

Our companions: please pray for . . .

The Diocese of Qu'Appelle

(Southern Saskatchewan, Canada)

- Discernment in finding a new 'Executive Archdeacon' (ie diocesan executive officer/assistant to the bishop) as a successor to Canon Marilyn Dean who retired last year.
- The diocesan ACW (Anglican Church Women): its local branches and its annual meeting on 18 April in Swift Current.
- Wisdom and grace at the National House of Bishops meeting in Toronto, April 19-24; and Bishop Gregory Kerr Wilson, as he attends.
- Parishes searching for an incumbent: particularly three in the city of Regina: St Luke, St Matthew and St Philip.

The Diocese of West Malaysia

- Greater understanding amongst government officials on the use of language, especially certain words to express our Christian faith in the Bahasa Malaysia Bibles.
- Diocesan Young People's Day, May 3, that churches will value their young people and encourage them to share in God's mission.
- The organisers, speakers and participants at:
 1. Our first diocesan Care-Givers' Conference, at St Mark's Cozy Home, 30 April-2 May
 2. The Tamil Youth Camp, from June 1-5 at St Thomas' Church, Banting
 3. The Tamil Young Adult Conference from June 5-7, in Penang
 4. The Diocesan Women's Conference in Cheras from June 1-3.
- All involved in the Mission trip to Nepal 31 May-8 June (Team 1) and 7-15 June (Team 2)

Landeskirche Mecklenburgs

(The Lutheran Church in the state of Mecklenburg, Germany)

- Representatives of parishes (clergy and lay) and youth groups attending the German Protestant Church Convention (Kirchentag) in Bremen from 20-24 May – that, as they celebrate, worship and discuss together, their faith will be deepened and they will experience the power of the Holy Spirit.
- The citizens of Bremen, that the Kirchentag will make a positive impact on them.
- Pastor Christian and Pastorin Susanne Höser on their sabbatical from 15 April-24 June in the Diocese of Lichfield.

The Diocese of Kuching

(Sarawak, on the island of Borneo)

- All clerical and lay staff of the Diocese.
- Those training for ministry: the Revds Michael Pei, Widos Pa'uh, Moses Jakir, Rodriguez Unak Charles at the Theological Seminary of Malaysia (STM) in Kuala Lumpur; Richard Chang, Julia Ng, Betty Tan, Mary Wong, Tan Wee Ling and Deborah, training in Sabah; the Revd Donald Jute in Scotland, Ms Florence Jee in Hong Kong.
- The fresh work at mission centres in Mundai, Bintangor, Roban, Pantu, Banting, Tabuan Jaya and Pontianak, in Indonesia.
- Cathedral development projects, especially plans for the new St Thomas' parish centre.
- A favourable response to the Ordination Enquirers' Week held this April 2009, in the House of the Epiphany, Kuching.

Continued on the supplementary sheet

From page 1

Jewish rabbi, Lionel Blue, first had this experience in a Quaker meeting in Oxford! I find that I become most readily aware of the presence of 'The Other', of an 'inner voice' in my mind (call

it what you will) when I contemplate the wonder of the Creator. For me this can be any time and any place, but most often when I am alone and quiet.

I'm no one special – just an ordinary and very fallible

child of God, but one who expects the Holy Spirit to speak to him.

He will also speak to you – if you're prepared to wait, and to expect him.

Michael Sheard
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POWER PACK

April-June 2009

MISSION PRAYER BULLETIN

Why bother to pray?

I was asked to speak recently at a church Lent group on the subject, 'Why bother to pray?' At first sight this question seems like a 'no-brainer'. After all, isn't prayer at the heart of Christian life?

Over the past few years, a number of people have confided to me that they find prayer – both private and public – difficult. These are committed Christians who gladly accept the teachings of Jesus about loving their neighbour and putting others first. They worship week by week in their local church, even attend house groups; but, for them, prayer feels like talking to empty space – and waiting for 'a reply' like 'auto suggestion'. So, when others talk to them about receiving God's 'guidance', these people feel a failure. Sometimes they give up trying to pray entirely, and eventually drift away from a Christian fellowship that proclaims as a norm what they can't seem to experience.

What can we say to help?

I can think of four crucial points to bear in mind when praying. (If you have other suggestions, please tell me.)

1. God doesn't have favourites with whom he talks whilst leaving other Christians to flounder in a spiritual wasteland. The Creator loves all his creation – and, as he shows clearly in the life of Jesus, he wants to collaborate with every single one of his creatures . . . so . . .

'we are right to expect the Holy Spirit to reach out'

2. We are right to **expect** the Holy Spirit to reach out to us. That means we don't have to gabble on, nervously presenting God a list – filling up every moment we choose (or spare) to turn our minds to the God who made us.
3. God actually **wants** us to make our requests to him – 'constantly to ask his help'. (See, for example Ephesians 6.18; Philippians 4.5-6, Romans 12.12.)
4. And St Paul also makes it clear that the Holy Spirit will

help us with our prayers: see, for instance, his explanation to the Romans that, though 'we don't even how we ought to pray', the Holy Spirit will 'come to the aid of our weakness' (Romans 8.26-27).

So, if God is speaking to us, why can't we seem to hear him?

Throughout the ages the greatest saints have described 'dry times' – when any number of things can distract or 'block off' their awareness of God's nearness. But for prayer novices (of any age) the 'blockage' may simply be that they haven't yet discerned how and when the Holy Spirit is 'speaking' to them.

Some people have testified to me that they 'suddenly become aware' of someone, some 'thing', touching their consciousness in public worship – of whatever form. The

Continued on back page

Christian Aid

For • Palestine/Israel. The people of **Gaza** as they begin to rebuild their shattered lives; compassion for those who have suffered; a complete cessation of violence (on both sides).

- The **Israeli** government – especially that it will allow full humanitarian access to Gaza.
- Safe areas in Gaza for children to play – and our partner, the Culture and Free Thought Association in Gaza, working with children and young people suffering trauma and psychological problems.
- All involved in Christian Aid week this year – especially the house-to-house collectors and organisers; that they will meet a generous response and that people will be inspired by the work of our partners around the world.

Mothers' Union

For • The MU Family Life programme in **Uganda**: the trainers; families being trained and helped (eg, with farming methods, livestock, tree-planting to improve the environment and living conditions); and those whom *this* family then goes on to train.

- The participatory Literacy and Development work in **Sudan, Malawi and Burundi** – 35,000 women have come forward to be trained since 2001 and can now read and write. (One lady who joined is now in parliament.)
- The MU workers in each of these dioceses (3 to a country); that people will continue to come forward, both as facilitators and to join the classes; above all, that sufficient funding can be found to keep this valuable programme running.

The Mission to Seafarers

For • Those most involved in setting up work in the growing **Brazilian** ports of Suape and Belem: Canon Ken Peters, Director of Justice and Welfare, in South America to train a Brazilian chaplain in Suape and a 'ship visitor' in Belem.

- The Revd Simon Dharmaraj, the new Mission to Seafarers' chaplain in Tuticorin, southern **India**, replacing the Revd Stephen Thanapaul, now chaplain in **Bahrain**, following the retirement of the Revd Victor Salve.

• Seafarers and chaplains – as the recession bites, trade slows and ships are laid up in ports around the world, stranding many seafarers thousands of miles from home: and that additional resources will be found to care for these people.

SAMS (South American Mission Society)

For • Successful control of another outbreak of dengue fever in northern **Argentina** (a second or third bite can lead to internal bleeding and death).

- The new Bishop of **Paraguay**, Peter Bartlett, in his challenging and culturally diverse diocese.
- Wisdom for indigenous leaders in rural **Paraguay** dealing with confusion and division caused by an extreme Pentecostal group.
- New leaders for the indigenous church of southern **Chile**; and Archdeacon José Millanguir, who currently has oversight of this church.
- The ministries of *My Father's House*, a safe-house for boys, and the *Christian Family Support Centre*, in a poor and violent neighbourhood of Olinda, in **Brazil**.

Crosslinks

For • The work of Schools of Biblical Training in **Myanmar** equipping the church for mission.

- The Advisory Boards of the Local Bible Association in **Togo, West Africa**, promoting the New Testament in Moba with literacy work to enable people to read the Bible in their mother tongue.
- The people of **Tanzania** in need of rain and where crops have been affected, causing the price of food to rise.
- **China** its people and government in this sixtieth anniversary year of the founding of the communist republic (1 Oct 1949) and the 20th anniversary of the Tiananmen 'disturbance' (which ended on 4 June), that both will pass peacefully.

ICS (Intercontinental Church Society)

For • The ICS Annual General Meeting on 9 June at Lambeth Palace, London, with a talk by The Archbishop of Canterbury on 'Our mission and God's in the 21st Century'.

- The new church-plant in Famagusta, **Northern Cyprus**, serving Britons living there and students.
- The extended work in the Diocese of Egypt within the international community, and clergy training through Mike Parker, senior chaplain and acting Dean at Cairo Cathedral.
- ICS support for the next chaplain in **Tripoli** and recruitment of a chaplain for Holy Trinity, **Algiers**. The work to enable **Amsterdam** and **Lille** chaplaincies to have Friends International Reach Volunteers, working with international students.

CMS (Church Mission Society)

For • Gaza as the Rt Revd Suheil Dawani, Bishop in Jerusalem, and Bishop Munib Younan of the Lutheran Church have been able to visit, after being denied entry in February; the 3,500 Christians living in the Gaza strip.

- Japan and the situation regarding North Korea and the launching of a missile; international negotiations following that event.
- Pakistan – for those injured and bereaved in the attack on a police college in Lahore; peace and security for the future.
- Those considering mission service opportunities after attending the One Live Live event in Olympia in March.

Tearfund

For • The thousands of people suffering from severe flooding in **Angola, Zambia** and the borders of **Namibia**, with more severe flooding forecast in the weeks to come.

- Civilians suffering in **Sri Lanka's** war; thousands fleeing the conflict, facing severe food and water shortages and needing medical treatment.
- The work of Tearfund in training women to build water tanks and to collect rainwater in **Ugandan** villages, thus avoiding the steep and dangerous mountain paths to collect water from springs.
- Tearfund's emergency appeal (see **DEC**) to help the misplaced people in the **Democratic Republic of Congo** where many are living in camps in poor conditions with little food; the work to rebuild homes, health centres and schools.

USPG : Anglicans in World Mission

For • The Archbishops of Canterbury and York's **Zimbabwe** Appeal (in partnership with USPG) calling for support for parishes in Zimbabwe.

- Zimbabwe's neighbours: **Zambia, South Africa** and **Mozambique** which have also reported cases of cholera, spread by refugees from Zimbabwe.
- **Madagascar** and the churches' call for an end to the violence which erupted after accusations of the mispending of public money by rival political parties.

Barbados, where HIV/AIDS has devastated families and communities and is damaging efforts to fight poverty and improve health, and where USPG is working with churches to provide counselling and support.

BibleLands

For • Harpur Memorial Hospital in Menouf, **Egypt**, supported by BibleLands. The hospital serves a large sector of the poorest community in the Nile Delta. (The hospital is currently undergoing extensive renovations to improve patient care, but continues to accept and treat patients whilst the building work goes on.)

- Victims of leprosy: still often facing prejudice from healthy people. The hospital in Menouf has a government contract to care for leprosy sufferers from across Egypt, some of whom have been refused treatment at other hospitals. For many patients this is their first experience of care since contracting the disease.

CMJ (The Churches' Ministry among Jewish people)

For • Bicentenary Celebration Days being held in four venues in the coming months.

- The service on 9 May at Christ Church, Spitalfields, London, where CMJ was founded.
- The newly opened HQ building in Nottinghamshire and the staff based there, involved in administration, evangelism, advocacy and the work of the Olive Press.

DEC (Disasters Emergency Committee)

For • The work of the DEC – the body through which 13 UK humanitarian agencies* collaborate to coordinate appeals for major world disasters, to avoid overlap, duplication (even competition).

* *Members include Christian Aid, CAFOD, Tearfund, Help the Aged, Oxfam, the British Red Cross, Save the Children, Action Aid and World Vision.*

• **Current appeals (1) Gaza**, where the overwhelming Israeli retaliation for Hamas rocket attacks has had a catastrophic impact on thousands of innocent people: over 2,000 homes destroyed or severely damaged, more than 400 children killed, nearly 2000 injured.

(2) **The Democratic Republic of Congo (DCR)**, where fighting continues to break out: thousands are homeless refugees, often ill or injured; many children placed with foster families while attempts are made to trace their own family. (*This appeal is only open till the end of May.*)

More information is available from the agencies direct: addresses and web sites on the supplementary sheet.



and please pray for . . .

MEMBER SOCIETIES OF THE PARTNERSHIP FOR WORLD MISSION*

Church Army (International work)	Marlowe House, 109 Station Road SIDCUP, Kent DA15 7AD	www.churcharmy.org.uk 020 8309 9991
CMS (Church Mission Society) <i>[and Mid-Africa Ministry]</i>	PO Box 1799 OXFORD OX4 9BN	www.cms-uk.org 0845 629 1799
CPAS (Church Pastoral Aid Society)	Athena Drive WARWICK CV43 6NG	www.cpas.org.uk 01926 458458
Crosslinks	251 Lewisham Way LONDON SE4 1XF	www.crosslinks.org 020 8691 6111
ICS (Intercontinental Church Society)	1 Athena Drive Tachbrook Park WARWICK CV34 6NL	www.ics-uk.org 01926 430347
The Mission to Seafarers	St Michael Paternoster Royal College Hill LONDON EC4R 2RL	020 7248 5202 www.missiontoseafarers.org
Mothers' Union (International work)	Mary Sumner House 24 Tufton Street LONDON SW1P 3RB	www.themothersunion.org 020 7222 5533/4
SAMS (South American Mission Society)	Allen Gardiner Cottage Pembury Road TUNBRIDGE WELLS Kent TN2 3QU	www.samsgb.org 01892 538647
SPCK Worldwide (Feed the Minds)	36 Causton Street LONDON SW1P 4AU	www.feedtheminds.org.uk 0845 121 2102
USPG: Anglicans in World Mission	200 Great Dover Street LONDON SE1 4YB	www.uspg.org.uk 0845 273 1701
* PWM (Partnership for World Mission)	16 Tavistock Crescent LONDON W11 1AP	www.pwm-web.org.uk 020 7313 3929

CHRISTIAN WORLD DEVELOPMENT & RELATED AGENCIES

Christian Aid	120 Vyse Street BIRMINGHAM B18 6NE	www.christian-aid.org.uk 0121 200 2283
Tearfund	100 Church Road TEDDINGTON, Middx TW11 8QE	www.tearfund.org 020 8977 9144
CAFOD (Catholic Action for Overseas Development)	2 Romero Close, Stockwell Road LONDON SW9 9TY	www.cafod.org.uk 020 7733 7900
BibleLands	Su McClellan, regional representative for Central England	01926 772824 Su.McClellan@Biblelands.org.uk

For further information please contact Lichfield World Mission Office, 01543 306030
Email: global@lichfield.anglican.org

The Diocese of Singapore

For: • God's blessing and guidance for the diocese, our Bishop, Dr John Chew, Assistant Bishop Rennis Ponniah, our clergy and people, as we celebrate our diocesan **centennial this year, 2009**, on the theme 'His Glory; His Name; His Honour'.

• All who will attend the centenary events – especially the evangelistic rallies in three languages – Tamil, Mandarin and English, that many people will come to faith as a result of these mass rallies.

• Our commitment to **community service**. We have initiated a new ministry to serve people affected by autism: currently being done in 'borrowed facilities.'

• A new suite of buildings, the St Andrew's Autism Centre [SAAC], construction of which will begin this year – that many people, both the autistic and otherwise, will experience the grace of God as a result of SAAC. God's blessing on the building work and on the staff involved in this ministry.

The Diocese of Matlosane, South Africa

• Work in our diocese with **children and young people**, especially our Sunday Schools, and the teachers/caretakers.

• Brenda Diseko (Bishop's wife) who has taken it upon herself to rekindle, motivate and encourage Sunday School teaching and activities in the diocese.

• The Sunday School teachers' workshop which is due to take place from 1-3 May 2009 at the Cathedral Church at Ikageng.

• The **Diocesan HIV/AIDS Team** as it continues to minister to God's people who are either infected or affected by the scourge of HIV/AIDS in and around the Diocese, especially those who live in rural areas: especially those caring for 'AIDS orphans' and the long-term sick.

• HIV/AIDS Team members: Archdeacon Thomas Mafora, Patience Matlhare, Boitumelo Lebone, Motlhalefile Makate and Tebogo Leping; and many voluntary helpers: drivers, fund-raisers, volunteer workers.

Do we want to be a Fair Trade Diocese or not?

Some three years after Lichfield's diocesan synod first voted on a Fair Trade resolution, the diocese still doesn't have Fairtrade status. Why?

Under a third of local churches have voted to accept the Fairtrade Foundation's minimum requirements to achieve Fairtrade status. We need to reach 50 per cent.

The honorary World Development Advisers (Roger Miller in Stoke, Roger Ford in Salop and Jeremy Sargent in Walsall and Lichfield) have worked hard to persuade churches in their areas to take action. Now they feel close to giving up.

'It's so easy for a local church to get a certificate saying they are a Fairtrade Church,' explained Roger Miller. 'All that's needed is a DCC resolution that in future the church will serve fairly traded tea and coffee at

church meetings, and will (*as far as possible*) promote other Fairtrade products (such as biscuits) – especially in Fairtrade fortnight each year.

'The DCC/PCC secretary or minister then fills in a simple application form, sends it off to the Fairtrade Foundation and, when the certificate arrives, tells us about it.

'Coffee and tea are available at most local supermarkets – and at competitive prices! Some even sell Fairtrade biscuits.'

To check if your church has registered, or to see how to do so, visit the fairtrade page on the diocesan web site:

www.lichfield.anglican.org/fairtrade

Power Pack is edited and produced as part of the Diocese of Lichfield's World Mission Programme. Enquiries to Lichfield World Mission Office: 01543 306030 email: global@lichfield.anglican.org