

Malvern Priory Magazine



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

July / August 2010

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From the Vicarage

Church Without Walls?

Dear Friends,

The picture of a church without walls might, at first, seem a rather strange and contradictory one. After all, in the Priory's 925th anniversary year, we are celebrating the faith expressed, and prayers offered, within the strong and ancient walls of the Priory. Walls that have been built to the glory of God, and to house the worship, welcome, and witness offered by the Lord's pilgrim people down the ages.

However, as the "Church without walls" theme of the Priory's Lee Abbey weekend at the start of July can remind us, there are some walls which are not so helpful. Many in the church today feel under pressure from secularism, and also from the new strident atheism. In such a situation, it is tempting to build defensive walls because of fear, or a lack of confidence. Such walls may protect, but they do not serve the Gospel.

A few weeks ago, Mary and I enjoyed a fleeting return visit to Ridley Hall in Cambridge. This was the theological college where we first met, as we trained for ordination. We were there to spend time with Peter Edwards – the new Priory Curate – as we thought about the transition from ordinand to ordained, from student to curate. During our visit, we heard from the Principal about the Ridley Hall vision-statement, which can be summed up as: Roots Down (into our evangelical convictions); Walls Down (to others in the Church); Bridges Out (to and from the world).

In a rapidly changing and uncertain world, how tempting it is for the Church to become a more defensive inward-looking holy huddle, a people who seek to protect themselves by a wall of rigid orthodoxy, and who do not really engage with the world around. On the other hand, it is just as tempting for the Church to become so open and 'inclusive', so engaged with the surrounding culture of the day, that it then loses touch with its Gospel-centred roots, and so ceases to be distinctively Christian. Yet, as the Ridley Hall vision-statement reminds us, there is another way – the 'walls down' way of generous orthodoxy. Orthodoxy whose belief and practice is deeply rooted in the Apostles' teaching, and the Church's tradition. Generous because, as Hans Frei (who first coined the expression 'generous orthodoxy') observed, "Generosity without orthodoxy is nothing: but orthodoxy without generosity is worse than nothing."

By the power of the Spirit, may the Lord help us to be His deeply rooted, generously orthodox, Priory Church without walls.

Wishing you every blessing in Jesus Christ,

John Barr, Vicar

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“Saved” By The Railway

It is 150 years since the railway came to Malvern. It changed the town forever. It “saved” the Priory building too.

Easy access brought wealthy folk to both visit and live in the town. It was respectable to worship and to be seen to worship. Wealthy Anglicans wanted to attend the Priory Church in Great Malvern. For centuries the building had been neglected and badly repaired. A heavy programme of restoration was done, some would say too heavy. But it “saved” the building. The question is, what did it do then and what does it achieve now in “saving” folk from their selfish urges and pointing them to a lively faith in a living Saviour? Does it point them to God or is its history the only thing they see? Our culture values the past. Does it make it hard to see the way to true Faith?

What do you think?

Peter Lawrence

The Window Through Which We Look

A young couple moved into a new neighbourhood. The next morning while they were eating breakfast, the young woman saw her neighbour hanging out the washing. “That laundry is not very clean”, she said. “She doesn’t know how to wash correctly. Perhaps she needs better detergent.”

Her husband looked on, but remained silent.

Every time her neighbour hung out her washing to dry, the young woman would make the same comments.

About one month later, the woman was surprised to see a nice clean wash on the line and said to her husband:

“Look, she has learned how to wash correctly! I wonder who taught her.”

The husband said, “I got up early this morning and cleaned our windows.”

And so it is with life. What we see when watching others depends on the purity of the window through which we look.

Priory People

“Filling the GAP”

What an amazing opportunity God gave me! During these last four months (January to mid May) I have been working in Kampala, Uganda under the auspices of Crosslinks, a mission organisation who run a Gap ‘Smile’ programme. A completely different environment, new people, new smells and the intense heat: so many changes, so many challenges!

From Tuesday through to Friday we were teachers in local schools around Kampala. On Friday afternoons and at weekends we were involved in leading a programme for street children in Kivulu slum. On Sundays we attended Calvary Chapel, a great Bible-based church in the centre of Kampala. Mondays were a day of rest!

I was based in a primary school called ‘Treasured Kids’ in a very poor area called Kosovo, which means ‘Death has struck another one’. The majority of the children have sponsors overseas – school fees, even though they are very little, are just too great for many of the poor families. The highlight of the teaching week was leading a girls P7 (Year 7) Bible study. In the course of the term we looked at 1John together. I loved being able to talk openly about my faith, not only in the Bible studies but in lessons too. Often in the West we find ourselves defending our faith, so it was a great joy to have the opportunity to share so openly.

In Kivulu slum with the street children

In the slum we were part of ‘Frontline Ministry’ a team led by Calvary Chapel. I loved getting to know the kids. They showed their love very generously despite their hard lives. It was hard at times listening to their stories of how they’ve ► ended up on the street. Many are pushed out when their father re-marries and the new wife wants to begin her own family. We gave talks three times a week, acted out Bible stories and played games. What a great chance God gave us to witness his love to them!

God’s grace became clear to me over the months, particularly in the John Bible studies we shared together as a team. God gave me a desire to read his word and a chance to serve him. For the first time in my life I realised how much I need God. Without him I can do nothing. John 15 talks of Jesus as the vine, us as the branches; without the vine the branches cannot live. In the same way God taught me how without being firmly rooted in him and his word, I can do nothing. Our command is to produce everlasting fruit, fruit that brings glory to God. There is no chance we can do this on our own strength.

This truth became particularly real to me in the work we were doing with the street kids. It is so easy as a westerner to go over to Uganda, see all the poverty and think 'what these children need is a home and an education'. However true this is their first need is to know Jesus, to know his love and his gift of life. I am truly grateful for the Frontline team working with the children in Kivulu. They give up so much of their lives to the children and their first desire is for the kids to know God.

In the last few weeks that we were there our team was in charge of organising and holding a Sports Day for 400 children from a variety of slums in Kampala. It was a great day (despite the rain!) and a wonderful chance for the children to get away from the slums and have a day of fun learning about Jesus. Dave, our team leader, gave the talk and many children prayed a prayer for Jesus to come into their lives.

The street children in Kampala are looked down on greatly by the rest of society. I remember a time when we were returning to the church from some sports in a local field when a man brushed past us and said in Luganda to the kids, 'Why are you bothering those buzungu? They don't want you, you're not worth it.' Andrew, who leads the Frontline team, gave a wonderful speech to the children at the sports day. He told them how God's love is so amazing; it's not based on who we are or what we have done; instead his love is so big that it goes beyond that, and it can't be restricted. He loves us all equally and so much that he even died that we would live.

Short-term ministry is hard to come back from... I feel that I have received more than I have been able to give. I am so thankful for all God has shown and taught me. I pray that I can grow from this and that it will really impact my whole life. I am already thinking of returning! I recommend hugely the Smile Crosslinks programme to anyone thinking of doing a Gap year.

Zippy Chappell

Confirmation 2010

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

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

This year, the Confirmation service for our local church area (Deanery) will probably be held on a Sunday evening towards the end of November.

Because you make important promises when you're Confirmed, you need to know what it's all about. That preparation will start in the Autumn, with separate sessions for adults and young people.

If you want to find out more, please contact me, Mary Barr [via Contact Us].

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Treasures Of The Priory – 925 Talk

It was a full house for Dr. John Harcup's talk, reminding us what a Treasure we have in Malvern Priory. Not only were we told some new facts, such as one Vicar having 5 curates and another Vicar having a pigeon loft and allowing the birds to fly through the Priory windows but also the importance of Walcher in changing Roman Numerals to Arabic and introducing seconds and minutes – we will be looking at the astrolabe candlestick holder with renewed interest.

It was also interesting to look afresh at the significance of the medieval tiles, the stained glass windows and the stonework of the church. Dr. Harcup said it was a disaster that the Guesten House and other parts of the Priory had been destroyed, but at least we had the gateway and some artefacts to remind us of those times.

We should also be grateful to the parishioners who bought the almost derelict Priory for £20, even if it did take a number of years to bring it back to resembling a living church. Although many of the audience were members of the Priory, many of whom knew a lot of the historical background, we all learnt something new and renewed our enthusiasm for being more aware of the treasures it possesses.

Delysia Barker

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Hearing

A man went into a church and asked the minister to pray for his hearing. "Ah, certainly," said the minister, somewhat taken aback. The man knelt, and the minister placed a hand carefully on each ear. In a loud voice he asked God to help the man with his hearing. "I hope that will help," he shouted to the man.

"Well, we won't know for a while," the man replied softly, "it isn't until next month".

Nineteen Years of Listening!

The Lyttelton Well Counselling Service began, in a small way, even before the Well officially opened in 1992. It seemed that God was a step ahead – 4 Priory members had already felt prompted to train in counselling. Trisha Hutchison already had a degree in Sociology and Psychology. Claire Charley, Rosemary Webster and Nina Weston signed up for the St John's College, Nottingham, C7 course in Pastoral Counselling. The then new Baptist minister in Malvern, Tom Bowman, himself a trained counsellor, asked the challenging question "What are you waiting for?" And so, in a small, modest way, counselling began, using what is now the Prayer Room as the single counselling room.

Soon in-house training began, with the franchised St John's course. The number of counsellors grew. As GPs and Social Services gained respect for, and confidence in, the Well Counselling Service, so also the number of clients grew. More space was needed, and the present Counselling Suite was adapted. When Rose Mary Morris, with an MA in Counselling, joined the team the Well began to run in-house Diploma Courses, as well as certificate courses. There were now about 20 trained counsellors (all part time volunteers), and the Well was seeing about 100 clients a year – over 800 hours of counselling each year. And so the Counselling Service has evolved into what it is today.

Now, after 19 years and many, many clients, 3 of those 4 original Priory members are stepping down – Trisha, Claire and Rosemary (Nina having already done so). With them goes a wealth of experience and wisdom. In early June a Celebration was held to look back, with thanks to God, to how it all began. And to thank those three, and Sue Price, for all that they have contributed to the Well Counselling Service. Now, under



"The Listeners" (from L to R): Sue Price, Claire Charley, Rosemary Webster and Trisha Hutchison

Julie Jarman's leadership, the Well looks ahead with faith to new challenges, new Government demands, new tick-boxes – but the same unchanging human need of people going through hard times - of a wise, listening ear, and somebody's unhurried time. May the Well continue to meet that need, to fill that gap, in our community, in God's name and with His love.

David Webster

Friends Of Malvern Priory Outing – 11th May

Dorchester, Oxfordshire, and its Abbey had not impinged themselves on my consciousness until Anne suggested an outing there, and how glad I am that she did! The journey took us through attractive Spring scenery. On arrival, we were rewarded by a gem of a building into which we were warmly welcomed by church members for coffee before meeting others who took us competently and pleasantly through the history of the building and introduced us to its treasures.

The church began life in 635 as the cathedral of a vast diocese stretching as far as north Lincolnshire until just after the Norman Conquest when Lincoln cathedral superseded it. There are still some traces of the Saxon building. The present building dates from 1140 when it became an Augustinian Abbey. After the dissolution of the monasteries it became the parish church.

The first impression on entering was of light; this had been achieved by removing a former dark entrance and replacing it by an airy one with access for those with mobility difficulties. This had been part of a grand refurbishment for which £4,000,000 had been raised. Applications for faculties and appearances at consistory court had a strangely familiar ring. Housing the new heating system outside the building had led to a very impressive cloister walk on the north side in which carved stones which had detached themselves over the years were innovatively displayed. Among the treasures in the church we saw the mediaeval glass, the Jesse Tree window, frescoes, the lead font and interesting and unusual monuments.

Our time exploring the Abbey passed all too quickly, but lunch at Waterperry Gardens near Wheatley awaited us. Fortified by good food, we wandered in the gardens amidst the ghosts of Beatrix Havergill and her partner and all the young ladies trained by them in horticultural techniques in the early 1930s. There was much of interest there, and temptation not always resisted in the plant centre. Cups of tea and indulgent nourishment were imbibed before the journey home.

Once again, Anne had provided us with a memorable day out. The apparently seamless way in which it proceeded belied the hard work and frustrations she had encountered as she set it up. We all echoed Basil's thanks to her as we neared home, and hope she will be encouraged to take us forth again next year.

Elizabeth Dunnett

Lunch Box Special July Addition

In Great Malvern Priory at lunchtime on Thursday 1st July, Dave Cowell brought the children of Somers Park School to perform extracts from their musical "Land of Shadows", based on the poems of John Masefield.

The concert lasted from 1 pm until approximately 1.50 pm. The music was lively, sensitive and the children sang beautifully.

A Serf's View Of The Mediaeval Fayre

One fine day in May, me master let me have time off to visit the celebrations in the hamlet of Malvern where they do say the Priory has been there for 925 years. I put on me best hose and ambles up the hill to see what is going on.

There's flags and banners flying everywhere and a very fine lady down from Westminster

welcomes I to a Mediaeval Fayre. Don't think much of her steed, it's be small, hairy and barks - won't get far on that!



First thing I sees

and smells is roast pig so I try some of that, best meat I've had all year. Some of them important people is in the pillory getting soaked. Not much of a punishment, more of a cooling off! They seem to be enjoying it! I had a go at Splatting the Rat but not much good at that.



Inside it's cool and all sorts of things going on. I've never seen so many folks in Malvern, they say a 1000 but I can't count that high. Cakes, plants and something called 'books' for sale. Lots of games which I try including Treasure Hunt, Guess the Weight for a cake which would feed me for a week, Guess my Name for Dragons and Tyrolean skittles but I didn't have any luck. There was some people with

painted faces which were pretty amazing.

Lots of things to look at including binding books although they bind wheat not books on the farm where I works. Lots of lovely calligraphy and pictures to look at. Displays of old bits of Malvern from the Museum and the Civic Society.



I climbed up the Tower and were gob smacked by the view from up there when I got me breath back. When I got back down I was very glad to have a cup of something they called tea and a lovely home made cake. Were very welcome.



There was lots of entertainment for Solo Circus who did lots of clever things including riding something with only one wheel and juggling at the same time, music from Squeake's Noyse playing new fangled instruments such as the vials and the hurdy-gurdy, such nice littles ones, magic from Martin and some of them modern madrigal songs from the choir.



Well what a day and sunshine all day long. Off home to milk the cow and put my feet up.

Jeremy Tudge



*There are more photos of the Fayre below.
Thanks to the photographers, especially John Lacy.*



Priory
Mediaeval
Fayre



San Juan Evangelista

One of our two Priory link churches is that of San Juan Evangelista, in Pamplona Baha, Peru. Because of distance and language difficulties it sometimes seems a rather tenuous link. But over many years we have prayed for them (and they for us), and for their minister (the Rev'd Luis, now retired), and his wife Teofila. One of our housegroups regularly supports Jono, a needy young lad who is a member of that church. Thelma Scott and Chris Little have visited Pamplona Baha in the past.

Our link was recently revived and brought to life by a visit to the Priory of Paul and Sarah Tester, CMS/SAMS mission partners working at San Juan Evangelista. Unfortunately their visit had to be in an afternoon and at short notice, so only a handful of Priory people were present. But it was a fascinating and instructive visit, and their powerpoint presentation brought to life the people and needs of Pamplona Baha. One of the main activities of the church is the "Compassion Project", a sponsorship project seeking to improve the lives of children through personal links. 200 children and teenagers are registered with Compassion. The aim of the project is to help young people to stay healthy, to learn useful skills, and to come to know Jesus Christ. Paul and Sarah showed us photos of the church and congregation at San Juan Evangelista, and also of the building work which the Priory funded several years ago. They also spoke of the wider church situation in Peru.

Chris Little, together with 14 others from the diocese, will be visiting Peru from 6th – 20th August, and we shall send our greetings with Chris from the Priory to all our brothers and sisters at San Juan Evangelista.

Rosemary Webster

Malvern Priory Organ Recital

Monday, 30th August, 12.00 noon

Andrew Millington (Exeter Cathedral)

Andrew, son of Tom Millington a Priory Chorister for many years, was a choirboy in the Priory Choir.

He studied organ at Worcester Cathedral and Cambridge before becoming Assistant Organist at Gloucester Cathedral.

He is now Director of Music at Exeter Cathedral.

Andrew will play music by Bach, Elgar and Whitlock.

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

Who's who in the Priory

Meet John Clements



When did you come to Malvern?

I was born in Winslow Cottages in Winslow parish in Herefordshire, four miles from Bromyard. I went to school at Bredenbury. From the age of four or five, I walked with my Grandfather two miles across the fields to Pencombe church on a Sunday evening (the milking needed doing in the morning). My father was People's Warden there for twenty-five years. I did a wheelwright apprenticeship and then my national service. Gladys and I were married on October 6th 1954 at Pencombe and moved to Malvern after our honeymoon. 18 Pound Bank Rd was our first address. I worked for Holland's, the undertakers: it was one way of getting to know all the churches!

Why did you come to the Priory?

It would have been through the bell ringing. From 1961 to 1968 there was no ringing at the Priory, but I had rung there previously. The tower captain was Joe Lawrence, and he taught my two sons, Richard and Mike, to ring, starting in 1969. I had been ringing at St. Matthias and gradually joined the Priory ringers, who were short of ringers due to the lull in the sixties. I became Captain in '79 or '80. I am from a family of bell ringers, three great-uncles rang, my father rang, and I started at 14 after the war.

How would you describe your relationship with God?

I say my prayers every night on my knees. They are simple prayers like "Lord, keep me safe and secure from all my fears". I always end with the Lord's Prayer. Although I am not a regular service attender I am there every Sunday up in the tower at 9:30am. There are 16 or 17 of us and we are committed to Thursday night practices as well as Sunday ringing.

Do you have a favourite scripture?

The Sermon on the Mount and the Beatitudes. I think they are fantastic. I have always loved the story of Saul's conversion on the road to Damascus, which goes back to my childhood when I liked reading about the miracles in the Bible.

Do you have a favourite hymn?

Love divine all loves excelling. It has to be to the Welsh tune Blaenwern. My mother is Welsh. My wife and I really enjoy Welsh male voice choirs and when they sing this it makes the hairs on the back of my neck stand up! I also get this effect when a ring of bells is excellent! One of my favourite ring of bells is Worcester Cathedral, they are as near a perfect ring as you can get.

Do you have any interests?

Genealogy. In the last few years I have been researching my family tree and traced my wife's family to 1707.

What are you passionate about?

Cricket. When I was helping on the farm, if I wasn't bell ringing I was playing cricket. I played for Barnards Green for a number of years and captained the 2nd eleven for a few years. Now I support Worcestershire. My other passion of course is the art of bell ringing.

Do you have any desires?

I want to live long enough to see the Priory bells project completed and the bells once again being a first class ring with two new bells giving the Priory a ring of ten.

What is most important to you?

My family, my wife Gladys, my sons Richard and Michael, and daughter Elizabeth and their families.

What is your role in the Priory?

I am captain of the Bell Ringers and as such I hold the keys to the tower and the east door. I teach any new recruits. On Priory open days we demonstrate bell ringing and show people around the tower. I am also part of the Bell Frame Action Group, which is fully committed to getting the bells ringing as they should to the glory of God.

Sylviane Outram

Great Malvern Priory

Hiroshima Exhibition 2010 The A-Bomb and Humanity

July 27th to August 8th 9am to 5pm

This powerful exhibition, on loan from Bradford Peace Museum, examines the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan. It focuses especially on how people were affected and how survivors responded to such unimaginable loss and destruction.

Recent News From The Suffering Church

“Ps 9.9. The Lord is a shelter for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble”

Orissa, India.

Mary Nayak was living happily in Kandhamal with her pastor husband and their two children. One Sunday after lunch a mob of about 700 – 800 people came to their village and immediately attacked the Christians. Mary and the children narrowly escaped, hiding in the jungle for three days without any food.

A few days later the women of the church came together to fast and pray about the recent persecution. As they began to pray, about 25 people gathered and without warning started throwing big stones at them. Mary was hit on the back and fell to the ground, where the mob continued to kick and beat her until they thought she was dead. Mary’s husband managed to rescue her and the family escaped to a neighbouring state. Here Mary, through the help of a Christian agency was able to be hospitalised, receive treatment and have trauma counselling.

Nigeria: There is a sharp rise in communal violence against Christians.

Iran: A new wave of arrests of Christians.

China: Increasing pressure on the church by imposing harsher sentences on church leaders.

Pakistan: Christians continue to suffer under the country’s blasphemy laws, receiving long prison sentences. A Pakistani Christian was burned alive in front of a police station for refusing to convert to Islam, while his wife was raped.

“The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church” (Tertullian)

Rosemary Webster

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Positive Thoughts - Malvern Mental Health Support Group

From the 1st January this year the local charity previously known as Malvern MIND re-established itself as an independent charity working with people in the Malvern area experiencing mental health difficulties. We are now known as:-

“Positive Thoughts - Malvern Mental Health Support Group”

and continue to run two Drop-ins a week - Wednesday morning 10.30 - 12.00 and Friday afternoon 1.00 - 3.00 both at the Lyttelton Rooms in the grounds of the Priory in Church Street. Enquiries to Bob Leverett or Zella Shawyer see Contact Us on the main website.

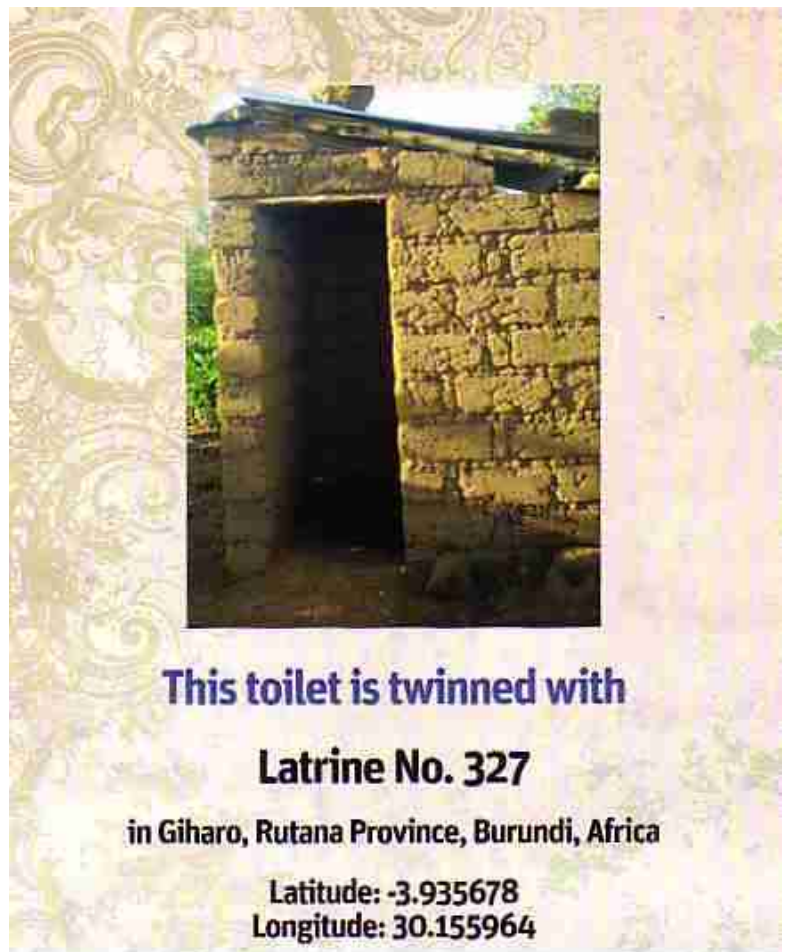
Toilet Twinning

We all know about town twinning. But toilets? Almost half the population of the world has no access to proper sanitation. Open, festering drains, or the nearest bush, provide the only toilet facility. And so contaminated water and flies spread disease – gastroenteritis, cholera, typhoid, bilharzia etc. A stench hangs over slums. Vegetable plots become contaminated. The very dust contains germs that threaten health and life. Of course flush toilets, such as we take for granted, are out of the question. Water is too scarce and precious for such an extravagant method of sewage disposal. But latrines are cheap and effective. A latrine is simply a deep hole in the ground, covered by a squatting platform (with a hole small enough to prevent a child falling through), and housed within a small shelter of sun-dried brick and corrugated iron. Both sanitation and privacy are thus provided. It costs just £60 to construct such a latrine, and each one can transform the health and dignity of a family or a community.

The Christian charities CORD and Tearfund have a toilet-twinning scheme in Burundi, Central Africa. Many Burundians are returning home to remote Giharo Commune, in Rutana Province, after years as refugees in Tanzania. They have no toilet facilities. But we can change all that. For a donation of £60 a new latrine is constructed, and twinned with your own salubrious “small room” – or one at work or school. You are sent the map coordinates and a photograph of your twinned latrine, which you can proudly display in your toilet. (There is no reciprocal photo of your toilet in their latrine!)

Emmanuel Ndayabarwa is CORD’s “man on the job” (so to speak!), and he rides thousands of miles on his motorbike, initiating and checking on latrine projects, and photographing and mapping completed latrines. So far over £50,000 has been raised through “Toilet twinning”. What a needy and worthy cause! Why not think about it? Or, even better, do it? For more information see the website “toilettwinning.org” or www.cord.org.uk or contact CORD at 1 New St., Leamington Spa, CV31 1HP.

David and Rosemary Webster



Missionary Societies Celebrate Union

In February this year the Church Mission Society and the South American Missionary Society united. These are 2 Anglican mission agencies with similar evangelical traditions. On Saturday May 22nd there was a special celebration to mark the integration of the 2 societies at the King's Centre, Osney Mead in Oxford. Over 1000 people attended this event which was an opportunity to meet together and to make a re-commitment to God's mission.

In the first part of the programme there were interviews with Christian leaders from Africa, Asia and South America and also with Mission Partners and Christians involved in new ways of being the church in Britain. Then there was a service commemorating the launch of the new 'CMS community'. The reading from Acts 2 v 1-12 was read simultaneously in 6 languages to give us a feel of the day of Pentecost.

The Archbishop of York, Dr. John Sentamu, preached the sermon. He spoke of the new life given to the church at Pentecost and how barriers between different languages and cultures are broken down by the Holy Spirit.

The Rt. Rev'd Christopher Cocksworth, the Bishop of Coventry, was introduced and commissioned by the Archbishop as the Episcopal Visitor for the new community. There was silence and prayer at this moment as the English Bishop knelt to receive the blessing from the Archbishop, originally from Uganda.

The service concluded with all who have become members of the CMS community standing and making the 7 promises of membership and saying together the Covenant prayer from the Book of Common Worship in the Church of South India.

Meeting in Malvern:

On the 3rd Thursday of every month an inter-church group meets at 2.30 p.m. at 25 Richmond Road, Malvern Link to listen to a CD produced by CMS with news and interviews with mission partners working in different parts of the world, now including South America, and to pray for the work there. All are welcome.

Contact Nora Fowler (Contact Us on the main website) for more details.

On the perils of leaving your pulpit

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren,

It was good of you to take Evensong here last Sunday while I was at my old college re-union – but I would prefer you used the pulpit in future when preaching. How could Colonel Brockle complete 'The Times' crossword and Miss Balmer her knitting with you constantly walking up and down in front of them? They found it most disconcerting, as out of politeness, they were obliged to listen to you. It was a unique experience they do not wish to repeat.

Those few who defy Anglican tradition and sit at the front of the church were also placed in the dilemma of trying to decide whether they should keep turning in their pews as you paraded down the nave and then rotating back to the front as you re-emerged up the side aisle. It did Lady Plumtree's vertigo no good at all. It also allowed people to see that you were wearing suede shoes. For many of our worshippers, the most appalling of heresies are as nothing when compared to brown shoes under a cassock.

I appreciate you made heroic efforts and got your sermon down to 30 minutes, but that is still 20 minutes longer than they anticipated and 29 minutes longer than their attention span. That is why the noise you thought was sidesmen counting the morning's collection while you preached was in fact the organist jangling his keys in an attempt to remind you that his oven timer had long since switched off and his casserole was getting cold.

No, use the pulpit in future; that is the reason why stonemasons 600 years ago put twenty tons of marble in our church in the first place and it would be a shame to disappoint them. It also means that from a distance of 100 yards and a height of 20 feet, no one can tell that the glass of water I use liberally while preaching is in fact a gin and tonic.

I concede that our pulpit has its dangers. I have known several bishops come to grief as their robes wrap themselves around the newel post as they ascend the steps. One, unable to untangle himself, was obliged to preach while half way up the steps and with his back to the congregation, while our verger was dispatched to find a pair of scissors.

Perhaps, before your next visit, we may install a mechanical floor in the pulpit, so that after 10 minutes, it slowly lowers you into the crypt while the congregation can get on with singing the last hymn before getting home in decent time.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Two Summer Events from St. Richard's Hospice

Summer treasures

Join us at the Porcelain, Pictures, Pimms and Pork event at Birtsmorton Court on Sunday, 11th July from 12pm - 4pm. Bring your treasures to be valued and enjoy the grounds at this stunning medieval moated country manor house, near Malvern.

Guest valuers include Henry Sandon MBE, china/porcelain; John Harvey, paintings and furniture; Eveline Finch and Savannah Edwards, Victorian Jewellery; Robert Dalgety, Oriental Artefacts and Hugo Marsh, toys and automata. Tickets £20 to include valuation, glass of Pimms and pork bap. Children under 16, free. Bar and teas available and silent auction. For tickets or information about other events, email mpeachey@strichards.org.uk

Sponsored by Andrew Grant FRICS, DL – Patron to St. Richard's Hospice

The Big Lunch

Imagine a summer's day on which millions of us sit down to have lunch together – in the middle of our streets, in our gardens and on every patch of common ground. It's called The Big Lunch and this is your invitation to join the fun. Sit down and have lunch with your neighbours on Sunday, 18th July (the national date or alternatively just hold on a date to suit you) as a simple act of community and make a donation to St. Richard's.

The Big Lunch took place for the first time last year and there were over 8,000 lunches in every kind of community all across the UK. Up to a million people took to the streets in the biggest set of street parties since the Golden Jubilee. To find out more about The Big Lunch and to get your information pack, please contact the Fundraising Office at St. Richard's Hospice on 01905 763933 or email appeals@strichards.org.uk

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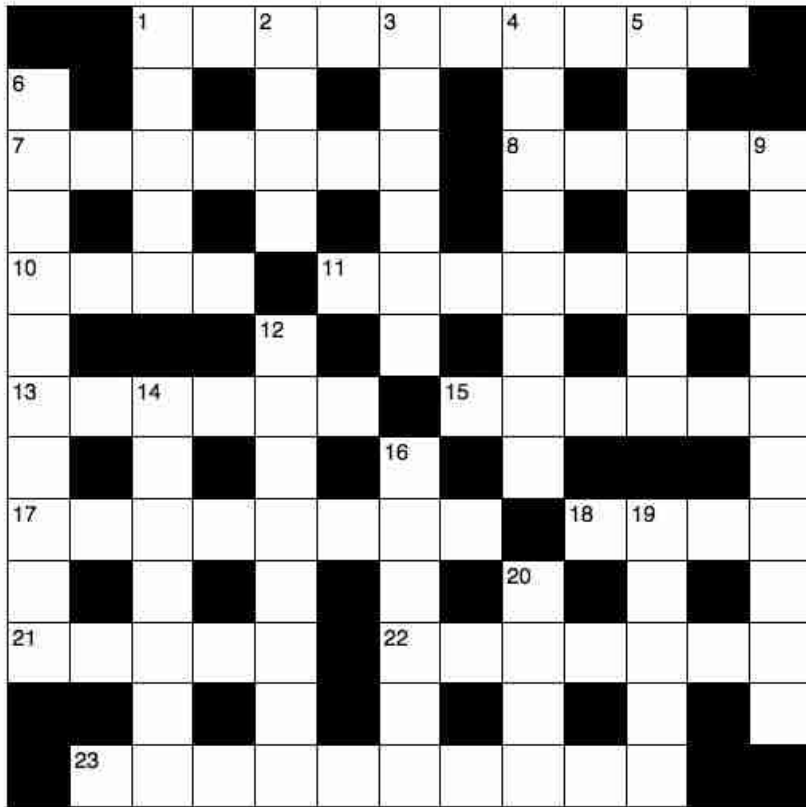
Walk out

After church, the woman at the door was embarrassed before the minister. "I hope you didn't take it personally when my husband walked out during your sermon."

"I did find it rather disconcerting," the preacher admitted.

"It's not a reflection on you at all," she assured him. "Ralph has been walking in his sleep ever since he was a child."

Crossword July 2010



June Solution



Across

- 1 Relating to the Jewish day of rest (10)
- 7 Point of view (Matthew 22:17) (7)
- 8 20th-century Brethren philanthropist whose construction company became one of the UK's biggest, Sir John — (5)
- 10 Girl's name (4)
- 11 Peter was accused of being one in the courtyard of the high priest's house (Luke 22:59) (8)
- 13 The fifth of the 'seven churches' (Revelation 3:1-6) (6)
- 15 'Now the famine was — in Samaria' (1 Kings 18:2) (6)
- 17 Banned by the seventh Commandment (Exodus 20:14) (8)
- 18 Insect most closely associated with itching (1 Samuel 24:14) (4)
- 21 Bantu tribe which gives its name to tiny landlocked country in southern Africa (5)
- 22 Familiar material in churches that use an overhead projector (7)
- 23 Last book of the Bible (10)

Down

- 1 The young David's favourite weapon (1 Samuel 17:40) (5)
- 2 'Your vats will — over with new wine' (Proverbs 3:10) (4)
- 3 Once yearly (Exodus 30:10) (6)
- 4 Milled it (anag.) (3-5)
- 5 Region north of Damascus of which Lysanias was tetrarch (Luke 3:1) (7)
- 6 Comes between Philippians and 1 Thessalonians (10)
- 9 Lake where the first disciples were called (Luke 5:1-11) (10)
- 12 Abusive outburst (8)
- 14 Are loud (anag.) (7)
- 16 Printing errors (6)
- 19 'Take my yoke upon you and — from me' (Matthew 11:29) (5)
- 20 Jacob's third son (Genesis 29:34) (4)