

From the Vicarage

From All Saints' to Advent – the struggle and the Saviour

Dear Friends,

November begins with that great celebration of All Saints' Day. Walsham How's hymn *For all the saints* encourages us to give thanks for the 'cloud of witnesses', those whose lives have pointed us to God:

*For all the saints, who from their labours rest,
Who thee, by faith, before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesu, be for ever blest. Alleluia!*

However the hymn goes on to remind us that we too are called to play our part in the ongoing struggle for God's Kingdom come:

*O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
And win, with them, the victor's crown of gold. Alleluia!*

And it also looks forward in hope to that glorious time, when the Saviour returns in glory:

*But lo! There breaks a yet more glorious day:
The Saints triumphant rise in bright array;
The King of glory passes on his way. Alleluia!*

Past, present, and future are brought together as we celebrate on All Saints' Day. And past, present, and future continue to resonate throughout the month of November. For example, on All Saints' Day, as well as giving thanks for those who have gone before us - including our departed loved ones - we also remember the Suffering Church throughout the world, those faithful Christians whose witness to Jesus Christ costs them so dearly, even life itself. And then, on Remembrance Sunday (8th November) and Armistice Day, we keep silence in memory of those who have shared in the struggle for a better world, and remember those who have made – and continue to make – the supreme sacrifice.

Jesus warned that we should expect such a struggle, and that there would be great suffering and distress here on earth. Yet this would not be the end, but rather the darkness before the dawn of Christ's return in glory. For the season of Advent (beginning on 29th November) invites us to remember that 'Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.' And – like All Saints' – it encourages us to live in the light of this hope.

Yours in Christ,

John Barr, Vicar

Priory News

Mothers' Union News

Mothers Union was host to the MU Deanery Festival at the Priory in September. We were pleased to welcome members from the diocesan trustees and from Upton deanery. We remembered our sisters in our ten linked dioceses and Rev'd Clare Griffiths delivered a powerful sermon on the theme of the cost of relationships.

Did you notice the MU banner was missing from church for several weeks? It collapsed at the diocesan festival in July. It has now been expertly repaired and looked splendid in time for the patronal festival on October 4th. Many thanks to Margaret Stowe for making the arrangements.

Our November meeting is Thursday Nov 12th 2.45pm in the Lyttelton Rooms. Hazel Charlton, MU Worker for the Prison Service, will give an illustrated talk about her visit to Uganda.

Anne Dudman, who normally writes about MU, is taking a break. We congratulate Anne and Adrian on their Golden Wedding and wish them God's blessings as they celebrate, throughout the year, with friends and family.

Dorothy Knights

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Nine-Two-Five - - - Priory 925 - - - Nine-Two-Five

As our year of celebrations gets closer, so the pace of preparations quickens – and gets ever more exciting! The Organising (“Management”) Group is hard at work. It comprises David Webster (Chair), Peter Buckland (Secretary), Derek Valentine (Treasurer), Ann Oldfield, Roger Sutton, Paul Fowler and Maureen Gamble. Rob Swinton is co-opted, as writer and producer of the Son-et-Lumière, and Nick Lloyd (Malvern Theatres) and Manda Graham (MHDC) are also co-opted.

Leaflets about our first event – the Celebration of Science and Faith – are now available at the back of church. Letters have gone out to 88 secondary schools in the three counties, to advise them about the special Forum for Sixth Formers, with the Rev Dr John Polkinghorne.

From April 19th to 27th there will be a rare and privileged opportunity to hear eminent scientists talk about their science and their faith. A whole range of events follows – Bishop John at Easter and at a special Festival Dedication service in October; other excellent speakers, and musical events and organ recitals; a Medieval Fayre on May 22nd; Lifepath in June; Lee Abbey in July – the list goes on. Soon the detailed programme of all events will be available. The culmination will be the Son-et-Lumière in the first 2 weeks of November. Through drama, dance, music and light the story of Malvern, and the Priory's part in it, will be told.

We hope to fill every available seat every night. Guided by Rob Swinton, members of the organising group are currently busy applying for grants towards the costs of that event in particular.

We need your prayers – for Rob as he writes the script for the Son-et-Lumière; for musicians to take part in that; for grants to be forthcoming. Above all pray that all our celebrations will honour God and bring glory to Him. We shall need your practical help in all sorts of ways in all sorts of events – please look out for requests for help, or make yourself known to one of us.

Come on – let's celebrate!

David Webster

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Priory Care Scheme

The Care Scheme has been running for many years and its purpose is to assist members of the Priory who need help with transport, support during sickness, occasional odd jobs and other short term needs. Regrettably we are unable to offer regular, long term assistance but are happy to help out with any short term requests.

Our most frequent request is for a lift to a hospital or doctor's appointment but other tasks range from small DIY jobs to providing a meal for someone on their return from hospital or during a period of ill health.

We have a very loyal list of volunteers, but we urgently need more helpers, particularly drivers, so that we are not always having to rely on the same few people. If you feel you could help or would like further information about the scheme, we should be delighted to hear from you. In a church as large as the Priory, becoming a helper often leads to meeting new people and making new friends and is a very rewarding experience, particularly if you are new to the Priory yourself.

It is not an onerous task and if you are unable to help with any request we might make, we never mind if you say 'no'!! We don't expect anyone to commit themselves to anything on a regular basis and indeed several weeks may pass between one request and the next.

Equally, if you should suddenly find yourself in need of some form of help, please feel free to ring either of us and we will endeavour to find someone to assist you.

We look forward to hearing from anyone who would like to help with driving, providing an occasional meal or any other task they would be happy to provide. Everyone has a talent, be it gardening, cooking or just being a good listener when that is what is needed. It is all very much appreciated.

"Help to carry one another's burdens, and in this way you will obey the law of Christ." Gal 6:2

Jen Boyer & Jane Poels

Spring into Life in Schools

1st - 5th March 2010

Spring into Life is now in its seventh year and is still greatly appreciated by both the Primary and High Schools in Malvern. The aim of SIL is to enable young people between the ages of 5 and 18 to hear about Jesus and how relevant he is for life today. This is achieved in the Primary Schools by building up good relationships with the youngsters using a lesson, an assembly and the Red Balloon Theatre Company's play. This week, in schools, is part of a much larger picture of the church's work with the schools of Malvern throughout the year with assemblies, lessons and Lifepath.

During the Spring into Life week the Primary Schools are served by three teams of Christians from local churches. These teams meet over a period of a couple of months to plan and prepare the lesson and assembly which they will share in the schools. This provides an excellent time for God's people of Malvern to share together in mission using their God given talents.

The play for 2010 is called "A Long Road Home" and is based on the prodigal son. Here is the trailer:

Bert and Horace own a scrap-yard, they collect all the rubbish that the world doesn't want, but one day they're very surprised to stumble upon a young man called Jack, who's living in their yard. Join Bert and Horace as they hear Jack tell his story of how he has taken his inheritance and left his home to explore life in the big city, leaving a heartbroken dad and a furious brother. His new life of freedom starts well enough, but soon he finds the more sour side of it all and starts to wonder whether he's really made the right decision after all...

This action-packed adventure brings the story of the Prodigal Son to life in ways you will have never seen before and highlights the themes of acceptance and unconditional love in an exciting and accessible way.

Once again we would like to welcome new people to join the local teams where you can do as much or little as you like. The timetable is quite flexible and involves about a couple of hours a day for three or four days. Even if you can't be involved each day we would still love to have you on the team.

There will be a meeting to share details of next year's Spring into Life on Wednesday 25th November 8pm at St. Andrew's Church Centre, Poolbrook. We require 25-30 people. The above meeting is for both newcomers and those who have been involved before.

For further information contact Malvern 573912.

After Power Point with Paul and Nicky Webster

I have been asked to write a short account of my thoughts and feelings after the evening with Paul and Nicky Webster at Power Point recently.

I can simply say that I, and I'm sure many who were there, felt humbled, excited, encouraged and personally challenged by what they shared with us.

Humbled at witnessing the love, devotion, sacrificial giving and surrender to God of this lovely couple and their young family of three boys (and baby number four due in December). Paul and Nicky have sought God's will for their lives over many years and they are absolutely certain that God wants them in Cunnamulla and has led them over the years to this place, at this time and to do this thing. This thing being buying, renovating and setting up "Boulders" – a centre where families and young people in this needy community can come, relax in the coffee bar, chill out, watch a Christian film, share their problems and be listened to.

I felt very excited to hear them talk of God's plans and to think of all the young people in Cunnamulla who will soon be able to find a place of spiritual refreshment and a strong, welcoming place to come to.

It is huge ...but, as Paul reminded us, God wants to do something "big" in all our lives. It is easy for me to see the hurdles and think that once abc have been removed then xyz will be able to happen. But I was challenged to realise that God wants to begin now, where I am and in this present state, hurdles and all! I was also encouraged to remember that God will not challenge me and then leave me to get on with it alone, he will back me all the way. There will be some specific thing that God wants to do through me if I am open to his leading. We can, and Paul and Nicky are a wonderful example of what can happen through us when we yearn to share God's love with those who have never met him.

*"In this world of darkness we must shine,
You in your small corner and I in mine".*

Sarah Chappell

Friends Of Malvern Priory

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 26th November 7.00 for 7.30

Lyttelton Rooms

Followed by a talk by Michael Martin
on stained glass in our area

Craig and Claudia Leo and Bethany Smith

Serving God in Kabale, Uganda with Crosslinks

Welcome to Newsletter 8

P.O. Box 102 Kabale, Uganda

This prayer letter marks the end of our first year in Uganda. We will look back over this year with images and thoughts and look forward to the years ahead. We thank you all for your support over this year through good times and challenging times.

The Project

The project has been an unexpected venture and we thank God for all the opportunities it is bringing us here. We have now grown to 15 members, mostly orphans, with more joining each season. This September orphans from the project are starting University and finishing their O and A levels when before they had had to drop out of school. We have distributed over 70 bibles and 20 children's packs.



We now feel at home in Bukoora and we thank God for Emmy as he manages the daily workload of organising everyone. We have recently built a 5000L water tank and after successful meetings, are receiving promises of support from local leaders and the area MP. Claudia has been invited to work with some local AIDS/HIV support groups. After a difficult dry season, we look forward to the new planting season and the promised rains of September.

NTC

We are about to start the new academic year and feel we know the 'system' a little more now. Claudia will again start her counselling service at the college and her weekly lecture. Craig really enjoyed the school supervision program where he was able to observe student teachers and give more personal feedback. He visited many rural schools and got a good feel for the level of teaching here in Uganda, with all its challenges. Observing the odd lesson in the local language was interesting! The NTC continues to be a challenging environment to teach in, but we look forward to meeting the new students, opportunities with the Chapel and CU and further professional possibilities for us both.



Sunday School Teacher Training

The Sunday School teacher training conference went very well with 100 participants from about 70 churches in the Kabale District attending. Claudia was able to give talks on Biblical principles of Children's ministry as well as some practical sessions on making teaching aids. Claudia distributed her curriculum which was received very well. The

conference was really encouraging and it is hoped now that further workshops might be organised. What we did discover was that there is a real need for study bibles, as often the teachers do not have anything to help them prepare their lessons – it was good to be able to give out some Bibles, but there is a need for more.

Daily Life

We have finally got used to: only drinking water from the filter; boiling our milk; buying our food from various different shops and the market; potholed roads; sleeping under mosquito nets; being one of the only white people in church; eating beans most days and the regular power cuts. We know what matooke and g-nut sauce is now and we know we really don't like the local porridge drink called Bushera! We've got used to having Charity around the house everyday and Justus looking after the compound. We're still slowly trying to learn the local language and we can greet people which is good, as Rukiga is difficult. We enjoy the sunshine everyday and the children love being outside so much. We thank God for the recent visit of Kristen and Jonathan – we enjoyed our times with Lions and getting stuck in the Safari Park! We also thank God for a recent break/conference for missionaries in East Africa. It was held at Lake Kivu, Rwanda and was a great break for us all.

Thanks again for everyone's love and support of us,

Craig, Claudia, Leo and Bethany

Blog Address:

<http://www.smithsinafrica.blogspot.com>

Bakiga Community Project: <http://smithsinafricaprojects.110mb.com>



Praying for us

- Please pray for Craig as he starts back at the NTC
- Pray for Claudia as she prepares various talks for HIV/Aids support group.
- Pray for Leo as he returns to school for his third term.
- Pray for Bethany that she will begin to sleep better at night.
- Pray for Emmy the project manager as he balances studying at university and managing the project at Bukoora.

Diocese of Worcester

Festival of Healing Worcester Cathedral

Saturday November 7th 2009

Workshop 10.00 - 12.30 Led by Dr Sheila Cassidy £5 minimum donation requested/bring your own lunch

Please contact Sue Amer on 01562 66625 or email: suecelticamer@tiscali.co.uk

Healing Eucharist 2.00 Celebrant: The Rt Rev Dr John Inge, Bishop of Worcester
Address: Dr Sheila Cassidy

Great Malvern Priory

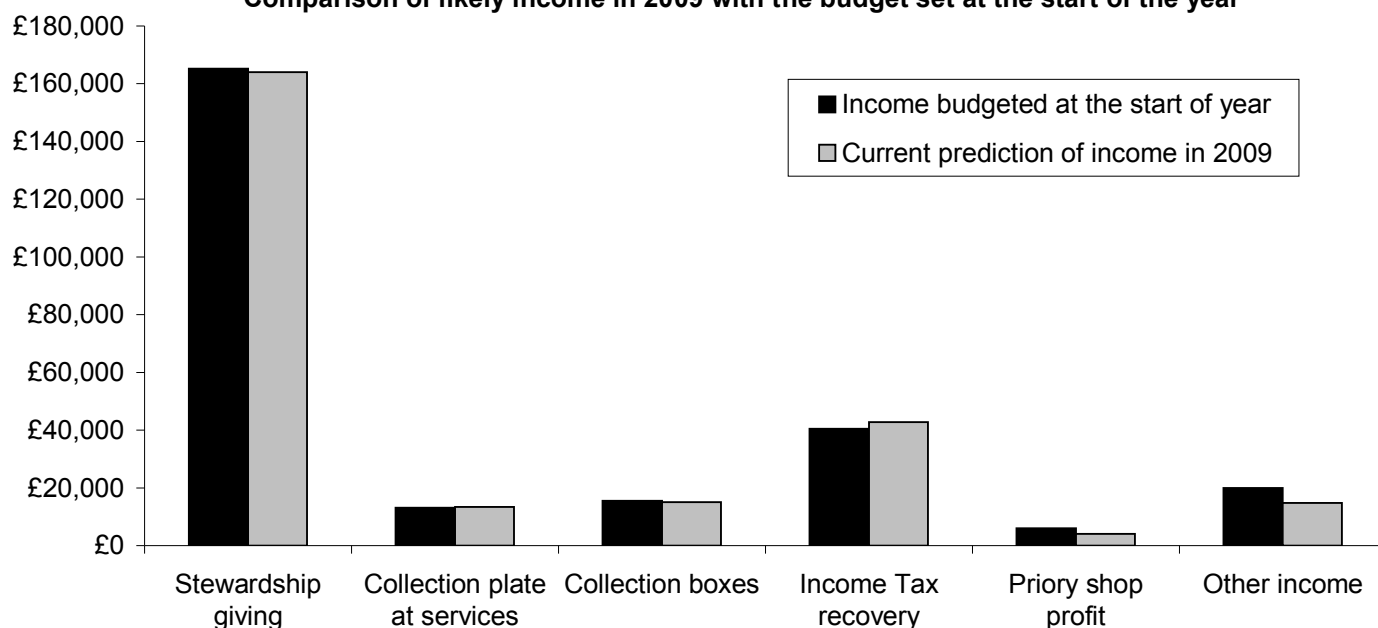
Stewardship Sunday, 4th October 2009

On Stewardship Sunday we said a big 'THANK YOU' to all those who give so much to support the work of the Priory, and gave an update on the financial position of the Priory this year. We also reported on the financial plans of the church for next year, both day to day activities and longer term projects, and to explain how you can contribute to this work. Thanks to your generosity over the last two years we have been able to fund the work of the Priory directly from stewardship giving and other regular income. This year we have the challenge of meeting rising costs and increasing needs in the parish, in a difficult economic climate, while also looking ahead to major projects such as chairs, the PA system, and lighting.

Update on our financial position in 2009

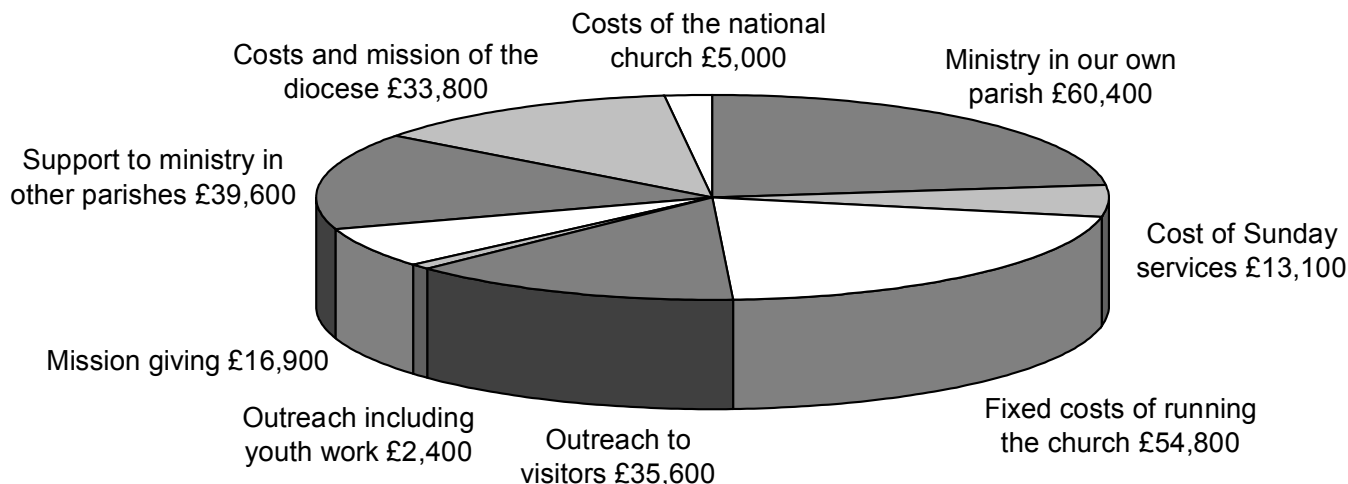
The PCC set a balanced budget for 2009 based on payment of around 82% of the parish share requested by the diocese, an increase from the previous year, and a significant increase in stewardship giving. Expenditure during the year is broadly in line with expectations. Stewardship giving has risen almost as much as we had hoped but other sources of income are below budget, particularly income from external users of the Priory. We therefore expect to have a small deficit of around £5,000 at the end of the year. This is disappointing but not unexpected in the current economic climate. Again, we thank everyone for giving so generously, allowing us to continue with the work of the church in these difficult times.

Comparison of likely income in 2009 with the budget set at the start of the year



Funding the day to day work of the church in 2010

Our day to day expenditure in 2010 aims to maintain the core work of the Priory: John and Mary's ministry including Mary's work with young people; keeping the church open during the week as part of our outreach to visitors; supporting our mission partners; supporting ministry in other parishes; and contributing to the costs and mission of the diocese and national church.



We plan to control costs, keeping most budgets at 2009 levels (a small reduction in real terms) and significantly reducing office costs. The high level and year-on-year increase of the parish share continues to be a major issue for us. Next year we plan to pay 80% of the level set by the diocese, a slightly lower percentage than last year, but still a greater contribution than any other single church in the diocese.

We have no choice but to set a balanced budget as our levels of unrestricted reserves (£95,000) are significantly below the level recommended by the Charities Commission. We are therefore asking for an increase of 3% in stewardship giving in 2010. We recognise that many people are struggling financially at this time and plan to review the financial situation mid-year, making changes to expenditure including share payment if this is necessary.

Funding longer term projects over the next few years

While balancing our day to day income and expenditure is very important, we believe the emphasis in the next few years should be on larger strategic projects: replacing the chairs and public address system, and upgrading the lighting. These are not optional extras, but are long-overdue projects that are essential if we are to continue and extend the mission of the Priory.

Replacement chairs

Replacing the chairs is an important step in improving the welcome we extend to those participating in services and other events at the Priory; indeed it is becoming urgent as many of the existing chairs are breaking and being taken out of use. After much debate we have reached a broad consensus within the church

as to the choice of replacement chairs – Tallow chairs for permanent use in the nave and more stackable Howe chairs to provide additional seating for special occasions. Total cost is likely to be around £45,000. We are currently working to agree remaining details with the diocese and English Heritage.

Once we have been granted approval we will be appealing to the congregation, encouraging everyone to buy a Tallow chair for £120 (or two chairs, or a row of chairs). If we can fund the Tallow chairs in this manner, the tax recovery will pay for the stackable Howe chairs. The appeal is likely to take place in late 2009 or early 2010, bringing great relief to all Priory users!

Replacement public address system

The PA system is vital in a building the size of the Priory. Our current system is old, becoming unreliable, and is unlikely to be repairable in the event of a major failure which could occur at any time. We have recently had to replace the radio mics, and these are designed to work with the new system. A modern system will also provide greater flexibility in our use of the building and music in our services.

A preferred replacement system and supplier have been identified. The cost of around £60,000 is likely to be met from a combination of grants to extend the hearing loop, restricted reserves built up over a number of years for such purposes, and one-off donations. A number of donations have already been received or promised, and more are welcome. We expect to proceed with the replacement PA as soon as permission is granted.

Upgrading the church lighting

Many people find the lighting in the church poor and have difficulty in seeing to read during services. Much of the wiring is very old and is likely to fail its next inspection in 2014. Upgrading the lighting and wiring is important now in helping users of the Priory, and will be essential before 2014 to prevent the lights being turned off permanently!

A group of the PCC is currently investigating options for improvement of the lighting and the replacement of old wiring. Current estimates are in the range £150,000 to £200,000. This is likely to be funded through an appeal launched in a year's time under the '925 project'. Restricted reserves and grants are also possible contributory sources for funding for this work.

Contributing to the ministry and mission of the Priory

There are many opportunities for offering our time and talents in God's service through the Priory, and we are most grateful to everyone who already does so. There are particular needs and if you feel that you might be able to help, please do click on the `Contact Us` button on the web site.

Who's Who in the Priory

Ann Russell



When did you come to Malvern?

In 1971. From our home in Worcester we admired the Malvern Hills and thought we would like to live there if possible. So we were thrilled to find a bungalow with just the right amount of added space for a growing family and within travelling distance of Tony's work at County Hall.

Why did you come to the Priory?

Our Christian friends in Worcester said that there was fellowship to be had at Malvern Priory. Tony was immediately befriended by John and Brenda Shipman, who introduced us to Chris and Betty Oliver. Soon after arriving Chris invited us to join the Pathfinder team, which gave us a sense of being in the right place after all.

How would you describe your relationship to God?

I can't think about God without thinking of Jesus. Ultimately it's about Jesus and me in every circumstance.

Have you any passions?

My passion is revelling in and displaying vibrant coloured planting in the garden and in interior design in my home.

I adore Tyrrells crisps.

Enjoyment of antiques to me is like dipping into a shared heritage handed down from inspired artists and craftsmen.

Have you any desires?

To walk in the footsteps of Jesus by the Sea of Galilee.

Have you any interests?

Playing the piano, writing poetry, gardens and visiting the Cotswolds and other places of outstanding beauty.

What is most important to you?

That I should know Him as I am known.

Have you a favourite song?*The Father's Song*

*I have heard so many songs
Listened to a thousand tongues
But there is one that sounds above them all
The Father's song, the Father's love,
You sang it over me
And for eternity it's written on my heart.*

Have you a favourite text?

"... let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily hinders our progress. And let us run with endurance the race that God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus on whom our faith depends from start to finish." Hebrews 12:1-2 (NLT).

Because of my interest in keeping fit; in order for my training to be effective it has to be selective and targeted. Applying discipline to meet my target has brought the desired result. This causes me to think that whatever the task I must give my full attention to that one thing.

What are your roles in the Priory?

I enjoy playing background piano while the Priory is open during the week and meeting visitors. I am so happy to be associated with the Alpha course this year in providing floral table decorations for the meal. Whenever I think of Alpha I see Jesus in the market place meeting people where they are.

Sylviane Outram

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LUNCH BOX IN THE PRIORY

Bring your own Lunch at 12.30. Tea and coffee available

Talk/concert starts at 1 pm

November 5th A Week in Westminster. Talk by Canon John Atkinson

November 19th Clerkenwell Markers Revisited. Talk by Michael Shiner about his new book

December 3rd Christmas Concert by children from Malvern Parish School

Great Malvern Priory Lunchbox

Holywell

After a gap of sixty years, this ancient well is now producing bottled water on a commercial basis; the first recorded bottled Malvern water was in the early 17C when simple bottles were sold to pilgrims – probably more as Holy water than just pure water.

Mike Humm talked to Lunchboxers at their first Autumn Meeting on Thursday 24th September about the work that he and his family have done over a ten year period to bring the Well back into production. A total of eighty five members came to listen.

What started off as the purchase of a cottage on the east side of the Malvern Hills became a commercial venture to bottle the water and sell it commercially. The water is packaged in wine type bottles designed to sit comfortably alongside the best wines and is already available in a number of local restaurants as well other eateries and supermarkets in the Midlands.

Although the site of the Well was well known in pre-Christian times, it was not until the Middle Ages that a building was erected to provide shelter for pilgrims and, at that time, in conjunction with the Eye Well, it is likely that the water was known for its healing (cleaning) properties – at a time when much water was polluted. When the Humm family purchased the site, the Well building which was Victorian in origin, was in a very poor state of repair and had been deserted by its previous owner with the bottling plant intact.

The first task was to renovate the building and decide how it was to be used; in the event the first floor was converted into a three-bedroom apartment for holiday letting, the font room was restored with some help from the AONB and the Lottery Fund and the north and west rooms made ready for the new bottling equipment.

With advice and monitoring from Business Link and the District Council, the bottling equipment was installed, the approved control mechanisms agreed and the first bottles were on sale in July 2009.

The next Lunchbox will be held on November 5th when Canon John Atkinson will talk about “A Week in Westminster”.

Roger Sutton

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The Priory Bell-Ringers

There will be two more Ringing Room Open Days this year: on November 28th and December 19th from 1pm until 4pm. A warm welcome will greet those who brave the 101 steps.

A full report and update on the Priory Bell Ringers will be in the next magazine.

Pilgrimage to Jordan

(extracts from Diane Jefferys' account of a memorable trip)

Have you ever been on a pilgrimage? It is a wonderful way to bring new life to one's faith. I have now been on five such journeys, which have taught me more about my faith than I ever thought possible. This year a group of us, mostly from Malvern, went to Jordan.

On our first morning in Amman we visited the Temple of Zeus and the Citadel, stopping on our way at the River Jabok, where Jacob wrestled with God, and where God changed his name to Israel (Genesis 32). The ruins of the Temple of Zeus is an amazing place, with a huge limestone gateway and a vast agora, from which the main street leads to the Temple. The road is made of marble paving stones, rutted by Roman chariots 2,000 years ago. The following day we visited Mount Nebo, from where Moses gazed over the valley and saw the Promised Land (Deut 4). We were not so fortunate as Moses – a sandstorm reduced visibility, and all we could see was a misty road disappearing into the blowing sand. We held a beautiful Communion Service in a small chapel, which rattled and shook in the wind. Left-over bread we took to eat and at the same time to think about a loved one, or something on our heart. A very precious time!

Many mosaics have been uncovered over the years at Mount Nebo. On our way to Madaba we stopped at a mosaic shop, where intricate mosaics, and also items of furniture, are made by handicapped young people. This was followed by a "mezza" – a feast of salads, meatballs, savouries and flat breads, hot from the oven. Next stop was the church of St George – the same St George as ours, but in Jordanian tradition he rescued a small boy rather than slayed a dragon. At Salt we visited a school for deaf and dumb children, and met their much-loved, gentle headmaster Brother Andrew. In the Audiology Department there they produce 350 hearing aids every month, and teach other schools and hospitals their methods.

From Amman we went to Petra, stopping at the Fort of Herod Antipas at Makara. More energetic members of the group made the hour's climb to the top. The rest of us admired the view and sat in the shade, trying to get out of the wind. To see the Makara mosaics involved a detour along a very narrow road, which earned our driver, Fadel, a round of applause. The Turkish Castle at Karak came next, involving a walk across a bridge with a very steep drop below, but rewarded by wonderful views.

Next morning Petra. Most of the party walked to the famous Treasury. Pamela, an adventurous octogenarian, and I opted for a horse and carriage. Our driver, Mohammed, pointed out caves and Nabotean carvings. The Treasury is a stunningly beautiful building – but very crowded. Pamela had an accident while getting her lunch, and had to be taken to hospital for stitches – by a surgeon who had been a (reluctant) major in Saddam Hussein's army.

Next day we headed for the Dead Sea, stopping on the way at Wadi Rum – where Moses and his people meandered their way to Canaan, and where Lawrence of Arabia was based with his Arab army. There were massive rock cliffs in strange formations. We had tea in a goat-hair Bedouin tent, and were shown how to wrap our scarves around our heads in Bedouin style. On to the Dead Sea, where cliffs fall down into the sea, their bases coated in salt. A pillar of salt on top of some cliffs is believed, by the Jordanians, to be Lot's wife. Our hotel was vast and very plush.

On our last full day we visited Bethany, by the River Jordan, where John baptised Jesus (Matthew 4). This was the most special place for me. Israel was just across the river. We walked through a small forest, and by clear running streams. We ended our tour with Communion. Next day it was back to Amman for our flight home, and the following day we were back in the Priory with smiles all over our faces. I am still smiling at the wonderful memories. There is a suggestion of a trip in 2011, possibly to Syria. Care to join us?

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Question of the month

Where has the new lectern Bible come from?

Last year, thanks to the family and friends of Gordon Appleby, and in grateful and loving memory of him, 80 new church Bibles (NRSV version) were purchased, and also one copy of The Message version of the Bible for the prayer area. The number of church Bibles was made up to 100, and also some large print versions purchased, using other funds. At the time we considered purchasing a lectern Bible, but were put off by the cost – nearly £300. A few months ago the Rev David Woodhouse was visiting the Priory. He is a Trustee of the Bishop Hall's Northfield Trust. Bishop Hall was a 17th century Bishop of Bristol, who left money and land (in Northfield, Birmingham) in trust to give Bibles to churches. Every year each Trustee has a certain amount of money to allocate to a worthy and appropriate cause. When David discovered that we have recently purchased new church Bibles, but not a lectern Bible, he offered to fund one from the Trust. An NRSV lectern Bible was bought, with matching page numbers to our church Bibles, and on September 20th David Woodhouse presented the beautiful red lectern Bible on behalf of the Northfield Trust. We are most grateful to David, and to the Trust.

David Webster

A Coffee Morning

for all Sidespeople, PA Operators and Welcomers

(both Sunday and Summer weekend Welcomers)

You are invited to coffee and cake in the
Priory at 10 a.m. on Saturday 21st November.

St.Katharina's Wolmirstedt

Our partner parish now belongs to a much larger diocese. Dorothy and I took the train from Berlin to Magdeburg on August 29th. Would we be admitted to the cathedral without tickets for a major church event? In fact we walked straight in and soon recognised Inge, a long-standing friend who lives in Magdeburg and who once spent a holiday in Malvern.

Over 1000 people were present for the installation of the first bishop of the new diocese of Central Germany. The region of Magdeburg, which embraces Wolmirstedt, has joined Thuringia to form this new area which has around 910,000 church members.

Part of the introduction to the service was a welcome in English to ecumenical guests from Africa and Worcester, even though no-one was officially present from our diocese. The new bishop is Ilse Junkermann, who is one of a few women who hold that office in Germany. During the ceremony Bishop Ilse received a red stole and a specially made cross and chain. Fifteen or more ordained ministers successively laid hands on the new bishop, each one saying a verse from the Bible. These included "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me" and "I lift up my eyes to the hills...my help comes from the Lord."



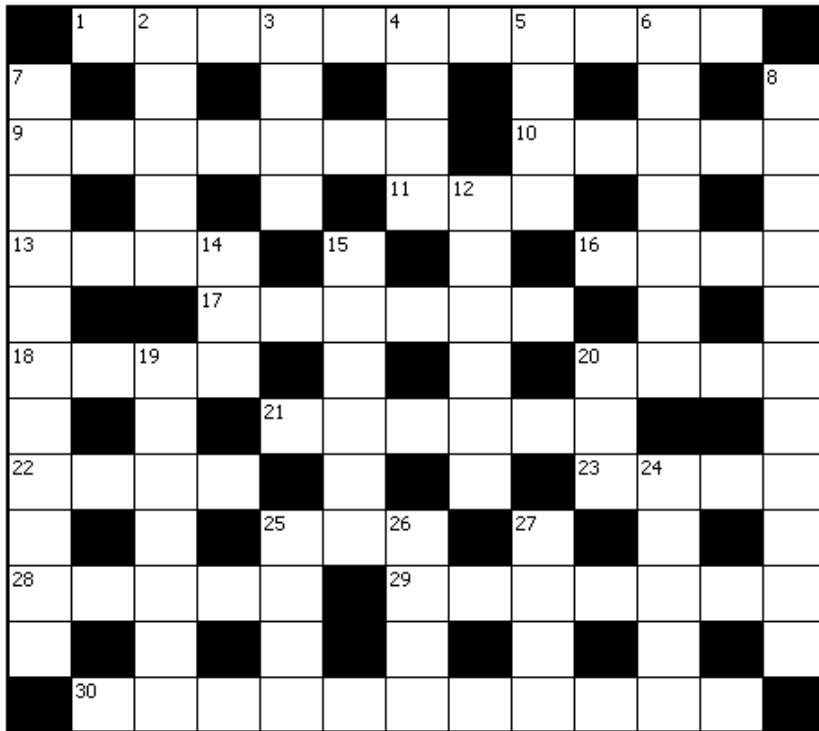
Dorothy greets the new bishop

A large number of people received Holy Communion, and the music from J.S.Bach's B minor Mass was particularly impressive. At the reception afterwards in the cloister garden we met Uwe Jauch who is the church superintendent living at Wolmirstedt. Uwe told us that the church members had recently reviewed our visit to them in May and had warmly welcomed our invitation to come to Malvern in 2011. They also had interviewed two ministers and listened to their sermons on two different Sundays. They will then choose one of them to be their next pastor. Please pray for Bishop Ilse as she seeks to integrate two former dioceses with their new title of Central Germany. Pray also for St. Katharina's and for the person of their choice who will come to be their leader.

Jim Knights

P.S. We have just heard from Swantje, our link in Wolmirstedt, that their church council has appointed a new Pastor for St. Katharina's. She is Frau Ulrike Reichard from the town of Suhl in Thuringia. She is 41 years old and will start work on 1st November.

Crossword November 2009



October Solution

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

Across

- 1 and 20 Down 'Lord of all — , Lord of all — , whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy' (11,3)
- 9 Moses' question to a fighting Hebrew labourer: 'Why are you — your fellow Hebrew?' (Exodus 2:13) (7)
- 10 Acclaimed cellist who contracted multiple sclerosis at the height of her fame, Jacqueline — (2,3)
- 11 'At even — the sun was set, the sick, O Lord, around thee lay' (3)
- 13 A descendant of Gad (Numbers 26:16) (4)
- 16 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but — for the gift my Father promised' (Acts 1:4) (4)
- 17 Clambers (Jeremiah 48:44) (6)
- 18 Peter's response to questioning by the Sanhedrin: 'We must — God rather than men!' (Acts 5:29) (4)
- 20 Christian paraplegic author, artist and campaigner, — Eareckson Tada (4)
- 21 Bird partial to the nests of other birds (6)
- 22 'Such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat — — ' (Matthew 13:2) (2,2)
- 23 Infectious tropical disease (4)
- 25 Tree (3)
- 28 'No fear of me should — you, nor should my hand be heavy upon you' (Job 33:7) (5)
- 29 For example, to Titus, Timothy or Philemon (7)
- 30 Week beginning with Pentecost Sunday, according to the Church's calendar (11)

Down

- 2 'O Jerusalem... how — I have longed to gather your children together' (Matthew 23:37) (5)
- 3 Way out (4)
- 4 Exhort (Romans 12:1) (4)
- 5 Done (anag.) (4)
- 6 Highest of the four voice-parts in a choir (7)
- 7 Concerning the study of God (11)
- 8 Uniquely, it has Abbey, Cathedral and Chapel (11)
- 12 Admonish (Matthew 16:22) (6)
- 14 Frozen (3)
- 15 Established form of religious ceremony (6)
- 19 Inscription often found on gravestones (7)
- 20 See 1 Across
- 24 Behaved (Joshua 7:1) (5)
- 25 Time (anag.) (4)
- 26 Lists choice of meals (4)
- 27 'For the wages of sin is death, but the — of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord' (Romans 6:23) (4)