

Malvern Priory Magazine



View of Malvern Priory by David Bates

The Parish Church of St. Mary & St. Michael

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July/August 2011

50p

[With thanks to Brian Iles for the pictures above and on the last page]

From the Vicarage

What path will I walk today?

Dear Friends,

By the time you read this article, Lifepath will have taken place. About 600 primary school children will hopefully have enjoyed a memorable experience of a day spent at the Priory, and have been encouraged to think about their own lifepath. During the closing collective worship each day of Lifepath, a cairn was built by those taking part placing stones around a wooden cross. While this was happening, we also sang the words of Lizzie Green's reflective song *Thinking about today*:

I'm thinking about today
I'm thinking about tomorrow
I'm thinking about all those
Who have walked this way before

I want to say thanks for this day
For the things that I've learned,
And all the friends who have walked with me

A time to laugh and to play
To stop and think on my way
And remember the days gone by
What path will I walk today?

What path will I walk today? That's a good question, isn't it? Many young people will be faced with big changes at this time of year. New paths beckon, which can be both scary and exciting. Yet it is not just the young who are faced with the prospect of change and choice. Whether we are 10 or 100 (and a couple of Priory people are due to reach that very significant birthday soon!), the same question faces us day by day: What path will I walk today?

Last month, I wrote about the journeying way of the pilgrim, and of how the Christian faith is about a dynamic relationship with the Living Lord. If we seek to walk in Jesus' way, the Lord will show us the best path to walk, wherever we are on life's journey.

Wishing you every blessing in Jesus Christ, who invites us to walk on His Lifepath,



John Barr, Vicar

Priory People

Our Link in Europe

So our friends from Wolmirstedt are to visit us in October, the 14th to the 18th to be precise. Since all previous visits have been in May, it will be lovely to welcome them to the ambience of the Harvest Thanksgiving period and the changing colours of the trees.

Wolmirstedt is an old market town standing in the same relation to Magdeburg as we do to Worcester, which is why, when the diocesan link was formed, the Priory was linked to St. Katharina's. In the twenty years of friendship we have seen that congregation grow in confidence, but the passage from repression under the GDR to the present surrounding culture of the chasing of material goods and consequent frustrations of unemployment and business failure has not been painless.

If you have not previously taken part in entertaining or being entertained on the "Wolmirstedt Link" visits, consider whether you may join in this time, by coming on expeditions, hosting a meal, or having one or two to stay. It usually comes to bed and breakfast, but is richly rewarding. We have twelve guests, eight of whom come in married couples, several having a good command of English, whether or not you want to refresh your German conversational powers!

The Wolmirstedt Welcoming Fund may need a bit of topping up. Ask our Treasurer. For further enquiries at this stage of planning, try the Rev'd Jim Knights, Christine Wells, Chris Little, or the undersigned.

Edwina Hawker

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Issues of Science and Faith

This discussion group, led by Dr Chris Oliver, has started with a flourish. 45 people crowded into the Guesten Room for the first evening in May – to think about and discuss the topic "What is Truth?" "Cosmology and Creation" was the topic for June. Future dates and topics are:

- July 14th "Evolution and Creation"
- Sept 22nd "Time and Eternity"
- Oct 27th "Brain, Mind and Soul"
- Nov 25th "Ecology and Stewardship" (NB this is a Friday, not Thursday)

All meetings are in the Guesten Room at 7.30 pm.

You do not have to be a scientist to take part!

Has it really been that long?

On the 5th August 2001 there was a slight change to the staff at Malvern Priory. Yes, you got me as Custos/Head Verger in place of Dave George, who was going off to be “collared”. I had been grilled (interviewed) back in April and had spent some days in the interim at the Priory getting some more in-depth idea of what the “job” entailed. In fact I wasn’t the only change, as Ant Pettit had joined as Curate and Robert Payne as Deputy Custos.

I had previously been working as a technical writer for a local company and when the position of Custos became vacant I felt that it was right for me, a decision that I don’t regret to this day.

But what goes on in the Priory during the week, as it doesn’t just all happen on a Sunday? Well there is of course the cleaning, which is never ending, welcoming visitors, people wanting to use the Priory for concerts or other activities, preparing for services – these are just some of a long list of tasks that take up each week.



One of the regular happenings in the Priory is Daily Prayer at 9.00am (except Sunday). It may only be one or two of us, sometimes as many as ten, but it is a good way to start the day.

After Monday Daily Prayer we get together for a staff meeting in the Parish Office to discuss the previous week and look forward to the next week – so it isn’t all off the cuff. We do actually plan some things!

Thursday Communion is a time to be able to relax when there is a Service going on of which I am part. Whereas on Sundays full involvement is not as easy as you’re always aware of what is going on outside of the service. More than one Churchwarden has said to me “Don’t worry if there is any trouble – we’re right behind you”!

The “job” is varied and interesting. For example one of the more recent activities that both Ann Oldfield and myself have taken on is the role of event co-ordinators. This is to ensure that we look at the overall picture of what is going on in the Priory, whether it be Welcome Days, Concerts, Exhibitions etc.

Why do I do this job? Working in the Priory is such a privilege, not only with its history, but there is such a sense of being in the building. I see the Priory at times of day when no one else is in here. It can be so peaceful with the sun shining through the glass and making patterns on the walls. Who would want to be anywhere else?

Peter Young

I am sure that many of us wish to congratulate Peter on his 10 years as our Priory Custos, and to thank him for his efficiency, thoroughness, cheerfulness and endless patience with us. Thanks too to Alison and the family – it can’t be easy sometimes living “on the job”.

Ed

Wolverhampton Link

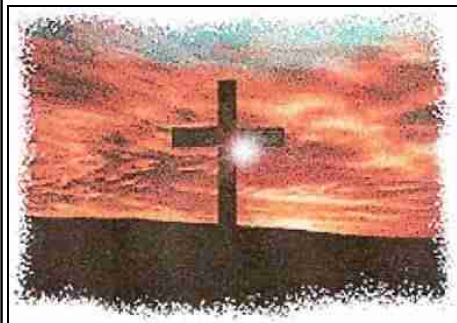
For over 20 years now the Priory has had a link with Narindar Mehat, and the Asian Christian community in Wolverhampton. Each year the high spot of our link is when they visit us for the day. We take groups of them into Malvern or onto the hills, and we give them drinks on arrival, and tea at the end of the day. They say that, for them, it is a highlight of the year. For us it is a delight to welcome them – some Christians, some Muslim or Hindu or Sikh. This year their visit is planned for Saturday July 23rd. The group will arrive around 11 am. We welcome them with refreshments and they remain with us in Malvern until 5 pm. If you have time that day to help with the tea, or to take a group out on foot or by car, or even just to pop in when they arrive or at tea time, it would be very much appreciated. Please remember Narindar in your prayers, as she copes with her own disability (following surgery for a brain tumour several years ago), and as she befriends and witnesses to members of the Asian community in Wolverhampton. It is a mission field on our doorstep.

Rosemary Webster

Encounters with God

with John Gerighty, Guitarist & Composer

Great Malvern Priory – Sunday 3rd July – 7.30 pm



Encounters with God is a multi-media concert, using music and visuals. It came about as a response to the 400th anniversary of the King James Version of the Bible in 2011.

The theme of the concert is encountering God in different ways and situations. We encounter God in scripture, through events in our lives, in prayer and sometimes through actively listening to try and discern God's voice.

The concert attempts to explore these diverse ways in which we can find that God is affecting our lives. The first half is informal, followed by an interval; the main content then continues in a longer second half, including a time of sung worship together.

“The presentations of words, old and new and high quality music, take people to both a great spiritual depth and soaring heights of praise; it is always beautiful and emotive, and clearly underpinned by prayer, the Scriptures and above all, a love of Jesus.” Revd Roy Burgess



Thought for the Month

In May we did something outside our usual “comfort zone” – we went on a cruise up the Norwegian coast, far into the Arctic circle, to Kirkenes, on the Russian border. But this wasn’t a normal cruise ship – it was one of the Hurtigruten postal boats, a working ship, taking supplies to remote outposts, as well as catering for tourists such as us. It was a fantastic trip, combining comfort and fascinating excursions for us, as well as providing essential, down-to-earth supplies to 32 little ports along the way. While we surveyed the snow-covered mountain ranges, and sipped our coffee in a warm, comfortable lounge, others on the quayside scurried about in an icy wind, loading and unloading cargo, essential for the survival of remote settlements. We were like two separate worlds running in parallel.

It occurred to me that sometimes the church can be a bit like that – church members can sit in a sanctified bubble, enjoying the trip, admiring the view, as it were sipping their coffee in the warmth, while looking on with detached interest at all the activity on the dockside. While in the real world outside there is a struggle for survival in the harsh and bleak environment of recession, or addiction, or marriage break-down, or illness, or depression, or bereavement. And we can watch with detached interest as others try to deal with these issues.

Christ doesn’t call us to be passengers, onlookers. He calls us to be crew, doers. To roll up our sleeves, and to get our hands dirty, and to expose ourselves to the chill wind outside. He calls us, not to sit in our warm lounge and look on with detached interest at the world outside, but to get involved.

The Church is not a cruise ship. It’s not even a Hurtigruten hybrid. It’s a working ship. The captain is Christ. The crew is us – all of us. The ship which is the church doesn’t exist to make its members feel good and comfortable. It exists to bring Good News to the world – to be light in darkness; to be salt in insipidness; to be the hands and feet and heart of God. Our role is to sustain, support, encourage, help and get alongside those we meet on our journey who are struggling.

We may be called to get involved in all sorts of different ways – and that may be, especially if we are elderly or a very busy mother, simply to pray. But one thing we are not called to do is to look on the troubled world with comfortable, detached indifference. We’re crew, not passengers.

As St. Paul says in two of his letters: “Let us not grow weary in well-doing!”

David Webster

PCC News

At the first meeting of the new PCC on 19th May the following officers were elected:

Robin La Fontaine	Vice Chairman
Christine Wells	Secretary
Roy Boyer	Treasurer
Mike Eglington	Electoral Roll Officer

The following sub-groups were appointed:

Welcome

Claire Darnborough (Chair)
Dylan Farrier
Tony Fuller
Paul Sheppard
Co-options:
Jonathan Darnborough
Anne Lunn
Sue Sheppard (Secretary)

Witness

Rosemary Webster (Chair)
Rosamund Ponting
Christine Shepherd
Tony Waters
Co-options:
Sarah Chappell (Joint Secretary)
Tracey Olden
Sally Taylor (Joint Secretary)
Rosemary Whalley

Worship

David Webster (Chair)
Steve Boyer
David Guy
Richard Weatherill
Ex-officio:
Mary Barr
Co-options:
Hilary Babb (Secretary)
David Iliff

Buildings and Grounds

Ray Hussey
Michael Jupe (to report to PCC)
Nick Maxfield-Phillips
Laurie Oldfield
Howard Wells
Roger Wilson
Co-options:
Michael Martin (Chair)
Michael Angling
Peter Young (Secretary)

Finance

Andrew Horne (Chair)
Peter Babb
Roy Boyer (Treasurer)
Sue Maxfield-Phillips
Glenda Pocock (Secretary)
Derek Valentine

Standing Committee

John Barr, Vicar (Chair)
Robin La Fontaine (Vice Chair)
Rosamund Ponting
(Churchwarden)
Peter Babb (Churchwarden)
Christine Wells (Secretary)
Roy Boyer (Treasurer)

Christine Wells, PCC Secretary

Choirs Day May 2011

The Priory Choirs were joined by some former choristers to enjoy a happy occasion on Saturday 7th May. The day began with the AGM followed by Choral Evensong and Dinner organised by the Choirs Association. The AGM was held in the Priory chaired by Jenny Cook who along with most of the Committee were re-elected for a further year. Philip Robinson and Tim Wolff were elected as new members.

Choral Evensong, by coincidence or design, included Hubert Parry's 'I was Glad' which showed that the Priory Choirs were not to be outdone by those of Westminster Abbey the previous week!! It is a rousing and joyful anthem which provided a high point of the service.

The evening as usual gave all the opportunity to meet socially in a warm and welcoming atmosphere ably MC'd by Richard Weatherill who also proposed the toast to the Guest and Partners. The Rev'd John Barr provided a humorous start to the proceedings when proposing a toast to the Association and the evening concluded with the guest speaker, the Rev'd Canon Neil Heavisides who included some equally funny passages from a book entitled "Don't upset the Choir". His attendance was appropriate given the Priory Singers' impending visit to Gloucester Cathedral to sing the services over the weekend of 22nd to 24th July. I hope the Choir's singing lives up to his expectations!

Stuart Wollaston

Coffee Morning

Saturday 17th September at 10.30 am

All are invited to a Coffee Morning
organised by the Priory Welcome Group

The venue is Melton Lodge, 29 Wells Road
and it will be hosted by Lyn and Chris Walsh

Come along and meet Priory friends

Three Confessions Conference – Theme “Rejoice in the Bible”

Eleven folk from the Worcester Diocese travelled to Halle (the home of Handel!) to be warmly met by our German hosts. When we introduced ourselves it was a little daunting for me having so many clergy, nuns and ordained people in the group but I soon got used to it!

On Friday we started with Morning Prayer in St. Maurice Church. A booklet had been produced which contained four daily prayers with Biblical readings, prayers and hymns in both English and German but set out in such a way that one alternated between the languages.

Our next item was a ‘bibliog’, which is a way of interacting with the scriptures a group. A passage of the Bible is read and people are encouraged to imagine they are in the story as certain people and are asked to express how they are feeling or responding to what is going on. Our passage was Acts 20:7-12: Paul preaching until midnight and Eutychus falling out of the window.



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After coffee we had a presentation of 400 years of the King James Bible. As English had not been standardized before this the King James Bible English became the standard and the translators were making words up to explain the Greek concepts e.g. atonement was literally ‘at one ment’. Apparently by the time it was finished people were no longer using ‘Thee’ and ‘Thou’ in common speech, nor adding ‘eth’ to verbs! The King James Bible has so influenced literature, history and theatre that people in our generation who do not know their Bibles find it very difficult to study these subjects! So many of our common expressions come from the Bible, e.g. “The writing is on the wall”. So this year of the 400th anniversary of the KJB is a great opportunity for the churches to bring the Bible to people’s attention.

In the afternoon we were taken on a tour of the Franke Foundation, an impressive set of buildings (one of the largest wooden buildings in Europe!) which were built to house orphans, a school, a library and a museum, very much mission outreach in every sense. All was very much based on biblical principles and is still used for educating in that way.

Our last session was led by a pastoral college teacher who spoke about stirring up interest in and encouraging freshness of and a passion for the Bible. There were various levels in which the German Christians generally engaged with the Bible. One very common one was Moravian Watchwords a compilation of verses drawn from the Old and New Testaments. People read and meditate on one each day. He called them ‘headlines’ and said that it was only a beginning and people

should engage in deeper Bible study, especially in groups. There is a way of group study called *Bibel-Teilen* (Bible sharing) developed in Africa and Latin America using seven steps where people share by reading a passage several times, rereading sections which have especially struck people, waiting in silence to process thoughts, questions, ideas and bits relevant to everyday life, then sharing and discussion followed by rereading the passage, and ending with prayers, songs and a blessing. The most fulfilling and life changing way was to undertake a longer Bible study course of one or two years.

Many other things were mentioned.... reading of the Bible in public places, Bible dramas, and bibliogs. I came away encouraged that so much was going on in Germany to do with engaging with the Bible.

On Saturday we visited Martin Luther's Wittenberg where we saw his church and home. In the evening we had an ecumenical service in the Cathedral in Halle. The theme was from Psalm 33 "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" The most memorable part for me was anointing with fragrant oil at the end where we were invited to "see how friendly God is" ...an unusual expression in English but quite normal in German.

On Sunday five of us went to Magdeburg to stay, and worshiped in the Cathedral. After *koffee* and *kuchen*, one of our German partners Helga, an official guide at the cathedral gave us a full tour.



What a blessing to have been a part of this Anglican, Roman Catholic, Lutheran, English, German conference sharing our faith, our lives, food, fellowship and laughter. My most lasting impression is the way the Germans could break out into perfect *a cappella* Latin song at the drop of a hat!

Sylviane Outram

Book Review

“The Wild Gospel” by Alison Morgan, published by Monarch, £9.99

In the May magazine another of the Rev'd Dr Alison Morgan's books was reviewed – she seems to be the flavour of the moment.

“The Wild Gospel” is the best Christian book that I have read for some time. Divided into 3 sections she first reviews Jesus' ministry, and how unexpected and uncomfortable and countercultural was His message. In part 2 she reviews the history of Christianity, and how, from the time of Constantine, the radical Gospel of the early church became so tamed and domesticated and organised and institutionalised that, instead of challenging the culture of the day, it became the culture, and lost its cutting edge. In part 3 she considers how, in our post-modern society, we might, as individual Christians and in the church as a whole, recapture the freshness and power of the “wild Gospel” – allowing the unpredictable wind of the Holy Spirit to blow with freshness, bringing radical challenge to our society. This book is stimulating and thought provoking, very readable, and I would suggest a “must” for any thinking Christian.

P.S. Have you read a helpful Christian book recently? If so why not share it in a Book Review for the magazine?

David Webster

Autumn Lunchbox Programme

Thursday Lunchtime Talks And Concerts In Great Malvern Priory

Bring your own lunch to eat at 12.30 - coffee/tea available
Talk or concert starts at 1pm

22nd September: The Ubiquitous Green Man
Talk by Dr. Colin Harris

6th October: Recital
by Elaine Fleming (soprano)

20th October: In the Steps of Shackleton
Talk by Roger Smith, Climber & Explorer

3rd November: Concert
by pupils from The Chase High School

17th November: The Darjeeling Railway
Talk by David Mead

1st December: Christmas Concert

Who's who in the Priory

Meet Anne and Adrian Dudman



When and why did you come to Malvern?

Anne: In 1995 I retired from teaching children with special needs in Aylesbury.

Adrian: We moved to Malvern because of my job, I was working for ToCH, a Christian organization, as a lay chaplain to cover the southwest region and Wales. ToCH is about enabling people within their own community to work with each other for a better life. The Rev'd Tubby Clayton, who started it during WW1, said, "Service is the rent that we pay for our room on earth." Service was always doing things with people, not for people.

Why did you come to the Priory?

Adrian: We were impressed with the warm welcome, especially from Leo Christian. Julian Charley, the next week, remembered our names. We enjoy the liturgy and how it is presented.

How would you describe your relationship with God?

Adrian: For me it is a growing relationship because life is a journey. I find there are times when I struggle and wrestle with God about things that trouble me. I have been known to go up on the hills and shout out loud. The trouble is, He is always right, but it is always great for clearing the mind and finding out what God wants. I don't know how many people have conversations with God, but I certainly do.

Anne: Mine is like a deep inner spiritual peace. The Lord speaks through all kinds of circumstances, and little things like a bird or a flower, but He speaks to me especially through the scriptures, which I have a deep love for. Also, unusually and surprisingly, through the most ordinary people.

Adrian: What has influenced our Christian life most is people who the Lord has brought into our lives.

What is your favourite scripture?

Adrian: Ephesians 3:14-20 St. Paul's prayer especially 17-18 *I pray that you, being rooted and established in love may have power together with all the saints to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpassed knowledge that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.* It is such a profound prayer, which I find myself using time and time again. I want to experience how wide and deep is the love of God.

Anne: John 17. Jesus' Gethsemane prayer. This shows us Jesus, who He is and why He came. He is at the lowest point in his life but in verse 20 He prays for everyone, which includes us. I am deeply moved by the Psalms, particularly David's because they speak of how God cares for us, especially Psalm 139.

What is your favourite hymn?

Adrian: *I the Lord of sea and sky.* Especially the chorus:

*Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night
I will go Lord if you lead me
I will hold your people in my heart.*

If you have a close relationship with the Lord, it really speaks. There are many times in my life when I feel I have definitely been sent.

Anne: *Great is thy faithfulness.* Also *The servant song:*

*Brother sister let me serve you.
Let me be as Christ to you.
Grant that I may have the grace
To let me be your servant too.*

Because this takes away all selfishness, self interest and pride. Often it is difficult to receive from others, but we are to serve each other. We are here to be the Lord's hands and feet.

Do you have any hobbies?

Anne: Gardening and wildlife. I am into history. I love old abbeys, cathedrals and priories; we get such joy from visiting these places.

Adrian: Collecting British stamps in quite a serious way, and reading in my garden when the weather is nice.

Have you any interests?

A joint interest is *Schools under the sky* in Bangladesh, which is a ToCH charity. It is about education for very poor children to get them to the standard where they can go to state schools.

What are you passionate about?

Adrian: Wood and woodwork. The feel of wood excites me. I can make it into beautiful and useful things like furniture and toys. My other great passion is gardening; I just love God's creation. I think it is very spiritual because you've got the gift of creation that God started, it brings me closer to Him. At the moment I also love reading thrillers by Clive Cussler.

Anne: I am passionate about the needs of the third world. I identify with very poor countries and the organisations like Tear fund that help them. I am also

passionate about the persecuted church and organisations like *Barnabas* and *Open Doors* who help them. Mother's Union is also something I have really enjoyed for 50 years; I go to a very active and prayerful local group. ►

Have you any desires?

Adrian: My chief desire would be to visit Antarctica; Shackleton is one of my heroes.

Anne: I wouldn't mind revisiting New Zealand.

What is your role in the Priory?

Adrian: Communion administrator; active member of the *After Noah's Ark* housegroup; and relief Custos (it would be encouraging if others would respond to the appeals for extra help with these duties); and we are both actively involved with *Friends of Malvern Priory*.

Anne: I lead the *After Noah's Ark* housegroup. I am often doing welcoming while Adrian is on Custos duty. We love to offer our house and garden.

Sylviane Outram

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Friends Design a Logo Competition

The Council of the Friends of Malvern Priory (a separately incorporated charity from the Priory PCC) agreed at their last meeting to hold a competition to design a logo for the Friends to use on their various documentation. It is hoped that this will further help raise awareness of the Friends as the main body which provides funds to the Priory PCC for the maintenance and beautification of the Priory Church building and churchyard.

The competition is open until 31st October 2011 and the winner will be announced at the Friends AGM in December when an exhibition of entries will also be shown. The prize (apart from seeing your work everywhere!) will be free life membership of the Friends for you or someone of your choice. A separate prize will be awarded for the best entry under 12 years.

Rules

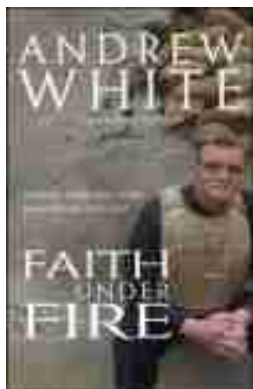
Entries should be submitted on white paper, no bigger than A4 (and preferably smaller). It may be in colour or black and white and be either drawn, painted or computer generated. It should be capable of being copied and reused. Entries (either on paper or email) must be with the Parish Office by 31st October 2011 and will not be returned. Please ensure that paper entries are well protected against being creased. Correspondence is not required but you may attach a short explanation of the design if you wish. Your name, (age for children) and contact details should be on the reverse or separate but not on the front of the design. The decision will be made by the Council of the Friends of Malvern Priory whose decision is final. You also agree that copyright of the design will pass to the Friends who may use it as they deem appropriate.

Mike Selby

The Lyttelton Well Christian Bookshop
Open Monday to Saturday from 9.30am until 5.00pm
(Except Bank Holidays)

From the Lyttelton Well Book and CD newsletters:

Faith Under Fire by Andrew White



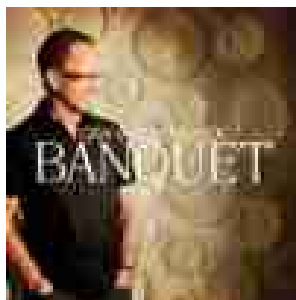
“The ‘Vicar of Baghdad’ encounters daily tragedy. What happened to his faith when a young girl in his congregation died, after much hope and prayer? He has met the best and worst: articulate, agreeable imams and rabbis; Christian venality and dishonesty. What has kept him willing to see the best? Every time he returns to Iraq he may be saying goodbye to his family for the last time. What do they think? He suffers from MS - how does he remain cheerful despite his physical weakness, and its progression? What does he say to God, alone in his study, late at night? He has been caught up in momentous events. Can he see the hand of God? Looking ahead, can he be optimistic about the future? Where are his sources of spiritual energy? He solicits prayer: why?”

“If anyone has truly had their faith pounded in the fiery crucible of conflict, it is Canon Andrew White.”

General Sir Richard Dannatt, GCB CBE MC DL, Chief of the General Staff 2006-2009

ISBN: 9781854249623 Price: £8.99

Banquet by Graham Kendrick



The latest album from one of the founding fathers of modern worship music, Banquet sees Graham Kendrick return to his acoustic roots.

Before all the anthems that inspired millions to march in the name of Jesus, and before the songs that united the content of the great hymn writers with the accessibility of contemporary sounds, Graham was a folk and acoustic artist. Songs were his medium, and the stories they told were the heart of the action.

Returning to the craft, Banquet sees Graham reflect on the idea of the church gathering together in unity and celebration. Across these twelve new songs - recorded in Nashville and Atlanta with Nathan Nockels and Dan Wheeler – Graham’s gifting has never been clearer.

Graham says “Banquet seemed an apt title for a collection of songs for the worshipping community - the Agape ‘love-feast’ that is the church. Here are songs about who we worship and what we believe, about loving one another, serving, forgiving and blessing, coming to give rather than to get, about standing together as one to fight to make a difference and going out to offer daily work as worship. I hope they serve to lift hearts, minds and voices to glorify the Guest of honour/The Guest of Honour is present, and there’s a place set for you...”

(CD) Product code: KWCD3205 Price: £12.99

For brief reviews of many more books, CDs and DVDs go to the

Lyttelton Well website www.lytteltonwell.co.uk
and click on Bookshop, then Newsletters.

All featured items are available at the Well – others can be promptly ordered

Lunchbox Visit to the Beauchamp Community

When Charles Allsopp – organist and choirmaster at St. Leonard's – gave an interesting talk to Lunchbox last November on the Beauchamp Community, he suggested he could arrange a visit if there was enough interest.



There was! So on a fine sunny day in May, Charles greeted a group of us at the entrance to the Beauchamp Community, and he and Colin Brownlee, (who is also a Beauchamp resident and currently researching the history of the English Tractarian Choir Schools of which Newland was one), took us on a tour.

We started with a walk around the buildings, including the houses built for retired clergy, the former choir school

building, and to the site of the original entrance (which had to be re-sited when Roman Way was built).

At what was the front of the Community is a delightful 'cloister' of buildings on three sides comprising the resident's flats, the former infirmary, along with the south side of the church and the tower. The buildings are Victorian with elegant chimneys and the large central tower supplied tap water to all the properties when originally built – very forward looking for the time.

There is a view out across a wildflower meadow which was once allotments and orchards – the Community was originally self sufficient. It still hosts several bee hives.

Next to this is an impressive library - the Newland Theological Library which was built in 1910 by C. F. Whitcombe (a previous Chaplain). There are glass-fronted book cases housing some 2,500 books dating from the fifteenth to nineteenth centuries, including several rare books. Some of us were shown more books later by George Sharrock who is the present librarian and who is also researching into the history of the Beauchamp Community.



Another door led us to a very interesting chapel, used daily by the Community, which is of black and white timbered construction and probably dates from the 14th century. This is the chancel of the former chapel (mentioned in 1217), which was originally served by Benedictine monks from Great Malvern Priory, and remained part of the parish until 1860. When the buildings and church we now see were



built, the original chapel was demolished and the chancel saved and re-sited to form this chapel.

The tour ended in the splendid church, with every inch of the walls and ceiling covered in frescoes. Charles gave us a brief summary of most of the pictures.

The church also has a font which dates from the 12th century and came from St. Thomas' Church (where the post office is now in Great

Malvern) which was demolished when the town bought the Priory in the 16th century.

I was left with two main impressions – the amazing decorations in St. Leonard's church (even though I've seen them before), and the peace and calm of the buildings and the surroundings – it was difficult to believe we were so near to the busy roads and shops of Malvern Link.



We all enjoyed the visit and extend our thanks to Charles and Colin for the interesting, illuminating and entertaining tour of the Community, and to George for showing us some of the manuscripts from the library.

And also my thanks to Anne Eglington for the photos.

Colin Hagger

– o0o –

Priory Quiet Day at Prior's Court

A group of Priory members made their way to Prior's Court, near Ledbury, for a Quiet Day led by the Rev'd Peter Lawrence, ably assisted by Molly. We were challenged to consider the wonders of God's creation, beginning by looking at a jar of soil. In between Peter's reflections we were given time to walk round the beautiful gardens and to make our own reflections. Some of us followed a challenging treasure hunt and prayer pilgrimage. One of the treasures was to find a piece of wood with an interesting shape and to reflect on how God has been turning and shaping our lives. Another was to find some hawthorn with spines, and to think of the people/things that cause us pain, and to pray about it. Finding a feather reminded us of Peter's denial of Christ, and we were asked to make our

own peace with God over any regrets we may have. All the treasures related to Jesus' life, passion and resurrection, and made us aware of the small things of creation which point us to Jesus.

The weather was kind to us – the heavy rain coming when we were indoors! The gardens and grounds were beautiful, and it was a real joy to be able to sit and watch the “up-tails-all” white ducks on the pond, as well as the goldfish. It was a thought-provoking and yet very peaceful Quiet Day.

Our thanks to June and Elizabeth for arranging the day, and providing us with drinks, biscuits and cakes.

Nina Weston

Quiet Day

Prior's Court, Staplow has been booked for
our next Quiet Day on **Thursday September 8th**

Further details in due course from June Schuil or Elizabeth Dunnett.

Get your name down NOW!

Junior Choir Camp

On Friday 29th April, as the joys of the Royal Wedding day drew to a close, a new crowd formed in the Priory grounds. 20 excited junior choristers (who felt hard done by after finding out how much the Westminster Abbey choir had been paid) clambered on to a minibus and headed for their annual camp at Viney Hill. Once we had been briefed by Ally (the Viney Hill instructor) everyone was ready for dinner. That evening a game of football was organised - Nick and Tim got rather involved! After a film and a cup of cocoa it was time for bed.

The next morning it was obvious who had actually got some sleep! After breakfast there was a short rehearsal in Viney Hill church before a game of rounders on the field. Then we ate lunch outside in the sunshine and prepared ourselves for a fun-filled afternoon of Bushcraft. This involved activities such as building fires, picking edible plants and making shelters out of sticks and leaves. Before dinner, Nick organised everyone into the 'quiet room' for a hymn and prayers. After dinner there was an interesting water fight. Then, after watching the final part of the film, we all went to bed looking forward to the service on Sunday morning. We sang at the 10 am Communion service and Peter Shepherd played a fantastic organ voluntary after the service, then we headed back to the centre for a roast lunch and packing. We came home via a swim at Cascades in Tewkesbury.

On behalf of the juniors, I would like to thank everyone who helped make this weekend such a success: Julia Wolff and Justin and Sarah Goodbody who provided us with tasty food, David Iliff who organised the singing, and especially Nick Jackson and Tim Wolff who organised the whole weekend. This was the first year that the new team had organised the weekend and we would all like to thank

Stuart and Pat Wollaston who ran the camp for many years previously. Everyone enjoyed themselves and we are all looking forward to returning to Viney Hill next year.

Philip Weatherill

MALVERN PRIORY ORGAN RECITALS

Saturday, 2nd July, 12.00 noon

Joseph Nolan (*Perth Cathedral, Australia*)

Joseph Nolan returns for a second time to the Priory. He is an internationally renowned organist who was organist to Her Majesty's Chapels Royal, St James's Palace. He played at the Thanksgiving service for Princess Diana in 2007. He is now Organist at Perth Cathedral and, in addition to his world recital tours he has recorded highly praised organ CDs. His Malvern programme includes a Bach Passacaglia, Guilmant's 5th Sonata and Rawsthorne's Dance Suite. 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

Monday, 29th August, 12.00 noon

Paul Stubbings (*St Lawrence College Ramsgate*)

Paul Stubbings was Master of the Music at the Royal Parish Church of St Martin-in-the-Fields and is now Director of Music at St Lawrence College, Ramsgate. He has given recitals in leading venues in the UK, throughout Europe, Australia, the USA and Canada.

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

– o0o –

Volunteer from your home with Carer Talktime

If you like chatting to people on the phone and have spare time you could make a difference to a carer's life with just a friendly phone call once a month from the comfort of your own home.

Carers are people who provide unpaid support to relatives or friends who due to illness, disability, age or addiction could not manage on their own. Being a carer is often difficult, stressful and isolating.

Carer Talktime is our friendly, informal telephone support service for carers. All we ask our volunteers to do is talk with and listen to carers once a month at a time to suit them. Experience in caring themselves would be useful, but is not essential.

Volunteers will receive training to learn about carers and their lives, as well as telephone skills. There will be regular meetings with other befrienders and support from the volunteer co-ordinator.

There is no cost to the volunteer for the calls other than their time.

If you think you could help as a volunteer then
why not join our team on **Carer Talktime**.

**Contact phone No. 01905 751347 or email acutner@carersworcs.org.uk
Just a little of your time for a friendly chat will make a huge difference!**



Registered Charity No. 1071850



– o0o –

Prison Visitors Wanted.....

We are looking for people who are:

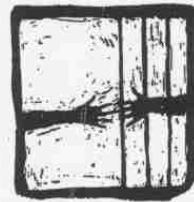
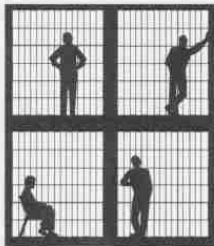
- interested in others
- a good listener
sympathetic to the needs of
prisoners
- available to visit

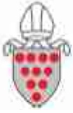
to become a Prison Visitor at HMP Long Lartin

Long Lartin is a High Security prison outside Evesham. Men serving long sentences are located here. Some have no outside contact except through a Prison Visitor. Hence a Prison Visitor is a much valued role.

If you'd like to know more, without any commitment please contact:

Rev Jeffrey Hayward or Penny Swan 01386 295302





The Three Choirs Festival

The Three Choirs Festival is the world's oldest classical choral festival, rotating annually between the cities of Hereford, Gloucester and Worcester.

It is the turn of Worcester to host the festival this year from August 6th to 13th. The Philharmonia Orchestra, based in London, will be the orchestra in residence for the festival week. 62 events will take place in 16 venues around the City and County supported by a further 40 or more free and ticketed events organised by the annual Worcester Festival who act as our fringe. The City of Worcester will be transformed for festival week into a musical and cultural mecca! The finale is a 'Night at the Opera', with Sir Thomas Allen, a rousing climax to the musical week.

The main festival programme includes: Elgar Dream of Gerontius, Mozart Requiem, Mahler Symphony No. 3, Brahms German Requiem, Handel Dixit Dominus, Vaughan Williams An Oxford Elegy, Beethoven Mass in C, Bruch Violin Concerto, Elgar Caractacus and an opera gala evening with Sir Thomas Allen.

Guest conductors include Sir Andrew Davis, Susanna Mälkki, Harry Christophers and Christoph Mueller alongside our own Artistic Director Adrian Lucas, and the Artistic Directors of the Hereford Festival (Geraint Bowen) and Gloucester Festival (Adrian Partington).

Guest Soloists include the international baritone Sir Thomas Allen, the composer and jazz pianist Sir Richard Rodney Bennett, Classical Female Artist of the Year Alison Balsom (trumpet), Sarah Connolly CBE (mezzo soprano), BBC New Generation Artist Tai Murray (violin), Matthew Best (bass), David Briggs (organ), Elizabeth Watts (Soprano), virtuoso recorder player Piers Adams, Italian organist superstar Paolo Oreni, Jamie Walton (cello) and Catherine Wyn-Rogers (mezzo soprano).

Guest Ensembles include The Academy of Ancient Music, The Sixteen, Florilegium and The Melchior Ensemble.

2011 marks the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attack, the underlying theme of the festival week. The highlight will be a performance of John Adams monumental cantata, 'On the transmigration of souls', commissioned in 2002 and recalling the fall of the World Trade Center in New York. This piece will sit alongside the Mozart Requiem, Barber Adagio and Mahler Adagietto.

Of course many of the most exciting concerts will take place in the city's fabulous Cathedral, which will be transformed into a buzzing concert venue with first class summer refreshments served on the Cathedral Green, along with a few well chosen craft stalls for sublime shopping.

If you wish to find out more about the festival or book tickets please visit:

<http://www.3choirs.org/> Tickets are available online.

Telephone bookings: 0845 6521823 from June 2nd

E-mail: info.worcester@3choirs.org

Beware what lurks in the church vestry...

The Rectory
St. James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren,

I am unsurprised that the cleaning lady took exception to you dismantling your motorbike in the church vestry. Clergy vestries are the final repositories of rotting hymn books, ancient cassocks with a certain aroma, buckets with holes in which are kept “just in case” and dead animals in various states of decomposition; but they are no place for bike chains, disc brakes and inner tubes.

I will concede that vestries seem to attract all those objects no one quite knows what to do with, but which parishioners can't bear to throw away, as iron filings race towards a magnet. But flower arrangers looking for space for boxes of twine, decorators hoping to store cribs and Easter gardens and choirmasters for overspill for anthems must be repelled vigorously.

Only hardy souls should enter a vestry. You will be confronted with all of your predecessors staring down at you reproachfully. The most recent, in colour, will stare smugly, knowing full well that you cannot equal their standards. Earlier incumbents, in black and white, will look mildly reproachful, reminding you that your abilities have fallen well short of their intellectual stature. Those from previous centuries, hand drawn and looking as if they have recently ingested a pint of vinegar, will tell you that, whoever you are and whatever you may become, you are a disappointment. I am already rehearsing my own look of pained forgiveness for my leaving photo that will stare down on my own successor and perpetually irritate him.

It also seems to be a tradition that retiring clergy donate their robes for their successors, probably because it spares them a walk to the dustbin. So, a five foot, 18 stone incumbent will leave a cassock for his six foot, ten stone successor – and then will let his disappointment be known that the new arrival is not using his kind gift. There will also be a spare 1960s nylon surplice hanging on the back of the vestry door, to remind you that should you ever forget your own, then this is the horror you will be obliged to wear throughout Evensong.

Notices on the walls will tell you that marriage fees in the 1920s were seven shillings and sixpence, that Communion wine can be obtained from a shop that closed down a generation ago and there will be a copy of the prayer of thanksgiving to be used on the relief of Mafeking.

My only advice is to remove your bike before it gets bundled up with the Scouts' tents – although you may try claiming that the engine oil was brought in for anointing the sick.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

St Richard's Hospice News

Are you celebrating a special occasion? Invite your guests to Celebrate and Donate!

Why not ask family and friends to make a donation to St Richard's In lieu of presents on your special occasion? If you would like to order Celebrate and Donate cards to send to family and friends with your celebration invitations please speak to the St Richard's Hospice Fundraising team on 01905 763963 or e-mail appeals@strichards.org.uk You can also set up a fund for donations in lieu of gifts on line at www.justgiving.com/strichards

Your gift will help us provide free specialist palliative care for patients living with cancer and other life-threatening illnesses and support their families. Each year the hospice team supports over 2,100 patients and family members in Worcestershire.

Are you ready for a challenge? Whether it's to get yourself kick started into more physical activity or push yourself outside your usual comfort zone - St Richard's has something to fit the bill. We can offer you a variety of wonderful walks, including some new challenges, bike rides, running events and all sorts of activities to get the adrenalin racing!

Midnight Walk - a great girls night out: Dress up, get sponsored and join in this ten mile or NEW five mile Ladies Midnight Walk around the streets of Worcester on Saturday, 9th July. There's a fun atmosphere and it makes a great girls' night out. Why not take part with hundreds of other Worcestershire women and help raise funds for St Richard's? More details contact tcavell@strichards.org.uk or call 01905 763963.

Abseil: Are you prepared to go over the edge for St Richard's? Join the St Richard's abseil on Sunday, 7th August down the 141 ft Abberley Hall Clock Tower. £25 entry fee to cover costs and training. £50 minimum sponsorship required. For more info contact tcavell@strichards.org.uk

The Waterways Walk (circular 21 mile route)

Join us on this walk on Sunday, 14th August. We held this walk last year for the first time and it proved a great success, raising over £30,000. Walk the flat 21 mile circular route from Droitwich along the restored Droitwich Canal and River Severn. You will need to be reasonably fit to complete the walk. Walkers will be asked to raise sponsorship. More info contact appeals@strichards.org.uk or call 01905 763963.

And finally! Our supporters choose all sorts of ways to challenge themselves and raise money. So if you fancy a more unusual challenge, follow in their footsteps. You can always shave your head, wax your back, row across the Atlantic or climb Mount Kilimanjaro! Whatever you choose, we are here to help. We can produce sponsorship sheets, fundraising ideas, posters, flyers and give you plenty of support.

For more information on the events visit www.strichards.org.uk/events or call the Fundraising team on 01905 763963

Helen Griffie

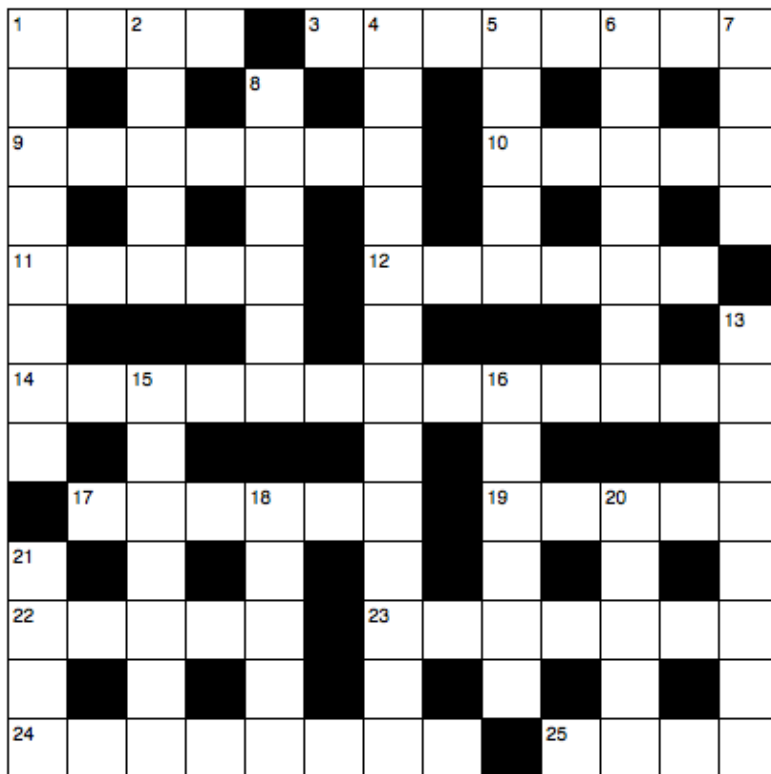
Communications Manager, St Richard's Hospice

www.strichards.org.uk

www.facebook.com/strichards

www.twitter.com/strichardshosp

July / August 2011



June 2011 Solution

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Across

- 1 Sent out three times on a reconnaissance mission from Noah's ark (Genesis 8:8–12) (4)
 3 'The vilest — who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives' (8)
 9 Described by the 19th-century MP Sir Wilfred Lawson as 'the Devil in solution' (7)
 10 'Whoever — his life for my sake will find it' (Matthew 10:39) (5)
 11 King of Gezer (Joshua 10:33) (5)
 12 Gideon's home town (Judges 6:11) (6)
 14 The area under the jurisdiction of a primate, for example, Canterbury, York (13)
 17 To him God promised that David would be king (1 Chronicles 11:3) (6)
 19 A descendant of Aaron who was not allowed to offer food to God (Leviticus 21:20) (5)
 22 'If any of you — wisdom, he should ask God' (James 1:5) (5)
 23 I gain me (anag.) (7)
 24 Relating to the armed forces (1 Chronicles 5:18) (8)
 25 Title given to 2 Down (abbrev.) (4)

Down

- 1 Greek coins (Acts 19:19) (8)
 2 Church of England incumbent (5)
 4 What Epaphroditus was to Paul (Philippians 2:25) (6-7)
 5 Mother of David's sixth son (2 Samuel 3:5) (5)
 6 'We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in — ' (2 Corinthians 4:8) (7)
 7 It destroys treasures on earth (Matthew 6:19) (4)
 8 It threatened Paul in Jerusalem (Acts 21:35) (3,3)
 13 Well-known Reference Bible that espoused dispensationalism (8)
 15 Where the choir sits in a parish church (7)
 16 Real do (anag.) (6)
 18 'Martha, Martha... you are worried and — about many things' (Luke 10:41) (5)
 20 'One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day — ' (Romans 14:5) (5)
 21 A place with twelve springs and 70 palm trees where the Israelites camped (Exodus 15:27) (4)



19th Century view of Great Malvern Priory from Abbey Road



Building Malvern Priory Organ by L A Hamand