



Three Churches' News

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Easter in Catalonia

Anne Redpath and Ivan Moule describe their experience

We were fortunate to be visiting Castello d'Empúries in Catalonia last Easter where we came across a local organisation, the Pa Senyat Association, performing re-enactments of Jesus life in 'The Stations of the Cross' and 'Representation of the Altarpiece'.

Stations of the Cross (or Way of the Cross) refer to the depiction of the final hours of Jesus life, and the devotion commemorating the suffering. The tradition began with St Francis of Assisi and extended throughout the Roman Catholic Church in the medieval period.

In the 16th century, the Catholic Church decided to give an impressionable lesson about the *Sufferings of Christ*. Well-known artists were told to manufacture wooden figurines and they dressed them in noble silks and carried them down the streets in long processions. The original idea, heavily influenced by the Inquisition, was to bring those that had gone astray back to the Church. Since then generations of artists have created many pieces of art, depicting the last days of Jesus life.

A series of stone sculptures can be found around the back of the altar of the cathedral in *Castelló d'Empúries*. The Representation dramatizes these nine images, depicting the life of Jesus, carved into the white alabaster marble located behind the cathedral altar.

They are re-enacted in a set of tableaux performed by local people including children inside the church. Large screens are placed in front of the altar area to enable the participants to arrange themselves; a commentary, in Catalan, is read by a schoolgirl dressed as an angel. The screens are carried aside to allow the audience seated in the body of the church to see the scene. Minimal or no acting happens and as the screens return for a scene change, applause breaks out. The most spectacular part of the evening is Jesus' ascension; after appearing to Mary Magdalene and others in the last tableau he then quickly and behind the scenes gets to the back of the nave where with loud music and a blinding light he ascends 10-15 metres. (see photo p2)

The Stations of the Cross, was staged around the streets and squares of the historic centre of Castello and despite the rain there were many hundreds of people following.

There were 14 stations, the last one ending with Jesus being laid in the tomb.

It was very well performed and extremely realistic, especially the flogging of Jesus, portraying the cruelty and emotion. The penultimate scene of the crucifixion staged in front of the cathedral doors was especially moving.



(We do have further photographs and would be happy to lend them to anyone wishing to see them)

(Ed. Will happily pass on any messages)





Christ's Ascension

What Christian Aid really do

In what job could you teach lessons at a secondary school one day, lobby your MP the next, and meet Archbishop Rowan Williams the day after? Well I was lucky enough to do all of these during Christian Aid's volunteer youth internship. This is a 10 month scheme for 18-25 year olds to go out on behalf of Christian Aid and motivate young people to act on global issues including climate change, tax injustice and human rights.



Every May a little red envelope from Christian Aid is posted through your door. But Christian Aid is about more than red envelopes and "giving money to Africa". Christian Aid is different. It motivates Christians to put their faith into action and support those living in poverty. Working in 45 developing countries through 550 partner organisations Christian Aid works wherever the need is greatest, regardless of race or faith. This means it works with local people supporting them to lift *themselves* out of poverty. And this is its aim. Christian Aid believes it is a scandal that 1.4 billion people in the world live in poverty continually denied a life of freedom, hope and dignity. But change *is and must be* possible. Poverty and inequality are created and perpetuated by human systems and structures so if we have caused it, we can eradicate it. By challenging current political, economic and social situations and values we can build a world founded upon equality and justice, just as God intended.

As part of my internship I, along with my 18 fellow interns, was lucky enough to visit some of Christian Aid's partners in Cambodia, a country where more than two thirds of the population live below the poverty line. The magnificent Angkor temples and the traditional delicacy of deep-fried tarantulas – which are disgusting by the way – make the country a popular tourist destination today, but it became infamous during the 1970s through Pol Pot, the man at the head of the Khmer Rouge regime. Although supposedly striving for an equal agrarian society their four year rule resulted in the torture and murder of at least 1.7 million people. Since then Cambodia has been troubled by corruption, gender discrimination, hunger, and more recently climate change.

But there is hope, and as ever Christian Aid helps to build this hope. As we travelled through the lush green countryside we were met by friendly people and smiling faces. During our two weeks there we saw an amazing range of projects funded by Christian Aid from those supporting poor farmers to adapt to the ever changing climate, to a vocational training college for street children.

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Fiori Musicali



This renowned choir, one of the UK's principal providers of baroque and classical music outside London, will be performing at St. Margaret's on Saturday, October 15th, at 7.30pm, conducted by their founder/director Dr. Penelope Rapson. Joining us will be Peterborough Cathedral's organist and director of music, Andrew Reid.

Items will include:

- | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| Wesley | Blessed be the God and Father |
| Mendelssohn | Organ sonata |
| Wesley | Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace |
| Nares | The souls of the righteous |
| Bach | Toccat and Fugue in D minor |

Don't miss the chance to enjoy this musical treat, together with a glass of wine and light refreshments.

TICKETS £15

To learn more, contact Nigel Howard (823390) Or Sue Milne (824670).

See www.fiori-musicali.com



Restoration News

Work continues steadily and most of the window glass has been removed for restoration. The cock from the weathervane has been sent away to be re-gilded. It is over 200 years old and should look splendid when it is back in place.

Hundred Club

The winners for August were: - 1st. Enid Wakenell and 2nd. Alan Bale

If you haven't yet renewed your membership or perhaps would like to join for the first time, contact Jean Garner (822446) or Ann Ward (823314).

Forthcoming Events

RIDE AND STRIDE: The Northants Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride will be taking place on Saturday, September 10th. The sponsorship money raised all goes towards the upkeep and restoration of the county's churches. You could help either by participating in a ride or walk between churches (a group of us are going to walk to Yelvertoft in the afternoon), by sponsoring someone who is doing so, or by giving an hour of your time on the day to man St. Margaret's to book in participants. For further details ring me, or to man the church, contact Jean Garner on 822446.

CRICK FEAST: FOSM will be doing teas in church on the afternoon of Saturday, October 1st from 2-5pm. We will also be catering for the Harvest Supper after the service on the following evening, Sunday 2nd. For practical purposes, we will ask you to buy a ticket for the meal in advance. The ticket price of £10 will include quiche, jacket potatoes, salad, a selection of delicious desserts, your first glass of wine and entertainment by the local madrigal group, the Crickets.

FIORI MUSICALI: Saturday, October 15th will see St. Margaret's hosting a concert by this renowned choir, together with Andrew Reid, the organist of Peterborough Cathedral.

See separate entry for more information.

Christmas Events:

We will again be organising 'A Light for a Loved One'. The lights will be switched on at 4.30pm on Sunday, December 11th. A children's activity night has now been pencilled in for Friday, December 16th and a concert is in the planning stage.

We will also be producing Christmas cards.

Sue Milne 824670/milnegrlands@aol.com



Alpha

Alpha Taster
at St. Margaret's Church
on Wednesday 21st September
at 7.30pm

All are warmly invited to this year's Alpha "Taster". A stand alone evening, a foretaste of our Autumn Alpha Course.

The Bible Word never retires.
Read now, while the Spirit inspires.
Find out that it's true.
What does God say to you?
Then do it, until breath expires!



Crick Village Market

The next market to be held in Crick Primary School will be on Saturday 20th September
From 10:00 until 12 noon

Stalls now £3-00 each

Contact Anne Bramwell on 822935 or
Marion Davies on 822188 for more information

We look forward to seeing you there



Canon Rogelio Prieto's Bible study at the CMS Adelante weekend looked at the importance of tradition. Here is a summary of his message.

Someone once asked René Padilla about the wonderful growth of the Church in Latin America, from which we in the UK had so much to learn. He smiled and answered that yes, there was growth to praise the Lord for, but the situation was a bit like in a garden—when the plants grow well, the weeds seem to thrive.

Is there anything special that Anglicanism can offer in the midst of that "church and weed" growth? Yes, there is: tradition. A plant that grows very quickly, but with no roots worth mentioning, will at some point either tumble over or fall apart. And if there is something Anglicanism is not short of its roots—including historical, theological, liturgical, biblical and spiritual traditions.

Now "*tradition*" is probably not a favourite word in some circles. Pity. It is an important biblical concept. Jesus used to attend the synagogue every Sabbath (Luke 4:16), but where was the synagogue instituted in the Scriptures? Nowhere. It was a tradition followed by Jesus.

When Jesus prayed for his disciples and for those who would come to faith in him through them, he was praying for you and me as those who would inherit tradition.

The word "*tradition*" (*paradosis* in Greek) refers to the handing on of something. In the case of Jesus' prayer in John 17:20, to the handing on of the gospel in the life of the church over the centuries—including the sacraments (1 Cor 11:2, 23) teaching and morals (1 Cor 15:3; 2 Thess 2:15, 3:6) and ministry (2 Tim 1:1-2).

When Jesus said to his disciples, "*As the Father sent me, so I send you... receive the Holy Spirit*" (John 20:21ff) we are seeing in operation the tradition of the mission of redemption of the triune God through the church.

That was the tradition that three SAMS missionaries took to La Esperanza sugar factory in Northern Argentina in April 1911 in order to pass the gospel and the church on to the indigenous labourers. That work goes on, in very different ways from the past; it could not be otherwise.

The worst enemy of tradition is not change or innovation but traditionalism.

Traditionalism is the death of good tradition. When everything changes around you, you have to keep moving yourself in order to make sure you stay in the same place. May SAMS-CMS traditions keep on moving in order to stay firm in the tradition of the gospel of the Kingdom in Latin America.



HARVEST SUPPER

Sunday October 2nd
at St. Margaret's Church
7.30 pm approx
(after service)

TICKET PRICE £10

Includes 2-course supper, glass of wine and
entertainment by
The Crickets
local madrigal singers



Scripture Check — *Encouraging us to delve into God's Word.* This month Ian looks at *Jonah ch.1 verses 6-17 (KJV)*

So the shipmaster came to him, and said unto him, What meanest thou, O sleeper? arise, call upon thy God, if so be that God will think upon us, that we perish not.

And they said every one to his fellow, Come, and let us cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah.

Then said they unto him, Tell us, we pray thee, for whose cause this evil is upon us; What is thine occupation? and whence comest thou? what is thy country? and of what people art thou?

And he said unto them, I am an Hebrew; and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, which hath made the sea and the dry land.

Then were the men exceedingly afraid, and said unto him, Why hast thou done this? For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them.

Then said they unto him, What shall we do unto thee, that the sea may be calm unto us? for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous.

And he said unto them, Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you; for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you.

Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring it to the land; but they could not; for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous against them.

Wherefore they cried unto the Lord, and said, We beseech thee, O Lord, we beseech thee, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not upon us innocent blood; for thou, O Lord hast done as it pleased thee.

So they took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea; and the sea ceased from her raging.

Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice unto the Lord, and made vows.

Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Comment:

Jonah had been instructed by the Lord to go and denounce the people in the city of Nineveh for their great wickedness. But Jonah didn't want to and so he was fleeing (so he thought) from God's presence by taking a ship to Tarshish. Whilst he was asleep below deck a great storm arose, threatening the safety of all in the ship. He was wakened by the captain who asked him to pray to his God for their safety. However the rest of the crew clearly thought that one person was to blame for this storm; they drew lots to determine who it was and the lot fell on Jonah.

They plied him with questions, but then became very afraid when he told them that he was a Hebrew and believed in the Living God. Having asked Jonah what they should do to him to placate God (for he had earlier revealed that he was running away from God), and been told by him to cast him into the sea, they first struggled hard to row to the shore, but all to no avail. Then, beseeching God not to hold them guilty of Jonah's blood, they cast him into the sea. Instantly the tempest died down, at which the crew began greatly to fear God.

Jonah meanwhile was 'swallowed up by a huge fish' for three days. I wonder whether you have ever tried running away from an instruction given by the Lord? Or even have kept putting off some action or conversation that you know he wishes you to do or have? It usually only makes things harder in the end – although when you finally succumb and carry out his will you may find that it wasn't so bad after all! You can read all about what happened to Jonah in chapters 2,3, and 4 of the book of Jonah.

Ian Mackintosh





(Continued from page 2)

One of the most inspiring partners we saw was Development Partnership in Action (DPA). It works to achieve and protect the rights of poor communities in Cambodia; to really challenge the root causes of poverty. Without rights to necessities such as education, healthcare and land the poor continue to be discriminated against and persecuted. Rather than giving aid in developing countries we should really be empowering the people to build a better future for themselves. This is exactly what DPA does.

One focus of DPA's work is land rights. This is a fundamental cause of poverty in Cambodia because 70% of its 13.8 million population are completely dependent on agriculture for basic survival. During Khmer Rouge rule between 1975 and 1979, all land was seized by the state. When the regime toppled, although all citizens had rights to land, inevitably it was the rich and powerful who gained most of the land. Today corruption still plagues the country; evictions are becoming increasingly common as wealthy Cambodians and foreign companies are buying land for mineral exploration and infrastructure projects. In fact many people don't even know they have rights to land. This used to be the case with a remote (so remote that the only way to get there is by dugout canoe; ours almost sank) fishing village in the Tonle Sap Lake. Despite people having lived by the lake for years the Department of Fisheries sold all fishing lots to wealthy landowners



(A well-written account of a life-changing experience. Hannah grew up in Yelvertoft and after university joined Christian Aid's volunteer youth internship. She now works for Christian Aid in their headquarters in London. Ed.)

If you're interested in Christian Aid's volunteer youth internship you can get the full details at

www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/volunteer/gapyear/gap_year.aspx

who prohibited the villagers from fishing. As they had few livelihood options they often went hungry. DPA helped the community organise themselves, taught them about their rights and how to achieve them by lobbying the government. They brought together the villagers, local police, military and government officials and after relentless lobbying the villagers were successful. They now have a community fishery of 3198 hectares which benefits 454 families. Not only has DPA given them access to land but also taught them effective and sustainable management techniques including various conservation efforts. The villagers now have enough food to eat and even enough fish to sell some at market.

These projects really do change people's lives: they improve living standards, they give the knowledge and



skills required to challenge the structural causes of poverty, and they encourage community education to help end this vicious cycle.

My time in Cambodia really opened my eyes

to how change really is possible when we put people in power of their own lives.

Not only does Christian Aid work through partner organisations in developing countries to bring about fundamental changes, it campaigns in the UK to challenge the political, economic and social structures that favour the rich and powerful over the poor and marginalised. Christian Aid has been a driver for change, founding the Fairtrade Foundation, and being a major player in the Drop the Debt campaign, which in 2000 cancelled \$85 billion of debt for 23 developing countries. By motivating supporters in the UK to follow God's word and bring peace to earth as it is in heaven Christian Aid have built a movement of people passionate for justice.

I'd like to thank those of you who support Christian Aid and make life-changing projects like those in Cambodia possible, and encourage you to join our movement and participate as an agent of change.

Hannah Griffiths

To find out more about how to get involved with Christian Aid through giving, acting and praying visit

www.christianaid.org.uk