

WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER

Sunday September 5th	11am	Morning Worship including Communion - Revd. David Jenkins Theme: 'Counting the Cost'
Sunday September 12th	11am	Morning Worship in the Vision4Life series - Revd. Ray Adams Theme: 'Forgive us... as we forgive' This service will be followed by activities and lunch.
Sunday September 19th	11am	Morning Worship - Revd. David Jenkins Theme: 'Weighing the Risks'
Sunday September 26th	11am	Harvest Festival - Revd. Ray Adams Theme: 'Supermarket World'

Prayers at 12.15 p.m. with the Burford Centre begin again on Wednesday September 8th.

HARVEST FESTIVAL and MARKET - SEPTEMBER 26TH

This year's Harvest celebrations will centre on the origin of the food we find in our shops. A display of fruit, vegetables, flowers and produce is planned, highlighting the variety of countries from which they come. **Everyone is invited to bring a contribution to add to the display.** After worship there will be a Market at which the gifts will be sold for Christian Aid. Harvest lunch will be followed by Church Meeting at **2.30pm** at which Gillian Whiting will tell us about her latest visit to Tabore.

The lectionary readings for July Sundays are:

5 September

Deuteronomy 30.15-20 Psalm 1
Philemon 1-21 Luke 14.25-33

12 September

Exodus 32.7-14 Psalm 51.1-10
1 Timothy 1.12-17 Luke 15.1-10

19 September

Amos 8.4-7 Psalm 113
1 Timothy 2.1-7 Luke 16.1-13

26 September

Amos 6.1a, 4-7 Psalm 146
1 Timothy 6.6-19 Luke 16.19-31

Pastoral Letter

I have written and spoken several times in the last few months about the importance of hospitality, but sometimes one can see its potential in new and striking ways, not least its power to defuse old hostilities and divisions.

Ivo Markovič, a Franciscan monk from Bosnia, was caught up in the war in the mid-1990s where Croats, Bosnians and Serbs were fighting each other with much bloodshed and homes being destroyed on all sides. Muslim Bosnians had massacred twenty-one men from Šušanj, the village in which Father Markovič was born. Nine of them were members of his family. All were people of great age, innocent of any crimes, the youngest of whom was his seventy-one-year-old father.

Three years after the massacre, Father Markovič visited Šušanj where he found that the house which had been his family home was occupied by a fierce Muslim woman. He had been warned not to go there because she brandished a rifle to protect her new home, but he went anyway. As he approached the house she was waiting for him and shouted: 'Go away, or I'll shoot you'. 'No you won't shoot me', said Father Markovič, 'you'll make me a cup of coffee'. She stared at him for a while, then slowly put the rifle down and went to the kitchen. Taking the last bit of coffee she had, she mixed in some already used grounds to make

enough coffee for two cups. And they, deadly enemies, began to talk as they shared the ancient ritual of hospitality: drinking coffee together. She told him of her loneliness, of the home she had lost, of the son who never returned from the battlefield. When Father Markovič returned a month later she told him: 'I rejoice at seeing you as much as if my son had returned home'.

Miroslav Volf* writes of this encounter: 'The humble, tenuous beginnings of a journey toward embrace were enacted through a ritual of coffee drinking. If the journey continues, it will lead through the difficult terrain of forgiveness.'

'Forgiveness places us on a boundary between enmity and friendship, between exclusion and embrace. It tears down the wall of hostility that wrongdoing erects, but it doesn't take us into the territory of friendship. Should those who forgive stay in this neutral zone?'

'If they did, forgiveness would be the generous act of a person who wishes to stay away from the offender. Often that's all we can muster the strength to do, and all that offenders will allow us. Yet at its best, forgiveness hopes for more. In general when we give, we hope that gifts will in some way be reciprocated and that the exchange of gifts will give birth to friendship, even to mutual delight.'

I made a connection recently in a sermon between hoarding possessions (Luke 12.13-21) and fear (Luke 12.4,7,11,22,32) as two of the impediments to true freedom. Perhaps 'conditional forgiveness' is a third. In any case, they are things we all need grace and help each day to overcome.

God bless you.

Ray

The Revd Ray Adams

(* extract from 'Free of Charge: giving and forgiving in a culture stripped of grace' by Miroslav Volf, © 2005. Used by permission of Zondervan, www.zondervan.com)

OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY July 2010

I was lucky enough to go to see the Passion Play in Oberammergau this year. It was an amazing experience, one that I will never forget.

In 1631 the plague or 'Black Death' was sweeping through Bavaria in Southern Germany. For some time the little village of Oberammergau managed to keep the plague at bay, because of its isolated position, surrounded by mountains, and because the villagers had stationed guards on the approach road. But one night an inhabitant of the village came back to visit his family and unknowingly brought the plague with him. Before long, 84 villagers were dead. In despair the villagers met and made a vow to perform a Passion Play every ten years if the plague ceased. From that day on, we are told, no one else died of the plague and the villagers have performed the Passion Play every ten years apart from 2 exceptions.

The play is performed not by professional actors but by the villagers, who have to have lived in the village for at least 20 years. It has a cast of almost 1000 actors and 550 children. The result is that the crowd scenes are amazing. During the Sermon on the Mount, for example, a toddler will crawl across the stage to be nearer his mother. The atmosphere is electric. The auditorium is covered, but the stage itself is very large and open to the sky with a backdrop of mountains and trees. Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey, Herod enters on a horse, there are 2 camels on stage at one time, and after Jesus has knocked over the tables in the temple, the sacrificial doves fly off into the sky! The music is beautiful and there is an outstanding chorus of about 50 men and women who come on after every act to sing and to calm everything down, putting the events into context. There are also tableaux in between the acts, usually portraying scenes from the Old Testament.

There are 2 plays, one in the afternoon and one in the evening, so that as the day goes on and the Crucifixion draws nearer, the light changes and everything becomes darker.

I find it very moving that the villagers put so much dedication, skill and effort into telling the story of Jesus and his teachings in this way.

(Elizabeth Langer)

Companions of St Andrew's at the London Inter Faith Centre

I've recently become one of the 'Companions of St Andrew's' at the London Inter Faith Centre. The London Inter Faith Centre is an ecumenical venture to encourage study and dialogue between different faiths. It is based in Kilburn, and the building is also home to the congregations of St Anne's (Church of England) and St Andrew's URC. Revd Maggie Hindley, who led our worship here in Palmers Green recently, is the minister of St Andrew's and also Thames North Synod Inter Faith Adviser for the URC.

The aim is for me to keep a link between Palmers Green URC and the congregation of St Andrew's plus all the work that is going on with the London Inter Faith Centre. I'll be leading worship there on Sunday 19 September at 11am. This will include some of the learning from my current course on interreligious relations, and also aiming to keep their congregation in touch with what we're doing as a church.

St Andrew's is a small congregation, and it would be great if one or two others wanted to join me on that occasion - do please speak to me. The service will be followed by a light lunch.

There are plenty of things going on at London Interfaith Centre on a regular or occasional basis. These include a book group, Christian Zen meditation course, and a group planning practical action on justice issues. Do let me know if you might be interested in any of these, and I'll pass on further details or contact information.

(Brian Ball)

DAY CENTRE GOES DUTCH

The pleasure of taking afternoon tea is a rarity nowadays. Not so for the members and helpers of the Burford Centre, whose summer outing this year took them to the Dutch House Nursery in Potters Bar. Here, in a specially reserved area of the spacious café, tea, sandwiches, scones and cake were served in an attentive and unassuming way. The café windows give a good view of the nursery, and after tea a number of the guests were able to walk around among the brightly coloured plants. Not everyone left empty-handed!

Our thanks to Barbara Crock and the chauffeurs for this very enjoyable afternoon.

(Jill Jenkins)

Children's International Voices of Enfield have been meeting on PGURC premises since their foundation 19 years ago. The Directors, Dr June Keyte and Dr Christopher Keyte, have supplied the following overview for us.

The four choirs reflect the wonderful diversity of our Enfield singers. We represent over thirty nations, host international choirs and make regular tours abroad - including to the Czech Republic, Sweden, Finland, Switzerland and Iceland. We are also looking forward to our next 'foreign' tour this autumn when we will be singing in Wales!

The Choir has recorded 4 double CDs, with vocal and instrumental solos from many of the choristers. They have recorded countless CDs for educational publications worldwide including the USA, Europe, Japan, Taiwan and Scandinavia. Both the Younger Voices and Children's International Voices of Enfield recently recorded for a television documentary. The Choir's main aims are to sing the very best of British music, world music and commission new works from composers including John Rutter, Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, Betty Roe, Peter Hutchings, Peter Rose and Gareth Glyn.

The Choir performs folk songs from around the world and works by many major composers, including Mozart, Handel, Elgar, Vaughan Williams and Benjamin Britten. Its latest commission was *Caledonian Shadows*, a song cycle based on Scottish history by Peter Rose and Anne Conlon. Always expanding our repertoire, recent innovations have included vocal and choral master classes given by Professor Ryland

Davies, from the Royal Academy of Music, Ralph Ellwood, Precentor of Eton College, Betty Roe, Composer, Professors Margaret Cable, Tim Evans-Jones from the Royal College of Music and Gareth Malone, conductor of BBC TV's *The Choir*.

The Choir has performed in the Royal Albert Hall, City of Birmingham Symphony Hall, Royal Academy of Music, Royal Festival Hall, Barbican, Foundling Museum, Charterhouse in the City and the Roundhouse, amongst other prestigious venues at home and abroad. The Choir has attended many residential weekends in the Pro Corda Centre at Leiston Abbey near Aldeburgh in Suffolk. These study weekends have included works by Benjamin Britten and John Rutter. Our first performance at Enfield's new Dugdale Centre, Thomas Hardy House, was in the Gala Opening Concert on 11 February 2010, and this was our first Recital in this excellent new facility. We then gave our own recital in this splendid venue the following month. In July a selection of choristers were invited to perform at the Dugdale Centre to council members and arts officers and guests to promote the Centre.

Children's International Voices of Enfield love singing compositions by their Patron, John Rutter, and were thrilled to have 'Magical Kingdom' composed especially for them. Their recent Cambridge Recital brought together many songs by John which the children and young people have learnt and really enjoy. The Choir was delighted to sing these compositions at Selwyn College, Cambridge University in February. John Rutter has generously recorded the music from the Selwyn Recital in May and June of this year, for a CD which hopefully will be available later this year.

Recently the London Borough of Enfield has twinned with Sariyer, Istanbul, Turkey. We were delighted to take a group of our musicians to perform in the Sariyer Arts Festival on July. This was our first visit to a country that bridges Europe and Asia.

Dr June Keyte MBE, who recently completed 50 years as Director of Music in Comprehensive and Independent Schools, founded Children's International Voices. Dr Keyte was the Editor of the music publication for the Society of Assistant Teachers in Preparatory Schools (SATIPS) for 15 years and nine years ago began Songfest, a three day singing festival for preparatory schools, which is held in different parts of the country annually. Dr Keyte conducted the BBC Schools Radio Music Broadcasts for 27 years and has conducted countless educational recordings at home and abroad.

Dr Keyte was awarded a Winston Churchill Memorial Fellowship in 1990 to study choir training in Finland and in the same year a Schoolteacher Bye Fellowship at Selwyn College, Cambridge. In 1992 she was awarded an ARAM from the Royal Academy for 'distinguished services in Music Education'. She was honoured with the award of an MBE from Her Majesty the Queen in 2005, founder of Children's International Voices of Enfield for services to music and the community in London followed in the same year by an Honorary Doctorate from Anglia Ruskin University. In 2009 she was awarded a Fellowship of the Royal Society of Arts (FRSA).

Dr Christopher Keyte is the Associate Conductor of the choirs. He studied at Cambridge University where he was a choral scholar at King's College. His international career as a singer has taken him all over the world. He has appeared in prestigious festivals at home and abroad and has sung in all the major concert halls and cathedrals in the British Isles. He has been a soloist in over 50 CD recordings, and has recorded and broadcast regularly for the BBC on radio and television.

In 1983 he was appointed Professor of Singing at the Royal Academy of Music and an Hon RAM was bestowed upon him for his services to music. For nearly 20 years he has been a member of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, during which time he was a soloist in Britten's *Peter Grimes* and Verdi's *I Masnadieri*. He is also a soloist in a CD of Britten's *Billy Budd* recorded at the Barbican, and in a CD recording of *The Lighthouse* by Sir Peter Maxwell Davies.

Water in Palestine

Rows of neat suburban houses stand on the parched, barren hillside. A water tower looms over them, irrigating lush greenery in the gardens. But outside this West Bank settlement's perimeter fence sits the tiny Bedouin community of Umm Al Kher, whose residents are desperate for water.

In the South Hebron Hills, there has been scarce rainfall for many months. Grey rock and dry, rugged earth spread off in every direction. But locals who met observers from the Ecumenical Accompaniment

Programme in Palestine and Israel said the effects of the recent drought are exacerbating a man-made water crisis.

The community is not connected to any water supply network and the Israeli army will not issue permits to dig wells. The community is forced to buy tanked water from Mekorot, the Israeli national water company, which charges 5 shekels (around £1) per cubic metre. That cost prohibits the shepherds of Umm Al Kher from irrigating crops. Umm Al Kher's only other water supply is a pipe no bigger than a garden hose that trails across from the pump in the settlement.

A recent Amnesty International investigation into Israel's water policies in the Occupied Palestinian Territories revealed a host of measures that prevent Palestinians throughout the West Bank and Gaza from obtaining adequate water. Demolitions of storage facilities and denial of access to aquifers, along with bans on digging wells, mean that up to 200,000 Palestinians in rural communities have no access to running water at all.

Israeli settlers, meanwhile, face no such challenges. With their intensive irrigation farms, lush gardens and swimming pools, they consume on average around 60 gallons each per day. Average Palestinian consumption is around a quarter of that, and well short of the 20 gallons minimum recommended by the World Health Organization. In some cases Palestinians survive on as little as a gallon a day, usually brought in by tanker. For communities that rely on agriculture for a living, the lack of water is critical. No water for farms, no passage for shepherds

These problems are exacerbating the impact of a long-running drought. Bedouins coping with dry spells in the past would have moved around in search of good pasture. But now much of the best grazing land is off limits, confiscated by the Israeli settlements that are spreading inexorably across the landscape. Palestinian shepherds are tied down by movement restrictions imposed by the Israeli army and the threat of violence from Israeli settlers which bars them from grazing in certain areas.

In order to improve the water situation, Umm Al Kher needs to build pipes, but the village is in an area where the Israeli authorities refuse to grant building permits to Palestinians.

In October 2009, the Israeli authorities told international non-governmental development organisations that they are breaking the law if they build in the village. The Oslo Accords of 1994 placed the village in 'Area C,' meaning it is under full Israeli military and civilian control. The Israeli authorities do not grant permits to Palestinians in Area C, so although the residents have papers proving they own the land, they cannot build on it.

The frustration this creates is palpable within the village. The residents live underneath electricity wires that run from the settlement to a nearby chicken factory also belonging to the settlers. But Umm Al Kher's residents are not connected to the electricity network. And even though they own this patch of land, every structure the Bedouins have built here since 1967 has a demolition order hanging over it, including the tents. Several buildings have already been destroyed - including a toilet block.

The fact that Umm Al Kher is in a precarious spot cannot be denied. Winter rains may make these hills green pastures for a few months, but the long term future of Bedouin communities like Umm Al Kher hangs in the balance.

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MAGAZINE COPY DATES FOR O C T O B E R ISSUE

(publication is scheduled for Sunday 26th September)

- For Church Diary - to Joan Hayes (joan.hayes@zen.co.uk) by **Thursday 16th September.**
- Other copy to David Jenkins (preferably by e-mail to revdaljx@supanet.com) by **Monday 20th September.**

OCTOBER DIARY

"A Place for Coffee" is open every Saturday morning from 10.30 to 12 noon

Sat	2 nd	URC Musicians' Guild Annual Celebration Day 10am-4.30pm
Tues	5 th	Coffee morning at Trios Banqueting Suite, 248 Green Lanes, Palmers Green - organised by Christian Women in Enfield: Speaker, Janet Burrowes, wife of our local MP David Burrowes - 10am-12pm, admission £1.50; crèche will be provided
Wed	6 th	Day Centre - 10.15am to 3.15pm
Sat	9 th	Quiz night with a difference in aid of the Famalia Moja Project in Tabora, Tanzania - 6.30 for 7.00pm - Tickets £7 per person including a light supper
Wed	13 th	Day Centre - 10.15am to 3.15pm 2pm 'Senior Moments'
Tues	19 th	8pm in the Chapel - 'Treasures of Prayer'
Wed	20 th	Day Centre - 10.15am to 3.15pm
Sun	24 th	'Lead us not into temptation...' - Supplication 12.15 Margaret Russell Room 'Threads of Prayer' 12.15 Burford Hall 'Movement of Prayer'
Mon	25 th	'Meeting Place' at 8pm - Songs from the Musicals - Victoria Ward & Ivan Sharpe
Wed	27 th	Day Centre - 10.15am to 3.15pm
Tues`	26 th	Elders' Meeting 8pm
Fri 29 th to Sun 31 st		Church weekend away at St.Katharine's Parmoor retreat centre, near Henley-on-Thames

September Diary

'A Place for Coffee' is open every Saturday morning from 10:30 to 12 noon

Wed	8 th	Day Centre re-opens - 10.15am to 3.15pm
Sun	12 th	'Forgive us our trespasses' - Confession 12.15 Margaret Russell Room 'Threads of Prayer' 12.15 Burford Hall 'Hymns of Prayer'
Tues	14 th	8pm in the Chapel - 'Treasures of Prayer' - exploring the 'classics'
Wed	15 th	Elders' Meeting - 8pm Day Centre - 10.15am to 3.15pm (after lunch at 1pm) 2pm Senior Moments: 'North West Passage - exploring Orkney and the Outer Hebrides'
Wed	22 nd	Day Centre - 10.15am to 3.15pm
Sun	26 th	Harvest Festival - after worship a Market at which the gifts brought will be sold for Christian Aid and a special Harvest Lunch will follow Church Meeting at 2pm
Wed	29 th	Day Centre - 10.15am to 3.15pm

The church is at the corner of Fox Lane and Burford Gardens, N13 4AL