

# Malvern Priory Magazine



The Parish Church of St. Mary & St. Michael

## ***In this issue...***

***“Growing Leaders” Course***

***Annual Church Meeting***

***Magazine Survey – Results!***

***YOMP Performs Second World  
Premiere***

***Malvern Civic Week –  
25<sup>th</sup> June – 2<sup>nd</sup> July***

**June 2011**

***YGTT Feedback***

***A Lyttelton Well  
Appeal***

***400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of  
the King James  
Version***

***Friends of Malvern  
Priory: Outing 11<sup>th</sup> May***

## From the Vicarage

### Pilgrims on a Journey...

Dear Friends,

It may be stating the obvious to say that faith, like life, is not static. Faith is – or should be - about travelling, growing, discovering, maturing, changing, and living. Faith is – or should be – about a dynamic relationship with the Living Lord, rather than a static book or building-based religion. Yet that is probably not the picture many have of the Christian faith. Ancient buildings and liturgies can give a strong impression that the Christian faith is mainly about what is immovable. While it is important to have securely fixed points of reference in the midst of a rapidly changing world, those who would follow the Way of Jesus Christ are also called to follow the journeying way of the pilgrim. As a verse from Richard Gillard's hymn *The Servant Song* puts it:

We are pilgrims on a journey,  
Fellow trav'lers on the road;  
We are here to help each other  
Walk the mile and bear the load.

Later this month, three events at the Priory remind us of the call to be pilgrims on a journey. First, the fourth *Lifepath Malvern* week will be taking place from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June. This week will involve about 600 schoolchildren, as well as their teachers, assistants, and a team of about 60 Lifepath volunteers. Please keep Lifepath in your prayers, and do feel welcome to drop in and see what is happening.

On Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June, we shall be welcoming back our Crosslinks Mission Partners who are joining us at the 10.30 am service. Craig and Claudia, Leo and Bethany Smith will be sharing what their journey of faith has been like in Kabale, SW Uganda. Then, on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30 pm, we shall be hosting what promises to be a stimulating evening spent in the company of Anglican priest the Rev'd Peter Owen-Jones, who has become well known through his role as presenter of several BBC series, such as *Around the World in 80 Faiths*, *Extreme Pilgrim*, and *How to Live a Simple Life*. Do invite friends to join you at this event.

Wishing you every blessing in Jesus Christ, who calls us to journey with Him,



*John Barr, Vicar*

## **Priory People**

### **Ordination of the Rev'd Peter Edwards**

On Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July during a service beginning at 2.00 pm in Worcester Cathedral, the Rev'd Peter Edwards will be ordained priest. All are most welcome to attend the service, and I'm sure that Peter would be both delighted and encouraged to see the Priory being well represented at that special gathering. No need to book a ticket – just turn up in good time!

Peter will preside at Holy Communion for the first time on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July at 10.30am. The plan is that this service will be followed by a bring and share lunch. Further details will appear on the weekly leaflet nearer the time. In the meantime, please keep Peter, and all who are preparing for ordination, in your prayers.

*John Barr*

**– o0o –**

### ***From the Registers***

#### ***Baptisms***

*March*

*Isabel Lucy Bradford  
Jonny Crecraft  
Oliver Frank Crecraft  
Tim Whyatt*

*April*

*Isabella Mary Carles*

#### ***Marriages***

*April*

*John and Samantha Moore  
Samuel and Rachel Tippetts  
Bryan and Elizabeth Carless*

#### ***Funerals***

*April*

*Rev'd Graham McNamee*

## **“Growing Leaders” Course**

The Priory ran this excellent CPAS course 2 years ago, and will be doing so again, starting in September. Why again? Haven't we got enough leaders? And isn't this course just going to attract those who want an up-front role in the church? Well – “No”, and “Hopefully no!” In fact this course might well be better named “Growing Servants”, or even “Growing in Discipleship”.

Spread over 6 months, with monthly get-togethers, and home work and individual mentoring in between, the course looks at Jesus' own style of leadership – servant leadership. It then gets us to look at our own gifts, and to see how we might use them in the service of Christ, and in building up the church. It is not a course just for potential churchwardens and PCC members and lay readers and so on – though it is very relevant to such. It is also for anyone who wants to give more in the service of Christ – maybe in a house group, or as a welcomer, or on the bookstall etc. It is designed to help us discover what our gifts are, and then to use them for God.

Listen and look out for notices about the course, and consider if it might be for you. There will be an introductory meeting on Monday July 4<sup>th</sup> in the Priory for anyone interested to know more – but without any commitment at that stage.

More information from the Rev'd John Barr, or Chris Oliver, or David Webster.

**– o0o –**

## **An evening with Peter Owen-Jones**

On Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30 pm in Great Malvern Priory, Peter Owen-Jones BBC presenter of *Around the World in 80 Faiths*, *Extreme Pilgrim*, and *How to Live a Simple Life*, will be reading from his new book, and answering questions. Tickets (£10) are available from the Priory Office, Priory Shop, or on the night. Part of the proceeds will go towards the building of an orphanage outside Hyderabad in South India.

**– o0o –**

## **Malvern Festival Chorus in the Priory**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm**

Conductor Iain Sloan  
with The Sennet Brass Ensemble  
and organist Allan Walker.

All seats £10

Available on the door or from Malvern Theatres Box Office 01684 892277.

“A miscellany of joyful music spanning the centuries for choir, organ and brass”

## Annual Church Meeting

The Vicar welcomed 97 people to the Annual Vestry Meeting in the Priory on 12<sup>th</sup> April. Robin La Fontaine gave the opening Bible reading and prayer, and was thanked for his outstanding leadership as Churchwarden over the past five years. Rosamund Ponting and Peter Babb were elected as Churchwardens.

The Annual Church Meeting followed. The booklet of reports from the PCC and its subgroups and representatives was accepted.

Treasurer Roy Boyer presented the accounts. The unrestricted and restricted reserves were down £55,774 on last year, due to expenditure on new chairs and the replacement Sound System. There was a small surplus at the end of the year, but the Parish Share contribution was down again. The Vicar thanked Roy for all his careful work. Thanks also went to Andrew Horne, chair of the Finance Group, and Mike Eglington, Stewardship Co-ordinator.

Newly elected PCC members were: Claire-Louise Darnborough, Dylan Farrier, Tony Fuller, Laurence Oldfield, Paul Sheppard and Richard Weatherill.

Newly elected Deanery Synod members were: Robin La Fontaine, Ray Hussey, Susan Maxfield-Phillips and Derek Valentine.

Deputy Churchwardens appointed for the coming year were: David Guy, Nick Maxfield-Phillips, Glenda Pocock and Richard Weatherill.

Thanks were expressed to Anne Eglington for her valued ministry as Deputy Churchwarden.

The appointment of 46 sidesmen and sideswomen was accepted with gratitude.

David Webster expressed deep thanks to Michael Martin on his retirement as Vice Chairman of the PCC. Michael had given 44 years of continuous service on PCCs in different places. David thanked him for his total dependable commitment and advice in many vital rôles.

Over coffee, film of the Priory in 1946 was shown, alongside a presentation of the Priory's Year in Pictures, which included many of the special 925 events.

Ann Oldfield explained how she and fellow Events Co-ordinator Custos Peter Young sought to achieve a balanced programme of events in order to provide a Benedictine welcome to 30,000 visitors a year, while being aware of the Priory's primary function as a church.

Jen Boyer described how a rota of 12 churches now provided transport and a venue for a monthly Sunday Tea Club for 40-45 elderly people who live alone. It was hoped to start a second Tea Club for which another co-ordinator and more car drivers were needed.

The Vicar noted that a newly formed Pastoral Care Team would be available to listen to those needing support. ►

John Tanner expressed the deep gratitude of everyone present to John and Mary Barr for their inspiring leadership, and to curate Peter Edwards for his valued ministry.

Mary Barr concluded with a reminder of the Priory's Vision Statement, to be reviewed in 2011, summarised as 'Worship, Welcome and Witness'. The meeting closed with the Vision Prayer.

*Christine Wells, PCC Secretary*

– o0o –

## Magazine Survey – Results!

Firstly, a big thank-you to the many people (over 80) who completed our survey.

**Articles:** We were pleased to see that 78% read the magazine from cover to cover, and 20% read items of interest and only 2% occasionally read items.

**Children's section:** 77% of readers do not know of children who would read a section especially for them – though several of you made comments that we should include one, or that one may encourage children to do so.

**Format and price:** 96% consider the present format is fine and 96% think the price is about right. Only 6% of readers would consider paying more for more colour photos, and only 7% would want a magazine entirely funded by advertisers.

**Balance between articles:** the diagrams below show the opinion of readers on the balance between articles.

Priory People and events



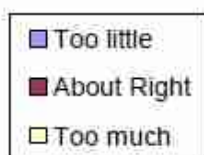
Wider church news



Community Matters



Devotional/Teaching articles



Over 75% think the coverage is about right, but in all cases our readers consider there is "too little" rather than "too much" in each category.

**Comments:** As far as the general comments (which were many and varied!), we were pleased that the main favourites are items about Priory people and Priory events. The "Who's Who" item met with universal acclaim, and also very popular are "Thought for the Month" and the "Vicar's column". We realise that we "can't please all the people all the time" – those who turn to the crossword every month are balanced by those who always skip it; those who would like more humour ►

as opposed to those who want less (or none). So we will continue to try and provide a balance of items to at least give all our readers something they enjoy. And while we may not take up your specific comment, they have all been read and considered. One request by several readers is for more book reviews. Another popular request was for more photos – and we like to provide a magazine with pictures, but can only include them if sent to us.

**So, a final request:** – please remember the magazine is “yours” not “ours”- we can only publish what is sent to us! – so if you are going to an event or meeting related to the life of the Priory or of interest to the congregation, or maybe news of Priory folk, or you have read an interesting Christian book, please consider writing and sending us a report – we can sometimes publish more than one view of an occasion (last year we had the scientist, non-scientist and 6<sup>th</sup> form view of Science and Faith talks which provided an interesting contrast and balance of opinion). And also, of course, take your camera along and get snapping.

Many contributions are emailed to us – but to those of you who don't “do the internet” then a written item either handed to one of us or to the Parish Office is fine (most issues contain at least one hand-written contribution). And, if you don't “do” digital photos, we can (and do) take printed photos and scan them in to the computer – all photos will be looked after and safely returned to their owner.

Thanks again for completing the survey – we will try and take up as many comments as we can.

*David Webster, Roger Sutton, Colin Hagger*

## **Churches Together In Malvern**

### **Pentecost Family Picnic**

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June – 3.30pm**

In the beautiful grounds of Castlemorton Primary School

Children's games, Quiz/Treasure Hunt, short walk to the Castlemorton Tump  
Bring picnic and chair – drinks provided

-----

Come and also visit the village gardens that are open around the church as part of the Castlemorton Open Gardens Weekend

Entry by passport £5.00 per person (under 16's free)

Passports to all gardens from St. Gregory's Church

Proceeds in aid of improving facilities at the church

Stay and join in the Songs of Praise Service at 6.30pm  
in the church and enjoy the flower arrangements

## Thought for the Month

A few years ago I attended a church in Surrey on Trinity Sunday and wondered what the vicar would make of the Trinity in his sermon. To my disappointment, there was no sermon but instead a power-point presentation on a proposed re-ordering of the West end of the church. After the service I rather cheekily congratulated the vicar on such a novel way of avoiding a difficult sermon subject. He protested it was pure coincidence that the presentation took place on that day, that he was quite relaxed about the Trinity and would be preaching on it at the evening service.

There is something to be said for his approach. We must not be frightened of the Trinity or dismiss it as a device by theologians to make a simple gospel as complicated as possible. God gave us brains so that we should use them. Pondering on the Trinity should deepen our Christian faith even though we mere mortals will never understand it fully.

Some people make great play of the fact that the word “Trinity” is not in the Bible. But the three persons of the Trinity are, sometimes in close proximity. For example in Matthew 28 v19 Jesus tells his disciples to go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. For us, the important thing is to experience the Trinity in our lives: worship God the Father and experience His love; believe in Jesus, whose death and resurrection brings us salvation; and have our lives controlled by the Holy Spirit so that we are empowered to live as Christians should.

*Tony Waters, Reader emeritus*

– o0o –

## A Lyttelton Well Appeal

As you will all be aware the Lyttelton Well Coffee House relies very heavily on volunteers to serve, wash-up and to manage the till. In recent months a number of our long serving volunteers have hung up their aprons and we are very keen to find people to replace them. If you have a few hours to spare each week and would like to join our happy band of volunteers, doing something positive and contributing to Christian outreach in Malvern by serving we would love to hear from you.

If you would like more information do please call in or give Dave a ring on 01684 573702 or it is more than likely a member of your Church is a volunteer with us and will be able to tell you first hand what it is like.

## YGTT Feedback

During Lent a significant number of Priory members, of all ages, spent half-an-hour a day listening to the New Testament. Under the auspices of Bible Society, *Riding Lights* theatre company performed the Contemporary English Version, read by over 30 actors. In spite of frustrating problems with faulty MP3 players, everyone who has spoken to me about the experience of listening to God's word in this way has been blessed by it. Here is some of the written feedback that I've received:

"I have just finished YGTT – what a privilege and a challenge! My first reaction was that I want to start again, and will do so as I feel that second time around I may take in more. It has given me a much greater overview of the whole NT and how it fits together. I have been challenged and enjoyed having Lent with the thoughts of the days readings always in the background. I feel I am only scratching the surface as yet and would love to hear the OT as well - do they do that?"

"Very interesting use of what is practically a Basic English vocabulary. I particularly liked "kind" and "kindness" for "gracious" and "grace" which is such a problem for children and those for whom English is a foreign language. The deployment of voices is brilliant – this is what you can rely on with Riding Lights."

"YGTT is a very good, different way of taking in Bible passages. I found I could take in longer Bible sections than if I was reading it; different voices made it come alive. I found it most helpful when I didn't try to focus on every single word but just listened and let it speak to me."

"What struck me from the gospels is the priests, Pharisees and Sadducees being so particular about their tythes etc. yet seem so ready to plot to kill someone! I guess there is a lesson in that, are we worrying too much about inconsequential things (e.g. "the end times", secret rapture, theology, practice, tradition, angels on pin heads) while overlooking the need and sin in society for instance?"

"I was greatly impressed by the quality of the readers... As I listened, I was frequently emotional, with tears in my eyes on occasion. I found it particularly interesting that because of the rapid run through the Synoptical Gospels, it was easy to make direct comparisons between each Gospel writer's coverage of the same event because the earlier version was still fresh in the mind."

"For me, the readings benefitted greatly from the use of the Contemporary English Version of the Bible. The readers' speed of delivery called for instant clarity of appreciation by the listener... I find it very much easier to use contemporary words rather than 'churchy' words: thus 'the kindness of God' rather than 'the grace of God' etc. Before I finished, I bought a copy of the CEV and it was particularly helpful in my appreciation of Romans and Revelation."

"On Sunday I completed the YGTT course. I felt sad that it had come to an end. I have enjoyed it enormously. I felt I got so much more from listening. I have ►

decided that I want to listen to it all again!”

Of course, it's not just during the 40 days of Lent, but anytime that anyone can listen to the New Testament. If you missed out in Lent, why not obtain the resources for yourself (details on Bible Society website) and start listening!

*Mary Barr*

– o0o –

## **YOMP Performs Second World Premiere**

It is not often that a world premiere is performed in the Priory, but on the Wednesday in Holy Week about 30 young people (aged 7 – 15) spent an exciting day in the Priory rehearsing and performing a second world premiere! Yes, our very own professional musicians Jonathan Darnborough and Claire-Louise Lucas have written and composed another new musical 'Moses and the Flight from Pharaoh'. It tells the story of how Moses led the Israelites to freedom from the Egyptians. Starting with his concealment in the bulrushes which saved his infant life, followed by an imaginative portrayal of the burning bush, we were then led on through the struggle to escape from Egypt. We experienced the many plagues including frogs, locusts and snakes and then the famous parting of the River Nile leading to a great victory song.

As well as our own Priory YOMP (Youth Of Malvern Priory), it was good to welcome some from other churches and local schools. Learning the music for the songs and rehearsing their lines and stage moves was all achieved in just one day. They worked extremely hard, sustained by regular breaks for food and drink. The day culminated in a public performance of the work attended by over 100 people.

The main speaking parts were competently performed by Peter Shepherd as Moses, Oliver Walker as Pharaoh and Philip Weatherill as Aaron – not forgetting the voice of God performed by Rob Payne from behind a pillar! Many of the other performers had smaller speaking parts as well as being part of the crowd scenes. Special mention must be given to the splendid frogs who did a brilliant job hopping around the stage and dying perfectly!

We are so grateful to Claire and Jonathan for all the tremendous hard work involved in creating something that was not only great fun for the children but the words and music were crafted to perfection. Thanks also to Sarah Guy for organising great props - especially the river Nile that turned from blue to red – and to many other adults who helped on the day.

The next YOMP event will be our treasure hunt, “The Smugglers of the Severn” on common land around Upton upon Severn planned for 2.15pm on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June to be followed by a family picnic.

Further details available from Sarah Guy or Claire Darnborough.

*Diana La Fontaine*

## Who's who in the Priory

### Meet Jocelyn Geyer



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

I came to Malvern in February 2000 because my daughter, who lives in Malvern Wells, thought that I lived too far away in Cheltenham, because I am not as young as I used to be, you see. I was very happy to find a lovely semi-detached bungalow in West Malvern, where I was able to keep my cat Ginger.

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

When I had visited Malvern in the past, I had visited the Priory and thought I would like to go there if I lived here, so when I moved here I assumed I would come, but I lived too far away to walk. I could manage a Thursday on the bus, and when I asked at the Priory, I was told a lift could be arranged, and so I am able to come every week. I really like the Priory because it is a family church and a practising church. There is more to do there than going to Sunday services.

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

Seriously I do believe in God and He has helped me a lot. He is always there through thick and thin, and he works miracles. When I was a baby I nearly died but through the prayers of my mother and doctor God saved my life. I have a relationship with God – I rely on Him in every aspect of my life. I really appreciated Delysia Barker's article "Memo from God" in the April 2011 magazine, where it said "SFGD- Something For God To Do". I did do what was suggested with a big problem I had, and the Lord really did take care of it. In other words, God does answer prayer.

#### **What is your favourite scripture?**

My favourite Psalm is 121 in the KJV because I was at school when I first read ►

it and it impressed me a lot. My favourite verse is Isaiah 40:31 *They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint.* When I was in Margate I went to the Salvation Army and they sang it so I have two versions, both reading and singing. When I am down the Lord sends the strength to carry on and helps me bounce back when I wait on Him. This verse has also been with me all my life as I learnt it at school.

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

<i>Through all the changing scenes of Life, In trouble and in joy The praises of my God shall still My heart and tongue employ.</i>	<i>O make but trial of His love; Experience will decide How blessed they are, and only they Who in his truth confide.</i>
---	---

This hymn expresses how God has helped me all through my life, so why don't you try it too?

*I the Lord of sea and sky* makes me weep because I feel that I am no longer young enough to do anything about being sent.

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

Knitting and family of course. I like music, both singing and listening, both serious and frivolous. I like to watch the television and I watch "Songs of Praise" if I can't go to church. I do like reading – short things rather than books; I'm afraid that when I pick up a book I can never put it down!

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

About injustice. So many people in the world are unjustly treated because people don't want to find out the real truth, they assume too much without verification.

### **What is your role in the Priory?**

I belong to the Mothers Union. I regularly attend Lunch Box.

*Sylviane Outram*

## **The Friends of Malvern Priory**

(Registered Charity No 503383)

### **Choral Evensong**

The Friends will be holding their annual service  
in the Priory on

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June at 6.30 pm.**

Guest Preacher Rev'd Tim Gunter  
Vice Chairman of Malvern Civic Society

Please come and support us.

## Get your Thinking Hats on!

Two of the most important things that affect God's creation are what we use and what we throw away. The Priory's Environmental Group want you to get your thinking hats on during June and come up with some ideas to help us all be more aware of our need to be more thoughtful about what we consume and what we do with what is left at the end.

We are running a competition from Rogation Sunday until All Together Worship on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July and an exhibition will be organized in the Priory with your competition entries to encourage all to become more involved in looking after God's world.

The entries for the competition can be any ideas you have to remind us of some aspect of this. It could be a sculpture or picture made from rubbish, a poster to get the message across, an arrangement of flowers or other produce, an idea how individuals or groups can have an impact on consumption or waste, etc. The list is endless and the ideas down to you. You could even submit a virtual entry!

Bring your entries to the Priory ready for the 10.30 am Open Worship Service on 10<sup>th</sup> July. There will be prizes for up to 10 years, 11 - 18 years and over 18's age groups based upon the originality of your efforts so don't be worried if you are not artistic.

If you need any further information please contact a member of the Priory's Environmental Group (Peter Babb, John Barr, Sarah Bevan, Peter Buckland, Peter Lawrence and Jeremy Tudge) via the Priory Office.

– o0o –

### Preparations . . . . .

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, 138 sailors decided to chart the North West Passage - around the Canadian Arctic to the Pacific. It was to be the turning point in Arctic exploration. And it was – but not because they succeeded!

It was because they perished, that subsequent navigators learned this lesson: - PREPARE FOR THE JOURNEY!

The journey was projected to take from 2 to 3 years - yet they carried only 12 DAYS FUEL, AND NO SUITABLE CLOTHING.

However, what they lacked in preparation, they compensated for in entertainment. They had a 2,400 volume library, musical instruments, cut glass, china and silverware - for all on board! They left port better equipped for afternoon tea than for the Arctic. But stranger still, we do the same!

All too often, we think little of our eternal destination; but make sure that we're entertained with plenty of distractions for the voyage.

God has given us clear instructions for our trip, and told us what to bring: - LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS, & SELF-CONTROL - as St. Paul writes in Galatians chapter 5. ►

God's Word is our Roadmap, and His Holy Spirit is our Compass.

So, what are you and I carrying for our voyage today? Just material things? They may matter now, but they won't when we reach our destination.

THERE - it's not WHAT you have; it's WHO you know. THERE, IT'S BEING KNOWN BY OUR GOD !

*Brian Stowe*

– o0o –

## **Friends of Malvern Priory: Outing 11<sup>th</sup> May**

We headed towards Wales and the rain began, but the prognostication that "It's a clearing-up shower" proved entirely accurate; soon after our arrival in Abergavenny, the sun came out and stayed with us for the rest of the day. We enjoyed our coffee in the impressively restored Tithe Barn before embarking on a tour of the Priory or a view of the tapestry.

Our knowledgeable and enthusiastic guide gave us a comprehensive history of the Priory from its foundation in 1087, lightened by touches of humour which helped as we tried to unravel the de Ballons from the Hastings, from William ap Thomas whose son took the surname Herbert, and the connections with the Tudor dynasty; this latter of great value as it meant less damage to the church at the dissolution of the Benedictine monastery. The surviving base of the Jesse dating from the 15<sup>th</sup> century and carved from a solid piece of oak is most impressive, depicting King David's father Jesse. It originally supported a family tree of all Jesse's descendants, culminating with statues of the Virgin and Child and Christ in Glory at the top. It must have been 20 to 30 feet tall and even more awe-inspiring than the considerable piece we saw. The nave was rebuilt in 1882 and 1896 and the stained glass windows are from the 1920's and 1950's.

We could have spent longer in the church, but there was also the Tithe Barn to be seen, with its history of Abergavenny and its 24 feet wide Tapestry depicting scenes from Abergavenny's history up to the Millenium. We were told about the Tapestry by the lady who first thought of it. It stands as a testimony to the skill and dedication of the 60-odd people who worked more than 22,000 hours to produce it.

After lunch, we made the short coach trip to Pempergym Lodge, where we received a warm welcome from our hostess and the invitation to wander in the most attractive gardens. As the sun beat strongly upon us we enjoyed identifying those plants we knew and marvelling over them and others whose names we may never know but which will live on in our memories as "that attractive yellow flower" or "that mass of white blossom", not to mention "that gorgeous scent". A welcome cup of tea and slice of cake sustained us for the journey home.

We again thank Anne for her organisation of a most enjoyable day. A lot of hard work has to go into producing something that good. We are heartened to know that she has an idea for next year .....

*Elizabeth Dunnett*

## A Date for Your Diary:

### The Walcher Lecture by Sir John Houghton

Saturday September 24<sup>th</sup> in Malvern Priory

Malvern Priory is honoured to be hosting Sir John Houghton for this year's Walcher Lecture in which he will explore the relationship between science and faith in the topic of climate change.

Sir John has had a distinguished scientific career in atmospheric physics (as a professor at the University of Oxford) and meteorology. I first heard of him while I was an undergraduate at Oxford, as his textbook *The Physics of Atmospheres* was the principal text for one of the courses I took during my final year. What I remember most about it (I don't remember much else of it now!) is his quote from Psalm 111 in the opening pages:

*The works of the Lord are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein.* by which he seemed to be saying that he enjoyed learning about the science of God's creation. This is an acknowledgement that we ourselves can 'think God's thoughts after Him' as more science is discovered. How different this is from the 'God of the gaps' idea that tries to confine God solely to those areas of knowledge not explained so far during this 'age of enlightenment'. (In this philosophy – conveniently for atheists – the gaps become smaller as science advances.)

Sir John is attributed with engaging Margaret Thatcher's interest in the climate change issue during the late 1980s while he was Director General of the Met Office (and co-chairman of the Scientific Assessment for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)) and she the Prime Minister. At this time, scientists were warning of several environmental problems, three of the most significant being ozone layer depletion, acid rain and 'global warming' (as it was known then). Britain meanwhile had earned the unenviable title of 'the dirty man of Europe'. Mrs Thatcher, herself an Oxford-educated scientist (rare among politicians, so many nowadays having the staple PPE qualification), seemed to connect with Sir John to the extent that she insisted her cabinet listened to a briefing from him. However, while the UK and other nations took action to alleviate the first two of those problems, the third remains, and poses a real threat to people around the globe. Furthermore, during the last two decades the evidence for climate change – such as retreating glaciers – has started to become compelling.

The title 'global warming' – encapsulating that the *average* temperature at the Earth's surface is observed to have increased during the industrial age – is now more widely replaced with 'climate change' to accommodate freak cold spells (as well as warm ones) resulting from changes in weather systems that are attributed – by some climate scientists – mainly to the production of carbon dioxide resulting from the burning of fossil fuels. The link between climate change and the human activity that may have caused it is still fiercely debated.

The topic of climate change represents an area where science and belief meet ►

(or clash) but with differing results depending on how people choose to reconcile (or not) the two. Indeed, many apparently still prefer to use the older term 'global warming' in an attempt to discredit those who press for action to address this problem ('Surely the world can't be getting hotter after that winter we just had?'). In some quarters, there is even an attitude of 'Surely God wouldn't let *that* happen' and therefore refusing to acknowledge that there could be a problem of climate change. I would like to think that the Almighty has given people the capacity to understand (and even to enjoy understanding) his 'works' and use what we know in order to be better stewards of this Earth.

*Steve Boyer*

– o0o –

## **Chernobyl Commemoration**

On 25<sup>th</sup> April 40 people met and formed a Human "25" in the Priory Grounds to commemorate with groups all over Europe the devastating catastrophe of the Chernobyl explosion.



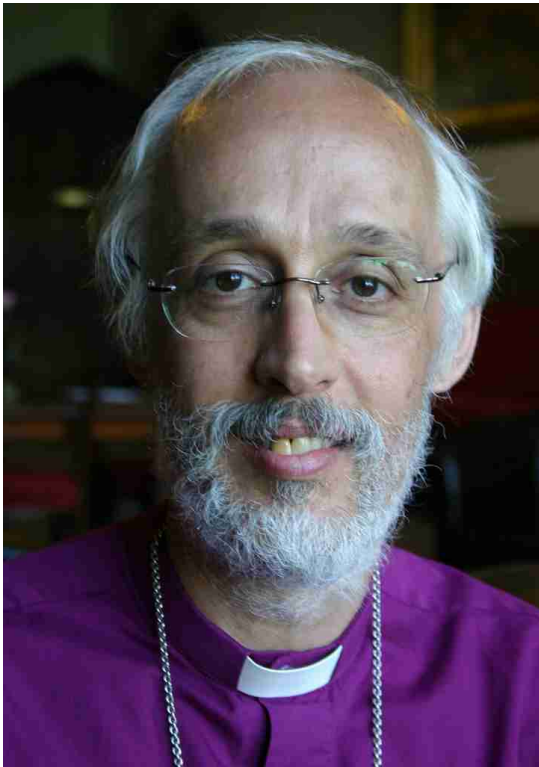
We particularly remembered the people of Belarus and Ukraine who continue to be affected.

On June 15<sup>th</sup> ten children will arrive from David-Gorodok, a town in the south of Belarus, for a four week health-giving holiday in Malvern. We are pleased to welcome back as leader Olga Trukhonovets who must now be busy with paperwork. She has met the parents and children and told them about Malvern 'about your wonderful people' she writes and 'Thank you for praying for us'.

*Dorothy Knights*



## The Bishop's Letter – from Bishop David



4 major Church festivals frame this part of the year: Ascension; Pentecost; Trinity Sunday and Corpus Christi. In 2011 they all fall within this month of June. I hope that you will be able to celebrate as many of them as possible in your own parish or community. They are separate feasts but they bring together different aspects of the one theme. Simply put, each tells us something about God's closeness to us.

On Ascension Day we hear how Jesus takes his place in heaven, not so as to be removed from us, but so that he is no longer confined to one place at a time. Christ ascended is able to be present to you and me in our prayers at any time. Ten days later at Pentecost, we recall how the disciples first received the Holy Spirit - not just as a one-off phenomenon, but as an abiding presence within each of us from that

day forward. As is made explicit at every Confirmation Service you and I continue to share in that - God's spirit is alive within each of us.

From Pentecost the calendar moves quickly onto Trinity Sunday - a celebration of the intimacy of love that exists not simply between God and us, but within God's very self. A love that we, made in God's divine image, are called to enter. Then, a few days later, we keep the feast of Corpus Christi - a celebration and thanksgiving for our Lord's institution of the sacrament of Holy Communion. This time God's closeness is demonstrated through our taking into our own bodies the bread and wine that have become for us His body and His blood.

We all of us have times when God seems close and times when his presence is less easily felt. Some of that is simply the natural rhythm of life. But this month of four festivals is a good time to dwell on God's closeness; to help strengthen our awareness of it at all times. What I find works well for me is to have a simple sentence that I can say quietly along with the rhythm of my breathing. If I do that whilst I am at my early prayers I often find it repeats itself in my mind throughout the rest of the day. So here is a simple phrase that can fit into two breaths:

*I'm made in God's image,  
The Lord hears my prayer;  
His Spirit is in me,  
Christ's body I share.*



### Each small step....

The Diocese of Worcester is rightly proud of work begun to help to protect and restore our environment. There are many initiatives carried out by schools and churches throughout the area, which are great examples of people taking one small step towards improving thoughtful and sustainable living.

Holland House, in Cropthorne, is the first retreat house in the UK to become a member of the Sustainable Restaurant Association. Aiming for 'harmony with creation', Holland House offers nourishment for body and soul, serving local meat and vegetables, locally made beer, wine and fruit juice and honey from their own beehives.

By taking sustainable action, restaurants can make a huge difference on issues such as climate change, animal welfare and food waste. Holland House is competing for a 'Footprint Award' which is the first awards programme dedicated to recognising contribution to sustainability and environmental excellence in the Foodservice Industry. You can vote to help them win their award by going to their website; <http://www.hollandhouse.org/>. and lend your support to their cause.

June marks World Environment Day, Environment Sunday and Green Transport Week - a time when you might be thinking about what you can change to make a difference. The Diocesan Environment video is a great source of inspiration when considering the small steps that can be taken toward greener living. It can be seen at; <http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/EF/82>. It is full of examples of people making minor changes in their own lives, which can make a huge difference. Redhill School in Worcester has created a garden club and are now eating the vegetables grown; Little Malvern Priory has turned part of its churchyard into a wildlife haven, which at last count boasted 76 different varieties of wildlife; they also collect rainwater and recycle compost.

The first class environment pages on the diocesan website itself are packed with ideas for greener living, and offers advice on how to get started <http://www.cofe-worcester.org.uk/EFK/93>. There are pages on liturgy and worship and how to educate others and communicate the issues. It's a one stop shop for those who are minded to do something as God's co-creators – now!

Helen Whitwell, the Diocesan Environment Group's newest member is dedicated to helping people to make a small change which then becomes part of everyday life. She says, 'It really can be as simple as turning your room thermostat down, or shopping locally, where possible, instead of in the big supermarkets.'

The group's vision is concerned with enabling people in the diocese to celebrate and safeguard God's creation. They would love to hear your stories or feedback on the environment DVD. You can email Helen at [helen\\_seaside@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:helen_seaside@yahoo.co.uk)

## **Link Lunches – Help Needed**

On the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month the U.R.C. in the Link hold a monthly lunch from 12 noon to 1.15pm as an outreach to the Community.

The lunch is attended by older folk mainly from the local area, but is open to all.

Unfortunately they have had to close for the summer months owing to lack of volunteer helpers, through increasing age and ill health.

It is hoped to re-commence the lunches in September but without further help they will not be able to do so.

Cooks would be very welcome, and help is needed in the kitchen and serving or clearing meals so if you feel you can help in any way, even if it is on a rota basis, please contact: *Link Lunch Team Leader - 01684 572333*

**– o0o –**

## **Malvern Civic Week 25<sup>th</sup> June – 2<sup>nd</sup> July**

This eight day bonanza of civic activity across the United Kingdom is being promoted by Civic Voice.

Malvern Civic Society have brought together a whole range of events contributed by over twenty-four organisations, determined to show what they can, as a community working together, offer in the Malvern area:- guided walks, interesting talks, markets recitals and concerts, garden parties, rare openings, displays and much more. All details of the week's events can be found on: [www.malverncivicsociety.org.uk/events\\_week.htm](http://www.malverncivicsociety.org.uk/events_week.htm) or from the Tourist Information Office.

Churches Together in Malvern are pleased to be part of this week and have invited local churches to open their doors to visitors during Civic Week when there will be a guide to welcome the visitors and tell them something of the history of the church.

Details of the churches, opening days and times besides being found as above can also be found on the Lyttelton Well Website [www.lytteltonwell.co.uk](http://www.lytteltonwell.co.uk) Christian Calendar link.

**– o0o –**

## **When technology goes wrong**

The father of a family - who was a big-time techie - got his oldest daughter an iPhone for her birthday. He also got an iPad for his son. Later he bought an iPod for the youngest daughter. Then, when his wedding anniversary rolled around, he got his wife an iRon. That's when the fight began.

## Lessons from the Geese

We have all seen geese flying in formation, but there is a lot more to it than meets the eye. As each goose flaps its wings it creates an uplift for the bird behind it. By flying in a “V” formation the whole flock adds 71% more flying range than if each bird flew alone.

**Lesson:** People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going more quickly and easily because they are travelling on the thrust of one another.

When a goose falls out of formation it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to fly alone, and it quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the birds immediately in front.

**Lesson:** If we have as much sense as a goose we will join in formation with those who are headed where we want to go.

When the lead goose gets tired it takes up a position further back in the formation, and another goose takes the lead.

**Lesson:** It pays to take turns doing the harder tasks, and to share leadership.

The geese in the formation honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

**Lesson:** We need to make sure that our honking from behind is encouraging – and not critical.

When a goose gets sick, or is wounded or shot down, two other geese drop out of the formation and follow it down, to help provide protection. They stay with the sick or wounded member of the flock until he or she is able to fly again, or dies. Then they launch out on their own, with another formation, or catch up with their own flock.

**Lesson:** We have a responsibility for one another, and especially for the weaker or troubled members of the flock.

*Contributed by June Roundhill*

### The Friends of Malvern Priory

(Registered Charity No 503383)

# Cream Tea

The Friends will be holding a Cream Tea on  
Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June in The Lyttelton Rooms – 5.00 pm. until 6.15 pm.

Please come and support us.

This is prior to the Friends Choral Evensong  
Service in the Priory which commences at 6.30 p.m.

## 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the King James Version

As we celebrate this anniversary and wonder at the language I wish to add a further ingredient to this memorial. It seems to me that in all the comments and articles that I have read or heard so far no mention has been made of the divine inspiration which underlies all of it.

In any work concerned with God's activity there is always a spiritual component which alters and directs the endeavour controlling the work to some extent. Any work concerned with expressing, or exposing, or explaining, or elucidating, what God has been doing must allow for His interference. That statement of course invites dispute for we are not able to be certain about this matter of God's interference. On one side many will say there is no such thing as divine interference in the affairs of this world; and there are those who want to declare that nothing happens without God interference.

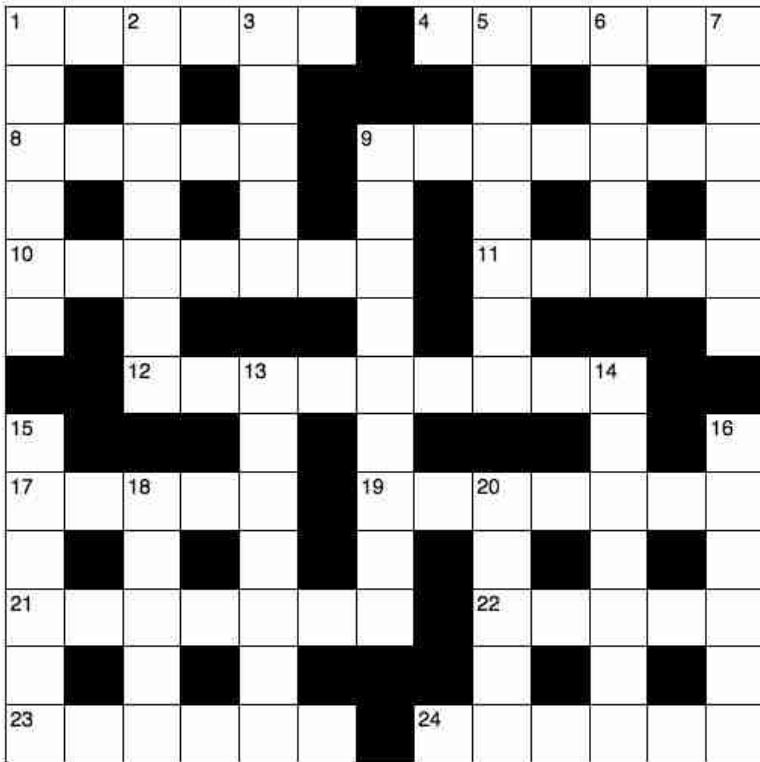
My position is between the two for I am unable to exclude God from the affairs of this world and neither can I attribute everything to His control. This brief article is not the place to explain my position further but the reader can see that I have allowed for Him to be involved in the production of the King James version. The nature of this production is sublime in content, description and elucidation bearing in mind the period in our history when it was produced. Shakespeare was writing around about the same period so there must have been something special about that time and I suspect that there is connection with God's choice and timing about which I have always been impressed.

At this time William Shakespeare, poet, writer of plays and prose produced work that was unique in our history and some 50 translators drawn from the highest ranks of scholarship and ability engaged in the production of a translation of Holy Scripture meant to be as near to perfect as could be produced for the use of the future church.

We cannot leave the virtual certainty of God's involvement in this great work in any state of doubt for surely one of the reasons for the fact that it has retained a pre-eminent position amongst translations is because of the divine involvement.

*Basil Trevor-Morgan B.A. Canon Emeritus Winchester Cathedral*

(King James 1. 1566-1625    Shakespeare 1564-1616    King James Version 1611)



May 2011 Solution



Across

- 1 Military tactic used by Joshua to attack and destroy the city of Ai (Joshua 8:2) (6)
- 4 Place of learning (6)
- 8 'When Moses' hands grew — , they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it' (Exodus 17:12) (5)
- 9 Unpleasant auguries of the end of the age, as forecast by Jesus (Matthew 24:7) (7)
- 10 Stronghold to which girls in King Xerxes' harem (including Esther) were taken (Esther 2:8) (7)
- 11 Where Saul went to consult a medium before fighting the Philistines (1 Samuel 28:7) (5)
- 12 Propitiation (Hebrews 2:17) (9)
- 17 Turn away (Jeremiah 11:15) (5)
- 19 So clear (anag.) (7)
- 21 'I have just got — , so I can't come': one excuse to be absent from the great banquet (Luke 14:20) (7)
- 22 Long weapon with a pointed head used by horsemen (Job 39:23) (5)
- 23 Musical beat (6)
- 24 What the Israelites were told to use to daub blood on their door-frames at the first Passover (Exodus 12:22) (6)

Down

- 1 Fasten (Exodus 28:37) (6)
- 2 Art bite (anag.) (7)
- 3 'The people of the city were divided; some — with the Jews, others with the apostles' (Acts 14:4) (5)
- 5 Contend (Jeremiah 12:5) (7)
- 6 Possessed (Job 1:3) (5)
- 7 Sheen (Lamentations 4:1) (6)
- 9 'You love evil rather than good, — rather than speaking the truth' (Psalm 52:3) (9)
- 13 Large flightless bird (Job 39:13) (7)
- 14 They were worth several hundred pounds each (Matthew 25:15) (7)
- 15 'A — went out to sow his seed' (Matthew 13:3) (6)
- 16 How Jesus described Jairus's daughter when he went into the room where she lay (Mark 5:39) (6)
- 18 The part of the day when the women went to the tomb on the first Easter morning (John 20:1) (5)
- 20 Narrow passageway between buildings (Luke 14:21) (5)