cross carved into it, flush with the surface of the ground. Other remarkable carvings of stone are the Stelae obelisks at Axum, the world's tallest monoliths. How they were transported and erected is a mystery. In the Simien Mountains at nearly 11,000 feet we saw ibex and the unique gelada monkeys. At Bahar Dar, where the Blue Nile leaves Lake Tana, fishermen still use papyrus boats similar to those of the ancient Egyptians. We hiked to the spectacular Blue Nile Falls. Harar is a largely Muslim city, regarded as the fourth most important in Islam, and an interesting comparison with the majority Christian population. There is a tradition of feeding wild hyenas at nightfall just outside the city wall – quite an experience. The Ethiopian people were delightful. Even the



poorest children wished to practice their English on us as the secondary education is conducted in English, and from the books we saw it is of a high standard. The agriculture was amazing to see: cereals were harvested with sickles – they had not even advanced as far as having scythes – and then threshed by driving cattle or horses round in a circle.

Ian and Sylviane have invited Dawit to stay in June and July so there may be an opportunity for others to meet him and for illustrated talks.

Part two – Sylviane's impressions – to follow next month!

Science and Faith 2011

Between May and November last year (2011) Chris Oliver gave a series of talks as a follow-up to the Science and Faith lectures in 2010. These were based on the same – or similar – titles, but also including a lot of new material from Chris.

In “What is Truth”, he provided some very thoughtful comments on the philosophical and theological definitions of Truth, and his examples ranged far and wide – I will never see Turner’s Fighting Temeraire without now knowing that Turner painted it as it could never have been seen – sailing in the opposite direction so that the setting sun was behind! – just one of many examples he used.

“Cosmology and Creation” took us from the Big Bang to the present, and even some musings about pre-Big Bang – what happened before time and space existed? And if that wasn’t enough, he tried to explain the sheer magnitude of the times and distances involved – no easy feat!

“Evolution and Creation” allowed Chris to admit to not being an expert in the field but he put together a very good talk on the amazing story of the evolution of life and used as examples just a few of the forms of life on the planet.

“Time and Eternity” certainly posed a challenge, less to the lecturer maybe than the audience – but he managed to keep most of us just about able to grasp some of the concepts.

“Brain Mind and Soul” was also an area outside Chris’ “comfort zone” (we were told) but he gave a very good outline of another almost imponderable subject. Both this talk and “Ecology and Stewardship”, the last in the series, were based on the talks given at the original lectures but with a lot of personal and specific (and interesting) ideas and views from Chris.

In all of the talks, Chris managed to impart both his own knowledge on each subject – usually including a great deal of his own material – and, what was in my opinion lacking from some of the original talks, musings on where each of the science topics and his beliefs meet and how for him there is no conflict.

I have only briefly mentioned one or two items from a few of the talks due to space (it would take a very long article to do them justice) but they really were a tour de force considering they were all put together by one person. For those of you who couldn’t attend any or all the talks, the slides plus Chris’ commentary from all 6 sessions are available on DVDs at £4 for the set of 2 DVDs (available from David Webster).

As well as the talks, I should also mention that plenty of time was allowed for discussions after each talk, and these were often wide-ranging and including most of the audience. And, as far as I could tell, Chris attracted a wide audience from the Priory – plus a few visitors – from both scientific and non-scientific backgrounds. Although I come from the former category I’m sure, especially from the discussions, that the talks were equally appreciated by both groups. ►

Those of us who attended were presented with a huge range of issues and thoughts. The mixture of the science and the faith issues in each talk were well integrated and both aspects very well explained – both in technical fields Chris claimed to be familiar with, and others which he claimed not to be. I can only repeat “Why not buy the DVDs?”

Thank you very much, Chris.

Colin Hagger

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Organ Recital News – The First £10,000

It's great to report that since the series of organ recitals started in 2005 a profit of over £10,000 has been made for Priory funds. Thanks are due to all those who have helped the recitals in any way and to those who supported them and contributed to the retiring collections.

The first recital of the 2012 series is the eagerly anticipated recital by the Priory's Assistant Organist, Peter Shepherd on Saturday, 25th February (see details on page 18). This will be followed with recitals by:

Roy Massey (Tewkesbury) on Saturday 14th April,
Tobias Frank (Neubrandenburg, Germany) on Saturday 30th June
Shaun Bowers (Bath Abbey) on Monday 27th August
Jan van Mol (Antwerp) on Saturday 20th October
Richard Brasier (Bonn) on Saturday 1st December

Geoff Fearnough

Lunch Box In The Priory

Thursday lunchtime talks and concerts

Bring your own lunch at 12.30 - Tea/Coffee available

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|---------------------------------|---|
| February 2nd | Concert by musicians from Malvern College conducted by Iain Sloan |
| February 16th | Wildlife on the Malverns – a talk by Ian Rowat, Malvern Hills Conservators |
| March 1st | The Life and Work of a modern Bishop's Chaplain – “We feebly struggle, they in glory shine”. Talk by the Rev'd Lizzie Shipp |
| March 15th | Glevum Farm Trust - A Care Farm in Worcestershire providing Services to the Community - talk by Ed Davies, Director |
| March 29th | Concert by musicians from Malvern St James conducted by Lynne Lindner |

Let Your God Love You

Be silent
Be still.
AloneEmpty
before your God.
Say nothing.
Ask nothing.
Be silent.
Be still.
Let your God
look upon you,
that is all.
He knows,
He understands.
He loves you with
an enormous love.
He only wants to
look upon you
with His love.
Quiet.
Still.
Be.
Let your God love you.

Edwina Gately

A lovely poem to meditate upon during Lent as a reminder of the first of our Lord's commandments to love not only Him but others too. As we reflect on His love for us and how we respond to it there are a possible four stages to think upon.

- 1) Listen to God.....spend time in silence.
- 2) Speak to God.....spend time in effective prayer.
- 3) Obey God.....think through the Ten Commandments.
- 4) Action.....service whether paid or voluntary and in keeping with your current circumstances.

Thelma Scott

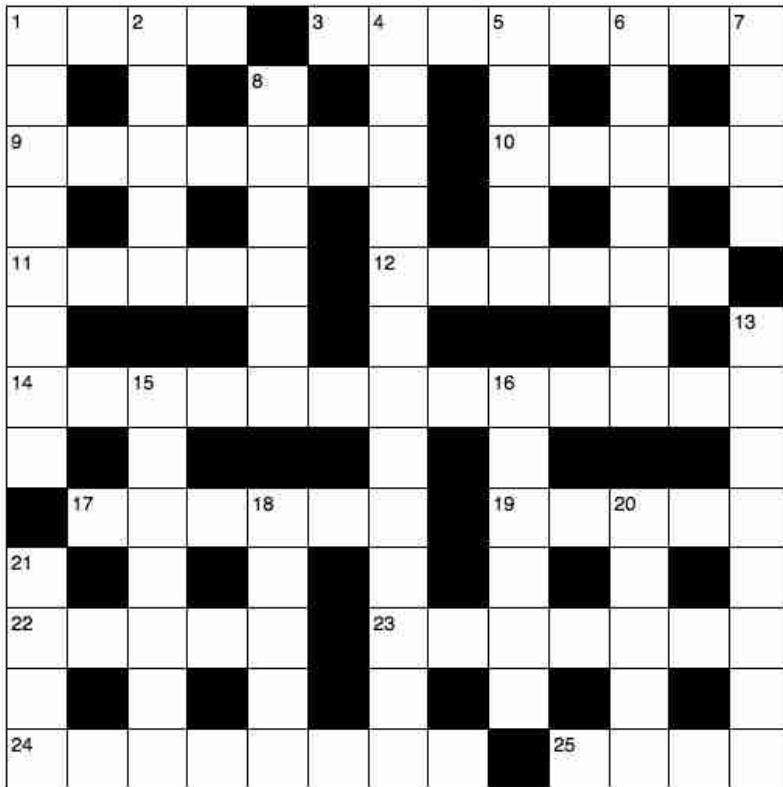
Pancake Race

The fifth annual Pancake Race organised by Malvern Rotary Club will take place on Tuesday 14th February in Priory Park from 12.30 to around 2.00 pm.

This fun and fundraising event invites teams of four of any age over 15. Sponsorship raised will be shared between the charity chosen by the runners whilst the other half will be used by Rotary for local causes.

For information or entry forms ring 01684-563429

February Crossword



December / January Solution

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | E | P | E | N | D | | C | A | N | O | P | Y | |
| E | | E | | | R | | U | | U | | U | | |
| B | E | A | K | | I | R | R | I | T | A | T | E | |
| T | | C | | | N | | I | | S | | I | | |
| | Z | E | D | E | K | I | A | H | | A | T | E | |
| I | | A | | X | | S | O | | T | | Z | | |
| J | O | B | S | C | O | M | F | O | R | T | E | R | |
| O | | L | | E | | A | | F | | E | | A | |
| N | A | E | | | L | A | N | G | S | Y | N | E | |
| | S | | G | | B | | R | | | T | | L | |
| B | L | O | C | K | A | D | E | | | F | I | V | E |
| | A | | M | | N | | E | | | O | | A | |
| E | N | I | G | M | A | | D | R | E | N | C | H | |

Across

- 1 Salary (Isaiah 19:10) (4)
 3 Question Jesus asked of those healed of leprosy, 'Were not all ten — ?' (Luke 17:17) (8)
 9 Wide, elevated level area of land (Joshua 13:9) (7)
 10 'So you also must be — , because the Son of Man will come... when you do not expect him' (Matthew 24:44) (5)
 11 '[He] said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He — — , and his hand was completely restored' (Luke 6:10) (3,2)
 12 'Who has gathered up the wind in the — of his hand?' (Proverbs 30:4) (6)
 14 Not born again (13)
 17 'Again and again he — the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins' (Hebrews 10:11) (6)
 19 Mails (anag.) (5)
 22 'He — — here; he has risen' (Matthew 28:6) (2,3)
 23 Defeated (Judges 20:43) (7)
 24 Soldiers' quarters (Acts 21:34) (8)
 25 'Pillars of marble' were how the Beloved described those of her Lover (Song of Songs 5:15) (4)

Down

- 1 Totally destroyed (Genesis 7:23) (5,3)
 2 What the Philippian jailer was told to do with his prisoners Paul and Silas (Acts 16:23) (5)
 4 Object of ridicule (Job 12:4) (8-5)
 5 In most years, the month in which Easter falls (5)
 6 For example, Caesarea, Joppa, Tyre, Sidon (7)
 7 '[Jesus] was in the desert for forty — , being tempted by Satan' (Mark 1:13) (4)
 8 'Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power — to our God' (Revelation 19:1) (6)
 13 Mend dots (anag.) (8)
 15 Purifier (Malachi 3:3) (7)
 16 Attacked (1 Samuel 27:8) (6)
 18 The good Samaritan to the innkeeper: 'When I return, I will reimburse you for any — expense you may have' (Luke 10:35) (5)
 20 How Matthew described the crowds who followed Jesus (Matthew 4:25) (5)
 21 For example, one of 25 Across (Judges 19:29) (4)

