

Malvern Priory Magazine

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

June 2010

Visiting Preachers During June

During this 925th anniversary year, as part of the celebration of our links with the local and wider church, we are welcoming as preachers local clergy from different Christian traditions, as well as those from further afield. This month, we have visitations from the following four preachers:

- June 6th** – The preacher at the 6.30 pm Open Worship will be the Rev'd Paul Finch, Vicar of St. Andrew's and All Saints in the Greater Malvern Group of Churches (of which the Priory is also a part).
- June 13th** – The preacher at the 6.30 pm Holy Communion will be the Rev'd David Nichol, Vicar of Holy Trinity and St. James West Malvern, and Rural Dean of Malvern.
- June 27th** – The preacher at the 10.30 am Morning Prayer will be the Rev'd Canon Dr. Nicholas Sagovsky, Canon Theologian at Westminster Abbey. As you may be aware, the Priory was originally a daughter house of Westminster Abbey, so our links go back a long time!
- June 27th** – The preacher at the 6.30 pm Choral Evensong – the annual Friends of Malvern Priory Evensong to which all are welcome – will be the Ven. Clive Mansell, Archdeacon of Tonbridge, who was a former Curate of the Priory from 1982-85. *John Barr*

From the Vicarage

Lifepath Malvern 2010

Dear Friends,

At the time of writing this article, it looks as if over 500 primary school children from 15 local schools (as well as a group from Chernobyl) will be participating in this year's Lifepath Malvern, which is being held in Malvern Priory later this month, from Monday 21st - Friday 25th June.

We have been encouraged by the response we have already received from local churches, as well as by the schools who have signed up. If you would like to support and/or to be involved in this year's Malvern Lifepath, then there are three ways you might consider doing so:

1. Prayer: Please pray for the Lifepath Steering Group involved in the planning, and for all the schools who have signed up to take part. A separate prayer leaflet will also be available providing details of all the schools taking part, and specific prayer points for each day of the Lifepath Malvern event. If you'd like a copy of the prayer leaflet, please phone or email the Priory Office (office@greatmalvernpriory.org.uk).

2. Participation: We now have a wonderful list of about 50 volunteers on the Lifepath team. Extra pairs of hands are always useful – for example, helping to provide refreshments, helping with laundering the monastic garb at the end of the week, being a steward, and assisting with any other practical tasks that often arise at the last minute! If you can offer some help, please do let us know.

3. Provision: We are asking schools to pay £1.50 per pupil towards the cost of Lifepath, and this should cover about half of our estimated total budget of circa £1,650. If you would like to make a donation to help make up the balance (c £825) of the Lifepath budget, please make your cheque payable to ‘Lifepath Malvern’ and send it to the Lifepath Malvern Treasurer Philip Robinson c/o Malvern Priory Parish Office, Church Street, Malvern WR14 2AY.

On Sunday 20th June at 6.30 pm, instead of the usual Evensong, there will be a Lifepath Commissioning Service in the Priory before we start to set up for the next day. All are welcome to attend this short service, as we seek God’s blessing on this year’s Lifepath, and all who will be participating. Also, do feel free to drop into the Priory on any of the Lifepath days to see what’s happening. May Lifepath encourage many – children and adults alike – to discover God’s love, presence, and purpose for them.

Wishing you every blessing in Jesus Christ, who is our true Lifepath,

John and Mary Barr

Junior Choristers’ Concert

Saturday 19th June 2010 at 6.30 p.m.

The Malvern Priory Choirs’ Association invite members of the congregation to join us on Saturday, 19th June 2010 at 6.30 p.m. for the Junior Choristers’ Concert. The concert will take place in the upstairs Lyttelton Room and will include a cold 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.

Tickets are on sale now, £6 for adults, £3 for children and are available from Jenny Cooke, chairman, and Eileen Wilson, secretary (you can make contact through the Priory Parish Office – 01684 561020 – weekday mornings). The final date for tickets is Sunday 13th June, so please contact us soon to avoid disappointment.

Eileen Wilson

Priory People

Doreen Elsie Hitchen (aged 82)

Everyone who knew Doreen would say that she was an interesting person to talk to – she had a knack for relating events from her past and in a sense re-living history. She was an Essex girl and proud of it. Her father encouraged her to learn about plants and anyone who went to see her in Clerkenwell Crescent would be shown the garden. Her mother taught her baking, sewing and how to run a home, things which Doreen used successfully in her married life and passed on to her daughter, Mary. Doreen loved figures and her skills for balancing books were honed during her working life before marriage. Her budgeting of the Hitchen household was faultless! She was married to Joe, a long distance lorry driver, for over 50 years and his sudden death left a big gap in her life. Joe had stayed with a Dutch family during the War and this led to a life-long friendship which Doreen became part of. Doreen and Joe moved to Malvern to be near their daughter Mary, son Philip and their grandchildren, and Doreen was always so proud of her families' achievements. Not one to stand still for long, she soon became involved with Singing for Pleasure, U3A, Trefoil Guild and Bird Watching activities as well joining with Joe to worship at The Priory and accompany him when he went to play bowls. She was always a willing volunteer – e.g. in Essex when her daughter was a guide she took over the Guide Company to save it from closing, even though she had never been a Guide herself; she baked wonderful cakes for Priory fetes and could often be seen helping with refreshments; she helped to count the Priory collections each week and kept an accurate account of the Trefoil Guild income and expenditure. Several times her stories of life during the war were related to very attentive school children. It was, therefore, very frustrating for her when she latterly had several falls which restricted her ability to get around as much as she would have liked. She was a good friend to many in the Priory, particularly to me, and we will miss her – even if she did sometimes fall asleep at the most inappropriate times! Rest in peace Doreen.

Delysia Barker

The Rev'd Kevan Tailby 1936 – 2010

We said goodbye to Kevan on Monday 19th April in an uplifting, celebratory service, that he himself had designed, in his beloved Malvern Priory. The numbers of Priory folk and choir who attended, together with family and friends from all Kevan's varied walks of life, bore testament to the affection and esteem in which he was held.

We first met Kevan in 2001 when he retired to Malvern with Cynthia, and enjoyed being able to continue his priestly ministry both at the Priory church and among other churches in the Deanery. Malvern had always been special to Kevan as, although he was born in Birmingham, his years of secondary education were completed at Malvern College. Then several years later his own two children, ►

Susan and Mark, also came to boarding school here, whilst Kevan and Cynthia served as Army chaplain in Germany and then Northern Ireland.

Initially, on leaving school, Kevan undertook accountancy training in his father's firm, before beginning his National Service in the army, and serving with SHAPE in Paris. After this he taught for a year, when a quiet, reserved young Jeremy Paxman was a pupil (!), before going on to King's in London for his theology degree. It was here that he met Cynthia, and they were married in 1964, just 6 weeks before



Kevan was ordained Deacon in Coventry Cathedral. It was in that diocese that he served 2 curacies before his 7 years as Army chaplain. After leaving the Army Kevan was a very devoted and caring parish priest, Army prison chaplain and hospital chaplain in Chelmsford Diocese, later moving to Dovercourt and Colchester.

Over the last 25 years the Healing Ministry was a very important part of life for both Kevan and Cynthia. They first became involved with the Christian Healing Centre at Crowhurst, serving also on the Management and Mission Committee, running teaching courses, and providing much residential "locum" cover there. It is the sharing of this experience, and his pastoral gifts, that Kevan may probably be most remembered for, with love and gratitude, amongst us as with confidence, yet gracious humility, he worked on building up the Healing Ministry at Great Malvern Priory. Who also can forget his gentle, relaxed yet meaningful services, taken with the Rev'd Tony Whalley – the "B" Team!

Steam railways had always been important to Kevan, and he was able to indulge this interest to a far greater extent when he retired. He also loved travel, walking, classical music and latterly was heavily involved in researching his family history. Kevan was a proud and loving grandfather of six, and great-grandfather of one, and had spent what turned out to be his last Christmas with them all, in spite of very difficult, snowy travel conditions.

Iona remained a special place for both Kevan and Cynthia, and he felt a real connection with Celtic spirituality and tradition. He will be sadly missed and lovingly remembered for his faithfulness, gentle demeanour, combined with a wonderful sense of humour, and his ready willingness to share of himself and his gifts and ministry to all. Also his strong, steadfast faith, which always shone through. It is testimony to this that the Madresfield group of churches is also holding a special service to give thanks for Kevan. We feel so privileged to have known him and to have been counted as friends.

Anne and Adrian Dudman

Notes From The Annual Meeting 29th April 2010

John Willis' presentation of slides of Priory people and events taken in the past year was shown before the start of the meeting, to a soundtrack of the Priory Choir. It brought back happy memories of both regular and special events, including the arrival of the new chairs.

Annual Vestry Meeting

The Vicar welcomed everyone, reminding us of our call to be God's Easter people.

Election of Churchwardens

Robin La Fontaine and Rosamund Ponting were re-elected. The Vicar expressed appreciation to them for their dedicated service.

The **Annual Church Meeting** followed. The booklet of PCC reports had been distributed.

Presentation of Accounts

Roy Boyer, Treasurer, presented the accounts. The surplus of £48,912 was already spoken for, being part endowment funds that could not be touched; part restricted funds set aside for the new chairs; and part an unrestricted amount set aside for work on Church House and the Sound System. Stewardship was £160,010. Investment interest and facility fees had been hit by the recession. The Parish Share payment of £122,900 was £6,000 more than last year.

Election of PCC members

Peter Babb, Roy Boyer, Stephen Boyer, Mike Eglington, and Howard Wells were declared elected to a three year term of office.

Appointment of Deputy Churchwardens

Peter Babb, Anne Eglington, David Guy and Nick Maxfield-Phillips were re-appointed as Deputy Churchwardens.

Appointment of Sidesmen and Sideswomen

The appointment of 44 sidespersons was approved unanimously. During the refreshment break we enjoyed Geoff Fearnough's DVD, 'The Malvern Priory Tower Experience'.

Other Matters of Parochial or Church Interest

The Vicar thanked the Bookshop helpers for their important part in welcoming visitors to the Priory all the year round.

Presentations on proposal for new lighting in the Priory

Michael Angling described the proposed options for new lighting. Five different types of lighting were possible for each: Background, Activity, Event, Feature and External effect lighting. The chosen lighting should be efficient and should complement the principal views of the building from West to East. A 'Hampstead' glass fitting, reminiscent of a mediaeval glass bowl, would give an even spread of

light in all directions without shadows. There would be a twofold or threefold increase in light in the nave, without any increase in power consumption.

2010: 925th Anniversary Year

David Webster summarised the outward-looking celebrations that marked 925 years of partnership between the Priory Church and the town of Malvern. The Science and Faith Week had been exciting and stimulating, ending with a very special service of celebration. An Annual 'Walcher Lecture' might be the legacy of this special week.

Children, Youth and Families at Malvern Priory

Mary Barr described each of the ten activity groups for children and young people within the Priory family: Priory Tots, Scramblers, Explorers, Pathfinders, All Sorts, Youth Badminton and Table Tennis, YOMP, FEATv, Junior Choir, and Sketch Club. The Children's Space was much valued by mid-week visitors as well as by young families in our Sunday services. 530 pupils from 14 local primary schools had booked to attend 'Lifepath' in June.

Vote of Thanks

David Guy expressed the deep gratitude of everyone present to John and Mary Barr for all that they do.

The meeting concluded with all joining in a prayer of thanksgiving.

Christine Wells, PCC Secretary

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A Celebration of Science and Faith



By any standard our Science and Faith week in April was a great week – there was, and still is, a real buzz about it. Thankfully all the technology worked – so it should in such a week! DVD sets will be available before long. The only hiccup was that Prof Tony Hewish could not hear some of the questions properly – and gave the impression that he doesn't believe in the resurrection! In fact he most certainly does, and is sorry for any misunderstanding. We have 3 reviews of the week – by a scientist, a non-scientist, and a sixth former who went to the school forum.

Science And Faith Week – A Scientist's Perspective

Great Malvern Priory has long-standing links to science. Its second prior, Walcher, was also an astrologer and mathematician. Great Malvern was home to the wartime Telecommunications Research Establishment and its successor organisations, now QinetiQ. Generations of scientists have worked in Malvern and many still worship at the Priory. It is therefore fitting that the first major event in the Priory's celebration of its 925th anniversary was “a celebration of science and faith”.

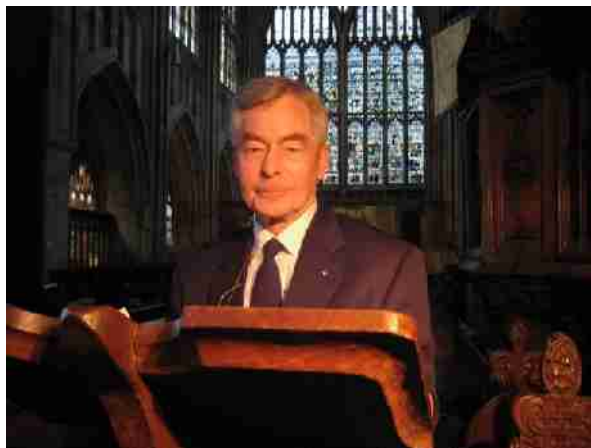
Five eminent scientists, who are also Christians, were invited to the Priory to speak about their science and their faith. Amongst the speakers professorships, doctorates and international awards were commonplace, three were Fellows of the Royal Society, and one was also a Nobel Laureate. The talks covered a wide range of science subjects: cosmology, evolution, neuroscience, theoretical physics, and model-based imaging radar exploitation. The speakers were, above all, committed Christians, who had thought long and hard about the relationship between their science and their faith. This is a difficult area for many people and the talks generated strong interest in the Malvern churches and town, with the Priory packed full to overflowing on all five evenings!

Prof Antony Hewish, who won a Nobel Prize for radio astronomy, gave the first talk on “Cosmology and Creation”. He explained the “inflation model” for the evolution of the universe (the current version of the Big Bang theory) and the strong evidence for it provided by radio astronomy. He linked this to the Christian view of an Intelligent Creator, and showed how the physical laws that govern the evolution of the universe have to be fine-tuned to incredible tolerances to support the evolution of stars with planetary systems supporting intelligent life.

Prof Sir Ghilleen Prance, former Director of Kew Gardens, gave the second talk entitled “Evolution or Creation? No, both!” He described the wonder of the natural world and the total inter-dependency between species. He explained how evolution was compatible with his Christian faith, and his wonder in a God who could dictate the physical laws under which an ecosystem could create itself through the process of evolution. He concluded by describing his work in

conservation and our responsibility, as Christians, for good stewardship of the world and its ecology. ▶

Prof Edward Evans, Emeritus Professor of Auditory Physiology at Keele University, gave the next talk entitled “Is man a machine? A neuroscientist’s perspective”. He explained the operation of our senses and brain, showing how our mind can be thought of as information embodied in the brain. He linked this to the idea of the soul, the enduring ‘me’, illustrating the Christian view that we are much more than mere electro-chemical machines!



Professor Edward Evans

The Rev’d Dr. John Polkinghorne gave the penultimate talk entitled “The friendship between science and religion” in which he addressed directly the relationship between science and faith, drawing on his unique perspective as a leading theoretical physicist and an ordained Anglican priest. He talked about the complementarity of science and faith, with faith setting science in a deeper context and answering metaphysical questions. He pointed to God as the creator behind both our minds and the universe we are seeking to understand, and as the intelligent designer of a universe, the laws of which could lead ultimately to the evolution of complex life. He concluded that looking at the world through both science and religion provides a deeper and clearer understanding of the world than is possible through science or religion alone, and that there really is a friendship, rather than a conflict, between science and religion.

The final talk was given by our very own Dr. Chris Oliver on “Data, models and knowledge. How do we learn, and what can we know?” Chris talked about the derivation of knowledge from data, in his case radar imagery. He considered whether it was possible to derive knowledge of God from our observations of the world through science. He concluded that, while science allows a Christian to see part of the mind of God through His creation, it neither proves nor disproves the existence of God. Ultimately, God’s revelation to us through Jesus, and our relationship with Him, is more important.

The speakers in the Science and Faith series came from different scientific disciplines but all concluded that their science and faith were complementary. Both sought after truth and, while their science was very good at answering the “how” questions, only their faith could answer the “why”.

Andrew Horne

Thoughts on the proceedings by a (definitely) non-scientist

As someone who brought eternal shame on her family name by FAILING Form 111A’s chemistry exam, I approached this series of talks with a certain amount of

trepidation. Would I be sitting on those comfortable new chairs in a state of bemusement while all around me engaged with the speaker?

I need not have worried. Yes, there were times when I was not too sure, but the cogent and patient explanations made me think that perhaps I had been spotted, and things had been brought back to my level again.

The desire to know how the universe operates has long been thinking man's preoccupation. As we saw in the course of these lectures, there are different approaches to finding the answers, with each speaker showing respect for the others' disciplines, but each of those whom we heard had been brought to the same conclusion: that a Creator vastly superior to man is behind this world. There are, as we know, people who argue (noisily) against this concept, but even they admit to a sense of wonder as their knowledge expands, and we can pray that they will one day reach a different conclusion.

Professor Antony Hewish got us off to a good start tracing the development of radio astronomy from 1942 through the work of Martin Ryle and others. Much has been learnt: the fine balance of creation is akin to having to count each grain of sugar and flour before adding them to a cake mixture, surely arguing for a very Intelligent Designer. Even as knowledge increases, it does not answer the questions: What is the purpose of life, and why are we here? Science involves mysteries that seem to be unbelievable but can be proved by mathematics - mysteries of the same order as the great Christian mystery: how God could reveal himself in a man. We therefore need science to say what things are, and religion to say what they mean and what is behind them.

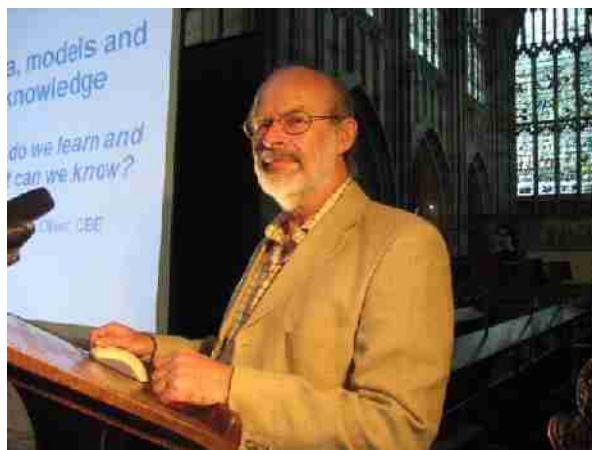
Sir Ghillean Prance took up the theme of the fine balance discovered in creation and his conviction of a divine Creator, and his concerns that the balance is being destroyed by man. His studies in the Amazon rain forests have shown him how deforestation has affected natural life, not just there but worldwide. This is man's abuse of Creation, and Sir Ghillean reminded us why Christians cannot sit back and let this happen: the Bible teaches that man is the steward of creation; if we do nothing, it is the poor who suffer the most; and it is Christ's creation that we are abusing. He reminded us of what each of us can do to arrest those things which we see to be abusing our universe.

Professor Ted Evans is a neuro-scientist who considered whether Man is a machine, as has been argued by Crick and others, or something infinitely more. Development through 200 years from phrenology to functional MRI has helped to understand the working of the brain, making sense of the messages coming into it; but how does the brain relate to the mind? Are they two separate "stuffs" or two aspects of one substance of the same thing? And where does "Me" come in - perhaps as soul? Nor must the body be overlooked, as St. Paul reminds us in Romans 12 vv1 and 2. Definitely more than a machine!

The Rev. Dr. John Polkinghorne lived up to his reputation as a physicist of international repute, a Christian who is convinced that science and religion are

friends, pursuing the truth and offering each other their respective gifts, and a very effective communicator. The mind of a Creator lies behind the universe we know – a very special universe, starting simply and developing through 13.7 billion years. The more we learn, the more the cumulative case for theism builds up. It is an evolving world in which God is not the puppet master, but through the gift of love makes for the independence of his creatures. If we look at the world with two eyes, one scientific the other religious, we discover that science and religion are indeed linked.

We finished the series with our own Dr. Chris Oliver who shared with us his life-time passion for seeking the truth and finding his relationship with Our Lord in the midst of his research and discoveries. He linked his work on Synthetic Aperture Radar with thoughts on how we build up a context model in our brain, so that we can recognise not just “dog” but “golden retriever”; not just “golden retriever” but “Chris’s golden retriever”.



Dr Chris Oliver

Learning about God merely by observation may not be feasible, but seeing him in the world around us, as part of a wonderful creation, certainly is. Our knowledge is built up by Reason, Research, Revelation and Relationship, and the relationship that is formed by knowing Christ personally is so much more important than just knowing *about* God. Grasping the science leads to understanding part of the mind of God. Chris very neatly summed up the whole series’ themes and left us rejoicing that ►

the more we learn about the world, the more God’s place in it is confirmed.

This was a wonderful week, in which God’s encouragement was keenly felt. We are so grateful to all who made it possible, and to those who gave time and energy to come to us. We rejoice that so many visitors joined us and pray that they found their visit fruitful. As I listened, other words from Form 111A came back to me; from Eng Lit - in which I came Top:

*And still they gazed, and still the wonder grew
That one small head could carry all he knew.*

(Oliver Goldsmith “The Deserted Village”)

And Who gave him that head?

Elizabeth Dunnett

Sixth Form Forum And Service Write-Up

It wasn’t exactly a usual Saturday afternoon on 24th April; instead of revising for A levels (or not), sixth form students had the fantastic opportunity of hearing the Rev’d Dr. John Polkinghorne KBE FRS speak about science and faith at a forum held in the new Malvern College sports centre.

It was a chance for students (and others) to hear the world famous physicist/theologian briefly share some of his thoughts on why science and religion support, not contradict, each other. There was then an opportunity to ask questions, some of which were a little difficult to answer in a few minutes (the first one was something along the lines of “How, as a scientist, can you believe in life after death”, which is a complex topic in anyone’s books!).

I think I can safely say that everyone found the forum at the very least interesting and I feel very honoured that I had the chance to be there.

But that’s not all...

The Sunday morning service the next day wasn’t completely normal either; the usual Priory congregation was joined by the boarding community of Malvern College. There were 700 people in the building (give or take a few) so it was necessary to have a camera projecting the image of the front to TV screens throughout the Priory. It just so happened that the camera was pointing at the choir stalls on the pulpit side – needless to say, all the visible choristers were on their best behaviour!

The Rev’d Dr. John Polkinghorne preached about the much-debated question: “How can a scientist believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ?”. There were many helpful points, one being the fact that women were the first witnesses to the resurrection – women were not always trusted in Jesus’ day so it ironically makes the resurrection accounts even more credible. But most importantly, he said that, yes, a scientist can believe in the resurrection and that he definitely does.

It was wonderful to be able to meet and listen to such an eminent physicist and theologian: he confirmed my belief that science and faith mix rather well.

Joanna Barr

Malvern Priory Choirs Association 50th Anniversary

Saturday 1st May 2010 was a day celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Malvern Priory Choirs Association (originally the Malvern Priory Old Choristers Association). It started at 2 pm with the AGM held in the Lyttelton Rooms. Reports from Joan Willis (chairman) and John Willis (treasurer) ensued and after thanks to Joan and Pat Wollaston for their service and hard work over the last year, Jenny Cooke and Eileen Wilson were elected as the new chairman and secretary. John Willis agreed to continue as treasurer and a new committee was also elected. David Iliff reported on the last year from his perspective as Director of Music and included information about the Hamand fund and our organ scholars.

At 3 pm a choir rehearsal was held to which we were pleased to welcome a number of former members. After a short refreshment break and group photo, we celebrated Evensong led by John Barr and accompanied by Jonathan Holl. The music covered five centuries: “Come let’s rejoice” by John Amner was the introit and “O thou, the central Orb” by Charles Wood, the anthem; the Magnificat and

Nunc Dimittis, and “When in our music God is glorified” were to music by C V Stanford; Psalm 121 was sung to a setting by Barry Rose and the Responses were composed by John Barnard.

Later that evening we enjoyed a three course meal held at the Masonic Hall, where our Director of Ceremonies, Richard Weatherill kept the proceedings flowing smoothly and with humour, and we were delighted that a number of the younger choir members were able to join us for the evening.

Our guest speaker this year was John Barnard, a linguist by profession but better known to most people as composer of the tune “Guiting Power” (for the hymn Christ Triumphant). An old friend and colleague of David Iliff, he amused us by recounting some of his experiences of taking his choir to Belgium. On a more serious note, he talked about the continuity of good music in the Anglican tradition and compared it to experiences he’d had sometimes in Europe where the poor quality of the music was at odds with the majesty of the buildings. He reminded us that the primary purpose of Church music is to aid the worship of God and so it follows that our responsibility always, is to produce the best we can, whatever the style.

The weekend events were attended by a good number of former choir members and organists including one current member who had been in the choir more than fifty years ago and also Frank Hambrey who had been at the inaugural meeting of the Old Choristers Association in 1960.

The following morning we were privileged to have John Barnard conducting his arrangement of “He is Lord” during the service, a fitting end to a lovely weekend.

Jane Smith

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Behind the Scenes – A Priory Flower Arranger

“What lovely flowers!” or “Doesn’t the church look beautiful!” We hear comments like this three times a year at Festivals. But do the members of the congregation look at the flowers on other Sundays of the year?

The Priory has a team of arrangers of mixed ability, very ably organised by Ann Oldfield, but as some of the regulars get older and retire new recruits are hard to find.

There are two rotas – one for St. Ann’s Chapel, which requires a small pedestal arrangement. This is done on a Wednesday prior to the Thursday Holy Communion service. The other rota is for pedestals in the porch and by the altar, and are done on Friday or Saturday. Some arrangers choose to do two weeks at a time, as this makes better use of long lasting flowers. Most flowers and foliage take up more water in the first day, so need topping up after 24 hours, and again mid-week.

There are no flowers during Lent and Advent, and in August they are done by members of the Malvern Floral Art Club. There is an allowance for flowers if required.

We are a very friendly bunch, and enjoy one another's company at Festival times and coffee mornings. If anyone is interested in joining us, but feels that they don't know how to arrange flowers, have a word with Ann or me, and we could arrange for you to observe one or two of our more experienced members, who would be willing to help and advise.

Nina Weston



Church Street, Great Malvern, Worcestershire WR14 2AY

Our counselling service was founded in 1993 and is part of the Lyttelton Well which is supported by many of the Malvern churches.

We are a team of qualified counsellors who provide counselling for a wide range of issues, such as anxiety, depression, relationship problems, abuse and bereavement. We work closely with the community with many of our referrals coming from local GPs.

We work within the code of standards and ethics of the BACP (British Association of Counsellors and Psychotherapists) and the ACC (Association of Christian Counsellors).

Would you like to join us? We are currently looking for volunteers in two areas:

- **Counsellors** – you will need to have a Counselling Diploma and be able to give 2 to 3 hours a week to meet with clients.
- **Reception cover** – could you give 2 hours a week, day or evening, to take phone calls and make clients feel welcome?

If you would like further information please leave a message for Julie Jarman, Head of Counselling, at the Well (01684 563456) and she will be delighted to contact you.

Who's Who in the Priory

Meet Robert Payne

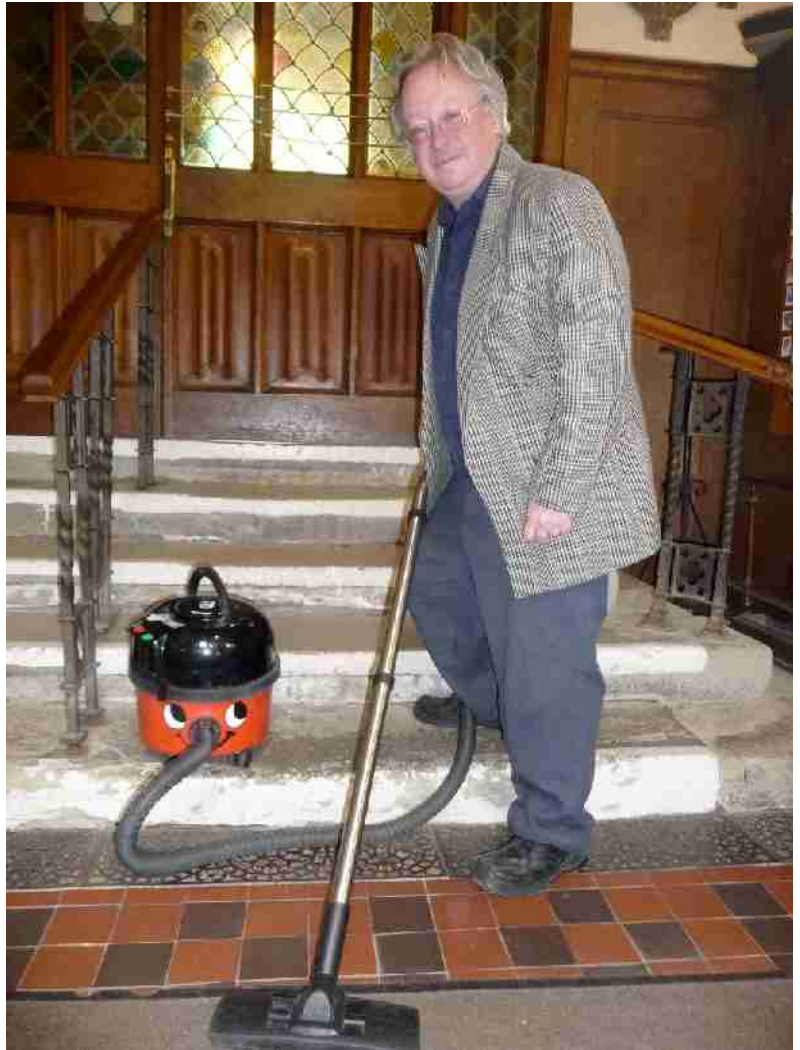
When did you come to Malvern?

In the year 2000. I had lived in many places while working as an actor. For several years I had been companion and carer to my Mum in Oxfordshire. She died in 1999. It was she who introduced me to Malvern. She and my Dad had their honeymoon here in 1955 and she always loved the place. I first visited Malvern in 1978.

Why did you come to the Priory?

I was attracted to the Priory as being an environment to which I might contribute. When the post of Deputy Custos became available it was great because I wanted to work in a non-commercial environment and it was a position that dovetailed with my acting work. I have

always found the practical side of running a church fascinating and so I had a readymade knowledge of the nuts and bolts of the job.



How would you describe your relationship with God?

My firmest belief is in the experiencing of the Divine through art, music, and the beauty of the written word. In my particular case this is apparent through the language of the Book of Common Prayer (1662). I particularly feel the Lord through choral music. The *Dream of Gerontius* by Elgar speaks powerfully in this regard: the musical climax in which Gerontius gains a glimpse of God for a tiny instant, I find very moving.

Do you have a favourite scripture?

I love the Psalms because of the poetry, which comes across powerfully in all versions, whether ancient or modern. I also particularly love the Easter story. I have to mention Jonathan and Claire Darnborough's Easter musical in this regard. I think it is a wonderful moving setting to this story.

Do you have a favourite hymn?

The Spacious Firmament on High because of the 18th century words by Joseph Addison based on Psalm 19:

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth His handiwork.
Psalm 19:1

It speaks of the creation in glorious language. It has the feel of west gallery music, which was played by bands in churches in pre-Victorian days largely because the organs had been removed during Cromwell's time. I find the simple tunes and joy of the worship very appealing. Although this is far removed from Gerontius, to me it is every bit as valid and beautiful as a form of worship.

Do you have any interests?

Theatre, music and art. I love the works of Shakespeare, in which I have performed many times in my profession as an actor.

Do you have any hobbies?

Genealogy. I have found a lot of relatives although I can't go back beyond 1760 because my ancestors were all agricultural labourers in the Berkshire area. I also support Reading football club, who play in the Football League championship.

Do you have any desires?

I would like Reading to win the FA cup! Although I see myself as very unmaterialistic, I've always had a secret desire to own a Lake District steam launch and spend my days with the smell of steam and the sight of polished brass!

What is most important to you?

Simplicity.

What is your role in the Priory?

My job title is Deputy Custos, and I assist Peter Young in the day-to-day running of the church. This involves cleaning (in which I am ably assisted by Sub-Deputy Custos Henry!), polishing, setting up services, and general caretaking. I also wind the clock every Monday. An important part of the job is welcoming visitors, which is a ministry in itself.

I am also on the rota for reading the lessons in church.

I am involved in YOMP, Youth of Malvern Priory. I have written several murder mysteries with Claire Darnborough as well as taking part in YOMP's annual treasure hunts. This year Claire has persuaded me to put on tights and lead the hunt dressed as Errol Flynn!

Sylviane Outram

Choir Camp 2010

Choir camp in 2010 was a great success and around 17 people came. On Friday 9th April members of the Priory choir got into the minibus, boasting 'Malvern Priory choir on tour' down the side of the window, then we set off to Viney Hill. When we arrived we were allocated bedrooms and shortly after we had our first choir practice. After choir we enjoyed a dinner of chicken pie and ice cream with chocolate sauce for dessert. After dinner we watched "The Tale of Desperaux" and went to bed, feeling very tired.

The very next morning, after breakfast we had a choir practice in the Church followed by an Easter treasure hunt in the woods surrounding Viney Hill. Most of us won a cream egg which was great. We then had lunch of hot dogs and then left Viney Hill to go to Puzzle Wood. We sang songs from the "Sound of Music" all the way there! When we got to Puzzle Wood, we went on an Easter Bunny Hunt which ended in prizes of mini eggs. In the little shop at Puzzle Wood they were selling "Prapple", "Rapple" and "Papple" juice, roughly translated as "Pear, Raspberry and Apple", "Raspberry and Apple" and "Pear and Apple juice" From the shop we bought little pencils and carved objects made out of birch and oak.

Then we returned to Viney Hill. At 6.30pm we had supper of delicious lasagne and fruity deserts. Shortly after supper, David Iliff did a quiz which included unscrambling anagrams of famous people like Lady Gaga! We also had to try and find as many four or more letter words out of the words "Malvern Priory".

At 8.30am on Sunday morning we had breakfast. This was closely followed by another choir practice in the church. At 10.30am we all sang at the service in the church at Viney Hill. It felt like a long service but we all enjoyed and sang out loud. It made us even more appreciative of our roast lunch.

The weekend ended with a fabulous swim at Cascades pool in Tewkesbury. We would like to thank all those who helped to organise choir camp, Pat and Stuart Wollaston, Joan Willis, Eileen Wilson and David Iliff and the Viney Hill staff who took care of us.

Freddie and Beth Wolff

Malvern Priory Organ Recital

Saturday 26th June 12.00 noon

Gary Sieling – Bromley Parish Church

Gary Sieling is Director of Music at Bromley. He has given recitals at St. Paul's and Canterbury Cathedrals, King's College Cambridge and Westminster Abbey. He has made ten international recital tours visiting Denmark, Germany, Italy and the USA.

Gary's programme is not yet available, but look out for publicity material and the website: www.malvernprioryorgan.org.uk Large video screen projection Retiring collection for Priory funds

Learning From The Election

The 2010 General Election was an extraordinary affair. As I write, four days after vote counting finished we still have no idea who will endeavour to get us all out of the mess Bankers and other financial risk takers took us into!

The first fact that events of recent days have borne in upon me is not that we are all different and thus require different political parties to represent us in Parliament but that people hold their different opinions so firmly. These opinions, in the case of the principal political parties are not ephemeral personal opinions. They are all different ways in which the parties believe we need to be governed for the common good or at least the version of the 'good' appropriate to the folk represented by that particular party.

In one sense then it is good that two parties are forced to negotiate on the ways to make the best sense of the situation. My first lesson is that it is always good to talk to those with whom you disagree, in order to pursue the common good.

There is a more important lesson which comes from the need to clear up the mess I mentioned earlier. Many of us are going to be hit hard by taxes or other forms of restraint imposed upon us by the Government when it gets going. It will then be necessary for us to help one another to survive and flourish in the period ahead. The encouragement to "love your neighbour" comes to mind. There is some evidence that adversity forces people to communicate and help one another more than would normally be the case – to become more of a community.

In the Priory Social Responsibility and Action Group we are trying to work out how we can join in a Sunday Tea Club being organised by Community Action. The idea is to have a once monthly get-together for lonely and isolated people in our community for whom Sunday is the loneliest day. What is it that leads to so many folk being lonely? In a study by Sheffield University (for the BBC) a comparison was made between loneliness as perceived by people in 1970 and in 2000. Whereas average income had doubled over that 30 year period, loneliness had increased in every area of the UK studied.

Housing need is another indicator of the same thing. Catherine Pepinster, editor of 'The Tablet' writes about the housing shortage in these words: "I doubt that any politician would be honest enough to point out the uncomfortable truth that every demographer knows: much of the shortage (of housing) is down to divorce, temporary cohabitation, and all of the vagaries of the Western lifestyle."

I have just read a book by Professor Tim Jackson "Prosperity without Growth: economics for a Finite Planet". He argues that we need to change our view of prosperity from one too dependent upon material stuff to one that is more a matter of individual flourishing. This would need more emphasis on quality of life and community – to rebuild the concept of social space, to look at green space, at public libraries, at the institutions that bring people together. Perhaps we should encourage our new Parliament to consider change in this direction.

John Maycock

The Sound of Silence

Perhaps the only plus side to the recent closing of our air space, due to the Icelandic volcano, was the absence of noise from aircraft. The papers showed pictures of people blissfully sunbathing in the peace of Kew Gardens, for once able to hear the birds below the Heathrow flight path. We live in an incredibly noisy world. Our towns and cities and motorways are drowned by the constant roar of traffic, day and night. There is the thump, thump of base notes of music, emitted from bars and cars. Restaurants and shops have background, “wallpaper” music, designed to put us into spending mood. And, as though there is not enough external noise, people go around with i-pods glued in their ears, damaging their cochlears with their personal blast of music. Even the birds are affected. It has been shown that urban birds now sing at a higher frequency and greater decibel level than country birds. Urban birds also sing throughout the night, because, with street lighting, there is no time of darkness.

So is the countryside in contrast quiet? You only have to sit out on a sunny afternoon in the country to know that it too has its noise – planes and helicopters roaring their way overhead; low-flying military jets parting our hair and frightening the wool off the sheep; the drone of tractors and harvesters and lawnmowers; perhaps the constant rumble of a motorway. We are all subjected to so much noise. It crowds out our thinking. It displaces peace and tranquillity. It can affect us spiritually – our space for reflection, for God, is filled by noise. We need to consciously make space, to seek quiet, in our noisy, distracting 24/7 world.

So what a blessing that places such as Lee Abbey exist – a space for grace, where we can get away from the distractions, and just be, in God’s presence. It is said of Lee Abbey that the space between heaven and earth there is very thin. But we can’t live in a perpetual Lee Abbey. In our noisy, busy, frenetic world let’s try to find spaces for quiet – inner quiet, even in the midst of noise – where we can actually hear the “still, small voice” of God – or, as the NRSV translates it, to “*hear the sound of sheer silence*”. (1 Kings 19:12)

David Webster

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Open Garden and Coffee Morning in aid of Bible Society

at 7 Zetland Road Malvern WR14 2JJ

Saturday 10th July 10.00 – 12.30

Refreshments Bring and Buy Plant Stall

St. Richard's Carers Group

The Hospice started the Carers Group with assistance of a grant from Help the Hospices as part of a national pilot scheme. We have been going now for nearly three years and provided support and information through the opportunity for carers to share their experiences, meet specialists to talk about illnesses, benefits, legal issues as well as practical things like nursing skills or aids and adaptations to the home or car.

Life as a carer can seem very isolated as it can mean looking after someone 24/7. It can mean financial problems. Friends may disappear as they find it hard to cope. Sometimes people have to give up work and a social life may become non-existent. Not surprisingly the carers' health can suffer.

The Carers Group at St. Richard's is the only one in Worcestershire focussing on people who look after someone with a life limiting illness. For some people that can be a long and painful road as their partner, friend or family member becomes increasingly ill. For others, particularly with cancer patients, it can be much shorter but just as painful. But they do have a lot in common and support each other in difficult times.

Sometimes what we and their fellow members of the group are able to give is a sense that the feelings they have – anger, guilt, loss, loneliness, fear of being alone, frustration at fighting the system or at not being able to communicate – are shared and perfectly normal. They may not be paid carers but they are a vital part of the care of patients and without them the cost of looking after someone would be huge.

Our role is to look after the carers so that they can go on doing this valuable work. They say that it is only when they come to their meetings that anyone gets them a meal. We have lunch together and often tea and cake as well and they do not have to wash-up. We share a lot of difficulties together but we can usually find something to make us laugh together. We organise a Christmas lunch and an outing – this year we went to Cadbury World, so we know how to enjoy ourselves as well!

Carers Day – A life of my own

We are looking forward to welcoming carers in the county to our special day on June 14th.

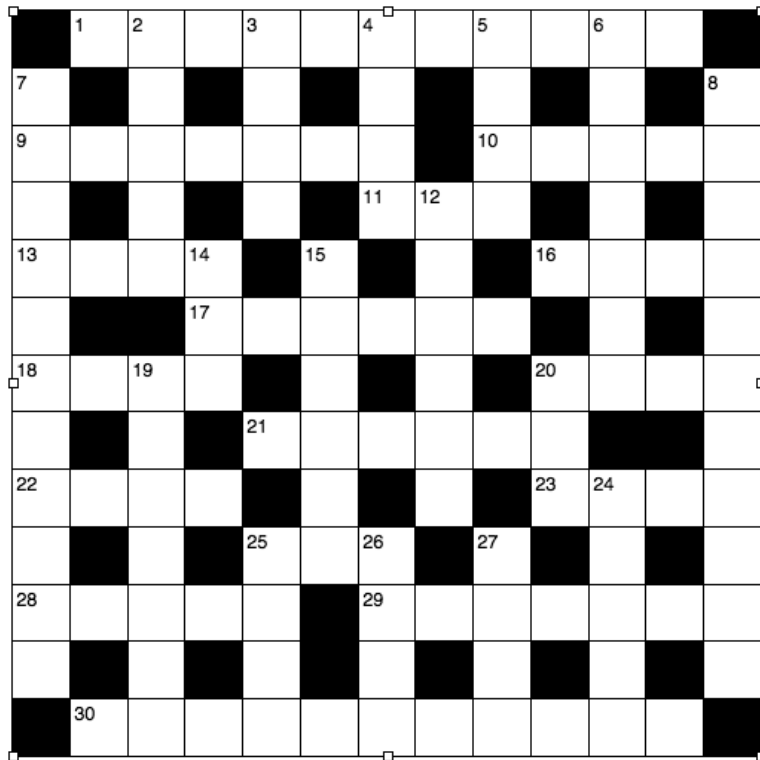
The theme this year is 'A life of my own' and the event will focus on:

- Why supporting carers is crucial
- How carers miss out on things we all take for granted
- What needs to be changed

We will make sure carers have access to relevant and practical information to help them in their caring role, the opportunity to take a break when they need it and where to look for support at times of crisis.

The event runs from 10.30am to 3.30pm. For more information please contact Mike Dutfield, Carers Group Manager - email mdutfield@strichards.org.uk

Crossword June 2010



May Solution

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

Across

- 1 'Eloi, Eloi, lama — ?' (Matt 27:46) (11)
- 9 Joseph's second son (Gen 41:52) (7)
- 10 'No one sews a — of unshrunk cloth on an old garment' (Mark 2:21) (5)
- 11 See 3 Down (3)
- 13 Cultivate (2 Samuel 9:10) (4)
- 16 Not firm or stiff (Proverbs 26:7) (4)
- 17 Jacob's second wife (Gen 29:28) (6)
- 18 On Her Majesty's Service (1,1,1,1)
- 20 'As for us, why do we endanger ourselves every hour? — — every day, I mean that, brothers' (1 Corinthians 15:30–31) (1,3)
- 21 The second son that Leah bore to Jacob (Genesis 29:33) (6)
- 22 Piece of work (Acts 20:24) (4)
- 23 The expensive perfume that Mary poured on Jesus' feet at Bethany (John 12:3) (4)
- 25 'Come and — the place where he lay' (Matthew 28:6) (3)
- 28 Vegetable identified by the Israelites in the desert as one they remembered enjoying in Egypt (Numbers 11:5) (5)
- 29 'But the — of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it' (Matt 13:22) (7)
- 30 It happened to Paul three times (2 Corinthians 11:25) (11)

Down

- 2 The second son that Leah's servant Zilpah bore to Jacob (Genesis 30:13) (5)
- 3 Parents of Cain (Genesis 4:1) (4,3)
- 4 Abode (Luke 4:38) (4)
- 5 'Now faith is being sure of what we — for' (Hebrews 11:1) (4)
- 6 'When they entered [the tomb], they did — — the body of the Lord Jesus' (Luke 24:3) (3,4)
- 7 The last-named fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22–23) (4-7)
- 8 Woman who looks after sheep (Genesis 29:9) (11)
- 12 Looked at (Numbers 32:9) (6)
- 14 Form of address to married woman (3)
- 15 Baruch so described (Jer 36:26) (6)
- 19 Andrew told his brother Simon that they had found him (John 1:41) (7)
- 20 Where the Good Samaritan took the man attacked by robbers on the Jericho road (Luke 10:34) (3)
- 24 'This son of mine was dead and is — again; he was lost and is found' (Luke 15:24) (5)
- 25 Pins (anag.) (4)
- 26 Large jug or pitcher (4)
- 27 Rice (anag.) (4)