

Christ Church Information

A u t u m n 2 0 0 2

Revd Celia Thomson,
Christ Church Vicarage, 16 Copse Hill, London, SW20 0HG
020 8946 4491 / email: cthomson@dircon.co.uk

Dear Friends,

The Autumn term is well underway for most of us and I hope that all the children in our community have settled well into new classes or new schools. We wish all those starting at university very well.

Our new Bishop of Kingston, Dr Richard Cheetham, will be consecrated on 17th October in Southwark Cathedral. This will be Dr Carey's last service consecrating new bishops before his retirement. The service itself is entry by ticket, but there will be a service of welcome for Bishop Richard in the Area on Thursday 31 October at 8 pm at Holy Trinity Clapham Common.

The time between now and Christmas will no doubt go very quickly with all the various activities everyone is involved

with. We haven't had a big sale for a while, so we have planned our Christ Church Fair on November 16th. Please tell your friends and neighbours about this as it will be a major fund raising event. But first we celebrate Harvest, giving thanks for God's gifts that we enjoy in this climate.

All best wishes

Celia Thomson

PEACE
BE TO
YOU.

Thought for the Season

Autumn 2002

It's hard for us to imagine the lives of the millions of people in southern Africa who are facing starvation. The poor of Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Lesotho and of course Zimbabwe are already suffering and the immediate future outlook is not good. An Oxfam briefing paper records: *"The causes of the food crisis are complex and vary from country to country. But in different proportions they reflect a mixture of poverty and vulnerability, bad weather ... bad advice from donors and economic collapse. High rates of HIV/Aids and a range of debilitating diseases have further sapped people's ability to cope. It's not Zimbabwe alone that is guilty of bad governance."*



Tim Morris, the director of the World Food Programme is quoted in the Zimbabwe Daily News (24 September 2002) as saying *"This is a very, very different crisis than anything we've seen before - HIV/Aids is laying siege to entire communities, decimating the workforce and putting an even heavier strain on already over-burdened and weak healthcare systems."*

It all sounds so overwhelming that we feel powerless to help. But from some of my correspondents in Zimbabwe I hear of Christian groups and individuals running food and medical aid projects in the face of all sorts of odds - the DZ feeding programme in Harare, Tsungirirai in Norton, Babygro's in Bulawayo and the Mothers' Union Widows' Desk, to mention but a few. They may not be able to feed everyone but they are making a difference to the lives of some people.



Our responsibility is not to give up on them, not to wash our hands of the situation, but to pray and do what we can to support them, so to keep hope alive for a better future.

Celia Thomson

The Lantern Café

The Lantern Café was set up just over five years ago by Churches Together in West Wimbledon (CTWW), the joint project of the four local Anglican churches that include Christ Church, plus the Methodists, the Sacred Heart parish and the Community Church. The Lantern is housed in a purpose-built section at the front of the Methodist Church at 195-205 Worple Road in Raynes Park.

Five years ago CTWW did some research and identified a gap in local provision. Above all, it was the problems of loneliness and a missing sense of community which needed addressing. The Café exists as a response to that research. Initiated in an ecumenical spirit, the Café's mission is to show God's love and give a welcome to all who visit it. More specifically, the Lantern Café is a place where people can meet informally with their friends, have a chat with the volunteer staff or enjoy a tea, coffee or meal in a sunny and relaxed environment.

The Lantern Café depends on the goodwill and time of its volunteers to keep it running. It is staffed by unpaid men and women from all ages and backgrounds. Some have heard about it through their parishes or through friends, others have come through Merton Volunteers Bureau.

The Lantern works closely with Merton Volunteers and has links with many community groups. The expertise which is available through the Lantern is extremely varied. If someone comes in with a specific query, we can usually help either with

advice or by referral to an agency for their particular need. We always aim to be there to have a chat with users of the Café, at the same time respecting the need for privacy and confidentiality.

During 2002 the Lantern Café has been reaching out to do more and to be more visible, particularly to the general public. The volunteers have been working hard to provide a wide range of food and drinks and to put the Café 'on the map' as a unique local resource. The Lantern has the biggest range of Traidcraft goods anywhere for miles, plus cards for all occasions.

CTWW have been continually supportive with time, guidance and financial input, and is now planning for the official re-launch of the Cafe, set for

**Wednesday November 20th
at 7 p.m.**

The Mayor of Merton has been invited and we hope she will be able to attend.

May I also take the opportunity of inviting all who are reading this article to come along as well. We want to thank you and take some time to share and celebrate.

John Vanek, Manager, Lantern Café
[0208947 2672 for queries about volunteer work, or call in and see me.]

A walk over the

A group from Church, on a sunny Saturday morning in September, met at Temple underground station for another of John Barrett's walks around London.

However, before going over the Millennium Bridge we had a look at some nearby statues and stopped to admire the 1st Viscount Astor's private house (now offices). We also saw the pub named 'Edgar Wallace'; Edgar as a boy had sold newspapers nearby.

We then found shelter from the noise of the traffic, along the Embankment, in Inner Temple and Middle Temple. Here John explained how the area had once been the London base of the Knights Templars and later the Knights Hospitallers before their suppression in 1539, when the property went to the Crown. Then in 1609 James I granted a lease in perpetuity to the members of Inner and Middle Temples.

We then went to look at some unspoilt attractive houses, in King's Bench Walk, dating from 1678. These properties are so unspoilt they have appeared in Vanity Fair, Oliver Twist and David Copperfield. Then into Church Court to see a bronze statue of two knights on one horse - it is uncertain whether this represents the Knights Templar lack of horses or a knight picking up a wounded Christian soldier! Here we also saw Temple church consecrated in 1185 by the Patriarch of Jerusalem. The ground plan of the church is unchanged since its foundation, but little remains of the original building. Unfortunately we were unable to go into the 16th century Middle Temple Hall, which has one of the finest hammer beam roofs in the country - we had to make do with looking at the exterior.

John then showed us the Gardens of Inner and Middle Temples. It was here, according to Shakespeare, the fateful quarrel took place between the Houses of Lancaster and York. Roses representing their two families were plucked here - red for Lancaster and white for York. This allegedly marked the start of the War of the Roses. It was also in these gardens that the Royal Horticultural

Millennium Bridge

Society held their Spring Show from 1888 to 1913 when it moved westward - and is now known as The Chelsea Flower Show.

So back to the Embankment and over Blackfriars bridge (originally built in 1766) which was officially named the 'William Pitt' bridge when built, but everyone called it Blackfriars and so it has remained. The present bridge dates from the early 20th century. We then walked along the South Bank for a few yards before the main purpose of our walk - which was to cross the Millennium Bridge. One or two in the group were rather disappointed there was not a slight wobble! When we crossed to the North Bank we had a look at the underside of the bridge to see where large shock absorbers and X-shaped braces had been fitted to steady the bridge.

Finally we had a look at a sundial erected in the Millennium Year which, providing the sun is shining, gives the time in Summer Time and also Greenwich Mean Time.

So to our final destination, at least for most of us, the crypt of St. Paul's Cathedral for refreshments.

*Illustration from ARUP's website :
<http://www.arup.com/MillenniumBridge/>
which contains fascinating details about the Millennium Bridge*



John Barrett

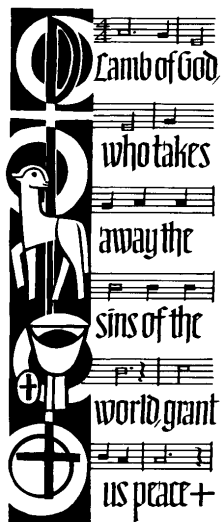


Musical Sites & Sounds



In August 2001, while on a cathedral music course at York, I was impressed by a summer choir from the Royal School of Church Music which was singing in the Minster. So during the winter I joined the RSCM, and in due course sent in an audition tape for a choir to sing in Salisbury Cathedral from 5th to 11th August 2002.

It was a mixed group of forty, nearly all of whom sing in their church choirs at home or even in cathedrals, and some of whom direct their church choirs. We stayed at Sarum College, the former theological college in the Cathedral close.



Our director for the week was Timothy Noon, recently appointed organist at St Davids Cathedral. He brought his whole family, his wife to sing soprano, their two small children, his mother to look after them, and his stepfather to accompany our rehearsals and play the organ for the services. We rehearsed all morning, had time off after

lunch, and rehearsed again in the Cathedral for an hour at four in the afternoon for that day's Evensong. Then there was another hour's rehearsing in the College after supper.

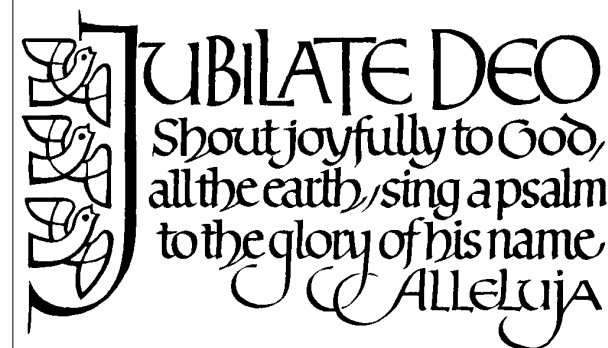
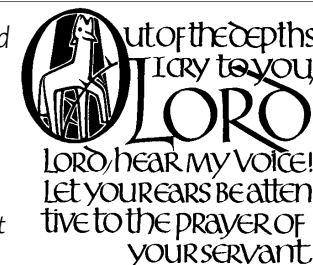
The challenge was the repertoire and the sheer number of services: Evensong every day from Tuesday to Saturday (except the Feast of the Transfiguration when it was a Eucharist), and three sung services on the final Sunday at 10.00, 11.30 and 3.00. That meant eight anthems, two mass settings, and six settings of the canticles (one morning and five evenings). None of the music was repeated except the Responses, of which we sang one of two different settings during the week. Four of the anthems I knew, but none of the other material. In rehearsal we tended to keep a day ahead, but longer for the more difficult pieces, which Timothy would introduce either first thing in the morning, or as a relaxed run through after supper. The better known works we might sing only twice before the service, and the Haydn mass for Sunday eucharist we did not start to look at until Saturday.

The psalms we always rehearsed from beginning to end, to get used to the words. There would be up to three of these of an evening, each with a different chant, and sometimes changing chant in the middle. I don't know if the Cathedral aims to work through all the psalms in a month, but it felt like it. Some of them

are quite unfamiliar: I had to avoid catching the eye of any of the women opposite while they sang, "The congregations of naughty men have sought after my soul" (Psalm 86, if you don't believe me).

The gates of the Close are locked at night, and so, although Salisbury was never a monastery, it was an experience of the cloistered life. At 7.30 on weekday mornings we could walk across the grass to the Dean's door in the Cathedral for a 40-minute Morning Worship and Holy Communion in the Trinity Chapel at the extreme east end. At dusk we could walk around the Close and meditate on the day - until one night I came face to face with a policeman brandishing a machine gun (it was all right: Sir Edward Heath was returning from a dinner party).

Simon Rocksborough Smith



WWW. World Wide Wonder Jesus@the Centre of Everything

Exploring Christianity Six Wednesday Evenings 16 Copse Hill, SW20 at 8 pm

Week 1

Why are we here?

2 October : Does God make a difference to our understanding of Life, Love and the Universe?

Week 2

Encountering Jesus 1 - his life and teaching

9 October : Who is Jesus? Why is his teaching still relevant today?

Week 3

Encountering Jesus 2 - death and resurrection

16 October : Why did Jesus die? What difference does it make to us?

Week 4

Spirit of the Living God

30 October : Is the Holy Spirit still at work in us and the world? How does the Spirit inform the life of the Church?

Week 5

The Church and the Sacraments

6 November : Why is Baptism our sign of membership of the Church? Why do we celebrate Holy Communion?

Week 6

The Living Word

13 November : Why is the Bible still the world's best-selling book? How is it relevant to our lives today?

Celia Thomson



But the angel
spoke and said
to the women
Do not be
afraid, for I
know that
you seek
Jesus, who
was crucified +
he is not here, for he has
risen even as he said +
Alleluja Alleluja Alleluja th



Notice Board



Saturday 2nd November
10 am

ALL SOULS

*The Commemoration
of the Departed*

We remember our loved ones
who have died.

* * *

Saturday 2nd November
7 - 10 pm

BARN DANCE

Tickets £10/£5
or Family ticket £25
to include delicious supper.
Drinks from the bar.
Good fun for all age groups.

* * *

Saturday 16 November
11 am - 4 pm

CHRIST CHURCH FAIR

Offers of help appreciated.

* * *

Wednesday 20 November
8 pm Truman Room

The Future of the Church of England

Ian Christie will lead a
discussion group.

* * *

Sunday 1st December
3.30 pm

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

followed by tea in church.
Please bring or donate toys
to give away.
All ages welcome.

cont'd from back page

- 24 Nov** CHRIST THE KING
- 28 Nov** 9.30 Holy Communion
- 1 Dec** Advent Sunday
3.30 pm Christingle Service
- 3 Dec** 11 am Holy Communion
- 5 Dec** 9.30 am Holy Communion
- 8 Dec** The Second Sunday of Advent
6.30 Evensong with Advent
Meditation
- 12 Dec** 9.30 am Holy Communion
- 15 Dec** The Third Sunday of Advent

- 19 Dec** 9.30 am Holy Communion
- 22 Dec** The Fourth Sunday of Advent
6.30 pm Carol Service
- 24 Dec** CHRISTMAS EVE
4 pm Crib Service
11.30 pm Midnight Mass
- 25 Dec** CHRISTMAS DAY
8 am Holy Communion
10 am Christmas Family
Communion
- 29 Dec** The First
Sunday of
Christmas



Saturday 9th November

11 am Southwark Cathedral

Service of Thanksgiving to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the vote in General Synod to allow women priests

*Bishop Ann Tottenham
(from Canada)*

will preach and preside



Christ Church

C H U R C H D I A R Y

O c t o b e r t o D e c e m b e r 2 0 0 2



- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Oct 11 am Holy Communion</p> <p>2 Oct 8 pm Enquirers' Course
Vicarage</p> <p>3 Oct 9.30 am Holy Communion</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">8 pm World Summit -
Sustainable Development
Discussion Group led by Ian
Christie</p> <p>6 Oct <i>Harvest Thanksgiving</i></p> <p>8 Oct 7.45 pm Accompanied
Prayer Group Truman Room</p> <p>9 Oct 8 pm Enquirers' Course
Vicarage</p> <p>10 Oct 9.30 am Holy Communion</p> <p>12 Oct 2 pm Wedding of Tina
Freeman and Julian Bell</p> <p>13 Oct <i>Trinity 20</i></p> <p>15 Oct 8 pm Book Group
3 Durrington Park Road</p> <p>16 Oct 8 pm Enquirers' Course
Vicarage</p> <p>17 Oct 9.30 am Holy Communion</p> <p>20 Oct <i>Trinity 21</i></p> <p>24 Oct 9.30 am Holy Communion</p> <p>27 Oct <i>Bible Sunday</i></p> <p>30 Oct 8 pm Enquirers' Course
Vicarage</p> | <p>31 Oct 9.30a m Holy Communion</p> <p>2 Nov 10 am Commemoration of
the Departed</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">7-10 pm Barn Dance Church
Hall</p> <p>3 Nov <i>ALL SAINTS</i></p> <p>5 Nov 11 am Holy Communion</p> <p>6 Nov 8 pm Enquirers' Course
Vicarage</p> <p>7 Nov 9.30 am Holy Communion
8 pm PCC Meeting</p> <p>10 Nov <i>The Third Sunday before
Advent (Remembrance)</i></p> <p>13 Nov 8 pm Enquirers' Course
Vicarage</p> <p>14 Nov 9.30 am Holy Communion</p> <p>15 Nov 12.30 - 2 Soup, bread and
cheese lunch in aid of
Zimbabwe Church Hall</p> <p>16 Nov 11 am Christ Church Fair
Church Hall</p> <p>17 Nov <i>The Second Sunday before
Advent</i></p> <p>20 Nov 8 pm The Future of the
Church
Discussion Group led by Ian
Christie</p> <p>21 Nov 9.30 Holy Communion</p> |
|---|--|

cont'd inside