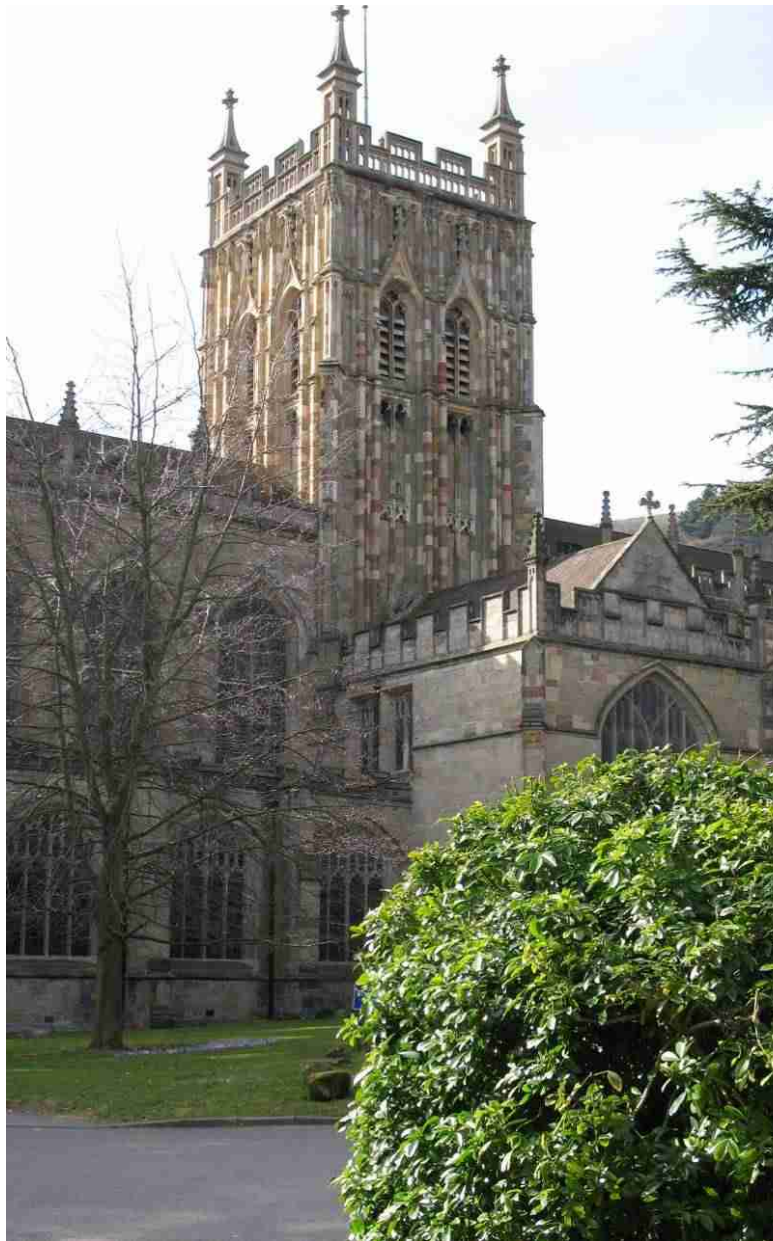


# Malvern Priory Magazine

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St. Mary & St. Michael**

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**September 2011**

## **From the Vicarage**

### **9/11 – Ten Years On**

Dear Friends,

Some events do seem to mark a seismic shift in the course of history. Ten years ago, on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2011, a series of four co-ordinated [suicide attacks](#) by the Islamist terrorist network [al-Qaeda](#) were launched upon the [United States](#). Two passenger jetliners were deliberately crashed into the Twin Towers of the [World Trade Center](#) in [New York City](#), which completely collapsed within two hours. A third airliner was crashed into the [Pentagon](#), and a fourth in rural Pennsylvania, after passengers attempted to regain control of the airliner. There were no survivors from any of the four flights, and in all nearly 3,000 victims, as well as the 19 hijackers, died that day. Perhaps, like me, you can even remember what you were doing on 9/11? It was my day off, and I had just turned on the TV, when breaking news was flashed across the screen, with live pictures from New York. It seemed unreal, like watching a disaster movie, but there it was unfolding in front of our eyes, in horrific detail.

One way or another, 9/11 – as it has come to be known – has had a profound effect on our world. Within a month, the US invaded Afghanistan, and within eighteen months Iraq. 9/11 placed ‘Religion’ firmly on the public agenda, and it also largely triggered the rise of what has since come to be known as ‘New Atheism’ (Richard Dawkins et al.), a vitriolic reaction which has tried to tar all religion with the same violent, destructive, fundamentalist brush. A culture of fear has been created, and this fear has led to acts that undermine our nation’s Christian heritage. For example, in 2005 the crematorium chapel in Torquay – where I took many funeral services – had its wall cross removed, and the chapel was then renamed as ‘the ceremony hall.’

However, it is the cross that our world still needs. For it is only the Cross of Jesus Christ – and His victory over sin and death – that can help us to face, and overcome, the depth of evil that 9/11 represents. That is why events like 9/11 should drive us to prayer, as we bring our world to the healing light of the Cross. On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September, the evening service of Holy Communion will include an opportunity for us to do just that, as we remember 9/11, and pray for our world ten years on.

Wishing you every blessing in Jesus Christ, who is the light of the world,



*John Barr, Vicar*

## Service of Prayer for Justice and Peace in our Nation and World

In these anxious and uncertain times, it can be tempting to give in to despair. However, as the Apostle Paul reminds us, those who seek to follow Jesus Christ are called to prayer, rather than to despair: “The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4: 5 – 7).

In the war against everything that disfigures and dehumanizes God’s world, prayer is the weapon that you and I can deploy at all times, and in all places. And how important it is to encourage one another to do so, by gathering together to join in prayer for our troubled nation and world.

On **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30 pm** the evening service will be a **Service of Prayer for Justice and Peace in our Nation and World**.

Drawing on material from the Iona Community, this service will provide an opportunity to pray for those troubled places, for suffering people who cry out in need of justice and peace. This will be held in the North Aisle prayer area, and all are welcome.

*John Barr*

## Priory People

### Mrs Mac



The magazine team, along with the rest of the Priory wish Mrs Mac a very happy, if slightly belated, 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, and send her our very best wishes.

Make sure you buy the October magazine to read more about her birthday – and maybe a few more things!”

### *From the Registers*

#### ***Baptisms***

*May*

*Rocco Liam Purser*

*June*

*Sally Mo Nicholls*

#### ***Marriages***

*May*

*Adrian and Elizabeth Sutton*

*Paul and Caryl Houtton*

*June*

*Ernest and Janet Tsui*

*July*

*Craig and Debra Freeman*

#### ***Funerals***

*June*

*Irene Strong*

## Irene Strong 1929 – 2011

“Beautiful, graceful and elegant.” “Having an inner beauty.” These were the words used by Jonathan Sugden to describe his mother, Irene, at her well-attended funeral and thanksgiving service in the Priory on June 29<sup>th</sup>. They are words that were echoed by John Barr, and that all who knew Irene would agree with. She was serene, even in times of grief and illness.

Born in 1929 (yes – that is hard to believe!) she and her first husband, Arnold Sugden, came to Malvern in 1962, together with young Jonathan and Jeremy. The Priory became an important part of the family’s life. Irene’s passion for flowers became evident in the Priory Flower Arranging team. Also, together with Brenda Shipman and other young mothers, she helped with a flourishing Sunday School, with upwards of 50 children. Later she was very much a part of Priory Housegroups. From the late 1960’s onwards she worked at Malvern Festival Theatre, progressing to the role of Assistant Manager until 1994. She loved the theatre, and continued to be a regular attender after her retirement.



In 1985 Arnold tragically died. They had had a deep relationship of love and friendship, and Irene drew enormously on her Christian faith for strength and comfort at that time. In 1992 she met, fell in love with, and married Peter Strong, another Priory member. They honeymooned in South Africa and Zimbabwe, where Peter had family. Irene and Peter had 7 happy years together before Peter sadly died of cancer. Together they were involved in Priory activities, and raised money for Macmillan Cancer Care – being instrumental in getting the first Macmillan nurse for Malvern.

After Peter’s death Irene was part of the support group SOLACE. She travelled widely, and became a close friend and travelling companion with James Smart. Irene was always careful to ensure that, on all occasions, she was “dressed appropriately”. Others would have described her dress as “elegant”! She modelled for clothing companies, and walked the catwalk into her sixties.

In 2010, despite deteriorating health due to leukaemia, Irene went, with her friend Sheila Taylor, to the Oberammergau Passion Play. The last thing she wanted to do before she died was to see the sea again, and this she did. Irene’s courage, serenity, and inner beauty stemmed so much from her faith. She loved God. She loved her family. She loved people. She loved life. This graceful and gracious lady made the world a better place. We thank God for her.

*David Webster*

## She is gone

This moving poem was read at Irene Strong's funeral by her daughter-in-law, Cindy. The poem first became widely known when read at the Queen Mother's funeral. But the author was then a mystery. Eventually he was traced – David Harkins wrote it when working as a baker in Carlisle. He wrote it in 1981 about a girl he loved, but who did not return his love. Since then it has been used widely, and adapted for funerals. It is very appropriate for Irene.

*You can shed tears that she is gone  
Or you can smile because she has lived.*

*You can close your eyes and pray that she will come back  
Or you can open your eyes and see all that she has left.*

*Your heart can be empty because you can't see her  
Or you can be full of the love that you shared.*

*You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday  
Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday*

*You can remember her and only that she has gone  
Or you can cherish her memory and let it live on.*

*You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back  
Or you can do what she would want: smile, open your eyes, love and go on.*

**– o0o –**

### **An invitation from Malvern Priory Choirs**

**to all interested in singing!**

**Please join us in the Priory for an informal choir practice**

**on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September from 7.00 – 8.30pm**

**All ages and voices welcome - just turn up to sing for as long as you like!**

**Refreshments will be served**

**For further information please contact David Iliff – Director of Music**

**Via the Parish Office please**

## Thought for the Month

In a recent Sunday morning sermon in the Priory, Curate Peter posed the question: “Do the clergy go to church when they’re on holiday?” Well, I’m glad to be able to say that John and I did indeed attend Sunday services while on holiday in Cornwall! In fact we joined the worshippers in two contrasting venues with very different styles of worship: first, a formal choral service in Truro Cathedral, then an informal time of worship-songs and Bible teaching at Tubestation, an interdenominational “Fresh Expression” of church – reaching out especially to the surfing community in Polzeath.

Outwardly, these two church services were poles apart; not least because at the one, the people ‘up front’ (choristers, vergers and clergy) wore robes and the singing of hymns and anthems was ‘traditional’ and organ-accompanied, while at the other, the preacher wore a T-shirt and beach shorts, and electric guitarists and a drummer led modern songs with words projected on powerpoint slides with pictures of waves and sunsets. Yet beneath these obvious but superficial differences, there were deeper and much more significant similarities. In both venues, God’s people gathered to worship in the name of Jesus; at both, the words of hymns, songs and prayers proclaimed the love of God in Christ; at both the Word of God was read and faithfully expounded with relevance to contemporary situations; at both, there was a real sense of the presence of the Spirit of the living God.

It is easy to get side-tracked about what we like or dislike about different styles of worship in church. But what really matters is not that we are ‘entertained’ by worship but that God is glorified; not that we are satisfied by ‘a good show’ but that we are challenged by scriptural truth and nourished by the living bread of heaven (cf. John 6:51) so that we are strengthened to face the challenges of the week ahead; not that we sing and say and do just what pleases us but that we offer to God the living sacrifice of minds and bodies which are being transformed by the Spirit of God, rather than conformed to the ways of the world (Romans 12: 1 - 2).

This month sees the start of the new school and college year; it’s also the start of the new ‘term’ for our church and house groups; and Back to Church Sunday is coming up too (25<sup>th</sup> September). September is a good month for fresh starts – whether of attitude or action. Perhaps for some of us our own attendance at regular Sunday worship has slipped low on our list of priorities and we might think about how to put that right this Autumn? Perhaps others of us might consider whom we can invite to come along to church with us? All of us (clergy included!) will be blessed by an Autumn-spring-clean, a refreshment of our attitudes regarding why we go to church and what God desires from us when we gather together to worship Him.

*Mary Barr*

## Lifepath

When I found myself singing in the shower on Saturday morning “Reach Up, Reach In, Reach Out”, I knew that the Lifepath songs had spoken to me!!

Malvern Priory Lifepath in June was an amazing week – full of fun and learning about God’s love for all of us.

Every day over 100 young “novices” arrived in the Priory churchyard, excited and wondering what the day would hold for them. The day followed a rhythm reflecting aspects of a monk’s life.

Collective worship started and ended the day for the adults and the children. John and Mary, ably assisted by Curate Peter, told a Bible story about two sons one obedient and the other not – illustrating that there is always an opportunity to change your ways to live a life which is pleasing to God. This was no ordinary story, as every morning the disobedient son (John) had a drenching from the Vicarage watering can!

A time of silence separated the workshops on prayer, calligraphy, medieval medicine at the Infirmary, the life of a monk, brass rubbing, medieval tiles and science and faith - when over 100 children stop at the call:

“Be still for the presence of the Lord” and all reply:

“We will wait patiently for Him.”

You could hear a pin drop...the Priory is totally silent.

A journey through Prayer illustrated different ways to pray and reflect:

Telling God I am SORRY;

THANK YOU for my blessings;

PLEASE – I need your help

And finally acknowledging the awesome greatness of GOD’S LOVE for us all. ►

Being alongside children can teach us how simple it can be to reach out to a loving Father God.

Over the week, Lifepath became like a community and all the helpers from various local churches gave it a richness. The care and prayer before and after each day reflected the love and dedication of everyone involved, both for the children, their teachers and helpers and also to support one another – all along the Lifepath journey.

Do come and join us next year!

*Anne Eglington*

## Quotations From Lifepath Participants

### Comments from Teachers (On Their Evaluation Forms)

*"It was so well organised!"*

*Another teacher said that the positive benefits to her pupils of doing a Lifepath Day included particularly the "links with our R.E. project on Good and Evil; and meeting so many people (helpers) with a cheerful positive attitude".*

*From another school: "Thank you for such a happy and enjoyable day."*

*And another: "A brilliant day! We hope to come again next year..."*

### Comments from Children's Written Feed-Back

*"Dear Lifepath, Thank you for having us on Wednesday. I really enjoy myself. I liked when the Guides took us around the Priory and helped us with the activities."*

*"Thank you for giving me the brilliant opportunity to come to Lifepath."*

*"The Priory was amazing!"*

*"I am writing to you just to say thank you. I thoroughly enjoyed the day. Our Guides were very kind and caring and good at looking after our lunch... The Prayer Journey I liked the prayer leaves where you wrote on a leaf then you put it on the tree where there were tons of leaves on the tree".*

*"Thank you very much for providing class 5 and 6 pupils like me a fun and active day. I enjoyed it all... The monks' life DVD was funny and entertaining. Poor monks only getting one - yes one - meal a day."*

*"Dear Lifepath, you have taught me lots of new things. I hope you didn't mind giving up your time so we could have a fun day. I really enjoyed the scripture. My friends and family were amazed that I did it. I wish I could do it next year."*

*"I really loved singing all the songs and the actions. They were very jolly and every one in my class loved them too. All of you were very kind and helpful. I learnt a lot about friendship and lots of other things".*

*"Medieval Medicine was amasing because I liked the leeches."*

*"Thank you for the enjoyable exciting day I had with you... I knew when I stepped into the Priory that it would be a day to remember."*

*"I had a fantastic day..."*



*Can you think of an apt, funny, relevant  
(and printable!) caption to this photo from Lifepath.*

*The magnificent prize will be to have the fame of your name and  
your caption printed in next month's magazine – surely reward enough!  
Send your suggestions by email to [mag@greatmalvern priory.org.uk](mailto:mag@greatmalvern priory.org.uk), or  
take or post your entry to the Parish Office (address inside back cover).*

*(You could even hand it to one of the magazine team if you ever see one of us....)*

**– o0o –**

### **Lunch Box in the Priory**

Lunch Box starts again on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 12.30 pm with a talk by Dr. Colin Harris entitled “The Ubiquitous Green Man”.

The Green Man is a carved image – a stone or wooden face with foliage sprouting out from his nose, eyes, mouth or ears. You'll find him in secular and religious architecture and experience his presence in the many myths and legends of our rich folklore. However, there is one problem – no creator of the images wrote down who or what he represented. The Lunch Box talk by Dr. Colin Harris will explore the Green Man in his many hiding places and whether there is a Green Man lurking in the Priory building....

The following Lunch Box on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October is a recital by Elaine Fleming (mezzo soprano) and accompanied by John Sabey.

## The Friends Of Malvern Priory

At the end of June the Friends held our annual Choral Evensong, this year for the first time, preceded by a Cream Tea held in the Lyttelton Rooms. Both events were well attended and may I thank those who were able to support us. Prior to Evensong we were delighted to hear the Priory Bell Ringers ringing for us; we then enjoyed some magnificent music by the Priory Singers in the service and a very interesting address by our guest preacher the Rev'd Tim Gunter, Vice Chairman of Malvern Civic Society. Over 50 people came to the cream tea and enjoyed the delicious refreshments kindly produced by Anne Savage, Ann Jordan and Gill Selby. The opportunity was also taken to make a presentation to Basil and Claire Dewing who had provided stalwart service to the Friends over many years. I am pleased to say that the two events raised over £200 for the Friends funds.

I have recently arranged for the Calligrapher to add the following seven names to the Book of Remembrance which resides in the Priory:

- Joyce Tricker
- Edna Martin
- Elizabeth Compton
- Rosalind Shearman
- Joan Pardoe
- John Neville
- Irene Strong

You will have hopefully seen our advertisement in the July magazine encouraging entries for our competition to design a logo for the Friends to use on our documentation. We hope this will further help raise awareness of the Friends as the principal provider of funds to the Priory PCC for the maintenance and beautification of the Priory Church building and churchyard. The competition is open until 31<sup>st</sup> October 2011. If you have not seen it, the advertisement is included again in this issue (see page 12) so please get your creative juices flowing!

Finally, as members will be aware, annual subscriptions are due on 1<sup>st</sup> October. At our last meeting the Council authorised that the subscription should still be maintained at a low level but increased to £5 per person. Subscription forms will be issued during September. Obviously donations over and above the basic subscription are always welcome, in order to continue the valuable contribution the Friends make towards maintaining our wonderful historic building.

*Mike Selby, Chairman*

## Friends Design a Logo Competition

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

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

### **Rules**

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



***Surely you can do better than this!***

– o0o –

### **Malvern Priory Singers: Visit to Gloucester Cathedral – 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> July 2011**

Every year the Priory Singers visit a cathedral for three days in July to sing the services whilst the cathedral choir is on holiday. The tour is usually booked up for a year to two years in advance. This year we went to Gloucester which was close enough to be able to come home at night rather than having to book accommodation.

We returned on Sunday evening having worked very hard for three days. As well as having to work hard it was also a wonderful experience to sing in that splendid Cathedral.

The choir was based in the Cathedral Education Centre, where we were able to practice without being disturbed, and leave our belongings etc safely. We also had a practice in the choir stalls before each service. ►

The first evening was a Choral Eucharist to celebrate the Feast of Mary Magdalene. The service we sang was that written by David Iliff (whose name you may recognise). After the gospel had been read, there was an absolutely amazing and skilful organ improvisation which was played by our organist Ron Ward.



and skilful organ improvisation which was played by our organist Ron Ward.

On Saturday we sang Choral Evensong, and then on Sunday morning we sang Choral Eucharist which was followed by a lovely lunch at Lily's Restaurant which is very close

to the Cathedral. Our final service was Choral Evensong at 3.00pm in which the senior members of the Priory Junior Choir were invited join us.

We are looking forward to next year's Tour to Chester Cathedral during the last weekend of July 2012.

*Sue Pritt*

*And with thanks to Peter Garfield for the photo.*

**Come and hear  
Sir John Houghton  
at Great Malvern Priory**

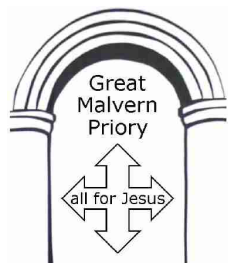
**The Walcher Lecture 2011**

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September 7.30 pm  
'God, Science and Global Warming'**

**Morning Worship  
Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September 10.30 am  
'Big Science, Big God'**

Sir John Houghton CBE FLSW FRS is

- Former Professor of Atmospheric Physics at Oxford University
- Former head of the Met Office
- Former co-chair of the Nobel Prize winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- Chair of the John Ray initiative, connecting Environment, Science and the Christian faith



2011

CONFIRMATION is the way we can make for ourselves the promises made on our behalf if we were baptised as infants.

At the Confirmation service, those being confirmed publically express their commitment to follow Jesus Christ, and through prayers and the laying on of hands by the Bishop, the Church also asks God to give them the power of the Holy Spirit to live the Christian life.

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

If you haven't already been baptised, then that can happen at around the same time as Confirmation.

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



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

*If you want to find out more, please contact  
Mary Barr via the Parish Office.*

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## **Choir Barbecue**

It was a beautiful midsummer's day for this year's Choir barbecue (26<sup>th</sup> June) which was held on the Priory glebe. The barbecue team, decked out in their finest hats and aprons, grilled in perfect harmony (!) with a plentiful supply of drumsticks, bangers and burgers with all the trimmings. Under a neighbouring tree, what could only be described as a shady bar supplied soft drinks for all and pre-lunch sherry for the non-juniors present! A lovely time of socialising in the sunshine was had by all of the choir and their families, not to mention Bertie the dog! Thanks go to all who helped to organise this great event, including everyone who provided such a splendid array of puddings! We look forward to a similar occasion next year.

*Bryony Cowell*

## Who's Who in the Priory

### Meet Irene Lacy and grand-daughter Darelle Barr

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

**Irene:** In 1992 because my husband John's job moved from London to Birmingham. When we were house hunting we came to Malvern on my birthday. It was pouring with rain and a really horrible windy night. As we drove up the Worcester Road from Malvern Link I could see the hills and said "if they are this beautiful in the rain, how beautiful must they be in good weather. I made up my mind that Malvern was the place I wanted to live even though I had never heard of it before.

**Darelle:** I moved here when I was four years old when my dad came out of the army and both sets of my grandparents lived here.

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

**Irene:** I thought it looked such a beautiful church. We were made welcome.

**Darelle:** I wanted to go to church with my grandma.

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

**Irene:** He is just my closest friend. Without Him, life would be up queer street. I don't know because he's always been in my life.

**Darelle:** I feel like God and I are friends.

#### What is your favourite scripture?

**Irene:** Psalm 121:1-2. *I lift up my eyes to the hills – where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.* Because I've always been poorly all my life and when I lift up my eyes I know that I get help from the Lord.

#### What is your favourite hymn?

**Irene:** *The day Thou gavest Lord is ended.* Because it was my mother's favourite hymn and it always reminds me of her. My uncle liked it as well. *When I survey the wondrous cross*, especially the last verse:

*Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.*

Because it is beautiful and rounds up a whole lot of things at once to me.

#### What are your hobbies?

**Darelle:** Tai Kwon Do, which is a martial art of self-defence. I started when I was ten. I've got my blue belt, which is the seventh level. I do it twice a week. I do a bit of street dancing. Photography, because you have no boundaries, you can do what you want with it, I take anything that catches my eye. I load them on to the computer and select ones to print off. I have had to produce a portfolio for the

photography course at Worcester Sixth Form College; my theme was Light and Dark. Motorbikes, I go on the back of my parent's bikes, either for a long ride or at bike rallies. We did John O'Groats to Lands End last year, it was a sponsored run and we did it in three days. I really enjoy singing, mainly to myself in my room, and reading books with a gothic theme.

**Irene:** Stitching cards (available in the Priory bookshop). Bird-watching, John and I go on bird-watching holidays in Scotland. Photography, I have a Canon 7D. This is a family hobby; Darelle often shares our lenses.

### **Have you any interests?**

**Irene:** My grandchildren. We don't see the two boys in Ireland too often; we visit there once a year. I am on the Worcester breast care support group committee.

**Darelle:** My phone, listening to music. Second-hand books, especially in Hay-on-Wye bookshops.

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

**Darelle:** I am passionate about sport, especially watching rugby. Good luck to England in the World Cup this year in New Zealand.

### **Have you any desires?**

**Irene:** I would love to revisit the Shetlands and the Orkneys.

**Darelle:** I would like to meet the England rugby squad. I would like to be a famous motorbike racer. I would like to travel the world. I would like to be a famous professional sports photographer.

### **What are your roles in the Priory?**

**Irene:** I am a sidesperson. I attend Chestnut housegroup, which would like some more members.

**Darelle:** I am in Pathfinders, Sketch Club, and FEATv (youth group at the vicarage). I enjoy it all!

*Sylviane Outram*

## **A Welcome Experience**

Although the traditional "welcome season" at the Priory church is drawing to a close, I felt it would be both appropriate and interesting to share my experience of one afternoon session as a welcomer, whilst Adrian was on relief Custos duty. On arrival several wedding guests, including the delightful Chinese Bride and Groom, were still in the church, seemingly reluctant to leave, taking copious photographs in all areas of our lovely building. As they finally left they expressed their joy and pleasure at the way their wedding had been conducted, and what a wonderful time it had been for everyone. A couple taking a break from earthquake-struck Christchurch, New Zealand, came in, lit candles and asked for continued prayer. There followed a party from a church in Hemel Hempstead, hotfoot from Nicholson's works, where they had been for a tour, having purchased a new organ for their church. They were really keen to hear our organ being played, and were reassured completely that they had made a sound investment. They also spent considerable time exploring the Priory, and were very interested in all aspects of

its long history – not just the music tradition. Another gentleman was interested in our liturgy, and I was able to show him examples of our forms of services; whilst another expressed great appreciation of the beautiful marble Sophia Thompson memorial. There is a very good concise file to hand for welcomers, containing information particularly relating to the most usually asked questions by visitors. I find it an extremely helpful resource.

There followed a teacher, accompanied by her husband and sleeping grandson in a buggy, who was looking forward to bringing a group of children to Lifepath the following week, and who had really enjoyed Mary Barr's visit and pre-talk to schools, and who wanted to familiarise herself fully with the building and its treasures. Finally, it is said that, wherever one travels, one is bound to meet someone one knows, or who has a strong connection to our life's experience. A retired teacher, visiting from Durham (where we once lived for 15 years) in the course of our conversation gave me amazing news of folk he knew who had been teaching-colleagues of mine all those years ago. All in all 114 people visited the Priory in just one afternoon, and I felt that I had had a most happy and blessed time. I know many folks are involved in many Christian ministries, both within the Priory and the wider world, but I would recommend "welcoming" as a most valuable act of service.

*Anne Dudman*

*For more information on becoming a welcomer, please see page 21*

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## **Boulders – Cunnamulla, Queensland, Australia**



After more than 2 years of sweat, toil, and sometimes blood (literally!) Paul and Nicky Webster finally opened "Boulders" in May. At present it is just a restaurant. An indoor play area for children and a cinema will follow when funds allow. So far it has been a "success" story beyond their wildest dreams – an answer to much prayer. Trade, from both locals and visitors, has been very brisk, with, at times, ► every

table indoors and out on the pavement full – 50 or more people all wanting to give their orders or to be served. Write-ups in the local press, and comments by customers, have on the whole been very complimentary – though there has been the occasional disgruntled customer not prepared to wait. And this, of course, is the price of "success". Extreme busy-ness, and stretching of resources. Mistakes can happen. They put in an order for 200 muffins from their supplier in Brisbane.

Instead one and a half tons of muffins arrived in Cunnamulla! Brisbane was muffin-less! Paul and Nicky have just 3 helpers in Boulders, and they have a tendency to ring in as “sick”. The challenges – and prayer requests – are for enough staff, who are committed, reliable and with initiative; for someone (perhaps a gap-year student) to help free them up to have more time with the children, especially on Saturdays and in school holidays; for a continuing good reputation once the honeymoon period is over, and a welcoming atmosphere, honouring to God; for the funds to install the indoor play area – about £60,000; for good health and stamina. They are very conscious of, and grateful for, the support of the Priory.

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### **Do you know where you’re going to?**

Billy Graham, the great American evangelist, told this story at one of his last public appearances:

‘Albert Einstein, the great physicist, was once travelling from Princeton on a train when the conductor came down the aisle, punching the tickets of every passenger. When he came to Einstein, Einstein reached in his vest pocket. He couldn’t find his ticket, so he reached in his trouser pockets. It wasn’t there. He looked in his briefcase but couldn’t find it. Then he looked in the seat beside him. He still couldn’t find it.

‘The conductor said, “Dr. Einstein, I know who you are. We all know who you are. I’m sure you bought a ticket. Don’t worry about it.” Einstein nodded appreciatively. The conductor continued down the aisle punching tickets. As he was ready to move to the next car, he turned around and saw the great physicist down on his hands and knees looking under his seat for his ticket. The conductor rushed back in dismay and said, “Dr. Einstein, Dr. Einstein, don’t worry, I know who you are; no problem. You don’t need a ticket.”

‘Einstein looked at him and said sadly, “Young man, I too, know who I am. What I don’t know, is where I’m going!”

Graham concluded: ‘When you hear I’m dead, I want you to remember this: I not only know who I am, I also know where I’m going.’”

## Wolverhampton Visit



On July 23<sup>rd</sup> 45 Asian friends from Wolverhampton came for the day, led by Narindar Mehat. Our Priory link with Narindar goes back for 26 years, and it was lovely that Mrs Mac, who has been involved from the start, was able to join us for tea. Some of our visitors were established Christians, some very new Christians, some Muslim. All greatly appreciated the warm welcome they received. Jeremy Tudge led an expedition of 27 more energetic ones to the Beacon.

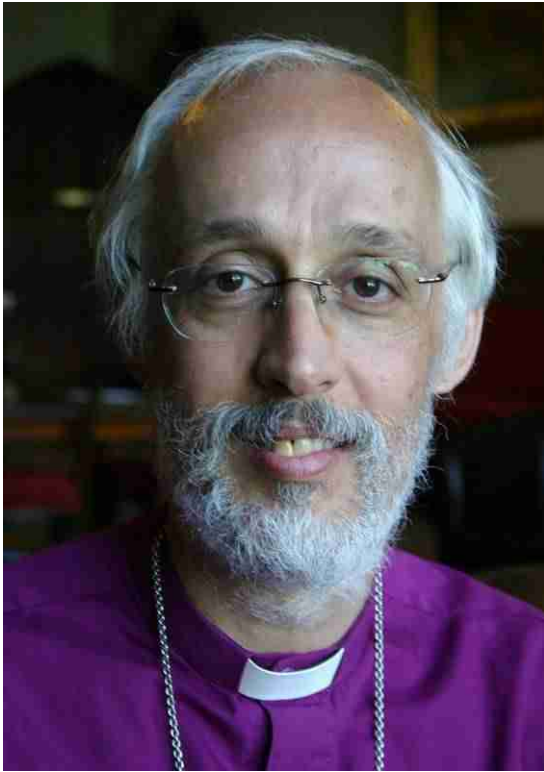
Some went to Golden Valley, to the Theatre of Small Convenience, to Priory Park, and some up the Priory tower. All in all it was a very happy day, much enjoyed by all ages, and well supported by Priory folk.



*Narindar Mehat and Mrs Mac who was about to celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.*



## The Bishop's Letter – from Bishop David



At the point when I was first seeking to respond to God's calling me to ordained ministry a wise priest said to me, "David, clergy are like horse manure – spread thinly they get the garden growing, but piled up all together they just make a stink!" It was an old joke even thirty years ago, but it's one I remember whenever I'm off to attend the House of Bishops or General Synod, and it has come to mind again as we get ready this month for the first Diocesan Clergy Conference we have had in my time in Worcester.

Like most of the jokes that pass the test of time, it has a grain of truth in it. The Church's licensed and ordained ministers are called to spend the vast majority of their time in their parishes and chaplaincies, growing the Church and Kingdom through their distinctive contribution to the ministry of all the baptised that is God's mission. And I've spent more hours of my life than I care to recall in clergy meetings that have descended into either competitive bragging, "my ministry is more fruitful than yours", or communal whinging about difficult funeral directors, over-demanding bishops and the intricacies of the Faculty system.

Also, like most good jokes, it's an exaggeration.

I'll be packing my bags later this month with a real sense of excitement and expectation. I'm looking forward to spending several days in the company of a large body of people deeply committed to living and proclaiming the Christian Faith and to responding to what the Holy Spirit is up to in the Diocese of Worcester. As we share our individual stories, I'll be looking to recognise the common themes and patterns that are the clues to where the most significant opportunities and challenges are arising, and hence where a Bishop's contribution can be most effective. I'll be enjoying praying *with* a body of people who, more commonly, I am praying *for*. And whilst the formal sessions and worship will be vital ingredients of the event, I'll also be looking forward to the informal chats and socialising that strengthen the friendships among us and so underpin the more formal occasions when I meet with our clergy and lay workers back in the Diocese.

So please pray for the Conference, for all who will be attending it, that we will be inspired both by God and each other, and return to Worcester strengthened for the time ahead.

## **A Challenge: One Hour A Week**

Are you able to answer any of the following questions?

1. *Is the Priory used for services?*
2. *Does it have a Vicar?*
3. *How often is it open in the week?*
4. *Does it have a toilet?*

If you know the answer to most of these questions, you have passed the first hurdle in attaining your Priory Welcomers' Training Certificate. If you can smile, say "Good Morning" or "Hello" and offer a leaflet to people coming through the church door, you have passed another stage. The Advanced Course would run something like this:

1. *How old is the Priory?*
2. *Where is Anne Darwin's grave?*
3. *Where is Elgar's grave? (don't panic)*

It may be that you can't answer all these, but you know a man who can. He is called Peter Young and if he's been allowed a day off, whoever is standing in for him also knows the answers. You can also look in the excellent Guide to the Priory.

The point of all this is to emphasise that Welcomers to our church do not have to have degrees in history or have undergone intensive management training. They are all people like you and me; proud of our church and its heritage and willing to share it with the visitors who come in during the course of the week (because of course the church is open every day). Most of the visitors appreciate a friendly welcome. Some want to chat more, others will be anxious to be left to wander around in peace and a small minority would rather not say anything, preferring to slide in with eyes downcast.

It would be so good if there were always someone there each day to offer a friendly word of welcome. I calculate that between 10 am and 4 pm Mondays to Saturdays there are 36 hours to fill; Sundays 12 to 5 is another 5. With around 400 people on the Electoral Roll ... well, you see where I'm going. If we could each offer an hour a week, perhaps when we are in town shopping, after we've dropped the children off at school or nursery, before we have our hair done or after a good lunch in the Lyttelton Well, there could be someone there all through the day. If you are at work or school during the week, Saturdays and Sundays are your big chance.

So how about it? It is a very enjoyable way to pass an hour. You will be surprised at what you learn about other people, other churches – and even, about yourself. Why not give it a try? Do it with a friend or on your own and see how satisfying it is. Talk to anyone who does it at present, or to the Priory's Events and Visitor Coordinators, Peter Young or Ann Oldfield to find out more.

*Elizabeth Dunnett*

*For a first-hand account of welcoming, see page 16*

## Malvern In Bloom

As part of Malvern in Bloom week, members of the Priory Flower Arrangers team decorated the Priory with floral arrangements depicting verses from the King James Bible. This was to celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the King James Bible.



***The Incarnation of God's Word in Jesus Christ: John 1:14 "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."***

***Creation: Genesis 1:31  
"And God saw every thing that He had made, and, behold, it was very good"***



***The "Malvern Psalm": Psalm 121:1-2  
"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth."***



***The Psalmist extols God's word: Psalm 119:105 "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."***

*There are more pictures of the floral arrangements on the Priory web site*

## Book Review

### WHY GOD WON'T GO AWAY - Engaging with the New Atheism

by Alister McGrath SPCK 2011

This is a gem of a book: short (118 pages including the notes), eminently readable and sharp as a two-edged sword in demolishing the spurious logic of current New Atheist arguments against religion. Professor McGrath begins by giving the reader a clear and useful overview of the main ideas of the leading proponents of New Atheism – Richard Dawkins, Daniel Dennett, Sam Harris and Christopher Hitchens. McGrath then helps us to engage with core themes, questions of vital importance, such as the rationality of faith, the relation of religion and science, the possible links between faith and violence and the place of religion in Western society. Repeatedly, he demonstrates how often the New Atheists resort to “loud and rude insults” in their attempts to “trump evidence-based argument” about the real value of religion in society; it is atheist intolerance and violence against religion which needs to be exposed.

Inconveniently for those who make routine predictions of the demise of the Almighty, faith in God is still alive and well and there is every sign that it is the New Atheism, rather than Christian belief, which is fast becoming stale and weary. Sadly, ‘the man and woman in the street’ are still deluded by the secular media into imagining that Dawkins and his cronies have won the battle against faith; even more sadly, Christians often feel ill-equipped to respond to this delusion. Those who read McGrath’s book, will find themselves ready to ‘burst the bubble’ of New Atheist confidence in the ‘death of God’ – not least by lending *Why God Won't Go Away* to anyone who tries to tell us that our faith is a waste of time!

Mary Barr



"When she said to pay attention to her sermon because there would be questions later, I thought it was a joke."

## Environmental Competition – Results!

Thank you all for your excellent and innovative entries in the “Recycle It” Competition. With great difficulty we awarded prizes to:

### Under 11's

**Winner:** Collage by Nell Olden  
**Commended:** Hovercraft by Peter Cotton. (Made when under 11)

### 11 - 18's

**Winners:** Think before you Bin by Priory Sketch Club  
**Commended:** Poster by Molly Fuller

### Adult

**Winner:** Knitted Clutch Beach Bag by Margaret Jupe  
**Commended:** Rubbish Chant by Monica Crochall

Thank you on behalf of the Priory Environmental Group.

*Jeremy Tudge.*

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## Mothers' Union

It was good to count at least ten MU members taking part on the first day of Life Path. The ten 'Chernobyl' children from David Gorodock in Belarus enjoyed the Prayer Pilgrimage, tile painting, brass rubbing and DVD of *Life in the Day of a Monk*. These activities were particularly helped by four Ukrainian students from Malvern College who spoke Russian.

September is a special month for MU. We shall begin on Thursday September 1<sup>st</sup> with 10am Prayers in the Priory\*. In the Worcester Diocese the Wave of Prayer from 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> September focuses on our links with dioceses in Uganda, Nigeria, Australia, Solomon Isles and Peru. We shall meet for our Wave of Prayer on Saturday September 10<sup>th</sup> in St. Anne's Chapel at 10am. On Sept 7<sup>th</sup> our new MU Diocesan president, Margaret Penn, will be commissioned at her home church of St. Mary's Kingswinford. Later in the month on Wed 14<sup>th</sup> September at 2.30pm Malvern Deanery festival will be at St. Mary's Sherrards Green. We hope all members and friends available in the afternoon will be able to come.

**\*First of every month** is a new venture for MU at the Priory to meet for up to 30 minutes of prayer for MU worldwide and MU concerns within Malvern. Each time it will be on a different day of the week.

Margaret and Brian Stowe will be moving to Leicestershire in September. We shall miss them both very much. Margaret has especially encouraged us as MU members. She will find that neighbours in Kibworth have also been involved in MU, Pat a leader in Dudley and Audrey a leader from Kettering whose former branch have just been to visit her!

*Dorothy Knights*

## **WARM Day**

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October – 10.00 am to 3.00 pm  
at Holland House, Crophorne

**Speaker: Colin Dean**

**Word of Life Ministries – “Man Made or Spirit Made Church?”**

Cost: £13 inclusive of lunch at Holland House (pay on the day)

**Book by telephone: 01386 870527**

by Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September

**Come and hear excellent Bible teaching with inspirational worship**

**Steve Brady Speaking on  
“Chasing the Dream, Living the Reality”**

**(The life of Joseph)**

**11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

**at St Andrew’s Poolbrook, Malvern**

**Sunday 6.30pm Living the Dream (Coping with Ambition)**

**Monday 8pm Living with Trials (Coping with Setbacks)**

**Tuesday 8pm Living with Hope (Coping with Success)**

Steve was born in Liverpool where he was converted in his teens, through a mixture of Bible reading and Everton Football Club! He is married with two children and three grandchildren.



He has been in full-time Christian ministry for over thirty years, is Principal of Moorlands College and has served as a trustee of the Keswick Convention. A keen sportsman and author, he hates

gardening and still has an irrational attachment to Everton Football Club!

**Further details phone 01684 573912**

## **Malvern Disabled Christians Fellowship**

Meets Saturdays 2.30 – 4.00pm

**New venue from September**

**Eden Church, Somers Road, Malvern Link**

**Autumn Programme**

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September     *A Foot in Egypt*     Viv Crow

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October     *DIY our own afternoon*

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November     *Geoff Blackmore*     *Indian Experiences*

**Contact: 01684 578738 [transport]  
01684 562188 [other queries]**

**Community Action Malvern & District:**  
***Reaching Out & Responding to local community needs***

If you live in the Malvern area you may have seen the Community Minibuses or heard of the Car Service. These are just two of the many services provided by **Community Action Malvern and District (CA)**.

The Car Service provides individual transport for healthcare journeys such as to doctors surgeries, hospitals, dentists, opticians, chiropodists, using volunteers driving their own cars, to people over 65 or registered disabled, or who have no access to other forms of transport, living in or around Malvern. Shoparound provides a door-to-door minibus service to local shopping areas such as Worcester, Pershore, Tewkesbury and Ledbury, and also occasional special outings, to the same clientele group. If required, friendly volunteers will help with escorting and carrying shopping, and even pushing a wheelchair. Clients can take their own chairs on to the wheelchair accessible minibuses or they can use one of CA's own wheelchairs.

Two specially adapted wheelchair access cars are available for medical appointments, as part of the Car Service with a volunteer driver, or for hire to be driven by a family member or friend. The two 15-seater minibuses are available for the use of local organisations such as church groups, youth groups, and retirement homes, again with volunteer drivers or self drive (with certain necessary qualifications).

If you feel you could benefit from what CA offers, please do not hesitate to ask for assistance by contacting the office at 28-30 Belle Vue Terrace in the centre of Great Malvern on 01684 892381.

Community Action is always looking for more volunteer drivers for both the Car Service and the minibuses. If you would be interested in volunteering in this way, or indeed in any other way, please contact the office as above.

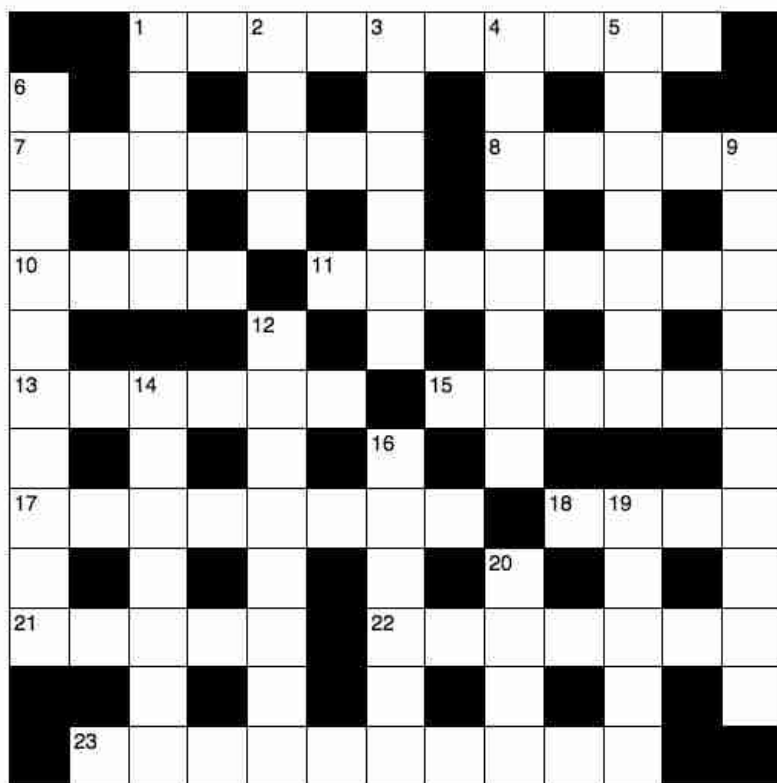
The treasurer is retiring shortly. Do you have, or do you know somebody who has, the right skills to take over this important task? Please contact Ron at Community Action.

The Annual Charity Fair will be held this year on Sat. 19<sup>th</sup> November in the York Hall of Malvern St James' Girls School. All local voluntary organisations, including the Churches, are invited to apply for a stall. The cost of a table will be £25 which can be recouped by selling programmes supplied by CA. All monies raised will be for the organisation's own funds. There will be refreshments throughout the day, music by local choirs and ensembles, Santa's Grotto and a prize for the best dressed stall! If your organisation would like to be considered for a stall (spaces are limited) please contact CA (01684 892381 or [info@communityaction.org.uk](mailto:info@communityaction.org.uk)).

For more information on Community Action, its operation, and its services, please see [www.communityaction.org.uk](http://www.communityaction.org.uk) or contact the office on 01684 892381.

*Mary Wetherall,*  
*Churches Together in Malvern representative on CA Executive*

## September 2011



## July / August Solution

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

### Across

- 1 'You are no longer — and aliens, but fellow-citizens with God's people' (Ephesians 2:19) (10)  
 7 'Religion that God our Father — as pure and faultless is this' (James 1:27) (7)  
 8 'Do you want a — ? Signal then to Jesus' (5)  
 10 Throw (Exodus 9:8) (4)  
 11 We rank it (anag.) (8)  
 13 Encourage (Isaiah 59:13) (6)  
 15 'Then Jesus — from Galilee — the Jordan to be baptized by John' (Matthew 3:13) (4,2)  
 17 Coming to rest (Matthew 3:16) (8)  
 18 Provisional decree in divorce proceedings (4)  
 21 Long earnestly (Psalm 84:2) (5)  
 22 'Put these old rags and — clothes under your arms to pad the ropes' (Jeremiah 38:12) (4-3)  
 23 'He defends the cause of the — and the widow, and loves the alien' (Deuteronomy 10:18) (10)

### Down

- 1 Self-evident truths (Acts 19:36) (5)  
 2 'Open your eyes and look at the fields! They are — for harvest' (John 4:35) (4)  
 3 'Your great learning is driving you — ' (Acts 26:24) (6)  
 4 'Spring of water' on the borders of Judah and Benjamin (Joshua 15:9) (8)  
 5 Rile Eve (anag.) (7)  
 6 'Remember, O Lord, how I have walked before you — and with wholehearted devotion' (Isaiah 38:3) (10)  
 9 Paul was mistakenly suspected of leading 4000 of these into the desert (Acts 21:38) (10)  
 12 Relationship of an omer to an ephah (Exodus 16:36) (3,5)  
 14 Galilean home town of Mary, 'from whom seven demons had come out' (Luke 8:2) (7)  
 16 'If I tell you, you will not believe me, and if I asked you, you would not — ' (Luke 22:67-68) (6)  
 19 Fetters (Mark 5:4) (5)  
 20 'No good — bears bad fruit' (Luke 6:43) (4)