Camila Batmanghelidjh to give third Penal Affairs Lecture

The speaker at this year’s Diocesan Penal Affairs Lecture in October is celebrated for her commitment to some of the most disadvantaged children in the country. She is acknowledged as thought-provoking, and to some, controversial.

Her power comes from the experience and success she has in turning round the lives of emotionally damaged, neglected or abused children and young people. Her means, love. “Children recover with unrelenting love,” is the motto of the organisation she founded and directs, Kids Company. When she speaks, she speaks from experience and also with powerful intellectual insight into the suffering of children. For over twenty years she has been a psychotherapist and she founded her first charity for children, ‘The Place to Be,’ in her twenties. In her thirties, she founded Kids Co in six converted rail arches in London. That was thirteen years ago and Kids Company’s work has survived because of committed staff and volunteers and because of funding from trusts and individuals, and lately from the Government, though State money is currently in short supply for any charity. Altogether, Kids Company has raised more than £50 million to help some of the most vulnerable children in our communities. This year, 36,000 children have turned to Kids Company for help, double the number last year. By comparison, that is not far short of the number of scouts and guides in the diocese.

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Her work is widely endorsed: when he was Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams said: “Camila’s work with children who have suffered abuse, trauma and emotional deprivation is outstanding. To hear her reflect on their experience is always to have mind and heart expanded.”

**SEE PAGE 6: POVERTY AND RICHES**
Bishop Paul helps parish to tug-of-war victory in its 150th year

In February this year the Bishop of Norwich was giving evidence to the Public Bill Committee of the House of Commons, and the subject was what is now the Marriage (Same-Sex Couples) Act 2013. Bishop Graham was answering a question from one of the Members of Parliament, which began “Do you accept that there are other views within the Church?” Here’s his reply:

“The Church of England has doctrine which is expressed in its canons which it believes to be consistent across time and with the teaching of Jesus Christ. I think that I have been ordained in the Church of England long enough to know that unanimity of view on anything is impossible to find, on this as on everything else. So no, certainly there is no unanimity of view, but there is a distinction between the doctrine of the Church of England and what people who belong to it think.”

In the Church of England we disagree about things. As a statement of the obvious this is right up there with ‘apples fall to the ground’ and ‘it gets cold in the winter’. We disagree about things. How well are we disagreeing at the moment? It’s an important question. Because by the tone and the style of our disagreement we commend our faith to those who listen to our arguments, or we bring it into disrepute.

“Not in my name”. This phrase was born in the 9/11 aftermath in New York. Since 2003, when a million people demonstrated, gathered around it, against the Iraq War, it’s become common here too. “Not in my name”. And I hear it quite a bit now in the Church too, used across a whole range of different issues. What does it mean? It can mean, “I turn my back on this shower, the Church of England as a whole. They don’t speak for me. I have nothing to do with them really. Indeed I want everyone to know that I despise them for their…” (You can fill in the blank here. Blinkered conservatism? Wishy-washy liberalism? Trendy modernism? Insufferable literalism?) Meanwhile, thank God I’m right!

Or it can mean “I want the Church of England, this family that I love, to change. They don’t speak for me, even though I remain one of them. So I commit myself to listen and to argue and to contend passionately for what I believe is right and to listen again, so that together we can come to a place where the Church speaks in our name once again. Meanwhile, maybe I’m wrong – but I have to be honest: I believe I’m right.”

“There is a distinction between the doctrine of the Church of England and what people who belong to it think.” Yes, there is. That distinction does not come from blind and fearful obedience to the church’s doctrine, whatever its people might think privately. And it does not mean that we pick and choose the church we like, and to it, to the choices of others, or with what we say together.

No: it comes from the fact that the Holy Spirit is still speaking to the church – not just to bishops and theologians and Synods, but to the whole Church – and that God still leads us to all truth by means of what the medieval theologians called the sensus fidelium, the sense of the faithful. To discover that, the Church is called to disagree – to disagree its way to God’s wider and richer truth. And you and I are called to keep on pushing for what is true in our name, so that in the end we can see together what remains true, as well as what is surprisingly and freshly true, in God’s name.

Bishop writes… Not in my name
Magna Carta makes its presence felt

Lincoln Cathedral’s Magna Carta, which is the only one of four originals to travel, is on loan to St Albans Cathedral until 29th August to celebrate St Albans Cathedral’s part in its creation nearly 800 years ago. In two years time, there will be national celebrations to mark the 800th anniversary.

In August 1213, St Albans Cathedral was the venue for the very first meeting between barons and clergy to discuss their grievances against King John. This historic meeting ultimately led to the articles that became Magna Carta, sealed at Runnymede two years later. The Mayor of St Albans, Cllr Annie Brewster, pictured above with Canon Kevin Walton, said: “I am very excited about the Magna Carta and to contemplate how very lucky we are to live in a place where fairness, justice, equality and human rights are the norm rather than the exception. I hope as many people as possible will have the opportunity to visit St Albans Cathedral this August to see to celebrate St Albans Cathedral’s part in its creation nearly 800 years ago. In two years time, there will be national celebrations to mark the 800th anniversary.

What did a logo ever achieve?

This year’s Christmas Starts with Christ campaign aims to help reverse the increasing lack of awareness of the true meaning of Christmas. The campaign will run from 1st December to Christmas day. Resources available include a new free-to-use logo, specially produced Christmas cards, a chocolate advent calendar with a copy of the Christmas story in the box and a national advertising campaign using posters and radio ads. It might be difficult to believe, given healthy numbers attending services at Christmas, but knowledge of the Christmas Story is fading. Just 12 per cent of adults know the nativity story; and 36 per cent of children do not know whose birthday is being celebrated during the festival. Some 51 per cent of people now say that the birth of Jesus is irrelevant to their Christmas. Is this a tipping point?

A movement made up of some of the nation’s leading Christian groups, including the Church of England, the Evangelical Alliance, and others, is coming together because they recognise the opportunity to do something about this. Leading the campaign is ChurchAds.net – the group behind the annual Christmas advertising poster campaigns. This year, recognising the urgency and importance of offering the Church something that can help save Christmas, the group has taken a new direction.

Part of this will be the first ever nationwide Christmas Starts Sunday on 1 December which kicks off the campaign and starts Advent. Arun Arora, Director of Communications for the Church of England “The logo is available for use free of charge, and the more churches that use it the greater the chance that we can cause the 51 per cent of people who say ‘the birth of Jesus is irrelevant to my Christmas’ to think again!”

Download resources for your church, find out more about the campaign or help save Christmas, visit www.christmasstartswithchrist.com.

 Beds. Ringers

A team from St Albans Diocese has won the annual Ringing World National Youth Contest for the second time and there have only been three contests! A Hertfordshire team won the first competition.

Bedfordshire Young Ringers beat 15 other teams of under 19s from across the country on the eight bells at St Lawrence’s Church, York on Saturday 6th July. The winning team of 8 ranged from 13 to 18 years old and came from St Andrew’s, Biggleswade; All Saints’, Leighton Buzzard; St Barnabas, Linslade and All Saints, Houghton Regis. The National Youth Contest was started as part of Ringing World’s centenary celebrations to promote ringing among young people.

The winners were presented with gold medals and the Whitechapel Trophy by Alan Hughes, Managing Director and co-owner of The Whitechapel Bellfoundry, the oldest manufacturing company in the UK, dating back to 1570, and the founders of Big Ben, the Royal Jubilee Bells and the famous Bow Bells.

In addition to the 10 minute competition “test piece,” there was the opportunity for competitors and their supporters to ring the bells at other churches across York, to take part in handbell workshops, to ring on a miniature ring of bells erected especially for the event or to follow a series of Treasure Hunt-style clues leading participants around the city sights. For the Bedfordshire team and supporters, a particular highlight was a visit to the top of the bell tower at York Minster where a peal (4 hours of continuous ringing) was being rung by a band of ringers all aged 24 or under, including another Bedfordshire ringer, Nick Brown, from Clifton.

Across the diocese, a number of events for young ringers are held throughout the year. These include practices, outings locally and further afield, including visits to the training centre at Worcester Cathedral, and usually involve not only ringing and but also eating lots of cake. Any young ringers, of whatever ability, are always assured of a warm welcome. Details of these events are on the website of the Bedfordshire Association of Church Bellringers (www.bacr.co.uk) or contact the President, Sue Silver (president@bacr.co.uk). The Hertfordshire County Association of Change Ringers (www.hccr.org.uk) administers The Ursula Ferguson Bequest which is a bursary awarded each year by the Association’s President to allow a young person to attend a ringing course – unusually two young coming together because they recognise the opportunity to do something about this. Leading the campaign is ChurchAds.net – the group behind the annual Christmas advertising poster campaigns. This year, recognising the urgency and importance of offering the Church something that can help save Christmas, the group has taken a new direction.

Part of this will be the first ever nationwide Christmas Starts Sunday on 1 December which kicks off the campaign and starts Advent. Arun Arora, Director of Communications for the Church of England “The logo is available for use free of charge, and the more churches that use it the greater the chance that we can cause the 51 per cent of people who say ‘the birth of Jesus is irrelevant to my Christmas’ to think again!”

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The celebrations of Dunstable Priory’s 800th anniversary come to a climax in October. Here are some of the events leading up to the finale.

**DUNSTABLE PRIORY**

**Friday 18th October**
800th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Priory.
Festival of Dedication Eucharist 7.30pm, all welcome

**Saturday 19th October**
2.00pm - 4.00pm Tea at the Ritz (Priory Style)
High class afternoon tea, served in the Priory Church, including a glass of sparkling wine on arrival and “Palm Court style” musical entertainment, Tickets available from Priory Church House.

**Sunday 20th October**
Closing Service Town Celebration 4.30pm, Preacher: The Bishop of St Albans, www.medievaldunstable.org.uk

For the first time, The Three Choirs Concert, a regular part of the St Albans international Organ Festival, brought together the boy & girl choristers and layclerks of Salisbury Cathedral, St Albans Cathedral and York Minster. They were conducted by David Halls, Andrew Lucas and Robert Sharpe and among performance included Victoria’s 12-part Magnificat, Duruflé’s Requiem, and works by Gabrieli, Monteverdi and Britten.

After conducting the combined choirs singing Duruflé’s Requiem, Andrew Lucas, Master of the Music at St Albans Cathedral, was visibly delighted with their performance.

The Organ Festival’s 50th anniversary included among the jury the first ever winner of the interpretation prize, Susan Landale.
The Interpretation Prize was won by Simon Thomas Jacobs from the UK, who read music as Organ Scholar at Clare College, Cambridge and is now Fellow in Sacred Music at Christ Church Cathedral, Indianapolis.
The Tournemire Prize winner for Improvisation was awarded to Martin Sturm from Germany who is an organist, pianist, conductor and composer. He is currently studying at the University of Music, Würzburg. See www.organfestival.com for more.

Next year sees the 70th anniversary of the Easter Monday Pilgrimage, an event unique to our diocese which brings together people from different traditions, age groups and areas. It began as a specific invitation from the bishops to those young people who had been confirmed in the previous 12 months, but it wasn’t long before others were drawn in and year after year people kept coming - as some pilgrims’ collection of badges makes plain!

Being invited by the bishops to join them at the Cathedral to celebrate the risen Christ remains at the heart of EMP, and in 2014 we want to go back to the event’s roots and enable more young people to participate, both by making the journey to the Cathedral and taking part in the pilgrimage service. Bishop Alan said: “Pilgrimage is always an outward sign of our willingness to go deeper into God and to grow in faith. The Easter Monday Pilgrimage is, and of course always will be, for all in the diocese whatever age they may be, but it is a particular opportunity to encourage our young people to engage with that same journey, and consider where God may be calling them to serve him. It would be fantastic if every parish could be represented in 2014, and for every congregation to send out new younger pilgrims, as well as those who have made the journey many times over the years!”

There is none like you, O Lord, and there is no God besides you, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

1Ch 17:20 (ESV)
St Boniface rewards Alex’s Anglican odyssey

Alex Twells, a Reader in Chelmsford, read about St Boniface’ Trust’s essay competition in See Round and entered. The competition invited entrants to write about “Why I am an Anglican and believe I will remain so.”

The Trust’s view was that a clearer understanding of what it is to be an Anglican might help dispel some of the increasing divisions between AngloCans and Roman Catholics.

Sixty-four entries were received, among them Alex’s. The competition’s judge wrote to say that he was one of the few received from an evangelical perspective and was a Runner-Up. The Revd Callan Slipper, Ecumenical Facilitator for the County, was also a Runner-Up. Alex wrote recently to See Round to say that the winning entries were now available to read on the Trust’s website, www.stbonifacetrust.org.uk/essay-competition.html adding “But for reading See Round I would never have known about the competition! Thank you.”

New Advisory Committee Secretary Appointed

Emma Critchley has been appointed Pastoral and Advisory Secretary. She said: “As I originally started working in the Diocesan Office almost 24 years ago, I hope I won’t need too much introduction. Over the years I have worked with the Diocesan Synod and its boards and committees, trusts, the DAC and Mission and Pastoral Committee. I have also worked on sermons at consecutive land registration and chancel repair liability. I am very much looking forward to continuing to develop the work of the team involved with the DAC and Mission and Pastoral Committee, in the same spirit of supporting all that is done in parishes and deaneries.”

From table-top to shop: Bedford Couple’s 25-year ministry of fair trade

Twenty-five years ago no one put the words “fair” and “trade” together. Twenty-five years ago there was no Fairtrade brand (it will be 20 years old in 2014 and now it is a well-recognised and strong brand, with over £1.5 billion worth of Fairtrade goods sold in the UK during 2012. The market has grown from around £60 million a decade ago, with the trade in bananas and sugar products, now familiar in supermarkets, responsible for over half of that growth. (Note: some fairly traded goods fall outside the brand.) Sales in churches are an important part of the story, not least because in many places, the fair trade journey began with a Traidcraft table after church. A couple from Bedford have made a singular contribution to the story of fair trade in this diocese, in just that way.

Twenty-five years ago Brenda and Lionel Mayoh thought they were merely running a table in the church hall at St Andrew’s, Bedford to sell toilet rolls, coffee, tea and some stationery. The then curate’s wife had started the whole idea of selling Traidcraft goods, but curates move on and someone had to take over. In 2013, as the Mayohs look back on their years of devotion to fair trade, the table has become St Andrew’s well stocked shop, open three times a week.

There have been annual fair trade fashion shows with models from the congregation. There have been Christmas displays that have taken over their entire home. There was the year when there were so many customers they had to send some home. Or the time when 444 bottles of wine were sold – goodness knows what the neighbours thought as boxes were collected. There have been unevent pop-up events from the Wrest Park Garden Show to tiny church halls. The Mayohs have popped up in schools, village halls and with all sorts of organisations: spreading the word about the movement and selling foods and unusual craft items.

Brenda loves selecting products: one year she went on holiday to Traidcraft’s HQ in Gateshead to view stock and then spent the rest of the week driving around with purchases in the boot. Brenda has developed strong relationships with all her suppliers but in particular with Lynn Herron of the Fair Deal World Shop in Luton. She has created a team of twenty volunteers without whose enthusiasm she says it would not have been possible. Brenda reckons fair trade sales have been about £450,000 during her career with the movement: what an achievement! But for Brenda this is irrelevant; what matters to her is knowing that producers receive fair recompense for their products and can create a better life for their families and communities.

The Mayohs have decided that the time has come to retire from the management of this amazing enterprise. From 1 August the PCC of St Andrew’s, Bedford took over responsibility for developing the legacy and promoting fair trade to customers and the community.

Elizabeth Toogood, who is chairing the management group for Fairtrade at St Andrew’s, as the shop will now be known, said: “Brenda and Lionel will be hugely missed. We are immensely grateful for their perseverance, and wish you God’s blessing.”

In the service, the new management team and the community of volunteers were commissioned to take the work forward. The mission remains the same: a fair price to producers who can then improve the lives of their families and communities. The team has big shoes to fill but there are plans in hand to craft new ways of working in the twenty-first century – a comprehensive website, ordering on line etc.

The shop will continue to be open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Sundays (See http://www.standrewsbedford.org for times) and will continue to do pop-up events. Contact St Andrew’s if you want them to do one for you. And also contact them if you want to be a volunteer and join the laughter.

How is fair trade moving forward in your church? - stories to commas@stalbans.anglican.org - please.

Follow Fairtrade at St Andrews on Twitter @SIA_Fairtrade, Email at faithlandstandrewsbedford.org or telephone Liz Toogood on 01234 273644.

The Revd Nick Sharp, Team Vicar, Holy Trinity Hertford Heath writes:

“I run an enquirer’s course in a pub from time to time. I like to ask the people on the course for the questions they want to discuss, and one of the options I give is “What do Christians think about...?” You’re meant to fill in the dots with the issue that interests you. You know, gay marriage, euthanasia, drugs, that sort of thing.

But recently, one man said, “No, I just want to know what Christians think about. What do you think about all day? What’s going on inside your heads?”

It seems that for him, Christians were almost an alien species.

Francis Spufford’s book might have been written for him.

It’s a brilliant attempt to get under the skin of a Christian, specifically of a man who used to be an atheist but now is an Anglican. He describes what it feels like to be a Christian, what it feels like to pray, what it feels like to listen to Richard Dawkins more often than you would choose.

Yes, there’s a lot about Richard Dawkins in there, which Christian readers will cheer about, but there’s plenty for those who are definitely not Christians and who think that those that are are very odd indeed.

Spufford’s translation of “sin” into something that can be understood by everyone is brilliant, but too rude to be printed here! There is a lot of swearing in this book, and if that bothers you, you won’t like it. But get beyond that, and what you’ll find is a witty, entertaining education into why, despite everything, Christianity still makes surprising emotional sense.”

‘Unapologetic’ is available in a hardback or paperback edition. SBN: 9780571225224 Published: 07.03.2013 by Faber & Faber

New Grove Booklet offered as MAP aid

The Revd Matthew Swires-Hennessy former Luton Curate, now Associate Minister at St Peter’s Church, Farnborough, Hants., has written a Grove Booklet, “Connecting Vision and Worship”, W125. He has offered it as a resource for any involved with Mission Action Planning and seeking to respond to Living God’s Love.
Bishop Alan turns ‘aspirations’ into ‘plan of action’

Bishop Alan won a small but significant amendment to a motion on Welfare Reform at the General Synod. The amended motion calls for “a renewed settlement between the state, the churches and civil society”, and for “a proper thought-through, negotiation between the state and the voluntary structures of society, including the Church, as a way of building up communities and promoting neighbourliness.”

The amended motion passed as follows:

That this Synod, recognising that in times of austerity hard choices must be made between competing priorities, and acknowledging that reform of welfare systems is essential—

• Affirm the need for a renewed settlement between the state, the churches and civil society in pursuit of social solidarity and the common good;
• Involve the MPA Council to consider how the Church of England can better contribute to this new settlement, making recommendations to the General Synod by July 2014;
• Encourage Her Majesty’s Government to found such a reform on the principle of a bias towards the poor;
• Call on politicians to pay close attention to the impact of welfare cuts on the most vulnerable, and call for support for those not in a position to support themselves and, in doing so, to consider whether the top-down provision of universal benefits may be becoming the enemy of targeted benefits;
• Decry the misleading characterisation of all welfare recipients as ‘scroungers’ and
• commend those across the churches who are working to support those most in need.”

Poverty and Riches in the News

St Lawrence of Rome presented the Prefect with a crowd of the poorest people when asked by him for the Church’s riches, remarking: “These are the treasures which I promised to show you.”

Diocese’s landmark project takes part in national Poverty Pilgrimage

All Saints South Oxhey and its ASCEND project welcomed the Poverty Pilgrimage on its way to Westminster.

The pilgrims were four people from ManchesterDiocese who were gathering stories from places along their route of the real experience of people living in poverty and coping with changes in benefits and disability support. Some of these changes affect the poorest and most vulnerable in society and their first hand experience is not always heard. It is clear that policy-making can improve through hearing and taking account of such stories. An example is that children receiving free school meals for term-time were found to be hungry during the holidays. The pilgrims took with them stories from the experiences of ASCEND clients, especially about assessments for disability benefits which have recently been outsourced to an agency and where the careful and detailed assessments which are remembered from before have been replaced by what seem, to those facing them, to box-ticking or form-filling exercises which do not take full account of someone’s circumstances.

The Church has always been a voice for the voiceless. That task continues in the twenty-first century.

Giving Thanks for Generosity and Growth

Good news 1: Receipts from the parish share continue to grow in each month. For the first six months of this year the receipts into the Board of Finance were running at more than 3% in actual cash terms than for the same period last year, and in terms of what was requested, there was an increase in what was given. In spite of the fact that many are having difficult times financially, this is wonderful news for which we should give thanks.

Good news 2: This has enabled us to fulfil the part of our Diocesan strategy to gradually increase the numbers of stipendiary clergy in our parishes. So now we have one more curate than we had a year ago and three more ordination candidates will commence their training this autumn. As more and more clergy reach retirement age over the next 10 years, so this diocese through the generosity of our parishioners, will be equipped to carry on the work of the Gospel in parishes, schools and chaplaincies in the future.

David Nye
New hands - new hearts

READERS - 16th June 2013

The following Readers were Admitted and Licensed on 16th June 2013 at St Andrew’s Church Bedford, by the Bishop of Hertford:

Anthony Archer to Berkhamsted Team Ministry; Gill Barrett to St Lawrence, Bovingdon; Christine Elcombe to St Swithun, Sandy; Simon Gutteridge to Potton w. Sutton and Cockayne Hatley; Brad Holland to Christ Church, Ware; Tricia Humber to Ouzel Valley Team Ministry; Paul Littlefair to St Lukes, Bricket Wood; Andrew Marsh to St Nicholas, Harpenden; Becky Mynett to Bishop’s Hatfield Team Ministry; Victoria Shane to St Thomas a Becket, Clapham; Kerry Smith to Totternhoe, Stanbridge and Tilsworth; Diana Stretton to St Andrew’s, Bedford; Rosemary Watkins to Chipping Barnet Team Ministry; Jan Weeden to St Anne with St Christopher, Luton.

Licensed to this diocese: Colin Crowhurst to St Andrew’s, Hertford.

PIESTS – Saturday June 29th 2013

The following Deacons (see image top right) were ordained as Priests by the Bishop of St Albans:

Paul Boddam-Whetham to St Albans Christ Church, (SSM); Lesley-Ann Craddock to Hatfield Hyde; Lucy Dallas to Welwyn Team Ministry; Lucy Davis to Redbourn, (SSM); Nicholas Jones to Frogmore; Chrishon Limbert to Ouzel Valley Team Ministry; Keith Murphy to Ware Christ Church; Mark Newman to Eaton Socon; Rachel Pennant to Biggleswade; Michael Pilavachi to Watford St Peter (SSM) (Soul Survivor); Thomas Plant to Great Berkhamsted, Great Gaddesden, Little Gaddesden, Nettleden and Potten End;

DEACONS – Sunday June 30th 2013

The following Ordinands (see image above right) were ordained Deacon by the Bishop of St Albans:

Andrew Croft to Langleybury St Paul; Peter Crumpler to Sandridge (SSM); Virginia (Ginni) Dear to Hertford Team Ministry; Nevsky Everett to Norton; Matthew Graham to Little Heath; David Short to Chorleywood Christ Church; Catherine (Kate) Sharples to Stevenage St Peter Broadwater; Shaun Speller to Harpenden St Nicholas; Nicholas Walsh to Luton Leswey St Hugh; David Warner to Abbots Langley; Robin (James) Webster to Broxbourne w Wormley; Joshua Young to Welwyn Garden City.

when my car broke down and needed major work. My then vicar suggested I ask my Deenery Welfare Fund for help, which I did, reluctantly. They did pay for my car’s repairs for which I am extremely grateful. When I had been unemployed for just over eighteen months a friend from church said she felt led to give me a cheque. This was a wonderful answer to prayer as I had reached crisis point in my finances. I don’t know what would have happened if God hadn’t of put it in her heart to help me, or if she hadn’t acted on her hunch. Although I was desperate, it was still hard for me to receive the cheque. Surely receiving shouldn’t be so hard? Why is it I feel so unable to ask for help? Maybe as a society we need to rethink our attitudes to giving, receiving, asking and being asked. Personally I’d like the Government to rethink their attitudes to Jobseekers Allowance and realise that one size benefits do not fit all.

Everyone is different and has different needs. If we know people in our communities who are in need, whether it be in need of money, food, company or anything else, let us ask God to guide us how we can help and then act gracefully.

If you are in need, please remember to ask for grace to receive and to ask. If you receive from others, you are allowing people to give, to be as Christ to you, to do as Christ commanded, to serve one another. There is grace in receiving as well as in giving. As Christians, we are happy to receive the greatest gift ever of God’s love and the gift of Jesus. Why is it then that we are hesitant to receive from one another?

In the words of Richard Gillard’s hymn:

‘Brother, sister, let me serve you,
Let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace
to let you be my servant, too.’

Deborah Rogers A member of St Mary’s Church Braughing
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To book or for more details please call 01752 364 186

*Terms & conditions apply.
St Mary the Virgin, Ware, Monday Lunchtime Concerts, which last about 40 minutes, starting at 12.30. (lunches available), are as follows. Monday 2nd September - Divertimento Wind Quartet. Monday 7th October - Pupils from Haileybury College. Details ring Mark or Kath on 01920 465976. St Mary the Virgin, Ware, Post琪, Bar Lunchtime recitals starting 12.30pm and lasting 40 minutes. Light lunches available before and after recital. 3rd September - Rarecass, Flute & Guitar. 1st October - Sarah Oliver, Cello.


St. Mary The Virgin, Carlton, Patronal Festival Weekend. Saturday 7th September 7.30pm a choral evensong of Marian Music “Ave Maria” by Cantamus. Tickets £8 from PPC members, at the door, and from Carlton Village Shop. Also Sunday 8th September, Festival Eucharist 11am, Preacher: The Venerable Malcolm Lesiter and in the afternoon Tea and Cakes in the Church 2pm-5pm. Tower open from 2.30pm to 4.00pm. St Leonards Church Bengeo, Herford. On Saturday 14th September, at 7.30 pm, the Artesian Quartet (Kate Suthers and Emily Davis, violins; Matthew Maguire, viola and Antonio Novais, cello) will perform music by Haydn & Schumann and after the interval together with Stephanie Edmundson, viola and Rebecca Herman, cello, will perform Brahms’ String Sextet. Tickets £10 (Friends of St Leonards’) £8, refreshments included. Reservations 01922 651799.

St Martin’s Church, Knebworth, Elvis Presley Gospel Tribute Concert. Friday 20th September, 7.30pm. Highly acclaimed evening, performed by Andy Kelso, who was previously a Vicaire and a Chaplin. Tickets £10 (£8 concessions) from Village Bar, Knebworth or Penny on 01438 313241. Tickets also on the door, subject to availability.

Holy Trinity Church – Leverstock Green, Bedmond Road, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 8LP. Harp Concert Saturday 21st September at 7.30pm, presented by International Harpist Robin Ward. With music from folk traditions, the baroque, classical, and romantic performed on his own handcrafted triple harp. Tickets & Enquiries: 01442 380292. Adults £10/Concession £8/ Under 18 Donation.

The Priory Church of St. Peter, Dunstable. On Saturday 28th September at 7.30pm the two Priory choirs will present a selection of some of the music they have sung, during the summer visits to Guildford and Sherborne. Tickets cost £10, Under 16s free entry, and include refreshments during the interval. Tickets are available from Priory House or at the door on the night.

St Michael & All Angels, Shefford, Beds. Seastory - a new musical by Jenny Dann will be performed Saturday & Sunday October 5th & 6th at 4pm Free, but space limited so please contact 01462 817337 or www.sm3a.org.uk for tickets. The young (and young at heart) are invited to dress as sea creatures!

St Paul’s Church Chipperfield, A concert of light orchestral music with choir to celebrate the 175th Anniversary of St Paul’s Church on Sunday 6th October, 7.30pm. Also Choral Evensong for Harvest Festival Sunday 13th October 6.30pm.

St Peter’s Church, Berkhamsted, Concerts by Bridgewater Sinfonia, Conductor: Adrian Davis at 7.30pm Saturday 12th October. Programme includes Beethoven, Ravel (with Florian Mitrea on piano) and Brahms. Tickets £10 (£9 Concessions) Under 18 FREE, available online: www.bridgewater-sinfonia.org.uk, By phone: 01442 873205, In person at Aitcheson (Berkhamsted High Street).

15 Andrew’s Church, Kimbolton Road, Bedford, MK40 2PF. Tel 01234 216881 Bring and Sing on Saturday 12th October 7.30pm. Four Handel Coronation Anthems and Two Purcell Anthems. Ian Smith – Conductor, Paul Edwards – Accompanist. Register at 1.45pm, rehearsal at 2.30pm before performing in the evening. Tea at £4 is available after the rehearsal. Scores are available in advance. Audience ticket prices are Adults £8, Concs £7, Students 16-21 £3, children free accompanied by an adult.

Stopes Parish Church, Hitchin Road, Luton LU5 7UL. Bedfordshire Music & Drama Festival at Saturday 12th October, at 7pm. Tickets £6. Contact details 01582 729194.

Open Days & Festivals

Open Day & Festival St James’ Church, Gosfield Oak, Craft Market on Saturday 14th September 11am-3pm. Admission 50p, children free. Refreshments available. Great Wycombe Village Fete: Sun 28th September, from 2pm onwards. Traditional village fete on the green, with fun Dog show, clog dancing, teas and refreshments, sideshows and stalls games, cakes raffles etc. Also visit St Mary’s Church, enjoy the displays of flowers, and come and see our conservation areas in our churchyard.

St John the Baptist, Great Gaddesden, Flower Festival from 12.30pm. Friday 20th September 20th until 4pm Sunday Sept 22nd, with evening concerts and food fayre. For details visit foggc.org.uk, or 01582 840513.

St. Andrew’s Church Shortmead St., Biggleswade SG18 0AT. Country Fayre and Two Purcell Anthems. Ian Smith – Conductor, Paul Edwards – Accompanist. Register at 1.45pm, rehearsal at 2.30pm before performing in the evening. Tea at £4 is available after the rehearsal. Scores are available in advance. Audience ticket prices are Adults £8 £8, Concs £7, Students 16-21 £3, children free accompanied by an adult.

WHICH JESUS? A free three-part series entitled Which Jesus? will take place at Hitchin Christian Centre, Bedford Road, Hitchin, SG1 1HF. It starts on Sunday 15th Sept 7pm, with the Muslim scholar, author, and Imam of the Mosque, Dr Shabab Al-adrud-Rahman ibn Yusuuf, discussing the role of Jesus in the Quran with Dr Brendan Devitt (Theology & Training Director, Hitchin Christian Centre) On Sun 13th October Rabbi Nathan Levy will discuss the role of Jesus in Judaism. On Sun 24th November the Rev Steve Chalk will discuss whether Jesus was a Christian. For further details Tel: 01462 442239 or visit www.hcc.org.uk.

St. Stephen’s Church, Watling Street, St. Albans. Cream Teas and Guided Tour of the church on Sunday 29th September between 2.30 and 5pm. All welcome.

St Leonard’s Church Sandridge, A Harvest of Miracles Flower Festival on Saturday 5th October 10am. A Flower Festival (entry free). Refreshments and craft stall. 8pm Musical Evening with BSJ Jazz Group (Tickets £5 on the door). Sunday 6th October, St. Leonard’s Church, Much Hadham. ‘Transforming The Transfiguration’ 7.30pm Thursday October 10th. Illustrated talk by Iain Lane, mainly on Raphael’s painting. £10.00 at door or ring 01279 841196. Drink afterwards available.

SeeRound September 2013 Page 9

Gilead Foundations is a Therapeutic Community, offering a residential rehabilitation program, called KEY, for people with life-controlling addictions, such as drug or alcohol abuse, homelessness, gambling, eating disorders, self harm, and other addictive behaviours.

Based on a 300 acre dairy farm in rural Devon, Gilead uses the Genesis Process Relapse Prevention programme with our clients.

If you, or someone you know would like more information about Gilead or would like to make an application, please contact:

Laura Alm Tel: 01837 851240 Fax: 01837 851520 laura.alm@gilead.org.uk

www.gilead.org.uk
The mission and vision of Gilead Foundations charity is to unlock people who have compulsive behaviours, such as drug and alcohol addictions, and release them into their true God-given potential, through a structured residential Christian-based rehabilitation programme, living in community as extended family. Gary’s story on this page is one of many in which we have been privileged to play a part.

The farm and related business activities provide work therapy, skills training and support. Many of those who successfully complete the programme leave the community and establish productive lives for the future. Others, like Gary, choose to stay on and ‘give something back’.

We have just had a milestone moment in the life and journey of Gilead. We have finally arrived at a time where we can start to ‘move in’ to the first of three new, purpose built bungalows. This new facility, designed and built to high standards, helps our students realise the value that God and the community put on their lives. It values them greatly.

The house will give us excellent accommodation for 8 male clients (students), plus 2 male support workers (already on staff) and a new house parent couple, all of whom will live as extended family.

The full completion of these facilities will help the staff and the community at Gilead to maintain the 83% success rate of students still addiction-free after 2 years of completing the programme.

We have been raising funds and building this new house for 6 long years, so we are very excited that we have started to move in at last. But we still have a few things to finish to make it fully functional and give the students the best support we can. It will only take about 6 weeks of work to move in to part of the first house, but we have a shortfall of £12,000 preventing us from getting there.

We have been working and praying for a long time, not only for the house to be completed, but also for the staff to live as extended family with the students, so that our God-given vision based on the text from Psalm 68 ‘God sets the lonely into families’ can be fulfilled. We are pleased to say we are doubly excited, because not only are we starting to move in, but we also have a couple returning to become house parents in the new house, after being away from Gilead for 7 years.

This new couple will complement the work of Bron and Ian Samuel, who founded Gilead over twenty years ago, and have for many years lived as extended family in the farm house with female students, as well as helping staff to oversee the male students living in caravans. This now gives us both male and female extended family groups.

Would you please help us raise the remaining £12,000 to begin our partial ‘move in’ to the first house? After 6 long years, just 6 weeks work stands between us and this exciting move – can you help us over this hurdle? Loans or donations would be greatly appreciated by everyone here in the community at Gilead.

Freed from anger, hurt and resentment
Gary is just one of many that have found freedom from addiction, new life and a fresh start at Gilead. This is Gary’s story in his own words...

Mine is a stereotypical story really. I grew up in care homes and foster care from a young age and never really felt secure or loved. I have been an addict since the age of 12 on glue and petrol. The usual story - in and out of jail, girlfriends, kids, no sense of responsibility. I got into class A drugs when I was about 16 or 17 and ended up on heroin. I tried several rehabs and twelve step programmes without much success.

Then in 2005 I injected into my groin and missed the vein. This resulted in a lot of complications and I ended up in hospital.

I had two blood clots, no white blood cells and a collapsed lung. I was told that I needed to take Warfarin, an anticoagulant, to remove the blood clots but the risk was that this could start off bleeding in my lungs which would kill me. I took the Warfarin and sure enough the bleeding started. I should have died. Somehow I survived.

I knew people who were Christians who said they would do a detox.

Gary is just one of many that have found freedom from addiction, new life and a fresh start at Gilead. This is Gary’s story in his own words...

I didn’t quite get it the first time I went to Gilead. I kept too many secrets and wasn’t open and honest. However I did meet Kate who became my wife. I’d always said that I would never marry because of experiences in my own family’s life but I eventually changed my mind.

We came back to Gilead in July 2011; this time I was ready and willing to be open and honest. I took the “Genesis Relapse Prevention Process” seriously and found that it really does help if done properly. I released a lot of anger, hurt and resentment that I had been holding onto since childhood days. I forgave others and asked for forgiveness myself. It was like the weight of a dead horse had been lifted off my shoulders - quite a release!

I still have my ups and downs, but things are good. Kate and I are expecting our first child together and we are starting to take steps to have Kate’s 9 year old daughter full-time. We have finished our programme and we have chosen to join the Gilead community as volunteers. I want to be able to give back to people what I’ve got from this place. I’m not ashamed to tell people my story and let them know the rewards I’ve reaped from it.
Over 60 years of retirement housing...

With supported housing, nursing and dementia care, the Church of England Pensions Board provides security and peace of mind in retirement to those who have given their lives towards helping others in the name of Christ, including Clergy Widows and Licensed Lay Workers.

We rely on donations and legacies to continue this much needed work.

PLEASE HELP US IN ANY WAY YOU CAN

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Web: www.cep.org.uk
Email: cepappeals@churchofengland.org

Registered Charity Number: 236627

This Harvest, remember the seafarers who cross the ocean to bring us our daily needs.

Will you support the Mission to Seafarers by holding a “Sea Sunday”
Harvest festival of thanksgiving for the world’s 1.3 million men and women
who risk their lives on a daily basis to bring us essential food and supplies?

For more information or to order your full resources pack including
sermon notes and children’s material, please contact:
Nicola.Jackson@missiontoseafarers.org or call 01354 695002.

‘Love your neighbour as yourself’
Luke 10:27 The Good Samaritan

www.seasunday.org

St Francis’ Children’s Society
is an ‘Outstanding’ rated adoption charity based in Milton Keynes.

We offer lifelong post adoption support to
our adoptive families including: counselling, advice and
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Our specialist social workers and therapists are on
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Adoption information evenings
Wednesday 4th September
Wednesday 2nd October
Starting at 6.30pm ending at 8.00pm

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www.sfcs.org.uk email: enquiries@sfcs.org.uk
Venue: St Francis’ Children’s Society, Collis House, 48 Newport Road,
Woodstone, Milton Keynes MK15 0AA.

Registered Charity Number: 216670
New Bedfordshire
Local Ecumenical Partnership

St Peter’s Church Thurleigh and Thurleigh Baptist Church have inaugurated and signed a Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) agreement. The new partnership builds on an earlier ‘Churches Together’ covenant between them. The congregations committed themselves actively to work together, and in a small village like Thurleigh it makes sense for Christians to worship, study and work together and to present a unified witness of faith to the local community.

Local Ecumenical Partnerships are formal agreements made between Christian denominations to work together in local and to present a unified witness of faith to the local community.

Priest’s getaway

In a feat that gives a whole new meaning to the phrase ‘getting away from it all’, Will Gibbs, Vicar of St Mary’s Redbourn, is planning a ‘jail break’ to raise money for charity. He will set off on Friday 18th October, taking with him just £10 in his pocket and a pair of walking shoes, attempting to get as far as he can in the next forty eight hours.

Following biblical precedent, he will rely entirely on the assistance of strangers for food, shelter and transport, and is inviting sponsorship per mile to support the work of St Mary’s nominated charities. Will explained “This is certainly going to be an interesting and somewhat nerve-wracking experience but I can’t wait to get started. I’m raising funds for five charities; Redbourn Care Group, Open Door St Albans, The Pepper Foundation, and two charities working in Africa; The Busoga Trust and St Andrew’s Clinics for Children.”

Will has the whole hearted backing of the St Mary’s church family, and many members of the congregation have pledged support. Jonathan Simpson, a Redbourn resident, commented: “We’re really proud of Will. He is certainly game for a laugh and it’s all for good causes. This is just one example of the innovative and refreshing initiatives that come out of our local church and it’s the kind of thing that the whole village gets involved with”.

Anyone wishing to support Will on this unique adventure can donate through mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/willgibbsjailbreak.

Marking a very special
21st Birthday

The Bishop of Bedford celebrated a very special 21st birthday in Bedford this June, with a significant number of guests who look well under 21! He led a Thanksgiving Service marking 21 years since the refurbishment of St Leonard’s Christian Centre, Bedford, but St Leonard’s story starts a long time before 1992.

St Leonard’s Centre has been in regular use for worship since 1988, when St Leonard’s Church was destroyed by fire. The insurance proceeds were applied to the refurbishment, thanks to the Treasurer of St John’s and St Leonard’s. The thriving present days of St Leonard’s Centre are connected to the thriving past in the church building by a some far harder times.

Originally St Leonard’s Hospital, it was founded by the Wyatts brothers, the first two Vicars of St Leonard’s, shortly after the original temporary tin St Leonard’s Church opened in 1889. Its purpose was to provide meals for convalescents in the town.

The Wyatts wanted to build a church to seat 800; there were 400 Easter Communicants at the ‘Tabernacle’ over five services. St Leonard’s fine new building was consecrated in 1914; six months later, war broke out.

The effects of war and other social changes resulted in a steady decline in the congregation. Following the Second World War attendances fell sharply with just 70 communicants being recorded on Easter Day in 1957 and just 32 in 1968.

By the 1960’s the population in St Leonard’s parish was changing dramatically with a large influx of families from India and Italy moving into the area, many working in the brickyards and engineering firms then thriving in the county. By 1975 the church was declared ‘redundant’.

Without any viable alternative use in prospect, the Rector of St John’s was given pastoral care for the parish with an understanding that the church might be temporarily used to see if the small congregation of under 10 regular worshippers could be developed over the following three years, a daunting task. The tiny congregation continued to meet in the cold and gloomy chancel of the church. With help from some of the congregation at St John’s, the number attending on Sunday mornings began to grow. Bi-lingual services were also held for members of the Church of North India. But in early 1988, with major repairs needed to the church, it was decided that time was up and the church would have to be demolished. At that time, worship began in the Church Hall. The small remains is now anything but small as the picture shows.

Sunday services continue at St Leonard’s each week at 10.30am with mid week activities including Coffee Mornings, Prayer Fellowships, an Asian Drop-In centre and use of the premises by the Hospital Cardiac Rehabilitation Centre.

(Thanks to Dick Crane for his material. Ed.)

On the move

Charlotte Ballinger, Curate-in-training in the Chipping Barnet Team Ministry has become Chaplain at University College London, in London Diocese.

David Beresford, Assistant Curate in the benefice of Bury, Coldwellham, Houghton and Hardtham, Chichester Diocese, is to become Priest-in-Charge of The Holy Cross, March Farm, Luton.

Darren Collins, presently Priest-in-Charge in the benefice of Norton (The Letchworth Group Ministry) is to become incumbent of the same.

Peter Huw Davies, presently Rector of St Leonard’s Church, Chesham Bois is to become Rector of St Swithun’s Church, Sandy, Bedfordshire.

Jeremy Haswell, Curate at St Paul’s Church St Albans has reached the end of his curacy.

Martin Hathaway, Team Vicar in Dunstable Team Ministry is to retire to Leicestershire.

Jenny Hill, presently Team Vicar in the benefice of Hemel Hempstead is to become Rector of the same.

Warrick Martin, presently Curate-in-training in the benefice of Little Heath is to become Associate Minister at Terrington St Clement Parish Church, in the Diocese of Norwich.

Simon Moore Presently Priest-in-Charge in the benefice of St Paul w.Willian, Letchworth is to become incumbent of the same.

Ian Pankhurst, presently Priest-in-Charge at St Andrew’s Church Watford, is to become incumbent of the same.

HOST UK

Many international students come to Britain to study at our universities. For 26 years, national charity HOST has been linking students with volunteer hosts, who invite a student to spend a day, a weekend, or Christmas in their home. Chatting, eating together; playing games; seeing the area; joining in with the local community; making friends – a HOST visit lays down wonderful memories to be re-lived in China, India, the USA and other parts of the world. And hosts learn from their guests too. If you could make a student welcome, please contact HOST through www.hostuk.org or call Sandra Purrett on 01296 681625. Thank you.

SeeRound @ St Albans Diocese.

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SeeRound is available on tape. Details from Barbara Ebeling 01279 42006 or email barbara.ebeling@sky.com