

Grapevine

April / May 2008

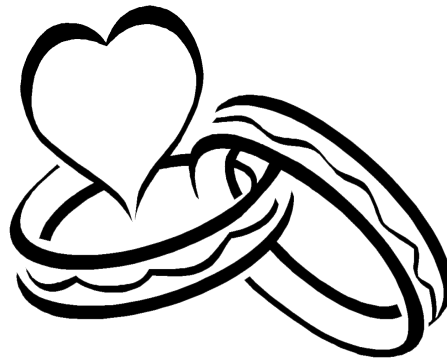
Parish Magazine

St. Luke with St. Bartholomew



An invitation from Bar and Raymond Blakey

As you may know,
our daughter
Beth is to marry
Tom Ashton
on 5th April at 11am
at Saint Luke's.



We would welcome our
friends from the parish to join us at the service.

We would also welcome you to share cake and wine
after Sunday worship the next day.

The Children's Society

Box opening time is here again!

Please bring your FULL boxes to
church on 13th April.

Thank you!

Sylvia Allen

Land of Great Stone Houses



Marion Pitman

LAND OF GREAT STONE HOUSES - is what I understand Zimbabwe means, named after the massive ruins at Great Zimbabwe, the earliest of which date from the 12th century. Things have gone downhill since then.

I recently spent two weeks staying with friends in Zimbabwe; I have been visiting the country since 2000, and the deterioration each time I go is heartbreaking.

This time, the country was green and the reservoirs were full, as there was plenty of rain in December and January; but the water supply is still cut off every day - and in some places for days at a time - because the authorities don't have the money for chemicals and equipment to purify the water. Those who are fortunate enough to have bore-holes have water; otherwise, you just have to make the most of it when it's turned on.

The electricity is also off for most of the day; where I was staying, in Mutare, Zimbabwe's fourth largest city, in the east on the Mozambique border, we had power usually from about 10 o'clock at night, till some time in the morning. Again, the fortunate have generators; but generators need fuel, and fuel is another thing that is very problematic.

Acquiring anything is, as they say, a mission. Someone remarked that you don't make a list and go round the shops any more; you go round the shops and see if they've got anything, and if you can afford it, you buy it. It will cost more tomorrow, or even this afternoon.

I bought my friend a bottle of locally produced whisky for \$30 million; when the new stock came in a few days later it was \$60 million. The government has recently introduced

notes to the value of \$5m and \$10m dollars, but not everyone has them - if you are in the supermarket queue behind someone paying for their \$100m-worth of groceries with \$200,000 bills, which all have to be counted, you may as well relax.

Then there are the pot-holes - most road surfaces are in a state of disrepair - and the sewage from broken pipes, and the uncollected rubbish - there is no fuel to collect it.



My friends are relatively well-off; many of the people in Zimbabwe face starvation. There is also HIV/Aids - when staying in Harare I visited a Jesuit foundation, Silveira House, that I have got to know, and went with one of the Fathers to the funeral of a twelve year old girl, born with

HIV. (I don't speak any Shona, but was told that at a funeral one simply shakes hands with everyone, as a sign of sympathy. The African people hold their right arm in their left hand when they shake hands; I am told this is to show how they value your handclasp - it is almost too heavy for them to hold.)

So why do I keep going? My friends are lovely people, as are most of those I have met in Zimbabwe, and the country is stunningly beautiful. We went up into the mountains for a day and a night, and the views were staggering. An amazing number of people still manage somehow to keep going.

I spent most of the fortnight in a whirl of activity. And it certainly makes a change from Reading! The huge horizons, the *space* everywhere - well, perhaps it's true that Africa is addictive.

My friend says that church people in Zimbabwe pray for the country three times a day, at 8 am, 1 pm and 8 pm (that's two hours ahead of GMT). They say, "God, please help Zimbabwe, because no-one else can."

Thank You

Many thanks for the lovely birthday and Christmas cards, all the kind gifts, delicious cakes and wine and good wishes.

It was much appreciated.

Joan Morgan



Mothers' Union News and Notices

Wendy Baggley

On February 13th, the Mothers' Union met in the committee room. Pat Townsend led prayers, after which there was a biblical quiz, kindly organised by Father Brian. Some of the questions were hilarious, for example - "Who was the first person in the Bible to get drunk?" (Does anyone know the answer, other than the clergy and M.U. members?). A good time was had by all.

On February 23rd, we held a tea/coffee morning with a cake stall, bric-a-brac stall and raffle in aid of the M.U. Overseas Mission Fund. We raised £265, which was a good effort for such a small group of members. Thank you to all who contributed in any way.

Our March 12th meeting was presided over by June Hardcastle, who also gave us an inspirational talk on Flowers in a Mary Garden. The meanings of the flowers relate to the Virgin Mary. For example:

Lily of the Valley - Our Lady's tears. The story goes that when Mary was at the foot of the cross weeping for her son, Jesus, her tears fell to the ground, and where they fell, these little sweet flowers grew.

Snowdrops - Our Lady's bells. In Victorian times, churches were decorated with snowdrops for Candlemas.

We all spend a very pleasant afternoon. June gave each of us a Lily of the Valley plant to grow in our gardens. Thank you, June.

www.themothersunion.org

Your Top 100 Hymns

Father Nigel has sent me the results of the recent hymn survey. You may remember his article in the December Grapevine, giving us some tips on things to think about when responding to the survey.

Roughly speaking, hymns in the top 20 get chosen about three times a year. Most of the new ones in the top 20 (compared with 1999 survey) were already being sung about twice a year.

The top nine were each in 17 people's top 20; the next 10 were in the top 20 of nine respondents. All of the top 40 were in at least four people's top 20.

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|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Guide me O thou great redeemer | 21. Tell out |
| 2. Make me a channel | 22. Amazing grace |
| 3. Be still for the presence | 23. Be thou my vision |
| 4. The Lords my shepherd | 24. meekness and majesty |
| 5. Dear Lord and Father of mankind | 25. Praise to the holiest |
| 6. Immortal invisible | 26. O praise ye the Lord |
| 7. I the Lord of sea | 27. To God be the glory |
| 8. Love divine | 28. All things bright and beautiful |
| 9. He who would valiant be | 29. My song is love unknown |
| 10. From heaven you came | 30. The day thou gavest |
| 11. Thine be the glory | 31. For all the saints |
| 12. Lead us heavenly father | 32. I danced |
| 13. Lord the light | 33. I heard the voice of Jesus say |
| 14. Fight the good fight | 34. The churches one foundation |
| 15. Give me oil in my lamp | 35. Let all the world |
| 16. When I survey | 36. My Jesus my saviour |
| 17. The spirit lives to set us free | 37. Peace is flowing like a river |
| 18. Now thank we all our God | 38. O Lord my God when I in awesome wonder |
| 19. Just as I am | 39. Praise my soul |
| 20. Holy Holy Holy Lord God | 40. At the name of Jesus |

The top 41-100 were all in at least two people's top 20.

41. Great is thy faithfulness
42. The king of love my shepherd is
43. Come Holy Ghost our souls inspire
44. O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness
45. Mine eyes have seen the glory of
46. As the deer pants for the water
47. Father hear the prayer we offer
48. Make way make way
49. Come down O love divine
50. O Jesus I have promised
51. He's got the whole world in his hands
52. Hark the herald angels sing
53. Rejoice the Lord is king
54. O come O come Emmanuel
55. Away in a manger
56. Take my life and let it be
57. Brightest and best
58. For the beauty of the earth
59. Blessed assurance
60. O thou who camest from above
61. Ding dong merrily
62. Go tell it on the mountain
63. Lord Jesus Christ
64. These are the days of Elijah
65. All creatures of our God and king
66. Thou whose almighty word
67. Abide with me
68. Stand up stand up for Jesus
69. God is working his purpose out
70. And did those feet in ancient times
71. Come and join the celebration
72. Jesus Lover of my soul
73. All people that on earth do dwell
74. Alleluia Sing to Jesus
75. Rejoice rejoice Christ is in you
76. Thou didst leave thy throne
77. There is a green hill far away
78. Teach me my God and King
79. Eternal father strong to save
80. There is a redeemer
81. Jesus is Lord
82. O for a thousand tongues
83. O God our help in ages past
84. Let all mortal flesh
85. Holy Holy Holy is the Lord
86. Morning has broken
87. It is a thing most wonderful
88. Angel voices ever singing
89. Christ is made the sure foundation
90. Blest are the pure in heart
91. O worship the king
92. I vow to thee my country
93. Sing my tongue
94. Hills of the north rejoice
95. Thine forever God of love
96. O thou who at thy Eucharist didst pray
97. Tell me the old old story
98. Author of life divine
99. Lord of all hopefulness
100. How lovely on the mountains

PCC Update



Sally-Ann McDowell

By the time you read this, the APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) will almost be upon us. Most of the reports have been finalised and you will soon be seeing the full papers in preparation for the actual meeting, to take place on Sunday 27th April after the 10:30am service at St Luke's.

Father Nigel has written a brief review of the year. One of the items he talks about is the buildings work that has taken place this year. One of the most visible ones for St Luke's folks is the new church roof, which looks splendid. This was made possible with the legacy left by Mary Turner.

However, there is still some money left over and one of the topics at the APCM, may be a discussion on how to use up some more of the money in a visible but sensible way.

We are extremely lucky that we are able even to contemplate this, but I am writing here to give you all some thoughts so you can come prepared with ideas to the APCM.

- We have drawn plans up for a proper serving area at the back of St Luke's. This would mean removing pews and having more space for coffee, tea and a chat. As you know the back of the church can be rather squashed, especially after the Carol Service!
- Another idea is to 'tidy up' the Lady Chapel so that it is a warm area that can be used for small services.
- Yet another idea is to revamp the whole North side where the Sunday School currently sit; maybe move

some pews around at the front so that the children can sit and face the alter. Further back, we could move some more pews around and create an enclosed area where families with tiny ones could crawl in peace.

These are just some ideas that the PCC and standing committee have been thinking about, but the APCM is your chance to have a say in what is done, so please spend a moment reading the papers and look around the church and Parish hall and see what ideas you have.

January Evening



Marion Pitman

I saw the moon in the first quarter
curved and glowing like a great big grin,
and I thought, that's the light of the sun, round the
other side of the earth, bouncing off just that bit
of the moon it can reach.
And I said to God, isn't it wonderful the effects you can
get?
Yes, he said, oh yes, it's all good stuff.