

THE CLARION

The Magazine of The Parish of St Mary The Boltons

JULY/AUGUST 2009

An Opportunity to Think about Lying and Cheating

Clergy in the Church of England are expected to participate in continuing education throughout their ministry by attending study courses. These may be practical, relating to the day to day running of the parish, or may relate to a particular interest and concern connected with ministry. With this in mind, and with a particular interest in the Old Testament, I signed up for a course in June at St. Deiniol's Library in Hawarden, North Wales: 'Cheating and Lying: The Jacob and Joseph stories in the Book of Genesis'.

If you are an admirer of the great Victorian politician Gladstone you will know that St. Deiniol's Library was started by him as a home for his collection of over 21,000 books. After his death it was decided to adopt it as a national monument and a more solid structure was built. Over time, various extensions were built, books were added to the library and it has now become an independent research centre that also offers courses on a variety of subjects.

For the Genesis course we were a mixed group of lay and clergy people, mostly Anglicans, but including two Roman Catholics and a Methodist; a good ecumenical mix. The course was led by Lyn Bechtel, an American Old Testament professor and minister in the Moravian Church, now retired. We spent the week reading and discussing selected chapters from Genesis, following the stories of Jacob and Joseph. Lyn used her own translation of the Hebrew text and we were able to compare it with the texts in our Bibles, which differed according to which translation we had.

It quickly became very clear that the English, and other, translations are necessarily interpretations of the Hebrew text. Hebrew words contain rich layers of meanings, and many puns, therefore choices in interpretation

have to be made. In addition, the meaning of some Hebrew words has been lost. For example in chapter 29, verse 17 there is a description of Leah's eyes. The RSV translation describes them as 'weak', the King James as 'tender' (Leah is 'tender-eyed') and the NRSV as 'lovely': quite different translations, but the fact of the matter is that the meaning of the word has been lost and no-one knows and it's all guess work.

Another example of mistranslation is Joseph's coat, which his father, Jacob gives him. Thanks to the musical 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat' we imagine it to be a garment of bright colours, from the translation in the King James Bible as 'a coat of many colours'. In fact the Hebrew text merely says that the coat had long sleeves. The 'many colours' has come in because of a mistranslation when the Hebrew text was translated into Greek in the second and third centuries BC, which then carried over into the King James translation.

Do these (mis)translations matter? Yes and No – it depends on the text – but they do remind us that the Biblical texts are fluid and not written in stone. Scholars are continually learning more and more about them, partly due to archaeological and historical research into the periods in which the texts were written and partly due to fresh readings of the text itself. For example, when I studied the Book of Genesis at theological college nearly 12 years ago, the current scholarly theory was that the stories in the book had been collected from various sources and woven together. At St. Deiniol's I learnt that this theory has largely been rejected. Scholars now see the book in terms of two contrasting theologies. One is Deuteronomic theology (taken from the Book of Deuteronomy), which understands faith in strict terms of 'do' and 'don't'; here God is seen as judge, king and military leader.

The other is non-Deuteronomic or Genesis theology, where God is seen as creator, a universal power that sustains and perpetuates life, working in partnership with human beings. Here faith is not understood in terms of 'do' and 'don't'. Life is much less clear cut. There are times when lying and cheating are appropriate. What people of faith need to do is to hold the two theologies together and know in which situation each is called for.

As we read and discussed the texts/stories and their meanings, we were reminded that the purpose of doing so was not to speculate endlessly on the inner thoughts of the characters in the stories, but to think more deeply on the God being portrayed and our response to that portrayal.

I thoroughly enjoyed the course and found it very stimulating. It almost made me want to study the rudiments of Hebrew: a difficult language to learn at best. I came away reminded once more what an extraordinary collection of books the Bible is, that it has an unending capacity to speak to us of the mystery of God and our human existence and that reading, studying, meditating on and questioning what we read is an important component our faith.
Ginny Thomas

Pete Downes and Martyn Barker in Concert

**St Mary The Boltons
Saturday 11 July 2009, 8.00pm**

Pete on acoustic guitar and Martyn on hang drum will perform their new work: a suite of pieces inspired by the music of Bach, together with music from their CD *Elements*. Their recent appearance at Marlborough Jazz Festival was a huge success with audience and organisers alike.

They will be joined by the school choir from The Study, Wimbledon, who will perform two pieces.

Pete and Martyn's acoustic music is hard to pigeonhole. It has been described as 'atmospheric' and 'mystical' and draws on contemporary, classical, jazz and world influences. The conversation between their

instruments opens up a space for reflection and contemplation within the musical journey. They hope to interact with the audience as part of the event.

Pete and Martyn said, 'We are delighted to be performing at the Earl's Court Festival. The acoustics and atmosphere at St Mary The Boltons will provide an ideal space for us to perform and explore and improvise our music and provide a good place for people to absorb the music, chill out, and just be...' 'What's a hang drum?' Come and find out! It's a bit like a gamelan and comes from Berne, Switzerland.

Pete and Martyn are both former local lads: Pete lived in Redcliffe Gardens in the late 80s and 90s, Martyn in Barkstone Gardens. Read more and hear clips at: www.petedownes.com

The event is free, but the venue seats up to 200 people, so numbers are limited. Children and young people are welcome. Tickets are available in advance from St Mary's Parish Office or at the door. Donations for the event are welcome: any profits will be used to support St Mary's charitable giving.

The Boltons Big Lunch "Le déjeuner sur l'herbe" St Mary The Boltons, SW10 9TB Sunday 19 July 2009 at 1.00pm Join us for lunch!

This lunch is part of a national simultaneous 'home grown lunch'. We will share a simple meal with our neighbours as an equally simple but profound act of community. We are growing our own salads and herbs for the lunch.

The menu: Salmon with gravadlax, smoked mackerel, vegetarian falafel, bread, potatoes, tomatoes, various green salads with herbs; followed by a choice of two desserts.

For more information about The Big Lunch, see www.thebiglunch.com.

To register for the lunch, or for tickets and information for Pete and Martyn's concert contact:

St Mary's Parish Office, The Boltons, SW10 9TB.

Telephone: 020 7835 1440

Email: info@stmarytheboltons.org.uk

**St Mary's Pilgrimage to Umbria
7th/12th June 2010**

Did you know that every two years St Mary's has had a Pilgrimage, usually for a week, and often overseas? It is now time to book for our 2010 Pilgrimage. We plan to visit Umbria focussing particularly on the life of St Francis. Although this is a Pilgrimage it is also a parish holiday and we hope many of you will be able to join us. It should be a most enjoyable trip with lots of interesting places to visit.

We will stay at a charming family run hotel in the hill top town of Spoleto. The town itself has many places of interest for exploration including Roman ruins. It is close to Assisi and there we will visit places associated with St Francis such as the Basilica of St Francis with its splendid frescoes. In addition to Assisi we will also make short journeys into the beautiful Umbrian countryside to towns such as Bevanga and Norcia.

The cost of the pilgrimage will be approximately £960 with a single supplement of £130. This will include return flights from Heathrow to Rome, coach travel within Umbria, our own guide throughout, bed and breakfast at the San Luca Hotel on Spoleto, and a main meal each day either in the hotel or a local restaurant.

If you have any queries about this Pilgrimage please speak to Sheila Gibbs at church on Sunday mornings or phone her on 020-8788-9744 or talk to Ginny Thomas. Many of you joined our one day pilgrimage this year to Winchester and we had a good day out - so why not join us on our longer pilgrimage in 2010? It is a while ahead but we need to book up **now** to ensure hotel rooms, flights etc. We will need to pay a deposit of £200 each by mid-August.

So please sign up quickly - sheet already out in church.

Sheila Gibbs

Confirmation Classes

Confirmation classes will begin in early September for those interested in exploring confirmation and who would like to be confirmed. Two courses will be offered, one for adults and a separate one for young people. The dates and times of the courses will be decided in consultation with the participants. Please let either Ginny or Ruth know if you would like to attend. The confirmation service will take place at St. Paul's Cathedral on Saturday 7 November.

Bishop's Visit

Bishop Paul will be visiting the Deanery on Sunday 19 July at the following venues:

11.00am St Luke's Redcliffe Gardens
12.00md lunch at St Mary the Boltons
3.00pm Evensong at St Luke's, Sydney Street
6.00pm Service at St Saviours, and Intermission

People are welcome to attend any of these services from the parishes.

**Result of our Stewardship Campaign
April/May 2009**

Holding a stewardship campaign in the current economic crisis and as the recession began to dig deep, was always going to be a challenge and I am very grateful to those who were able to respond positively. Understandably one or two parishioners had to reduce their annual giving. However 15 parishioners were able to increase their giving and we have also received 8 new commitments for which I am extremely grateful. I would also like to thank everyone who has been able to maintain their current level of giving.

We also received £2,350 in straight donations and our three fund raising events – the sponsored walk, the children's party, and the evening with Evan Davis – raised approximately an additional £2,500.

In 2008 St. Mary's received £62,479 in planned giving. Taking into account those who have moved away and those who have died, this figure for the current year will be £59,900. Adding to that figure the results of the campaign – the increased and new pledges, and taking into account the decreases – this figure is projected to be approximately £65,237. While it is good to have made up the shortfall, the overall increase in planned giving is very small.

We are fortunate at St. Mary's to have other sources of income, notably from hiring out the church hall, and it is to be hoped that these sources will continue to hold steady in the future. Meanwhile we are trying to keep our administrative and running costs as low as we can and to avoid any unnecessary expenditure. If you have not yet been able to make a financial commitment to St. Mary's and would like to do so, please call the office – 020 7835 1440 – and ask for a form to be sent to you.

Ginny Thomas

Sunday Evening Prayer in August

Please note that there will be **no** Sunday evening prayer during the month of August. It will resume on Sunday 6 September at the usual time of 4.30pm.

Servers' Robes

You will have noticed that all the servers in the sanctuary at our 10.30am Sunday Eucharist service are now wearing white albs. One of the pleasing developments over the past year has been the increase in the number of young people who act as servers. However, none of the albs we had were of the right size. Thanks to the generosity of Boo Simpson and Anita Dowbiggin, new albs in appropriate sizes have been purchased out of proceeds from the Flower Fund. Many thanks to Boo and Anita, and also to Jane Dass who did all the measuring and ordering, making sure the albs were the right size.

The word 'alb' is short for the Latin phrase '*tunica alba*', white tunic. Albs are therefore usually made of white or undyed fabric. They are worn by servers (and the clergy in addition

to other vestments) for practical purposes: to cover up the clothes that they are wearing, which might be a distraction and lead to all sorts of discussion – and disagreements – about what is appropriate attire. Most importantly, the albs remind the congregation that those in the sanctuary are not acting on their own but in an official capacity *for* the congregation.

West London Churches Homeless Concern (WLCHC) Quiz Night

I would like to invite you to join us for our first annual WLCHC Quiz Night.

When: Wednesday 1 July

Where: St Paul's Church, Onslow Square. This is a 3-minute walk from South Ken station.

(www.streetmap.co.uk/postcode/sw73nx)

Time: Doors open at 7.00pm, quiz to start at 7.30pm.

Cost: £10 per person, to include quiz entry, 2-course meal and a free drink (tea, coffee, wine).

We will be providing a 'night shelter meal' consisting of a chilli con carne and a pudding and of course we will have a veggie alternative. There will be soft drinks and wine available on the night, and we will also be holding a raffle with some great prizes.

We really hope to get a good turnout for this evening and wish to get at least one quiz team from every night shelter project participating, as well as from other parts of the charity and the local community (there will be a WLCHC staff team ready to compete for the top prize!). Feel free to bring and/or join another team and invite along family and friends to the evening: the more teams the merrier!

If you would like to come along as part of a team or as an individual (we can allocate you to a team) then please RSVP by Friday 26 June (danny@wlchc.eclipse.co.uk or 020 7351 4948, giving your name, whether you are part of a team and which team, if you are vegetarian and how you would like to pay. You can either send a cheque to the office, pay online (www.justgiving.co.uk/wlchc) or pay on the night.

This is not just an evening to get together socially and meet people from other shelters

and the local community, but also a time to remind us of the plight of many of those people who still live on the streets. Information will be available on the night for those who would like to know more about our work.

Enjoy your day and I look forward to seeing you on the night.

Daniel Strickland

Art Exhibition

There is an art exhibition at St Paul's Onslow Square on Friday 3 July (7:30-9:30pm) and Saturday 4 July (10.00am-4.00pm), where they will be showing and selling some of the work done by some of the guests at the homeless shelter.

Church of England – Shrinking the Footprint



On Thursday 11 June I went to the Church of England *Shrinking the Footprint* conference. If you haven't heard of it before, *Shrinking the Footprint* is the name of the Church's campaign to look at our carbon footprint and to shrink it as responsibly and efficiently as possible. The carbon emissions of the Church of England (including Churches, Cathedrals, Schools, Offices, Vicarages), is estimated at 1.1 million tones of CO₂ per year, comparable to a major supermarket chain like Sainsburys. The conference marks the third anniversary of the campaign, which is led by the Bishop of London. Having been involved with this during this time in one way or another, the really encouraging news was that each Diocese sent two senior people to the event: bishops, diocesan secretaries, property managers, as

well as environmental officers. This level of commitment shows that the Church is serious about playing its part in meeting the need to cut carbon emissions to 20% of 2004 levels by 2050; this is the target that we as a country have committed ourselves to meet. Joan Ruddock MP gave the conference a national and international perspective and spoke of the importance of the UN conference on Climate Change taking place in Copenhagen in December. She said how important it is that the Church is engaging with climate change and helping, as with the Jubilee 2000 campaign, to raise awareness of the issues.

How do we do it?

The Church went for advice to the Carbon Trust (which advises corporations and businesses) to study church buildings and offices, and the Energy Saving Trust (which advises householders) to study vicarages. Their experts have prepared new toolkits and resources to help the Church to meet the challenge. There is also advice on the appropriate use of renewable energy.

The report showed that by ensuring that energy is used efficiently in cathedrals and church buildings by updating lighting and heating with more efficient alternatives, adjusting time switches, checking thermostats, installing insulation and stopping draughts, the Church of England could reduce its footprint by as much as 12%. This and more can be reasonably easily done: the Diocese of London's central office cut its footprint by 27.6% by such measures. The Diocese of London aims to shrink its footprint by 20.12% by 2012.

Closer to home

We have a parish Green Group who will be meeting to explore what we can do here at St Mary's to make a difference. You will be hearing from us!

More information about the *Shrinking the Footprint Campaign*, the conference and the new resources, is available at

www.shrinkingthefootprint.cofe.anglican.org

Ruth Lampard

'Peace offerings'

The monthly magazine *New Internationalist* (NI) is required reading for many people. It describes itself as being a 'workers' co-operative [that] exists to report on the issues of world poverty and inequality; to focus attention on the unjust relationship between the powerful and powerless worldwide; to debate and campaign for the radical changes necessary to meet the basic needs of all; and to bring to life the people, the ideas and the action in the fight for global justice'. In the May 2009 issue (Nr. 422, pages 21-24), there was a special feature by Hadani Ditmars on Israel/Palestine under the title 'Peace offerings'. The following is a summary of some of the 'offerings', i.e. 'the voices of courageous Israeli and Palestinian civilians reaching out to each other in peace'.

The first vignette is about Nirmeen Kharna, a mother of three living in Gaza City. As the war on Gaza began in December last year, she received text messages from a friend she had never met, Eric Yellin, an Israeli man living in Sderot, close to the border of Gaza. Eric 'had started various dialogue initiatives a year earlier, ranging from a shared blog with a Gazan man to meetings with a group of peace-minded Israeli neighbours called *Other Voice*'. Eric texted Nirmeen regularly to ask how she is doing, if she is safe, and how her family is. She said 'It was a weird feeling at first... It was strange to be on the receiving end of Israeli bombardment on the one hand, and Israeli compassion on the other. But in the end the support of Eric and his friends in Sderot meant more to me than the phone calls from friends abroad. After all, these were the people who were having rockets launched at their town [by Palestinian militants]. And they were against the Israeli offensive in Gaza.' The vignette continues with other aspects, and also asks, 'Can individual initiatives transcend intransigent officialdom and help move the peace process forward?... Has a violent occupation, siege and ongoing aggression rendered such encounters meaningless?' An Israeli woman 'organized the building of an "alternative fence" made of children's drawings about peace' and 'admits that her work is as much about establishing

dialogue with Gazans as it is about educating the Israeli public'.

The situation in the West Bank is different. The Israeli activist Kobi Snitz 'has worked for years with Anarchists Against the Wall, and in co-operation with Palestinian popular committees, whose key issue is 'joining in the Palestinian struggle.' According to Snitz, there is a 'distinction between 'friendship' and 'joint struggle.' He does not see friendship as a political act. He wants more: 'We're not in this to drink tea together. It's insulting to the people under occupation to pretend things are normal. Israelis are the ones with money, who can travel, who decide when they meet and don't meet, the ones to ask favours from – in that sense the occupation extends into the personal relationship and perpetuates itself even further'. However, he has also had some successes in that in two places the wall has 'been pushed back as a result of demonstrations', and without a court case. When Palestinian photographer Hindi Mesleh met Snitz and the work he does, Mesleh realised that his fellow Israeli protesters 'suffer the same as you – they are beaten and arrested and shot and called "anti-Israeli" by their own society – then you think, "Hey, these people are honest about their commitment."'. He concludes 'This relationship we are building will not be lost... Even if their contribution is small, they are a catalyst for change in Israeli society. Even if there are few people in Israel, this means a lot. They are part of this effort that may lead to the end of the vicious circle of violence.'

A third vignette concerns Hebron, the Palestinian town in the West Bank that has a well defended Jewish settlement in its midst. The Palestinian activist Issa (transl: Jesus) Amro considers that Palestinians, Israelis and internationals have 'to work together. One group can't do it alone'. 'It's not a Muslim/Jewish conflict, it's a political one. The settlers are trying to say it's about religion but it's about land, freedom, our everyday life.'

Amro learned from his Israeli activist comrades. They 'know the language of the soldiers and the police. ... They taught me how to deal with them. The most important thing is to tell them

that you know the law well and that you know how to complain about their behaviour. ... If I need something from the soldiers then I speak to them in Hebrew, to be close to them and so they can't say: "We don't understand." But when they need something from me, I talk to them in English to show my international connection.' Amro works with Amiel Vardi, a lecturer in classics at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, as members of Ta'ayush (Arabic for 'life in common'), 'in a wide range of activities, from 'solidarity' aid convoys to besieged West Bank villages to public demonstrations against the Wall.' At the moment, 'raising public awareness through the press is a major goal.'

The last vignette is entitled 'From struggle to celebration', highlighting a different avenue by some activist groups: joint celebrations. It describes Ze'ev Ben Arie, a Jewish Sufi who works closely with interfaith groups, brings Jewish Israelis to Islamic Sufi prayer sessions. A Jewish group met in Acco to celebrate the Prophet Mohammed's birthday in March, when they all 'chanted the 99 names of Allah', and in turn the Jewish visitors were invited to attend a special Sufi prayer session to honour Hanukkah in December.

At such a meeting, the Sufi 'Sheikh Bohkari revealed that his father-in-law had just died in Gaza, but that he was unable to visit him before his death. He had also missed the wedding of his only daughter in Gaza City and mentioned that some family members had been killed during the recent bombardment. 'Even some of the more right-wing Israelis were moved by this story', according to Ben Arie. He believes that 'there has to be a political solution. But in the meantime, the more connections Israelis can have with Palestinian on a truly human level, the more awareness will develop about the realities of occupation.' He noted 'that when Izzedin Abu Ayash – the Gazan doctor who spoke regularly to Israeli television during the recent offensive – broke down on a live broadcast as he learned that his family had just been killed by an IDF bomb, this did more to influence Israeli public opinion than dozens of anti-war protests.'

We hope that in writing this summary of the article we can contribute at least a little to the

deeper understanding of the conflicts in the area. There are many groups and brave individuals on all sides who work overtly and covertly, publicly and silently, in whatever ways they can, to advance the causes of justice and peace.

Pat Schleger

Verena Tschudin

Websites

www.newint.org/features/special/2009/05/01/israel-palestine/

www.othervoice.org/welcome-eng.htm

www.taayush.org

www.mpdn.org/neve_shalom.htm

St Martin-in-the-Fields WC2

Friday 17 July 7.30pm

Mozart:

Requiem

Serenata Notturna K239

and other choral works

James MacMillan

Christus Vincit

and other motets

Nonsuch Singers

London Primavera

Mary Bevan *soprano*

Charlotte Stephenson *mezzo-soprano*

Philip Conway-Brown *tenor*

George Humphreys *bass*

Graham Caldbeck *conductor*

Box Office 020 7766 1100

Online www.smitf.org

This concert is given in celebration of James MacMillan's 50th birthday (16 July) and is kindly supported by the PRS Foundation for new

Pilgrimage to Winchester Cathedral 30th May 2009

At 8.45am on 30th May twenty eight 'pilgrims' assembled at St Mary's the Boltons, our destination, the ancient and beautiful Winchester Cathedral. It was a warm spring day with a brilliant blue sky and bright sunshine. We had a smooth journey by coach and arrived at the heart of the city ahead of schedule. There was a short walk, along the busy high street and then to the tree lined paths that cross the green lawns of the Outer Close.

As we crossed the green we met with other groups of visitors, pilgrims and tourists all making their way to the West door. We were a diverse crowd which included a small troupe of actors, in medieval dress, and a several soldiers from the Kings Royal Rifles. As the young men sat, upright and in total uniformity on the grass, two small actresses, in long skirts, ran precariously and gleefully on the grass.

We entered the building, at the West door, where the heat and bustle of the green was replaced by the cool calm atmosphere of the Cathedral. Our service was held in the Lady Chapel where we were welcomed by the Precentor, Canon Michael St John-Channell. It then fell to the Priest in Charge of St Mary The Bolton's to stand before the Altar. Ginny, delivered the familiar words of the Eucharist with authority, dignity and grace. Our responses were spoken in harmony in spirit and in keeping with the surroundings. Boo Simpson contributed by giving an excellent reading. In that beautiful Chapel, illuminated by candle light, and sunlight which streamed through a magnificent stained glass window, the pilgrims from St Mary's The Bolton's were, albeit briefly, a part of the awe inspiring history of the Cathedral.

As we left the Chapel and made our way down the nave we heard the hourly prayer in which pilgrims and visitors to the Cathedral were invited to be still and join the prayer. Included were words of welcome to the visitors from St Mary the Boltons. A reminder that this was and is a living Cathedral.

The service was followed by a conducted tour of the Cathedral, which is home to many treasures both spiritual and artistic. The history of the Cathedral which, dated from the middle ages, made reference to the great plague, the restoration and the civil war. Of historic and artistic interest was the original memorial stone to Jane Austin. As Jane was a woman, it was considered inappropriate to mention her literary fame. This was remedied at a much later date with a memorial dedicated by the Jane Austin society. We saw the Chantry Chapel which held the remains of to William of Wykeham, Bishop of Winchester (1367-1404). The man responsible for the transformation of the Norman nave. A magnificent font of black Tournai marble (late 12th-century), the beautiful and well preserved wall murals in the Holy Sepulchre Chapel and, for those who dared a visit, the crypt. These mysterious depths of the Cathedral are subject to regular flooding and are home to a contemplative and contemporary sculpture of a man by Antony Gormley. It was designed specifically to stand amidst the rising water and lent a surreal touch to the ancient stonework.

Not all the history was good and we saw several examples of the damage done by the marauding parliamentarian troops at the time of the civil war. Members of Cromwell's new army entered the Cathedral and shattered the large, stained glass West Window. It was impossible to recreate the original design but all the shards were collected and in 1660 were reassembled to form a myriad of colours. A lasting and unusual testament to the craftsmen of that time and the spirit of the Cathedral.

The Quire had also fallen prey to the attention of the parliamentarians. On top of the presbytery screens are six mortuary chests, containing the bones of pre-conquest monarchs, including a queen, bishops and kings, including William II (Rufus). The chests had been forced open and the bones scattered. As with the West Window, the chests were returned to their rightful place, but it was difficult, for obvious reasons, to identify the bones. Suffice it to say the bones and chests are still there even if the contents are somewhat varied!

There was so much to see and time was inevitably limited. I suspect that many of us will return to this beautiful Cathedral for a further visit.

We emerged from the cool of the Cathedral to the warmth of the sun and made our way, as a group, to a marquee adjacent to the Green. Lunch was a light, enjoyable meal and perfectly suited to the warm weather. Rested and replenished, it was back to the coach and on to our second port of call, the house, gardens and riverside grounds of Mottisfont Abbey.

The Abbey sits at the heart of glorious landscaped gardens, and sweeping lawns, which lead to the River Test; well stocked with trout. It also boasts a famous rose garden, noted for its old fashioned roses, the original building was an Augustinian Priory founded in 1201, and subsequently transformed into a gracious Tudor Mansion. It boasts an interesting drawing room in the trompe l'oeil style by Rex Whistler (1938) and an impressive collection of early twentieth century art. Beautifully displayed in a walled garden. Amidst all the splendour it has to be added that the Abbey served an excellent cream tea.

This was a highly successful and well organised day. The magnificence and splendour of the Cathedral, was a complete contrast with the gracious gardens and architecture of Mottisfont. A special and well deserved 'thank you' must surely go to Sheila Gibbs who devised the itinerary and made the domestic arrangements. It was a wonderful and moving pilgrimage.

Anne Mulcare

Helping children with reading

Do you like children? Enjoy reading? Have an hour a week you could spare?

Several people from St Mary's go to St Cuthbert with St Matthias School in Warwick Road and listen to children read for about an hour either once or twice a week. A time convenient for volunteers can be agreed with the school. We hope our own love of books is passed on to the children and it is good to see them gaining confidence in reading. Many come from homes where English is not the

home language. The school appreciates our visits and would welcome more volunteers from St Mary's.

The Calming of the Storm

Ruth's sermon on Sunday 21 June reminded me of my first encounter with the Sea of Galilee. Having got off the bus at Tiberius and walked down to the shore, I was lucky enough to join a group of German school children embarking for Capernaum. The lake where we were was beautifully calm, but at the far side I could see dark waves at flecked with foam. The teacher said something to the skipper who to my surprise headed straight into the stormy patch of water. It was quite surprisingly rough, and as the small boat pitched and tossed the teacher got out his bible and read the account of Jesus calming the storm. That memory has stayed with me ever since.

Anne Garten

Summer Fair

A dry, sunny day dawned for this year's Summer Fair on 20th June. Plenty of volunteers arrived early for the setting up jobs including moving furniture, pricing goods and sticking tickets on tombola prizes.

As usual curious visitors started approaching from late morning onwards, but we just about managed to keep to our formal opening time of 2pm, announced by the ringing of the church bells.

As always there was plenty of entertainment on offer for children, their parents, and the young at heart. Children's delights included the Sunday School stall, coconut shy, lucky dip, treasure hunt and toy stall. For adults there was the bric-a-brac, plant stall, cake stall and some excellent prizes in both the raffle and silent auction. The BBQ, Pimms tent and Krispy Kreme donuts kept hunger away on what was a very happy afternoon with a lively atmosphere aided by the ever popular visiting band.

A very big thank you is due to everyone from St Marys who helped with the Summer Fair, especially those who manned stalls, came early to set up or stayed late to take down.

Initial calculations show that the fair has made over £5,000 profit for this year's two charities, The Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza and the Earls Court Community Project and to top up our charity pot. Thank you to all those came, brought friends and made donations.
Fiona Brown & Joanna Hackett

July & August Year's mind

Mary Harrington
Lorraine Seely
Robert Hawker
Abbé Jean-Paul Mahieu
Julian Ridsdale
Rosemary Everett
John Harris
Hazel Bosworth
Enid Ingle
Poppy Readman
David Messerlian
Thomas Harrington
Harry Parkinson
Olga O'Grady
Joanna Simon
Geoffrey Bellman
Roland Sutcliffe
Margaret Lake
Alec Skempton
Nancy Smith
Milosh Gregovich
Zia Ahmad
Joachim von Bethmann-Hollweg
Adele King
Minnie Warwick
Robert Jackson
Geneviève Maw
Murat Akiner
Peter Canadine
Norah Bowen

**Contributions for the September Clarion
should be sent in to the church office by
25th August**