

Christ Church Information

August 2002

**Revd Celia Thomson,
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Dear Friends,

Many of our church community will already have been on holiday and many will still have that pleasure in store. Wherever you have been or are going, I hope that you have enjoyed the change of scene and found refreshment away from the pressures of daily life. But don't forget that there are very many people in this country for whom a holiday is an unattainable dream.

For those of us who are not going away in August there are several things to look forward to, principally the Summer Concert on Sunday 18 August. Seraphina Davey will be our soloist in Mozart's Clarinet Concerto; Seraphina is hoping to go to University College, Oxford, in the autumn to read Classics. She has been one of our bell-ringers for several years and I shall miss her summons to Evensong at 6.15 every Sunday.

Everyone is most welcome to come to the Vicarage garden for tea on Thursdays 8th and 15th August between 3 and 5 pm. The weather has never let us down yet, so let's hope this year is not a first. We are also organizing an outing to Polsden Lacey on Thursday 22nd August.

Let's hope we get some summer sunshine for all our activities.

All best wishes

Celia Thomson

PEACE
BE TO
YOU.



Thought for the Season

August 2002



August is harvest time in the fields and this month also gives us a good crop of saints, beginning with Dominic and ending with Aidan. Dominic (1170 -1221) is remembered on 4th August. He was born in Spain and founded the Dominican Order of Friars Preachers. The next day we remember Oswald king and martyr, who invited Aidan from Iona to preach in his kingdom of Northumbria and acted as his interpreter on his missionary journeys.

Lawrence the Deacon is commemorated on 10 August, the day he was put to death in Rome in the year 258. According to tradition, when asked to hand over the Church's treasures, he assembled the poor and sick and said, "These are the treasures of the Church". He was put to death by roasting on a grid. Clare of Assisi (c1194 - 1253) is next, on 11 August. Clare followed St Francis in his life of poverty and service; she was one of the foremost medieval contemplatives and the first woman to write a religious Rule of Life.

Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux (1090 -1153), is remembered on 20 August. He reformed the Cistercian order and was one of the great preachers and theologians of medieval times. On 24 August, the Apostle Bartholomew is commemorated. It's thought that Bartholomew is Nathaniel, who recognises Jesus for who he is and proclaims him as Son of God and King of Israel (John 1:45-49).

Monica, mother of Augustine is remembered on 27 August, the day before her son. It is difficult to overestimate the influence of Augustine (354-430), Bishop of Hippo, on the subsequent development of European thought. A huge body of his sermons and writings has been preserved, through all of which runs the theme of the sovereignty of the grace of God.

Aidan, Bishop of Lindisfarne, died on 31 August 651. From the island of Lindisfarne, or Holy Island, he was able to combine a monastic lifestyle with missionary journeys to the mainland and his influence spread far beyond Northumbria. His preaching and his concern for the poor made him much loved and revered.

And in between all these international figures of Christianity, we also remember this month our own saints: Mary Sumner, who founded the Mothers' Union; Jeremy Taylor, the great 17th century Bishop of Winchester; Florence Nightingale; William and Catherine Booth, who founded the Salvation Army; and John Bunyan.

Who will be the saints remembered from our generation?

Celia Thomson

THE LIFE OF CHRIST

An Open Air Play in Three Acts

On Saturday, 30 June a party from Christ Church joined approximately three thousand others on the Wintershall Estate at Bramley, near Guildford to watch and be actively involved in a play about 'The Life of Christ'.

Those with folding chairs sat behind those sitting directly on the grass. We were blessed with wonderful weather - not too hot to be unbearable but warm and sunny enough to make it a pleasure to sit outside all day long and watch the play unfold.

The play was set in Israel, centred on Bethlehem, Jerusalem and Galilee about 2,000 years ago and followed the childhood, ministry and passion of Jesus Christ on earth, His death, Resurrection and Ascension.

The play was divided into three Acts with Act One telling us about the birth and growth to childhood of Jesus. Act Two opened with Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist and was followed by His first miracle, that of turning water into wine at the Wedding at Cana. Act Two also included the Sermon on the Mount, the woman taken in adultery and the feeding of the 5,000 when bread really was brought to all of us in the audience by Jesus' followers. In Act Three the capture of Jesus was portrayed and His willing acceptance of Crucifixion and His obedience to the Holy Scriptures. We saw Jesus humiliated and then, as a group of three thousand, we moved to another location to see His Crucifixion and, on route, we saw Judas hanging in a tree. After His death and burial the play ended with the triumph of Jesus' Resurrection and Ascension.

Taking part in the play was a cast of over one hundred and fifty people and many children from three local schools also took part in crowd scenes. Everyone was dressed in the costume of the day and 'The Life of Christ' really did 'come to life for us'. The part of Jesus as a man was played brilliantly by Simon Hemingway. He brought depth, compassion and humour to the role and conveyed Jesus' teachings in a simple and uncomplicated manner - exactly how one would have imagined Jesus teaching 2000 years ago. I particularly remember the point in the play when Jesus told all those listening 'Pray then in this way' and went on to say The Lord's Prayer which came across so simply and yet so powerfully.

'The Life of Christ' was written and adapted from the Holy Bible by Peter Huntley. On the back of the official programme it says that the Wintershall version of the Life of Christ is produced to give thanks for His coming 2000 years ago and inside the front cover of the programme are four quotations from the Bible and I leave you with one of them: "A new commandment I give you, love one another as I have loved you" (John 13: 34).

BRENDA THURGOOD



WHEN? *Wednesday evenings.*
WHERE? *Southwark Cathedral.*
TIME? *6.30 pm - 9.00 pm.*
HOW LONG? *18 September 2002-2 July 2003.*

COFFEE BREAK? YES!

INTERESTED? IN WHAT?

Southwark Diocesan Certificate in Biblical and Theological Studies

The enrolment form for the above course says that it is 'for thinking Christians who want to understand their faith better'.

Having just completed the course I can thoroughly recommend it - not only for its content but also for the quality of the course tutors and the companionship of being part of a forty strong group.

So what does the course cover? Fourteen weeks are spent on the Bible. How it was put together, the background to its various writings, dealing with its difficulties and contradictions and relating the Bible to our faith and experience today. In the seven week Old Testament module we looked at the Hebrew Bible, we studied Documentary Theory and the meaning of the words 'Cherem' and 'Holiness'. We discussed the women of the Hebrew Bible and then went on to look at 'Men Behaving Badly'. We looked at the Prophets and the Exile, at the Psalms and Worship and the relationship between the 'Old' and 'New' Testaments. In the seven week New Testament module we looked at the theology of Mark, Matthew, Luke and John and the life and times of Paul and eschatology - the end is nigh.. or is it?

Following quickly on from the Bible study modules we had six intensive weeks on Doctrine. Fascinating. What do we mean when we say the Creed? How does it connect with our daily lives? What is the Trinity all about? What happens when we die? Doctrine is a response to circumstances - where Christianity might be threatened and so we learnt about the early Church and how it defined itself. We looked at models of salvation, at Christianity and violence and evil and suffering.

Next came five weeks on ethics. What is good and what is right. Do you have to be a Christian to be good. We discussed sex, marriage and relationships; work, money and politics and how to try and make moral decisions.

The final five sessions of the course concentrated on worship and spirituality. Where does our church worship come from? What is really going on in baptism, at
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the Eucharist and what resources are there in history and tradition to help us grow in prayer, devotion and spiritual maturity?

Apart from being given half term breaks and generous Christmas and Easter holidays we were also given four essay assignments to complete! On the first evening of the course we were introduced to the library at Southwark Cathedral and, armed with reading lists, we were able to select books to help us in our research. Through completing the assignments I now know a lot more about a number of subjects. For instance: Jeremiah and Ezekiel; Tolstoy (love as the supreme law of life); Matthew's gospel; the Christian Creeds; and aspects of marriage in this modern age.

As you can see from above, the variety of topics covered was enormous but there was always time to ask questions, debate key issues and enjoy a well earned coffee break and, if time allowed, a swift drink in the nearby pub on the bridge.

I thoroughly recommend the course to anyone who can spare a Wednesday evening.

Details from: Sue Maree, Diocesan Training Administrator on 020 7378 7506. The cost is £90 for the whole year.

BRENDA THURGOOD

CHRISTIAN CARE ASSOCIATION - CAMP SPONSORSHIP

Christian Care, an interdenominational local charity, is sending seventeen children between the ages of eight and fifteen to two camps, based at Halls Green in Kent. These Falcon camps are run by the Church Pastoral Aid Society and are aimed at inner city children in deprived areas. The camps cost £95 per child, and in addition we give pocket money and a Bible to each camper. The children selected come from families who are not able to afford to go on holiday and who live in difficult circumstances. Some have lived in Merton all their lives; others have recently arrived in the borough as refugees, having fled their own countries because of war or persecution.

We would be very grateful for any donations towards the cost of sending these children to camp this year. If you are able to contribute financially or would like further information about the work of Christian Care, please contact Julia Evans at 36 Pepys Road, London SW20 8PF. Tel: 020 8879 0729 (evenings/weekends).

ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY June 2002

Dear Colleagues

Since I launched Jerusalem 2000, for the Endangered Church of the Holy Land in May 2000 the Appeal has raised £1.4 million of the original £1.5 million target. I want to thank all those who have contributed to the Appeal in the name of our Lord. Thanks to the considerable generosity of individuals, parishes, cathedral congregations and many school children, this money has been raised for thirty-three medical, educational and church-related projects in the Diocese of Jerusalem. Much of this is now being used to build and upgrade schools, hospitals and churches. It is here that a long tradition of excellence bears faithful witness to the love of God in Christ.

Although the work focuses on the Anglican Church and Anglicans have raised the bulk of the money, **J2000** supports the whole community. It is a ministry of reconciliation aiming to underpin the work of those who build for peace and justice in the lives of our brothers and sisters in that war-torn land and it is in the light of their continuing and ever more urgent need that I have extended the campaign.

Grants have been used to provide ventilators and a neo-natal resuscitation unit at St Luke's Hospital in Nablus and in the development of the Al Ali Hospital, Gaza which remains open only with the help of overseas aid. A community centre, used primarily by families, has just been built with Jerusalem 2000 funds at St Paul's Church, Shefr Amre. Sports facilities enrich the lives of school children in Amman. The Theodor Schneller School has a new sewerage system thanks to the appeal. In Beirut, St Luke's Home and School for severely disabled children is being built and in Jerusalem further facilities for training deaf children will be undertaken as funds become available. The Priest's House in Raineih is nearing completion and schools serving the community in Ramallah, at the Evangelical Episcopal School, and Nazareth, at Christ Church School, are being built and extended.

Although relatively small scale, this demonstration of practical care is beginning to make a real impact on the lives of a threatened community. As the fund increases, further grants will show even greater solidarity with the remnant of the Church of the Holy Land.

In 1948 Christians represented 20% of the population of the Holy Land. Today, they are 1.5%, just 130,000 Christians. In 1967 there were 30,000 Christians in Jerusalem. Today, there are 9,000. When I began this appeal in May 2000, at the beginning of the latest Intifada, some 80 Christian families were leaving the Bethlehem area.

Over the past two years our giving has been undergirded by prayer; prayer for the people of Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Ramallah, Jenin and Gaza; prayer for those Christians who have chosen to stay in their homeland and for all those who have been the victims of terror: both Arab and Jew.

We pray for those who are building bridges by bearing suffering with love and who follow the example of Our Lord, His strength in the face of cruelty and death.

It is in our faith in the Risen Lord that together we seek justice with peace for all where there is no place for division by violence or hatred.

THIS IS THE LAST LETTER I SHALL WRITE ABOUT THE JERUSALEM 2000. IF YOU ARE ABLE IN ONE FINAL ACT OF GENEROSITY TO HELP ME RAISE A FURTHER £100,000 TOWARDS OUR TARGET I SHALL BE SO DELIGHTED, O PRAY FOR THE PEACE OF JERUSALEM'.

Yours in Christ's name.

Further details may be obtained from:
Anne Barker, Jerusalem 2000
Lambeth Palace, London SE1 7JU

Telephone : 020 7898 1290
www.jerusalem2000.org.uk



CHRIST CHURCH COMMENT COLUMN

Welcome to a new comment column in Christ Church Information intended to focus on a topical issue in the light of the Gospel and Christian theology.

The views expressed are personal and those of the writer. Who else would like to have a go - come on, here is your soap box!

“I am the Queen’s loyal subject, but God’s first”

Theology and Monarchy - a post Jubilee comment

Before we progress any further I am not a republican: I am in agreement with those who say, ‘God save the Queen, long live the Queen and long may she reign over us.’ The thought of a President Arthur Scargill, or President John Prescott should fill any one with horror - or, God forbid, imagine a President Margaret Thatcher, or President Tony Blair. No, republicanism is one mistake that this country has managed to avoid over the last three hundred years. We have a system that divides status and power: ultimate status is imbued in the monarch, power in the prime minister. The monarch is anointed for life (not elected, not appointed, but anointed). Prime Ministers come and go (thank God) but the stability is still there. Just look at America - two presidents impeached in a generation, or the Soviet Union ruled with a steel fist by ruthless dictator presidents. Thank God we have divided the status and power and we have the stability of a monarch that represents more than mere temporal power.

However, monarchy is not beyond criticism. Also we must decide where our loyalties as Christians lie. During last winter one of the tabloid newspapers ranted against Muslims in this country for answering, when questioned, that God came first, loyalty to Britain second. Unfortunately I fear that if many Anglicans were questioned they would put monarch and country first, God second. Sir Thomas More in the 1530s when pressed even in the face of treason charges and execution refused to acknowledge Henry VIII’s Act of Succession saying, “I am the King’s loyal servant, but God’s first.” In 1923 Eric Liddell (immortalised in the film Chariots of Fire) refused to run in the Olympics on a Sunday. When pressed by the Prince of Wales and by various peers of the realm he refused to change his stand - declaring that it was God first, King second. It beholds us all to give the glory, the honour, to God. (Thomas a’ Becket knew only too well the tensions of divided allegiance and what loyalty to God cost.)

What is the measure of any monarch? Simple, the gospel of Jesus Christ. Indeed it is the person of Jesus Christ who is the measure of all humanity - Christian or Muslim, pagan or heathen, the Last Judgement applies to all. In recent months there has been

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universal acknowledgement of the steadfastness, endurance, dedication and self-giving service in the life of the Queen Mother, likewise in Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Whether people realise it or not this is because of the way their lives measure up against the gospel. Can the same be said of the Queen's children? And remember that as Christians we have a divine commission not to simply accept the behaviour of others unquestioningly - not to judge, that is dangerous - but we are our brother's keeper, and our sister's too. We must not deny this critical faculty when faced with rulers (for example, Nathan before David - 2 Samuel 11 & 12). Anglicans should not regard the monarchy uncritically - but then neither should Roman Catholics regard the Vatican with unquestioning loyalty. Look at monarchy in the bible - it does not often get a very good press (e.g. Exodus 14; 1 Samuel 8 & 15:11; Matthew 2:16-17; Acts 12), and we must remember that the Kingdom of God is not of this world, that Christ is our King (unlike those appealing to Pilate in John 19:12-15), God in Christ is the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, and our true loyalties should echo the beliefs of Thomas More and Eric Liddell.

Paul Brazier

CHRIST CHURCH BOOK GROUP

Do you enjoy having a good read? Have you heard that some of us meet each month to discuss a book?

Back in January, Colin Holloway started the group. We talked over the books we wanted to tackle and set the arrangements, deciding to meet at different houses each month. A convenient time was 8:00 pm, and we break off for tea or coffee at 9:15, before leaving at about 9:45. We have a set of questions to stimulate us.

There was never any difficulty in getting the conversation going, and often quite contrasting viewpoints have been expressed. Personally, I have found it a wonderful way of being introduced to books I might not have chosen for myself. Add to that the bonus of an enjoyable social occasion where you meet different people. Here are a the books on our list:

P.D. James Death in Holy orders

David Starkey Elizabeth

Lorna Sage Bad Blood

Mark Oakley Collage of God

Tracy Chevalier Girl with the Pearl Earring

George Eliot Middlemarch

Salley Vickers Miss Garnett's Angel

Nick Hornby How to be good

Not everyone can manage each meeting. So far I have discussed a book on the bus, by the church gate, and even in the Supermarket. So, if you want to widen your outlook, do come and join us!

Cynthia Aird



THURSDAY COMMUNION

*What do you do on
Thursdays at 9.30 am?*

A few of us gather week by week to celebrate a quiet service of Holy Communion. We're a small but dedicated few so more regular or occasional visitors would be most welcome.

It's hard to overestimate the beneficial effects of this oasis of quiet worship. If your only experience of a communion service is the Sunday 10 am service, then try this 25-minute said service and enjoy the difference.



The Bruno Bear Club
Bruno Bear News

Please Contact
Clare or Louise for details/dates
for Bruno over the summer.

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

Bruno

Sunday 18 August 7.45

SUMMER CONCERT

Handel : *The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba*
Mozart : *Clarinet Concerto*
and other music.

Soloist : Seraphina Davey

Tickets £5 (£3) to include a glass of wine or soft drink.

Millennium Bridge

The next Church walk will include
The Millennium Bridge
and be on the morning of
Saturday, 21 September
Full details at Church from end August

John Barrett

CALLING ALL JAM MAKERS

***If you are making jam this summer please
could you make a few extra pots for our
CHRISTMAS FAIR on Saturday 16 November.***

***We also plan to sell bulbs in pots and baskets
so please collect these for us. Many thanks.***

Christ Church 'Information'

C H U R C H D I A R Y

August 2002



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|--------|---|---------|--|
| 1 Aug | 9:30 am Holy Communion | 8 Sept | <i>Trinity 15</i>
The Revd Vic Read |
| 3 Aug | 2:30 pm Wedding of Sarah Ali and John McCarter
4:00 pm Wedding of Janet Rainbow and Colin King | 15 Sept | <i>Trinity 16</i> |
| 4 Aug | <i>Trinity 10</i> | 17 Sept | 8:00 pm Churches Together Meeting Raynes Park Methodist Church |
| 6 Aug | 11:00 am Holy Communion | 19 Sept | 9:30 am Holy Communion |
| 8 Aug | 9:30 am Holy Communion
3:00-5:00 pm Tea at the Vicarage | 21 Sept | Parish Walk |
| 11 Aug | <i>Trinity 11</i> | 22 Sept | <i>Trinity 17</i> |
| 15 Aug | 9:30 am Holy Communion
3:00-5:00 pm Tea at the Vicarage | 26 Sept | 9:30 am Holy Communion |
| 18 Aug | <i>Trinity 12</i>
7:45 pm SUMMER CONCERT | 29 Sept | <i>St Michael and All Angels</i> |
| 22 Aug | 9:30 am Holy Communion
Outing to Poldsen Lacey | 1 Oct | 11:00 am Holy Communion |
| 23 Aug | 2:00 pm Wedding of Elizabeth Rocksborough Smith and Alex Richards | 3 Oct | 9:30 am Holy Communion |
| 24 Aug | 2:00 pm Wedding of Jason Collins and Sarah Conway | 6 Oct | <i>Harvest Thanksgiving</i> |
| 25 Aug | <i>Trinity 13</i> | 10 Oct | 9:30 am Holy Communion |
| 28 Aug | 8:00 pm PCC Meeting | 12 Oct | 2:00 pm Wedding of Tina Freeman and Julian Bell |
| 29 Aug | 9:30 am Holy Communion | 13 Oct | <i>Trinity 20</i> |
| 1 Sept | <i>Trinity 14</i> | 17 Oct | 9:30 am Holy Communion |
| 3 Sept | 11:00 am Holy Communion | 20 Oct | <i>Trinity 21</i> |
| 7 Sept | 3:00 pm Wedding of Charlotte Fairs and Graeme Pagitt | 24 Oct | 9:30 am Holy Communion |
| | | 27 Oct | <i>Bible Sunday</i> |

But hallow the
LORD
CHRIST
in your hearts