

Christ Church Information

S e p t e m b e r 2 0 0 1

Revd Celia Thomson,
Christ Church Vicarage, 16 Copse Hill, London, SW20 0HG
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Dear Friends,

Autumn is a time of new beginnings for anyone connected with schools, colleges or universities. My best wishes go to all children starting new schools, new classes or new courses, and to those young people leaving home for the first time. For parents too it can be an anxious time, wondering whether their children will be happy in the new situations that await them. But we can never stand still in life; God is always calling us forward to the future that awaits us.

Our Autumn course this year will be a series of six discussion groups on *Science and Religion*, subtitled *In conflict or growing together?* This promises to be a very interesting topic with plenty to talk about.

As you know, we do need to do some fund raising and your support will be much appreciated at the Barn Dance (29 September), Cynthia Aird's Coffee Morning (16 October)

and one or two other events of which you will be advised.

We are also hoping to have a Quiet Day for Advent on Saturday 1st December but as we go to press I am still awaiting confirmation of the venue. Every so often we need to take time out of our busy lives to reflect on the big themes of the Christian faith; so we need to take Advent seriously in order to celebrate Christmas properly.

All best wishes

Celia Thomson

PEACE
BE TO
YOU.



Thought for Autumn

Your prayers make a difference...

Several people have asked me recently about names on the prayer list that we include in our prayers week by week.

If I know that someone in the parish is ill or in hospital for an operation, then I try to put them on the list for a few weeks until they are better. Other names are added when people ask me to include them for various reasons; they may be friends or relatives who are ill or who have had an accident, or former members of the congregation who have moved away. Please remember that anyone can ask for anyone to be included.

On our current list Islay Aylwin, Hilary Brazier, Richard Jackson and Veronica Roberts are members of the congregation for whom our prayers have been asked; Barbara Butler is a former member who has moved away and been in hospital; Lara Monaghan is a three-month-old baby with a serious heart condition whom I baptised in Kingston Hospital; and Merle Shaw is the mother of one of our congregation.

We have been praying for John Winter for the last three years or so. John suffered a very severe stroke at about the age of 40 from which he has been climbing back ever since. He has made wonderful progress and, from being very disabled and dependent, is now able to live on his own again. He used to have a very high-powered job but is now optimistic about working in catering. The knowledge that we have been praying for him has apparently given him great comfort and hope.

So it means a great deal both to those who are being prayed for, and to their relatives and friends, to know that they are remembered in church. Please also remember them in your prayers at home.

the Season **2001**



I wrote the 'Thought' you have just read before I went on holiday, before the devastating terrorist attacks on the USA on 11 September. Not just now, but in the weeks and months to come, our prayers are and will be needed - for the wounded, the relatives and friends of those who died, for the emergency services and all those dealing with the aftermath of the tragedy, and for the citizens of New York struggling to come to terms with and cope with their loss.

*We need to pray, too, for wisdom and discernment for those with the responsibility of world leadership at this time. None of us ever knows what the future holds, and at the moment it looks as though it could be dark. But our hope is in a God who, in Jesus, came to share in the darkness of horror and grief, to be a light shining in the darkness,
a light which no darkness can overcome.*

Celia Thomson

Saturday 3rd November 10:00am

All Souls

**A service in church
to commemorate the departed.**

A Walk in the

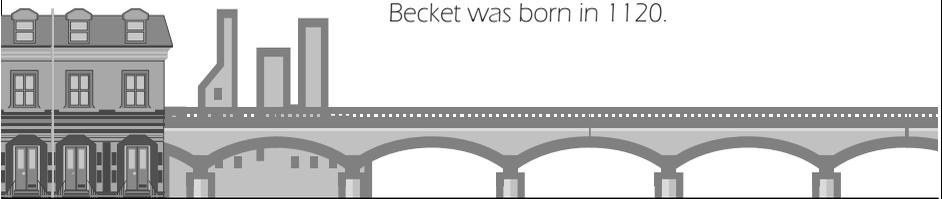
Dr Johnson, in the early 18th century, said 'If you wish to have a notion of the magnitude of this great City you must not be satisfied with seeing its great streets and squares but must survey the innumerable little lanes and courts.'

This is what our guide, John Barrett, did when he took a group from Christ Church around the City, on a sunny day in late July. We met on the steps of St. Paul's cathedral where John gave us a very brief history of the cathedral before we moved off to Amen Corner. Here is a row of houses completed in 1673 for the clergy of the cathedral, and still has 'snuffers' outside the front doors. This is where the torchman would extinguish his torch after guiding you to your home. This was in the days before street lighting!

Then on to look at the south portico of the cathedral, where the word 'Resurgam' can be seen above the windows. This recalls the story that when Wren had decided on the position of the centre of the dome he got a labourer to bring him a flat stone to mark the spot. The labourer went to a pile of rubble, picked up a stone and returned with it to Wren. It was part of a grave stone, and engraved on it was the word 'Resurgam' (I shall rise again). So into Cheapside, after passing the Cathedral choir school, and St. Paul's Cross where the 'City Fathers' met many centuries ago.

Our first stop in Cheapside was at St. Mary le Bow. Popular legend has it was the bells of this church that recalled Dick Whittington to London as he was leaving it - and that on his return he made his fortune. In the churchyard is a fine statue to Captain John Smith. He was the leader of an expedition to America in 1606 which established a settlement at Jamestown, Virginia. Whilst charting the area he was taken prisoner by unfriendly Indians and would have been put to death, if he had not been saved by the Chief's 12 years old daughter, Princess Pocahontas.

So into Bow Lane. In Victorian times huge mirrors were hung on the outside walls of buildings to reflect light into the offices. Then after crossing Cheapside into Iremonger Lane, another medieval lane whose shape has not changed for 1,000 years. It was in a house, on the corner of this lane and Cheapside that Thomas Becket was born in 1120.



Square Mile

by John Barrett

So to Guildhall - the centre of Government and Civic Authority in the City of London. Here meets the governing body of the City called the Court of Common Council. This Council is different to other local authorities as:

Common Council not set up by Act of Parliament as are all local authorities (because Common Council around before there was a Parliament)

No political parties unlike local authorities.

We were then told something of the history of the building, parts of which date from 1411, and of great events that have taken place there. Also, a line of black stones were pointed out which mark the outline of a Roman amphitheatre, which was not rediscovered until 1988, and dates from around AD100.

Round the back of Guildhall we went into a garden, originally where St. Mary's church, Aldermanbury stood . It was destroyed in the bombing of 1940, and what remained shipped to Westminster College, Fulton, Missouri where it was restored as a memorial to Winston Churchill.

So to one of the busiest road junctions in London, where we stopped to look at the Royal Exchange, Bank of England and Mansion House, the official residence of the Lord Mayor of London. This building dates from the 18th century, and was modelled on the lines of an Italian palace, with an open courtyard in the centre. However, after 25 summers it was realised that English summers were not like the Italian ones and the courtyard was covered in.

Our penultimate stop was at the Temple of Mithras, found nearby in 1954. It was 18 feet below ground when found. The Temple has been dated to around 240 AD, as a place of worship for the religious cult of Mithraism which was popular in the Roman army at this time.

*From here we made our way back to
St. Paul's for our final stop, and so
to the Crypt for food and drink!*





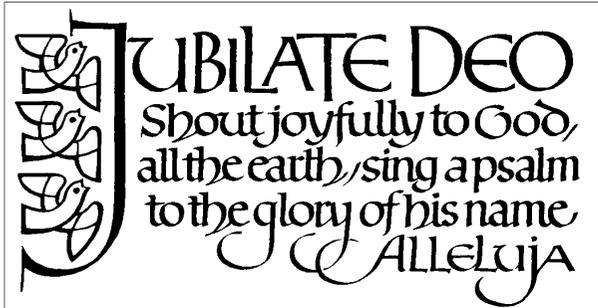
Musical Sites & Sounds



Can and Dec, the Mag and Nunc, Harwood in A flat, Responses by Smith: part of the everyday language of those who sing the services in our Cathedrals. At the beginning of August I went on a week's course entitled *English Cathedral Music - Sites and Sounds*. We lived on the campus of York University, a group of 32, nearly all churchgoers and including Anglicans, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Lutherans and a Roman Catholic. Almost a quarter were American, and a few from Holland and Switzerland. Most of us sang in choirs at home, and there were a handful of part-time organists and one priest.



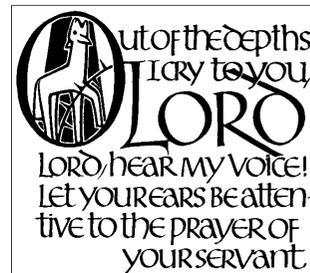
Our course tutor was a music critic and part-owner of a music bookshop in York, and



sang tenor for five years in the Minster choir. The idea was to see the buildings, and hear them "brought to life" by the music. After a talk on the outline of choral evensong, we attended the service at York Minster, and later in the week at Durham and Ripon Cathedrals. It being August, there was a visiting choir at each place. Afterwards we had an expert appraisal of the choir from the tutor. The one at York was a choir of men and boys from the Royal School of Church Music northern summer course; at Durham and Ripon we heard mixed parish church choirs from Beckenham and Wokingham.



We also visited Beverley Minster, where the Director of Music, a friend of our tutor, showed us the medieval carvings of musicians and gave a short organ recital. In the lecture room at York we were taken through the history of Cathedral music from the temple at Jerusalem through Gregorian chant and the Reformation to the



present day, with examples on CD. We also learned about pipe organs, psalm singing, and how Cathedral choirs work, and there was an optional lecture on stained glass (the musical connection being the Elgar window at Worcester).

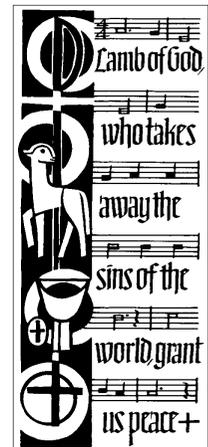


The Mag(nificat) and the Nunc (Dimittis) are of course the evensong canticles, for which Harwood in A flat is one of many English settings. Can(toris) and Dec(ani) are the Latin names for the two sides of the choir, which generally sing alternate verses of the psalm; in the opinion of Martin Dreyer, the course tutor, the psalms, in Anglican Chant, are the hardest part of the service to sing well, and when listening, we should put the book away and see if we can hear the words.

None of this can happen without the opening Versicle and Response:

O Lord, open thou our lips.

And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.



Simon Rocksborough Smith

Harvest

by Pat Spencer

With communities in Britain still suffering from the terrible foot and mouth epidemic and many crop yields down after last winter's heavy rains which resulted in waterlogged fields, this has been a depressing year for Britain's farmers. In many parts of the world weather conditions and disruption caused by wars and natural disasters mean that for their farmers most seasons are very difficult. So as we celebrate harvest at Christ Church and remember our own farmers we need to remember again those parts of the world where people are malnourished or starving and where outside expertise can help turn round the situation.

Our collections on Harvest Sunday will be divided between Water Aid, working to provide clean water and simple sanitation in parts of Africa and Asia, and Farm Africa, trying to make good stock and drought-resistant crops available to families and helping teach techniques that can improve yields.

Both charities aim to give people the opportunity to improve their lives and the lives of other people in their communities.

People like 12 year old Napoga Gurigo living in Ghana, who has little time to play with her friends and no time to go to school as she spends six hours a day collecting water for her family at a muddy hole just half a kilometre from her village. It takes so long as she must wait to take her turn for each bucket and collection is very slow due to the need to dig into the ground to extract the water. Or farmers in Northern Kenya, including the nomadic Samburu people, suffering the worst drought in living memory. Let us remember them as we read and consider the following Samburu blessing:

*May God raise you up
above everything.
Spread out like
water of a lake.
Be abundance that
never ends, that
never changes.
Be like a mountain.
Be like a camel.
Be like a cloud –
a cloud that brings rain
always.
And God promised
that it would be so.*



FARM Africa
Making a lasting difference to Africa's families

FARM-Africa

9-10 Southampton Place,
London WC1A 2EA

Telephone: 020 7430 0440

Fax: 020 7430 0460

email:

farmafrica@farmafrica.org.uk

website: www.farmafrica.org.uk

WaterAid

WaterAid

Prince Consort House
27-29 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7UB

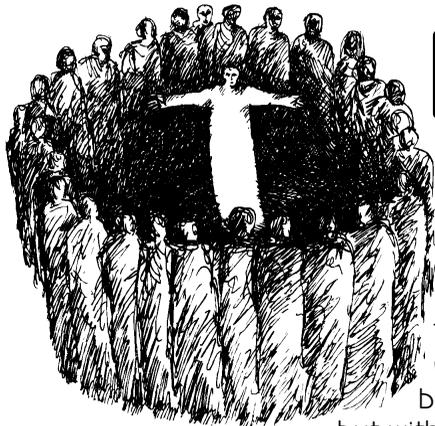
Telephone: 020 7793 4500

Fax: 020 7793 4545

Email: general enquiries -
infrmation@wateraid.org.uk

website: www.wateraid.org.uk

DIOCESAN CERTIFICATE IN BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL STUDY



For the past year I have been on a relatively new course organised by the training department of Southwark Cathedral, on a Wednesday evening, along with about thirty-five other people from all over the diocese, and from all walks of life.

The course is for thinking Christians who want to understand their faith better-it is delivered mainly by lecture, but with plenty of opportunity for discussion.

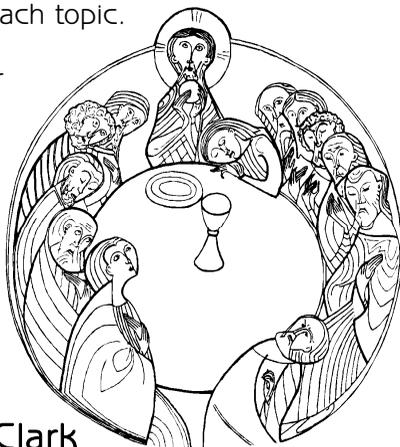
In order to get a full certificate (presented in the cathedral), you are asked to do four short assignments, one in each subject area, but these are not compulsory.

The areas covered are, taking a term each: The Bible; Doctrine; Ethics; Worship and Spirituality. Of particular interest to me was the first session on the Old Testament, where I learnt more in six weeks about the history of the Jews and their faith than I had learnt during the rest of my life! Doctrine was more difficult because of its philosophical bias; ethics was extremely thought provoking and provoked much deep discussion. Each term's course can be taken over a period of years and the fee is very reasonable.

A comprehensive book list is given for each topic.

I can heartily recommend this course for anyone wishing to increase their knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith and its role in the world today.

For further information
telephone
Sue Maree:
020 7378 7506.



Brenda Clark

SATURDAY 29 SEPTEMBER

7:00-10:00 pm

BARN DANCE

Tickets £10 adults £5 children

Family ticket £27

To include a barbecue supper

All ages welcome

No previous experience necessary!

Bring your friends and neighbours

S C I E N C E & R E L I G I O N

In conflict or growing together?

Six Wednesday evening discussion groups

3, 10, 17, 31 October, 7 & 28 November

7.45 for 8 pm Truman Room

COFFEE MORNING

In aid of Church Funds

Tuesday 16th October

10 am - 12 noon

1 Rosevine Road, SW20

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- 25 Nov** *Christ the King*
Christmas Cake Sale
- 28 Nov** 8:00pm Science and
Religion Discussion Group
- 1 Dec** Quiet Day / Morning
- 2 Dec** *Advent Sunday*
11:15am Open House at
the Vicarage
3:30pm Christingle Service
followed by tea
- 3 Dec** 8:00pm Deanery Synod
- 4 Dec** 11:00am Holy Communion
- 6 Dec** 9:30am Holy Communion
- 7 Dec** 6:00pm Guides and
Brownies Carol Service
- 9 Dec** *The Second Sunday of
Advent*
- 13 Dec** 9:30am Holy Communion
- 16 Dec** *The Third Sunday of
Advent*
10:00am Junior Church
Nativity Presentation

- 20 Dec** 9:30am Holy Communion
- 23 Dec** *The Fourth Sunday of
Advent*
6:30pm Carol Service
followed by mulled wine
and mince pies
- 24 Dec** *Christmas Eve*
4:00pm Crib Service
11:30pm Midnight Mass
- 25 Dec** *Christmas Day*
8:00am Holy Communion
10:00am Christmas Parish
Eucharist
- 27 Dec** 9:30am Holy Communion -
St John the Evangelist
- 30 Dec** *The First Sunday of
Christmas*



The Bruno Bear Club

Bruno Bear News

Please Contact Clare or Louise for
details/dates for Bruno this term.

Louise Roberts
(020 8879 0971)
Clare Pickard
(020 8947 2196)

Christ Church 'Information'

C H U R C H D I A R Y

September to December 2001



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| 23 Sept <i>The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity</i> | 21 Oct <i>The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity</i> |
| 29 Sept 7-10:00pm Barn Dance | 28 Oct <i>Bible Sunday</i> |
| 30 Sept <i>The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity</i>
10:00am Dedication of Wootton Memorial Cross | 30 Oct 8:00pm Churches Together in West Wimbledon <i>Holy Cross</i> |
| 2 Oct 11:00am Holy Communion | 31 Oct 8:00pm Science and Religion Discussion Group |
| 3 Oct 8:00pm Science and Religion Discussion Group | 1 Nov 7:30pm Holy Communion All Saints
8:00pm PCC Meeting |
| 4 Oct 9:30am Holy Communion | 3 Nov 10:00am Commemoration of the Departed |
| 7 Oct <i>HARVEST THANKSGIVING</i> | 4 Nov <i>All Saints Sunday</i> |
| 9 Oct 7:30 Diocesan medium-term planning consultation meeting chaired by Bishop Tom <i>St John's Waterloo</i> | 6 Nov 11:00am Holy Communion
8:00pm Finance Committee |
| 10 Oct 8:00pm Science and Religion Discussion Group | 7 Nov 8:00pm Science and Religion Discussion Group |
| 11 Oct 9:30am Holy Communion | 8 Nov 9:30am Holy Communion |
| 14 Oct <i>The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity</i> | 11 Nov <i>The Third Sunday before Advent - Remembrance</i> |
| 16 Oct 10:00am-12 noon Coffee Morning <i>1 Rosevine Road</i> | 15 Nov 9:30am Holy Communion |
| 17 Oct 8:00pm Science and Religion Discussion Group | 18 Nov <i>The Second Sunday before Advent</i> |
| 18 Oct 9:30am Holy Communion - St Luke | 22 Nov 9:30am Holy Communion |

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