Malvern Priory Magazine

£1.00

APRIL 2024 ISSUE

The Parish Church of St. Mary & St. Michael

PRIORY PEOPLE: THE MUSICIANS

CHORISTERS IN CONCERT 2024

A capacity audience at Malvern College's St Edmunds Hall enjoyed a fantastic evening of music from the Priory's talented Junior Choristers at the annual Choristers in Concert.

Beginning with solos on piano, French horn and voice, with composers ranging from Pamela Wedgewood to Saint-Saens via Gilbert & Sullivan and Adele, it was wonderful to see the progress each chorister had made since last year. The finale, with the whole Junior Choir singing together—Jonah-man Jazz by Michael Hurd—went with a rousing swing and was greeted with enthusiastic applause. Supper followed; an amazing cold buffet prepared by Priory volunteers. And as everyone sat back, replete, the raffle was drawn, with



the usual 'oohs' and 'aahs' as the tickets were drawn and the prizes distributed.

The wonderful evening of music, food and fellowship raised funds to support the Junior Choir's exciting activities' programme.

AN APPEAL FOR JUNIOR CHORISTERS

Does your family love singing? Would they like to join the choir at the Priory? Our musical director Piers Maxim is looking for new junior choristers and it sounds very much as if membership is both instructive











and fun. 'There's a real camaraderie among the junior choristers,' said Piers. 'It's very social. We go on an annual two-night camp in the Forest of Dean. We do Outward Bound type things and have outings.' It is, of course, also very instructive. 'We teach music and how to read music, and also study the scriptures. We'd really like a few more juniors because it is so nice to get families involved with the Priory.'

The choir will accept junior choristers aged from six to 18. 'The only criterion is that they need to be able to read English. We can do the rest.' And a classic example of just how much the Priory choir can help talented musicians is Maggie Walker, head chorister, who has just been offered a place to study at the Royal College of Music.

The choir practices on a Friday evening and sings during three of the four Sunday services. Please get in touch with Piers if you would like to know more: music@greatmalvernpriory.org.uk.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

LENT AND RAMADAN: A BRIEF INTERFAITH REFLECTION

As this edition hits the shelves, we will be visiting family and friends in Singapore. When we lived there one of our roles as church 'Cell Group' leaders was to help converts to understand their new-found Christian faith. I found myself so inadequately prepared for this task that it led me at the age of 46 to enroll in theological college. Helpfully, second year modules included the study of Asian religions.

Singapore is a wonderful cultural melting pot; out of a generous ten annual public holidays, seven are festivals from four different religions and consequently it's a great environment to experience other religious traditions. John Dunne, a 20th century Catholic theologian, called this 'passing-over' and 'passing-back'. He believed this practice can lead us not only to gain a better understanding of our own faith, but also to develop compassion for the other.

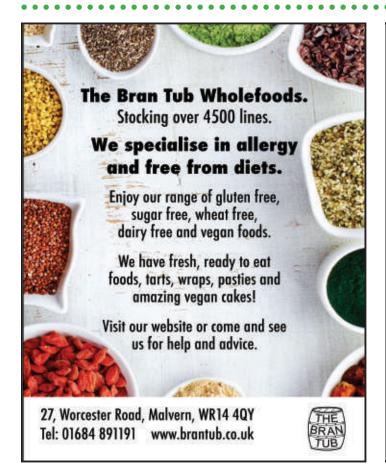
Our daughter-in-law is Muslim and on 9th April we will be present when she and her family celebrate Eid al-Fitr—the end of Ramadan. Some interfaith scholars have likened Ramadan to Lent and in recent years the dates of Lent/Easter and Ramadan/Eid al-Fitr have overlapped, providing a good opportunity to conduct, on a very limited basis, a 'passing-over' and 'passing-back' exercise of our own.

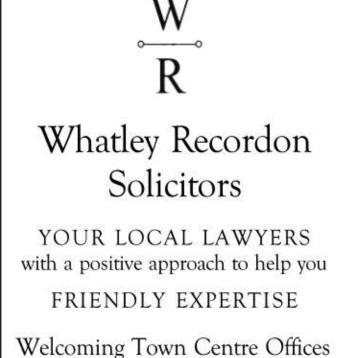
Ramadan is one of the Five Pillars of Islam and observing this season of fasting is an obligation on all Muslims, unless they have valid excuses. These include travelling, temporary sickness and long-term poor health. A charitable 'fine' is payable for those who miss days for valid reasons and in 2024 UK it is £5 per day. By contrast, there is no specific guidance for Christians to fast, although tradition has led to some choosing to give up certain items during Lent to remember Christ's sacrifice in the desert and on the Cross.

A sincere faith is key for both Ramadan and Lent. Both seasons emphasize self-sacrifice and include spending extra time in worship, prayer, meditation, study of the holy books, as well as extending acts of charity. Moreover, both end in a joyous festival. On Easter Day we celebrate our defining event—the Resurrection representing new life in Christ. For Muslims it is the Festival of Eid al-Fitr when surviving cleansing self from evil and the agony of fasting is celebrated by three days of feasting and meeting up with family and friends.

Our son's in-laws are always generous in sending greetings during Christian festivals and we reciprocate. Perhaps if we meet any Muslims around 9th April, we might wish them "Eid Mubarak!" ("Happy Eid!").

Chris Boulton





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FROM THE VICARAGE

When Rita and I leave for Exeter in June, we will be filled with excitement and sadness. In our six years here, we have loved Malvern and the surrounding district. If you live here, you are really blessed to reside in such a beautiful part of God's world. Everyone has been so warm and welcoming to us, too.

Rita and I particularly love the journey to Ledbury from Malvern on our day off on Mondays. The road twists and turns, revealing the most beautiful countryside. We spot the red kites as we journey along and look forward to coffee and cake in the Feathers.

Ledbury has a very attractive church and it is well worth a visit. Recently, a famous painting was discovered there. It is a large canvas of the last supper and has been linked to the Renaissance Master, Titian. If you have not seen it, it is worth making a special trip. When I saw it, it reminded me of another painting, *The Last Supper*, by Leonardo De Vinci, and the story that is attached to it. Lots of myths and legends surround this painting.

One story is that Leonardo had a bitter rivalry with

a fellow painter. When he was painting the fresco, he decided to paint his enemy's face as the face of Judas. Leonardo smiled when he admired his work. But the painting wasn't finished. He still had to paint Jesus. Apparently, this portrait caused him much trouble. He couldn't get it right. Then, after a period of deep reflection, Leonardo realised that the hatred in his heart was preventing him from an intimate artistic relationship with his Lord. He made peace with his fellow painter, reworked the face of Judas, and... the face of Jesus came alive with his masterly brushwork.

Whether this story is true is conjecture. However, we can all struggle to accept God's forgiveness, and often this is because we find it hard to forgive others who have hurt us. Jesus said; 'If you forgive your brother and sister when they hurt you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.' (Matt 6 | 14,15)

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DIOCESAN NEWS AND VIEWS

CAN YOU HELP US IMPROVE SAFEGUARDING IN THE DIOCESE?



Our work in safeguarding is being audited and the auditors would like to hear from you! Bishop Martin encourages people to give their opinions.

The safety of all those who wish to worship in our churches should always be at the forefront of our minds. That is true for those who work or volunteer in our parishes and also for all of us who work in a diocesan context. We are keen to ensure that we are doing all that we can to create environments where everyone feels safe, valued and respected.

The Church of England has commissioned INEQE Safeguarding Group to conduct a series of audits of dioceses to look at our work in safeguarding and suggest areas where we could make improvements. As part of this audit process, INEQE would like to hear from as many different people as possible from across our diocese and have put together an online survey through which individuals can comment in confidence about their impressions and experiences

of safeguarding in the Diocese. The surveys are both anonymous (the audit team is not seeking to identify individuals) and confidential (individuals will not be identified in their report). No one from the Church of England or any other body will be provided with or have access to survey responses.

Please consider filling in this survey openly and honestly and letting the audit team know your opinions. Our audit will take place from 1st July, but the surveys are open now and will close at 11.30pm on Wednesday 1st May 2024 to enable the audit team to go through them. To access the surveys, please visit https://ineqe.com/churchofengland/worcester/. Do encourage others to do this too.

Thank you for your help. Listening to and learning from those in our parishes is an important part of the audit. Only by working together can we strive to make our churches a safe place for everyone.

Bishop Martin



VOCATION SUNDAY – 21ST APRIL

We often think of vocations in terms of ministry within the church: to be ordained or a lay minister. However, vocation, simply means what you are called by God to be and do. For some, this will be in formal ministry, whether lay or ordained. But for all of us it will mean serving God through faithful discipleship in everyday life.

As Christians, we are called to spread the Good News to everyone, to be a Christian presence in every community. Vocations Sunday offers us an opportunity to stop and reflect on our vocations, both individually and corporately. Are we living our faith as we would like to? What changes might we make?

There are a number of people within the Diocese who can help you work out what God might be calling you to be and do. This could be your vicar or another member of your church leadership team or community. It could be friends, family or co-workers. It might be a member of the Mission and Ministry team, especially if you feel called towards formal ministry. Or you might find a spiritual director helpful, and the diocesan Spirituality Connexions group can help you to find one.

Almighty and everlasting God, hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.



A NEW ALTAR CLOTH FOR ST GILES CHAPEL

A specially designed new altar cloth will be in place in St Giles Chapel in time for the re-opening of the Priory. It is the brainchild of Bill Butler who, at our vicar's request, came up with the design and offered to make it. 'Rod asked me to use a design from one of the wall tiles. The one he liked best was the one with the pelican pecking its breast to feed its young. This is a metaphor for Christ and seemed very appropriate.' said Bill. 'The

idea was that once the floor is complete it can be used for the 8.00am Communion Service. It has two layers, one under cloth and an over cloth which has the motif on it.'

Bill trained as a theatre costumier at Wimbledon College of Art and has subsequently worked on many productions. He worked full time for the Royal Opera House and the Churchill Theatre and for the last 12 years has been self-employed and has worked on



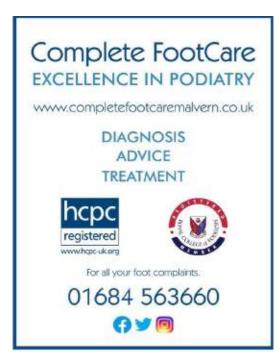
a number of high profile productions. 'I was the associate designer for Singing in the Rain at the Palace Theatre and also for Blythe Spirit with Angela Lansbury at the Geilgud Theatre in Shaftesbury Avenue.'

Bill found that a tricky part of designing the cloth was the lettering so he enrolled the help of Geoff Rowswell, another talented artist within our congregation. 'I wanted a style of lettering that would complement the medieval tiles but have a contemporar Feel

about it,' said Geoff, 'so I chose a typeface designed by Hans Beyer for the lettering in Coventry Cathedral.' Bill added, 'After Geoff had done the lettering for me ready to trace onto the cloth I then embroidered it in place.'

The cloth will be used for the first time at the 8.00am Communion Service which marks the full opening of our lovely church.

Mary Rowswell







Our long-established, friendly clinic has now expanded to new premises and Rosie Gazey (Thomson) has joined the team of practitioners. We are based in the heart of Great Malvern where we have our own car park, and suitable side-access for disabled patients.

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PRIORY PEOPLE: AN OBITUARY



DIANA HUGHES, 1941—2024

In our early years in Malvern, Tony, Diana, Roy and I had the privilege of living at the bottom of each others' gardens. We were joined there by Alison D, Deborah H, Christopher D

and Joanna H and many happy hours were spent by the latter four gossiping over the fence and forming friendships enduring to this day, not to mention the love of guinea pigs.

Diana was born and raised in Canterbury, with the Cathedral as her church. She went to Bristol University to read biochemistry and in the Choral Society spotted the man she decided to marry. Upon graduation they duly married in 1963 in the crypt of the cathedral and came to Malvern where Tony had a post at RRE and Diana taught at The Abbey Girls' School. They lived in a school cottage which was pulled down when they left for Broadlands Drive. There, the living room was dominated by Diana's piano—a useful article on which to stack the clean washing—and by the green house soon erected as they knocked into shape the ground of builders' rubble which became the garden. Diana's compendious knowledge of plants and the natural world was matched only by Tony's and the cactus collection and orchid rearing proceeded apace. Their little girls absorbed this knowledge, along with the love of music which saw them taking up their violins to play as a quartet with their parents.

After ten years, the family moved to Birchwood Road where there was more space for the music room and growing daughters. On my first visit there, Diana was at pains to show me what she considered its most impressive feature—the number of drawers in the kitchen. She had no trouble filling them in what to some eyes might look a haphazard fashion! The garden and allotment provided space to indulge horticultural passions as well as feeding the family. Diana and Tony were members of Malvern Horticultural Society for over 40 years, and their exhibits at the annual Show scooped up many prizes. She helped to shape entries to the Chelsea Flower Show which gained a bronze and two silver gilt medals. Their joint passion for orchids meant every windowsill was covered in specimens of different types, and shaped holidays abroad to seek out the Spring flowers.

Cooking was another area in which Diana excelled, knocking up tasty meals with whatever came to hand. She helped cook for lunches for the Priory's older members in the Lyttelton Rooms, but her speciality was baking; delicious cakes decorated to a very high standard. She won Midlands Cook of the Year competition the same year that Jo won Junior Midlands Cook of The Year. At the national final in the Savoy Hotel she was even curtsied to by Mary Berry.

But think of Diana and you have to think "music". Her pure singing voice benefitted the Priory Singers, Malvern Festival Chorus and other bodies. Her prodigious piano expertise continued throughout, as she took lessons until very late on in life. She shared her gifts willingly through her children, grandchildren and others, and in her last years in a care home taught a staff member to play the piano in order to play duets with her grandson. In fact, that care home was chosen because it had a serviceable piano. It also had a garden in which she could roam, sit and observe the wildlife, returning to her room to draw what she had seen, and watching the birds on her window feeder. How she topped up the feeder should perhaps not be detailed here.

So, a woman of many talents fostered by meticulous attention to detail. But with a phrase that springs to so many people's minds—"What FUN". After a difficult period at the end of her life, well supported by the girls, she is now at peace—we can but hope that that peace is tempered by Fun. We give thanks that we have known her and retain so many happy memories.

LOUISE SCHUIL

Louise Schuil, a friend to many Priory people, died on 11th March. We remember with affection her visits to her Mum, June, and worshipping with us. We give thanks for her life and that her suffering over the last six months has ended.

Elizabeth Dunnett



UPDATE ON THE PRIORY NAVE FLOOR PROJECT

The long-awaited project to remove the Victorian floor pew plinths, a trip hazard since the platforms were installed in the 1860s, and create a flat nave surface in the main area of the Priory church is on target, with the plan being to be fully open again just before this Easter. In the meantime, viewing windows allow visitors to observe the craftsmen at work, and to see the progress being made.

This project is believed to be a first, where 21st century floor components and underfloor heating are being installed in a medieval building, commenced in 1085. Sir George Gilbert Scott installed the timber pew plinths in 1863, with the intention of then installing pews. However, records indicate that the funds ran out before the pews could be ordered, so individual rush seats, much smaller than we would be comfortable on today, were purchased instead. Those seats have since been replaced by more modern, comfortable chairs. During the work a small exposure of medieval footing—Malvern stone rubble—has been uncovered and will be left permanently exposed for the 40,000 or so visitors per year to see.

The twelve circuits of the new underfloor heating, together with a deep layer in insulation, will ensure that users of the building are kept feeling warmer in the winter, without having to heat quite so much of the huge building. A large air-source heat pump will be installed in 2025, so also contributing to carbon Net Zero objectives in years to come. The engineered board floor finish has been carefully chosen to closely



match the previous pitch pine boarding. Where possible, the old timber that was removed has been carefully selected and will be used for many different purposes. Some small ornaments and artefacts made by volunteers from the 160 year old oak joists will be on sale in the church after Easter—a lovely reminder of the building's historic past.

The main contractor for the work is Reynolds Conservation of Onibury, Shropshire.

Jeremy Wray



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PRIORY HORIZONS: OPEN DOORS and CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY



The global network known as *Open Doors*

has its origins in a man called Brother Andrew. He was a Dutchman. He went to Warsaw in 1955 and discovered the existence of a church, that was oppressed, isolated and forgotten. As a result, Andrew—between 1955 and 1967—was inspired to travel throughout Eastern Europe delivering Bibles and encouraging all who he met, and recruiting others. After publication of his book "God's Smuggler" in 1967 the vision of supporting Christians who face persecution became *OPEN DOORS*, now working worldwide. Over 365 million Christians face persecution and discrimination—one in seven believers in the whole world. The support given helps Christians courageously to follow Jesus.

Open Doors works with local partners worldwide to distribute Bibles and Christian literature, to give discipleship training, and to provide practical support such as relief aid and trauma counselling. Open Doors has a 'top ten' list of countries where Christian persecution is severe. Two of these are North Korea (1) and Nigeria (6).

In N. Korea there are 400,000 Christians and many of these are held in labour camps and prisons for their faith. Ji Ho vividly remembers the last time she saw her father. Agents came and ransacked their home—they wanted to find a book in their garden. Ji Ho never heard what happened to her father, but he had always read stories to her from that book. It was only years later that she discovered it was a Bible. She was determined to find out what had meant so much to her father that

it had cost him his life. One day she found a radio in the house which the agents had missed, and she found the Christian channel. When she listened, she realised her dad was a Christian. Parents are forbidden to teach their children about Christ. Ji Ho wanted to follow Jesus in the same way her Father had done. *Open Doors* secret field workers broadcast radio programmes every day from outside the country.

In Nigeria Christians continue to be terrorised by Islamic militants, and armed bandits in the north and central regions. Believers are stripped of their livelihoods and driven from their homes, leaving a trail of grief and trauma. Pastor Zacharia counted the cost of following Jesus. In May 2023 his village was attacked by Fulani militants, and the entire village burnt to the ground. He searched for his wife and children, but all he could see

VISIT TO PLACE OF GRACE, BANGKOK, THAILAND



On the way home from visiting his daughter in Melbourne, Rob Sykes visited our CMS

Mission Partner links, John and Revd Gillian Robinson, at the Place of Grace (PoG) Foundation in Bangkok. He was able to see the new premises and witness the new learning centre (school) in operation. He was delighted to be welcomed by children and to see a montage of the 300+ children who had been associated with the Place of Grace over many years. Many of them stay in touch and there are heart-warming stories of the progress they have made.

The PoG works in collaboration with local community leaders to provide after-school clubs including English classes and Discipleship groups; Youth group; foodbank;

Crossword Solution March





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hard to imagine anything more terrible. Pastor Zacharia's faith was shaken to the core. He felt forsaken by God, and, if God was in control, how could He allow this to have happened? However, local Open Doors partners came quickly to help the community with trauma care and counselling—just one of many ways they support believers in Nigeria, including relief aid and persecution survival training. The trauma care had an impact on Pastor Zacharia. He asked God to forgive the militants. The counselling helped him with sleep, and his whole mind became more peaceful, as he came to terms with this terrible trauma.

was their lifeless bodies. He cried like never before. It is

We, as a church, supports Open Doors with prayer and finance.

David Webster

and a learning centre. The latter was established when children attending the PoG, who are from the slums, were found not to be attending school and were in danger of being sucked into drugs, prostitution and crime. The Centre offers international standard education (Christian American Curriculum) in a structured and happy environment and gives the children a hugely improved chance of a positive future.

Members of the Priory will be delighted to hear that John and Gillian are visiting the UK in the summer and giving talks where you will be able to hear more about their work and how their faith has sustained them. There is a charity in England which helps to sustain their work: https://www.placeofgraceuk.org.uk

Maureen Gamble







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ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

Another year has rolled by and it will soon be time for our Annual Parochial Church Meeting. This year it will be on Wednesday 24th April at 7.30pm in the church. This is our opportunity to take stock of the life of the Priory over the past twelve months; to consider achievements, challenges and opportunities facing us, and review our finances. The annual booklet of reports will be available at the back of the church from Sunday 14th April onwards and will also be on the Priory website (in the APCM file in the Priory Family menu). Elections

will be held for five members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC). Appointments to the PCC are normally for periods of three years.

The PCC is the body responsible for issues of governance affecting the church building, our finances, and the worship, witness and mission of the Priory. It is a registered charity, of which the members are trustees. There are four or five Thursday evening meetings spread over the year, with an additional 'Away Day' (usually on a Saturday in May or June). Members are asked to serve

on one or more of the five PCC Committees—Buildings and Grounds, Finance, Mission, Priory Development Plan and Worship. Please prayerfully consider whether you could serve your church in this important capacity. We have a pressing need for people to step forward. No previous experience of PCCs is necessary! Nomination forms for PCC are available at the back of the church or can be downloaded from the APCM file on the Priory website. Nominees must be at least 16 years of age, actual communicants and on the Electoral Roll of the Parish. If you have a particular question which you would like answered at the APCM, it would be helpful if you could forward it to me in advance. Thank you.

Alistair Sawers, PCC Secretary

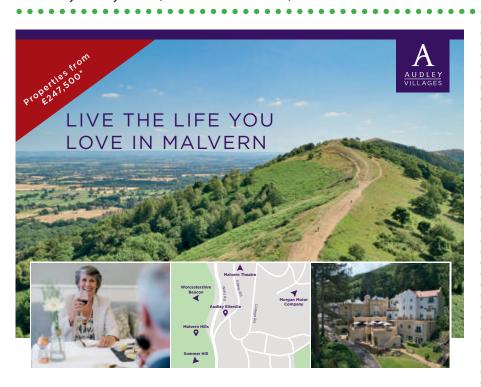
PS. I am pleased to say that this year we shall be reinstating the tradition of having puddings (at 7.00pm) before the business part of the meeting and proceedings will include a pictorial presentation of the past year in the life of the Priory.



The dates for the next two Priory Sunday lunches are 14th April



and 19th May. Do come and join us at the Foley Arms from 12.30pm in the downstairs room. As usual and nearer the time, there will be a list at the back of church where you can sign up but if you're unable to do this, please phone Sally (07485 555185) or Patrick Fallon (07484 743764) to add your name. There is a varied menu at all prices to suit everyone and it is a great way to get to know one another in a relaxed atmosphere.



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'THE DESERT SHALL BLOSSOM'

Evening Worship at the beginning of March took the theme "Jesus the Healer", and included a time of prayer for healing, with music led by the Praise Group. Our vicar, Rod, took as his readings Isaiah 35 – the desert shall blossom – and Luke 18 – Jesus' healing of the blind beggar. The beggar's desert of blindness was turned to the beauty of sight. God can transform our desert situations. There was an opportunity during the service to bring our own needs, or those of people we love, to God through the lighting of a candle. Meanwhile Praise Group sang two reflective songs, Within a quiet soul and Calm me Lord as You calmed the storm. It was a beautiful, quiet, reflective service. Rob Payne, in his inimitable way, read the two Bible readings, and a reflection which I wrote for the service, 'The Desert'. This reflection was based on Isaiah 35, and on my own experience of desert in northern Kenya. I have been asked to reproduce it here.

The desert.

Burning sand, too hot to touch.

And dry – dusty dry.

Here and there a withered, spiny shrub clings to life. Or death?

The relentless wind blows, sapping any moisture, sending eddies of stinging sand across the harsh land.

Time passes – relentless, wearying months of daytime heat, and chilly nights.

Then, suddenly, it begins.

A single cloud on the horizon.

Then more clouds, piling, darkening, blackening, blotting out the sun.

Ominous, but so welcome.

A large, shiny raindrop falls.

It hovers on a sand grain, then disappears, sucked into the thirsty, greedy ground.

More drops, faster and faster.

The smell of rain. The rumble of thunder. A cool breeze blows.

Then sheets of soaking rain.

Cascades of water – wetting, soaking, running.

Streams in the desert.

And then a miracle.

Thousands, millions, of dust-dry dots, lost for ages amongst the sand grains.

Seeds! Seeds of long-dead flowers.

They begin to stir.

They soften from the rain's gentle touch. They burst. Green shoots, pushing up through the sand, open

into leaves, waving in celebration.

Then buds, and flowers.

Millions of flowers, turning desert to garden, turning deadness to glory.

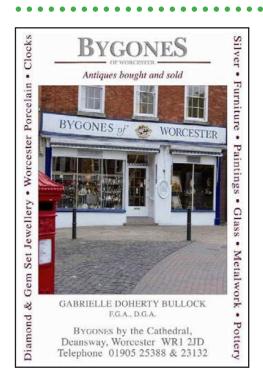
Colour, spreading across the desert's face, turning dirt brown to rainbow.

The wilderness rejoices.

The burning sand becomes a pool. Streams flow. Desolation becomes delight; desert becomes garden. Sorrow turns to joy; death to life; Lent to Easter. Everything is changed.

And my heart sings 'O Lord my God, how majestic is Your name in all the earth.'

David Webster





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WELCOME DYLAN, OUR NEW CUSTOS



Many of you will have noticed one of our most regular worshippers, Dylan Farrier, has taken on a new role. In February, he took up the post of custos to Malvern Priory.

Dylan has lived in Malvern

Over 30

for most of his life and has worshipped at The Priory for over 20 years. As a boy, he and his family were members of Holy Trinity and then, like many young people, he drifted away from church life. 'Then my mother noticed a sign outside the Lyttelton Well, advertising an Alpha course and suggested I went. I said I'd go if I had someone to go with and she arranged for our neighbour, Dorothy Sansome, to join me,' he said. 'I've never looked back.'

He worked for Morrisons as a manager and area manager for 30 years but had for some time thought he would enjoy the role of custos. 'Then I saw the job mentioned in the church pew sheet and put in an application. I'm absolutely loving it.' He is married to Tracey and has five children ranging in age from 15 to 28. He and Tracey have worked together on many Lifepaths and have also helped with Messy Church. 'I met Tracey when we were working together,' he said. She too went on an Alpha Course, accompanied by Dylan, and was baptised in the sea during a Priory weekend at Lee Abbey. 'It was an amazing occasion,' he said. 'There were around 100 members of the congregation attending the weekend and they watched as Mary Barr and Tracey walked into the sea for the baptism ceremony.'

Dylan feels he has had a gentle start to his new career. 'Because of the floor being levelled I haven't had to deal with services for 200-300 people,' he said, 'but I'm looking forward to everything getting back to normal.'

He is delighted to have joined the management team at The Priory and we are, of course, delighted to welcome him in his new role.

Mary Rowswell

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

The second Women's Breakfast was a fantastic success and enjoyed by all. Over 60 women were entertained by Revd Becky Elliott from Holy Trinity and St James as she spoke on *The Wife, the Mother, the Dog Collar,* and her (usually successful) attempts to juggle her life as a parish priest. Amusingly illustrated with a partial set of juggling balls—where the other one was was a mystery!—the breakfasters shared how they, too, managed to juggle their busy lives. As ever, the Priory volunteers had provided an amazing breakfast spread on beautifully decorated tables.

Between Breakfasts, all women are welcome to meet for coffee at the Alturo Lounge, Belle View Terrace, WR14 4PZ at 10.30am. The next coffee meet-up will be on 3rd May.





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Great Malvern Priory · Saturday 20th April, 7pm

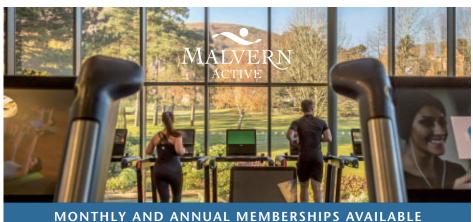
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One of the UK's favourite new choral works will be performed at the Priory in April, under the baton of its composer!

150 singers from around the Midlands will join forces for the concert of choral music by Matthew Coleridge, including his Requiem which debuted in the top 100 of Classic FM's 'Hall of Fame' last year.

They'll be accompanied at the organ by Piers Maxim, with cello soloist Austin Thomas and soprano Sarah Jane Griffiths.

Audience tickets cost £10 and will be available on the door, or to book a ticket in advance please visit www.matthewcoleridge.com/greatmalvernpriory









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Climbing Wall

BOOK REVIEWS

FACING FEAR 365: DAILY REFLECTIONS FOR HOPE, PEACE AND COURAGE By Dan Blythe and Rocky Nti, SPCK, £13.99

Every day we face a choice: to give into fear, or meet it with faith? From health concerns to comparison-rife social media, the world offers us plenty of reasons to live in fear. Yet God offers us countless reasons to live

life to the full, facing cowardice and stepping forward with courage. This book of 365 daily reflections can help you cultivate courage to fight fear with faith, as you begin each day.

A CHRISTENING GIFT PRAYER AND MEMORY BOOK Various authors, SPCK £8.99

This book could be a good gift for a grandparent, godparent, or family member, to give to a young child. It is an illustrated gift book to commemorate

a young child's christening. It includes a collection of prayers, Bible verses, and pages for recording details, memories, and messages of the special occasion. Parents can add their own memories, with spaces for photos and special blessings from the guests, as well as recording key milestones in their child's early years.

FACING FEAR 365

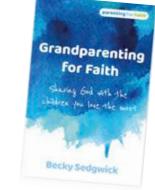
Daily reflections for hope, peace and courage

> Dan Blythe & Rocky Nti

GRANDPARENTING FOR FAITH: SHARING GOD WITH THE CHILDREN YOU LOVE THE MOST

By Becky Sedgwick, BRF, £9.99

Grandparenting brings the opportunity to walk spiritually alongside our grandchildren, offering tools and skills for the journey. Whatever your circumstances, God has positioned you to be a unique voice, speaking into your



grandchildren's lives, helping to nurture them into the reality of a relationship with the God who loves them. This book will help grandparents to encourage and equip their grandchildren to know God better.

ON THE WAY TO WORK By Chris Gillies, BRF, £12.99

Does your work give you a sense of purpose? How about its difficulties and problems? Does God have something to say about the way you work? Weaving together biblical perspectives with academic research and his



own experiences of working in different settings, Chris Gillies lays the theological foundation for work, and examines biblical role models from both Old and New Testaments. He concludes by exploring common issues we wrestle with in our work.

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PRIORY PARISH OFFICE

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Email: office@greatmalvernpriory.org.uk

The Office is open on Thursday & Friday, 9.00am—1.00pm, for drop-in visitors and 'phone calls. On other days you can contact the office by email, which is monitored regularly, or by leaving a message on the answerphone. If your request is urgent, please contact Revd. Rod Corke (pastoral) or Anne Rich (administrative).

www.greatmalverpriory.org.uk

For information about services, events, outreach, history, conservation and much more, take a look at our website. The weekly pew sheet 'This Week' is available at Priory Family>Weekly Vicar's Letter and notices. The Blog on the homepage is updated regularly with Priory happenings.

THE FRIENDS OF MALVERN PRIORY



The Friends supports the heritage of the Priory building and its musical tradition. It runs the Priory Shop and Guided Tours, holds the annual Heritage & Faith Lecture, Lunch Box, Community Carol

Service and Friends' Choral Evensong. To find out more please contact Anne Eglington, Chairman. Email: friends.malvernpriory@gmail.com Website: friendsofmalvernpriory.uk

LYTTELTON WELL

(Christian Centre at entrance to Priory)

Tel: 01684 573702

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Enquiries about Priory bookings of the Lyttelton Rooms should be made at the **Priory Parish Office**.

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Priory Magazine Layout & Print by

ASPECT DESIGN

89 Newtown Road, Malven, Worcestershire WR14 1PD Tel: 01684 561567

Email: allan@aspect-design.net

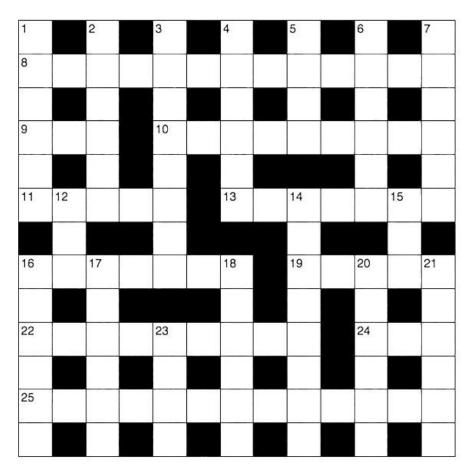


MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS

Please send all contributions for the magazine by email whenever possible to mag@greatmalvernpriory.org. **uk** with the deadline of the 10th of the previous month at the latest. Written articles should be clearly marked "Magazine" and placed in the "M" pigeonhole at the back of the Priory. The deadline for these is the 8th of the previous month. Contributions should be limited to a maximum of 500 words and, where accompanied by relevant photographs, reduced accordingly. Where photographs of young people are provided, please confirm that parental permission has been obtained to publish in this magazine. Articles will also be considered for inclusion on the Priory web site - if for any reason this is not acceptable, please mention when submitting articles. Some photographs, especially of young people, may not be published on the web pages.

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CROSSWORD



ACROSS:

- 8 'He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the '(Isaiah 53:12) (13)
- 9 'When they had sung a hymn, they went to the Mount of Olives (Matthew 26:30) (3)
- 10 Comes between Galatians and Philippians (9)
- 11 'Your heart will and swell with joy' (Isaiah 60:5) (5)
- 13 Muslim holy month (7)
- 16 Ten ears (anag.) (7)
- 19 Under (poetic abbrev.) (5)
- 22 How Abram described himself to God when he complained that his inheritance would pass to a servant (Genesis 15:2) (9)
- 24 'Go to the —, you sluggard' (Proverbs 6:6) (3)
- 25 Debar from receiving Communion (13)

DOWN:

- 1 My for His Highest (Oswald Chambers' best-known book) (6)
- 2 Festival of the resurrection (6)
- 3 'His sons will prepare for war and a great army' (Daniel 11:10) (8)
- 4 'Let not the string his bow' (Jeremiah 51:3) (6)
- 5 Name of the River Thames in and around Oxford (4)
- 6 'From then on Judas watched for an opportunity — him over' (Matthew 26:16) (2,4)
- 7 'But Christ is faithful — over God's house' (Hebrews 3:6) (2,1,3)
- 12 Long-handled implement used to till the soil (Isaiah 7:25) (3)
- 14 Order to which monks and nuns devote themselves (8)
- 15 Appropriate (Proverbs 15:23) (3)
- 16 l, uncle (anag.) (6)
- 17 'They gave him — of broiled fish' (Luke 24:42) (1,5)
- 18 'Weren't there three men that we — and threw into the fire?' (Daniel 3:24) (4,2)
- 20 Mountain where Noah's ark came to rest (Genesis 8:4) (6)
- 21 'Don't you know that friendship with the world is towards God?' (James 4:4) (6)
- 23 Prominent architectural feature of large cathedrals such as St Paul's (4)







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