

ICS News *and Prayer Diary*

'GOD ... LOVED US AND SENT HIS SON' 1 JOHN 4: 10



Leuven is home to Belgium's oldest university: at the Bishop's invitation, ICS will be part-funding Leuven's first full-time chaplain from 2011. Turn to page 5 to learn more of this exciting opportunity. Will you help us fund this church growth initiative and enable God's love to be shared with many students?

Inside: new seasonal and student ministry



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David Healey,
General Manager

ICS is an Anglican mission society which makes known the Christ of the Scriptures to people of any nationality who speak English, mainly in countries where English is not the first language.

May you know God's peace this Christmas and in 2011. Thank you for your interest in ICS's work during 2010. If this copy came via a friend or church and you would *either* like your own copy mailed direct *or* are willing to contribute to the costs of producing *ICS News* and our web site, please give using the form attached or on line. The subscription is modest: every additional amount enables outreach—see pages 3, 4 and 5. Your partnership through generous support and prayer during 2011 will help us make Christ known.

As a *mission*, ICS enables the planting of new international Anglican churches and other mission initiatives, and spreads the gospel through seasonal outreach to tourists.

As a *patronage society* we recruit and nominate ministers for Anglican churches abroad and own many church buildings. Our web site and *Directory of English-speaking Churches Abroad* enable people to find churches away from home.

Our 2011 *prayer calendar* (ideal for intercessions or compiling prayer diaries) and a list of *ICS projects* can be found at www.ics-uk.org/about/articles.shtml

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Sharing Christ: seasonal outreach

ICS's winter outreach starts now in Zermatt and Wengen, as well as (new in 2011) Kandersteg. Please pray for all whom the chaplains will encounter through these opportunities.



The whole Swiss winter season runs from mid-December to Easter Sunday, and hundreds will attend services in Zermatt and Wengen over Christmas. Pray that the love of God, shown in Christ coming to live amongst us to save us from our sins, will be clearly proclaimed.

In all three resorts, we long to see many hear Christ's call to 'Come, follow me' for the first time, and respond in life-long loving service. Pray for strength and wisdom for all chaplains, especially those in resorts new to them.

Pray especially for Mark Fletcher, ICS's first seasonal winter chaplain in Kandersteg, ministering to Scouts, Guides, leaders and staff at the International Scout Centre during the February half-term holiday. Many young people enjoy Kandersteg's excellent ski and snowboard facilities each winter. As Mark serves in Kandersteg for the first time, pray that he may discern how most effectively to minister in the context, and may his presence, life and words be greatly used by God.

Kandersteg is one of the ICS ministry locations featured on our 2011 calendar – to order yours use the form attached, go on line or call us. Only £5 plus postage! ■



TO PRAY see day 24



Just looking for friends!

James Keep is enabling Christ Church to reach out to the many English-speaking international students in Lille, showing them God's love in action.



James Keep

For many people studying away from their home country for the first time, the overriding experience at first is one of loneliness or a lack of integration into a foreign student lifestyle. That is something we would come across regularly having met so many international students coming to Lille over the past years, as the city has joined the ever-growing number of popular international places to study.

At Christ Church Lille (CCL), we have benefited from the influx of international students as many of them are more at ease in English than French and so seek out an English-speaking church upon their arrival. Of course, many of them are not really looking for a church: they are just looking for friends!



Lille's Peruvian Night

That is where C³ (Christ Church Café) came into the equation in the student ministry at CCL in 2010. The idea directly addresses this issue by providing a place where internationals can come and relax in a friendly atmosphere, practise their English, find out about various cultures and, most importantly, get to know and build friendships with Christians as well as their fellow international students. With the attraction of various weekly themes (such as international cultural evenings, quiz nights, folk dancing, games nights, chocolate fondue evenings and Thanksgiving) we invite friends, make them feel welcome when they come, chat, have fun, maybe learn something about the theme; and, by God's grace, friendships develop! The evenings themselves have no overt Christian theme, but in making friends with people, we have a chance to share our whole lives with them.

Praise God, up till now C³ has been growing steadily and we have welcomed people from a huge number of different nations, with several people coming along to Christ Church as a result of the friendships made! Moreover in 2010–11, with the support of ICS, and with God's leadership, we hope to see the café grow further. So, next time you are in Lille on a Thursday night, please do drop in see us!

If your friend or relative is going to Lille to study, contact James on students@christchurchlille.com ■

TO GIVE

Please use the attached donation form if you would like to help ICS support James's ministry and C³.

TO PRAY see day 10



The university: sharing good news

Leuven is the seat of Belgium's oldest university (1425), with an eminent theology faculty. It is also home to a small chaplaincy, with vision to grow and to share Christ.



This young congregation—young both in years and by make-up, since many of its members are students at the University or the Evangelical Theology Faculty—has benefited from the ministry of chaplains and Readers from other nearby Anglican chaplaincies, particularly Holy Trinity Brussels. (Leuven is a thirty-minute train-ride away from the capital.) Recent recognition as a parish by the Belgian authorities means that this young church, dedicated to St. Martha and St. Mary, can now have its own chaplain; so Gillian Wilton (Assistant at Tervuren) is now St. Martha and St. Mary's priest-in-charge as well, until next summer.



Gillian Wilton's commissioning

It is hoped, with the financial assistance of ICS, to recruit Leuven's first permanent full-time chaplain in 2011 and so enlarge the outreach to students, academics, the international community and local English-speakers. *The potential for God to be at work in young people's lives from all over the world, at a formative time in their lives, is enormous.* With supporters' help ICS expects to make a phased contribution totalling around £13,000 towards the appointment plus pension contributions.

A thanksgiving service was held on 10 October, to offer thanks for the recognition by the Belgian state. ■

Thanksgiving service at which Clare Ullman preached



TO GIVE

To partner us in this appointment please use the donation form attached or send in a gift and express the wish we use it for 'Leuven'. See back cover.



God's new community

Mike Parker, ICS-supported ministry partner in Cairo, recently celebrated twenty-five years of ordination having found 'the law more precious than silver.' Psalm 119: 72



Mike and Helen Parker

A quarter century of church service: once a deacon, always a deacon, they say. A jubilee of privilege, as congregations large and small have shown us what it is to follow Jesus. An amazing collection of fellow ministers, vicars, rectors, curates, youth workers modelling the joys and challenges of gospel ministry and church life.

Two and a half decades of questions, too. What has been the best question in all that time? Probably this, set by John Wesson in a pastoral studies class in Bristol more than twenty-five years ago: 'Can you design a gospel presentation that takes *the church* seriously?' Well, can you? Look what's on the market. The Bridge, Two Ways to Live, Four Spiritual Laws, the Circle of Belonging, the Broken Family—all tried and trusted in the kingdom of God. But all flawed in one respect: though they may mention it at the end, their gospel does not include the church.

It is very strange when you read the Bible's big story. Out of community, God began by creating people, relishing relationship and working the world in partnership, walking and talking in the garden. But suspicion tore the scene apart, leaving us out of gear with God, blaming one another, struggling with the natural world, disjointed in ourselves. The rest of Scripture has God facing us with the consequences, stepping in to put right what we could never repair. Jesus is revealed as the full and final image of God among us, making the ultimate, unique sacrifice on the cross.

For what? To bring us forgiveness, certainly, and a new start, *in a new community*, the family, people, nation God intended all along. We are called to move away from our dysfunctional alternatives to join *God's new society* (as John Stott called the first edition of his *Bible Speaks Today* commentary on Ephesians). Through Acts and the Epistles, the churches grow and spread and stumble and develop: to cope, you need a clear doctrine of the mixed-up church the wrong side of heaven. The story ends where it began, an international, multiracial community united and centred on the Father and the Lamb, a perfect church, the gorgeous bride of Christ.

I know what has happened. There were good reasons why Protestant evangelicals reacted against corporate, formal, distant, religious Christianity, to stress personal response and individual commitment. But our words misled us. *Personal* has become *private*. In English, 'you' is singular or plural; it is usually understood as 'me'—but the most common use of 'you' in the New Testament is plural. Almost every other language (including Scots and Irish) laughs at us: how could you make such an elementary mistake? How dearly we have paid for it. Church has become an option at the end of our gospel presentations. Almost all the Westerners we meet abroad now say the same thing: my beliefs are my affair, not yours, and certainly nothing that needs to involve me in any Christian activity or anything called 'church'. The more religious the setting, the stronger that belief seems to be—and Egypt is the world's most religious culture.

God's intention all along is to create new community. Therefore *gospel includes church*. The million dollar question is what *kind* of church? How can individualistic Westerners connect again? How can friends from other faith backgrounds change community without sometimes literally losing their lives? Should they stay secret, or own up and face the risks? Where is the church that will welcome, protect, nurture, equip, send and support them? That is what ministry is about: that would be more precious than silver. ■

TO PRAY see day 1





Rio has changed us

The Weller family's ministry at Christ Church, Rio de Janeiro, is about to end. How has cross-cultural English-language ministry affected them and how has God used them?



The Weller family, moving to the Lichfield Diocese, UK

Our priorities in ministry were, are and always will be, to preach and teach the gospel. Nearly six years in Brazil has emphasised how every single opportunity needs to be taken, with God's help. On flight AF447, that crashed between Rio and Paris, were a couple who had been in church a few weeks earlier on Easter Day, when David had preached about the Resurrection and the Life.

God knows the plans he has for each one of us, and we should never underestimate how God can use our faithful words and actions, big and small. With God's help, we have ministered to citizens and long-term residents of Rio, to short-stay expatriates, visitors and tourists. Members of Christ Church from the last six years are now scattered over many parts of the world, in Canada, USA, Australia, the Sudan, Afghanistan, Uganda, and the UK.

The witness of church members in the wider community, through work, education, leisure and social activities, has been emphasised in a way not often seen in parish ministry. Rio may be a city of six million plus, but the international community is like an English village: everybody knows everyone else. So living out your faith in practice and the impact it has, negative and positive, is obvious. We have also learnt that rather than set up social projects with the best of intentions, far greater impact has been achieved by piggy-backing on projects already at work in the community where church members are involved and new members can be easily introduced. We've also now seen that it is not always cash that is needed, but skills in organisation, communication and management.

We have experienced extremes of wealth and poverty, and have been struck by the depth of need for the gospel at all levels of society. To quote one lady after a facelift in the plastic surgery capital of the world, 'it will take more than a scalpel to deal with all the other areas of my life'. Social contact, listening, getting to know people are a vital part of the ministry – things that can be squeezed out by too many meetings. Never underestimate events and functions, a shared meal or a

TO PRAY see day 26

TO PRAY for ICS's mission partners in the southern hemisphere, see days 26–28

chat over coffee (Brazilian of course!). We have met royalty, been aboard Royal Navy vessels, sung at the Queen's birthday parties and danced at Poppy Balls, prayed with the poorest of the poor and been enriched by the flash of white teeth from a grandmother struggling to feed her grandchildren.

In a rapidly changing community, the need remains constantly to follow God's lead. Adapting, stopping and starting new initiatives that bring people to faith and encourage them to grow in their discipleship is key. The priority remains the same; how they are delivered changes. Increasingly heavy traffic and long drives to come to church led to the need for a discussion group after the main Sunday service and well as daytime Bible study groups. Alpha developed into courses held alongside each other in English and Portuguese.

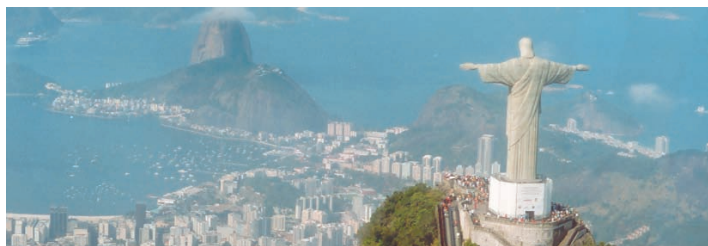
Prayer has become a priority by living in a society where the potential for crime and road accidents is present. We have seen the need for spiritual protection and have learnt never to underestimate the spiritual battle. As a clergy couple we have been able to support each other, in the absence of any training opportunities not requiring international flights.

As a family it has been wonderful to serve together in the same church, and step out of our comfort zones. The day David ordered a takeaway pizza in Portuguese by phone and it arrived exactly as requested was very special! We have been blessed with amazing opportunities to experience the beauty of God's world, from the Amazon to almost Antarctica, and most places in-between.

David and Sue Weller

The final verdict goes to Rachel: I have learnt a great new language, Portuguese; I've made some great friends; I've some lifelong memories and have enjoyed the stunning lifestyle! ■

Rio's world-famous statue of Christ





Proclaiming the Lord's coming

Many churches in Europe have small weekly congregations, but huge Christmas attendances. Michael Hepper explores the challenges of December's mission and ministry.



The Hepper family

In the season of Advent we tend to find ourselves trying to balance a real sense of urgency in our readiness for Christ's return with the joyful anticipation of his first coming as the child in the manger. Being a very large chaplaincy means that Christmas comes early in Poitou-Charentes.¹ To hold carol services in a variety of venues across four *departments* necessitates beginning in the first week of December. The two messages of Advent and Christmas often juxtapose themselves during this month in a rather uneasy alliance: the return of Christ the King and Judge, and the arrival of the Prince of Peace, the friend of sinners. The confusion is felt perhaps most acutely by those who have little understanding of Advent but who nonetheless, want to mark the Christmas season with an annual visit to church.

The Advent Carol Service kicks off our fairly full programme of carol services. It is an atmospheric occasion, lit by candlelight so capturing well the need to be alert and heed Christ's warnings about being prepared and ready for his return. The confusion arises when people attend this service believing it to be a traditional one of Nine Lessons and Christmas Carols; they find themselves singing unfamiliar Advent songs and listening to readings that do little to engender the cosy glow of babies rocked in coats of fur, shepherds watching their flocks by night or wise men bowing reverently upon their knee.

As the season of carols progresses, the weather often takes a turn for the worse — and the Chaplain can find himself truly 'in the bleak midwinter'. Last year, 'snow had fallen, snow on snow' and the one-and-a-half hour journey home from Cognac turned into an epic journey lasting all of seven hours. Prayer for safety on the road is very important: the worship leaders and preachers this year will travel in excess of 1072 kilometres to all the different venues! The carol services are often bilingual and ecumenical in nature and attract almost as many French-speakers as British expatriates. Whilst the French church is not known for its singing, those who attend from other churches express how much they have

¹ This chaplaincy was planted from 1999 onwards, funded by ICS.

enjoyed the lively worship. They also tuck in enthusiastically to our mince pies (*tartelettes aux fruits confits*) and shortbread, washed down with delicious hot mulled wine.

The carol services are very much the shop window of our outreach, attracting many expatriates who do not attend church at any other time of year. In view of this, we feel it is important to make these services as traditional as possible with a good range of well-known carols. The [sometimes] dubious theology or historical accuracy of what is being sung is not the main issue. The important thing is the warmth of welcome, the genuine care expressed by the regular worshippers and the attention given to ensuring that people enjoy the evening. We hope and pray that they will leave the church building with a positive impression and, above all, a better understanding of the Christ who came for them.

At some of our services, the chaplaincy choir is involved. The members and musicians show incredible commitment, travelling hundreds of kilometres to attend rehearsals and events. And because many incomers live in small hamlets and villages rather than large towns or cities, publicity is very important. Word of mouth can be very effective but we also use the internet, the local press and English-speaking publications to make our services known. Their effectiveness, however, depends on prayer and we are grateful to all ICS supporters who pray for us at Advent, Christmas and throughout the year. ■

TO PRAY see day 12

Key: ➤ Contact person

Extract from Poitou-Charentes entry in ICS's *Directory of English-speaking Churches Abroad*, to be published in early 2011

<p>Poitou-Charentes Chaplaincy Church of Christ the Good Shepherd ➤ Chaplain, unless otherwise shown.</p> <p>Ambernac (Charente): At parish church, Ambernac (west of Confolens). HC 10.30 (2).</p> <p>Barbèzieux-St-Hilaire (Charente): At Le Temple Protestant, 20 rue Trarieux, Barbèzieux. MS 10.30 (3).</p> <p>Civray (Vienne): At Salle Paroissiale, St Nicholas de Civray (chapelle, behind mairie). HC/EP 18.00 (BCP) winter, 19.00 (BCP) summer (3, alternate months); ES 18.00 winter, 19.00 summer (1).</p> <p>Cognac (Charente): At St Thérèse de Châteaubernard, Cognac. HC 10.30 (4), MS 10.30 (2).</p> <p>La Rochefoucauld (Charente): MS 10.30 (4), at parish room, opposite church, rue des Prêtres.</p>	<p>Magné (Vienne): At St Médard parish church, Magné (near Gency). HC 10.30 (3).</p> <p>Parthenay (Deux-Sèvres): 13 rue de la Citadelle. HC/MS 10.30 (4). ➤ Mr Geoff Cornwall. ☎ (33) 5 49 63 06 31.</p> <p>St-Jean-d'Angély (Charente-Maritime): At Centre Culture Européen. HC/MS 10.30 (3). ➤ Mr Alan Jenkins. ☎ (33) 5 46 26 30 98.</p> <p>Verteuil (Charente): At Dixieland Jazz Bar, Vertheuil. MS 10.30 (3). ➤ Mrs Sally Johnson. ☎ (33) 5 45 31 50 13.</p> <p>Villejésus (Charente): At parish church. HC 10.30 (1). ➤ Mr Duncan Paige. ☎ (33) 5 45 21 91 10.</p>
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A truly international outreach

John Wilkinson introduces us to the mission of Fontainebleau Anglican Church, and then Giles Williams at Cannes gives his first impressions of the French Riviera's spiritual needs.



John Wilkinson, Susie, Jo, Michael and Thomas

Fontainebleau: an international start

In September 1991, John Benwell and his wife Pat arrived in Fontainebleau. Missionaries in Somalia, they were unable to return because of unrest in that country. Brian Lea, then chaplain at St. Michael's Paris, met John and Pat while staying in Egypt, and through that meeting the Lord called them to come to Fontainebleau to minister at the English-speaking church here, with John as the first resident minister.

So 2011 sees the twentieth anniversary of that arrival; but in the years leading up to the 25th, we shall celebrate others including twenty years in the wonderful facilities we use for Sunday services, at Roman Catholic Lycée Saint Aspais.

However, this international story goes further back. Fontainebleau is home to INSEAD, a leading European business school. In the early seventies, Deigan and Barbara Morris of St. Michael's moved to work in Fontainebleau. They found a number of Christians at INSEAD and with them started a Bible study in their home. Word got around, and soon occasional services began in the local Protestant church, with groups coming from Paris to lead them. The Benwells' arrival gave this a new impetus and over subsequent years there has been both consolidation and growth, guided by the ministries of Bill Wilson, and Dominic and Annie Newstead.

An international ministry

Nearly forty years on from the beginnings of the home group, many people from all around the world make up a large English-speaking community. There is an anglophone section in one of the local state schools with children from around 280 families, which for the most part have at least one English-speaking parent or have spent a significant amount of time living in an English-speaking country. INSEAD, where the common language of the school is English, attracts people from all over the world: faculty, staff and students. Although staff and faculty usually stay long-term, most of those who come to study rarely stay longer than a few months at a time, some just for a few weeks.

Current challenges include how we reach out to, and build up in Christ, a community that is so mobile and will go out into positions of significant leadership in the world, whilst maintaining a similar and solid ministry to those who are here permanently. There are many people too who have no connection with INSEAD at all, and who are here because they work in other local industries like Corning, Disneyland and Eurocontrol, or who commute into Paris.

We seek to minister also to the many young people and children whose schooling is predominantly non-Christian. Even though the very heavy time commitment makes regular youth ministry difficult to maintain, we had a very encouraging two years of ministry with James Brown (now the ICS intern at Holy Trinity Brussels) and hope to build on his work in the coming years.

An international future

So as we enter our second twenty years, or forty years depending on how you are counting, we are looking forward, through biblical preaching, training and prayer, to making disciples of Christ and building up Christians to serve the Lord, in the Fontainebleau area and wherever in the world he sends them. Two members, Kemi and Trent, are pleased to share their stories with us here: please pray for them and for us!

TO PRAY see day 9



Kemi Gbolade, a recent INSEAD participant writes: 'I found the Anglican Church in Fontainebleau after being here for about two weeks. By then I had been looking for a church as I had been neglecting my spiritual life as my very busy schedule took its toll. Since my knowledge of French was not very good then, I did not feel like attending the French-speaking churches. The atmosphere in the church has helped me to survive the intense academic environment and to reconnect anytime I feel overwhelmed by my environment and the many changes happening in the one year that I have to spend in France. The chaplain, and some other members of the church that are staff at INSEAD, also helped us build a close community of Christian students on my campus and, through the community, I have been able to lend a hand to other students going through the same circumstances.'



Trent Vance plays Buffalo Bill at Disneyland Paris: 'After fourteen frustrating years trying to find my family's way, I prayed for help. I'm not baptised and knew little about Christianity so I promised God to learn more if he'd help us. He answered our prayers and in his miraculous way guided us to Fontainebleau where, to thank him, I began attending the Fontainebleau Anglican Church. Our lives have been profoundly changed. In addition to finding a wonderful community, I found Jesus Christ. My baptism is forthcoming. Where I once considered the church a bonus to the community here, I now know it as the foundation.' ■



Giles and Chris Williams

Newly moved from St. John's, Woking, Giles Williams is chaplain at Holy Trinity Cannes. His first impressions of the French Riviera's spiritual needs may surprise you!

I know it sounds like the jammiest dodge ever, and I cannot deny that I am enjoying it hugely! But there is actually a real spiritual need in the South of France, and vast opportunities for the gospel. Walk along Boulevard de la Croisette along Cannes' seafront during a conference, and you will hear more English spoken than French. Around the port, you will notice dozens of red ensigns, and hear Americans, South Africans, Brits and others servicing the yacht industry. Go around the markets in the towns and villages, and you will discover that the place is full of British people who have come to work or retire. The nearby high-tech new town has English as its second language; its business studies faculty attracts students from the UK and further afield.

The Riviera has its own English-language radio, English-speaking retirement home, and welfare organisations for incomers. And it is not just Britons: there are thousands of Malaysians, Filipinos, East Africans and Scandinavians, all more at home in English than French. Some of them are rich, some of them down-and-out, some short-term; some have been here all their lives. So there are thousands of English-speakers along the Côte d'Azur: it's bizarre, but that is why we are here! There is a big mission field in and around Cannes.



Identifying Holy Trinity

Ministry to local Christians

For many local English-speaking Christians, Holy Trinity is their closest family. We get anywhere between 120 and 170 to

our main Sunday service. There is a real sense of belonging and commitment and support amongst many in the congregation. And often that is particularly important. Many people come to Cannes to retire, and as years go by, they find themselves increasingly frail. Others came here for a fresh start after some painful crisis, and still bear some of the scars; others came to work or marry locally and found that the dream was not quite as wonderful as they had imagined. Of course, lots of our folks are coping brilliantly and loving every minute of it! So our fellowship meals, our prayer support, and pastoral concern are very important.

More important than all that is the privilege of helping people meet with the living God, teaching his Word and helping them to grow in their faith. So we have home groups and children's work, prayer meetings and teaching days to build people up in their faith.



Cannes' waterfront

A watering-hole for visitors

It's a dickens of a job trying to get to know who is who. Some of our 'regulars' make Cannes their second home: you just get to know them before they say 'Back in five months' time!' Others come when they are on holiday, or at a conference, or stopping off on a cruise. So we always have a shared lunch after the morning service where newcomers can join us. Mainly we have no further contact, but I recently got an e-mail from a pastor in England thanking us for helping one of his congregation come to a real experience of God.

A platform for outreach

We are just scratching the surface. There are thousands of English-speakers in and around Cannes, lost without the good news. We run courses like Alpha and the Marriage Course to draw people in. I often meet the international community through funerals and wedding blessings, and try to present Christ to them there. We get involved in groups and activities where they gather: Chris has joined a drama group and I have started English-language services in an old folks' home. Most importantly, we encourage our people to be confident about sharing their faith. There is a needy world out there, and we want to introduce people to Jesus. ■

TO PRAY see day 8

If you live in Woking and would like to pray for the Cannes ministry the new ICS prayer group meets on 19 January: see page 46

'Your will be done'

'And I sought for anyone among them who would repair the wall, and stand in the breach before me on behalf of the land ... but I found no one.' Ezekiel 22: 30



David Healey,
General Manager

In a 'can do', on-demand techno-age, shunning busyness is countercultural, and time spent in unhurried prayer can seem immensely passive, almost wasteful, to any Christian whose life bulges with activity. And against the apparently global forces of pluralism, secularisation and consumerism, does one pray-er or pray-matter?

We need to increase prayer support for our work. For, if we want people to discover the kingdom and do God's will in the world, we are to intercede. But Jesus says God's will must be done in *my* life as in others:¹ prayer is where God enlarged Abraham's vision of God's justice.² How hard a thing then it is to say 'your will be done in *my* life'. Prayer involves being changed: God changing us so that we want his will obeyed more closely in our and others' lives. No wonder many prefer activity to prayer: we need both, of course. *Persevering in prayer is not so that God hears us, but that we hear God.*

In Ezekiel 22: 30, God laments that no one stands before him for 'the land', so he judges idolatrous Israel. We fool ourselves if we think 'I can save the world by praying': for God has saved the world, but he wants us involved in outworking his purposes, so we are called to pray for his saving love to be understood and received by others, for he longs to show them his mercy. Our prayers have eternal implications, even if we never know how or why. We can pray, give and trust that God's love will be known by those we may never meet, in places we never visit. For we always need to pray more, as (if we are honest) our transformation is unfinished business and there are always more people who have yet to discover God's saving love.³ ■

So, if you don't normally read the second half of *ICS News* (the *Prayer Diary*), do try using it: those serving God far from home need our prayers for them and those they seek to reach. If you lead intercessions, include ICS regularly: your chaplaincy or church does not have to give to ICS to pray for us. Our *Annual prayer calendar* is written to help intercessors or compilers of prayer calendars. It is often easier to pray with others, so why not start an ICS prayer group? See page 24 for more about the resources available.

¹ Matthew 6: 10

² Genesis 18: 16–33

³ A version of this article will form the guest editorial in a forthcoming edition of *Prayer Notes* from Bush Church Aid Society, ICS's sister agency in Australia.



Mission's future: 'Give us this day'

Like dioceses, missions are seeing parish support decline, donors age, and funding given only for projects with immediate outcomes or personal connections to the donor or parish.

I pray daily for God's provision for ICS, to enable us to make known his grace. Many more individuals, churches and trusts are needed to partner us in our strategic, often unglamorous, long term (a church-plant can take ten years!) but essential work. New supporters, like new believers, can come out of the blue; but most people become interested in something because *someone commends it*, just as we start attending church if a *friend invites us* and personal recommendation influences our choice of plumber!

The most effective marketing is by *word of mouth*: advertising, graphic design, print, web and social networking sites are less effective in promotion, though receive more investment. We need to encourage new support for world mission, as Paul encouraged generosity in 2 Corinthians 8, in contrast to our age's mantra: 'consume'.

Of course, I cannot meet everyone personally but every reader can help me by commending the work of ICS to another. Even the smallest act can help:

- Pray regularly for those who hear about or experience our work to begin to pray for ICS.
- Ask for more *ICS News* every quarter to pass to friends or church leadership saying, 'You might be encouraged by what ICS is doing. I support them.'
- Volunteer to become your church's ICS Secretary, passing on *ICS News* every quarter, encouraging the church to pray (see opposite) and collect used stamps (see back cover), through which simple act anyone can enable our ministry.
- Pass on our leaflet *Working, studying, relaxing . . .* which invites people to become a Friend of ICS. Every edition of *ICS News* also contains a response form.
- Invite an ICS speaker to your midweek meeting, prayer breakfast, service or synod (page 47).
- Buy your friend, minister or bishop an ICS calendar to introduce them to our work.

Please call us for any help or literature you need. Thank you. ■

David Healey



Ireland: the next generation

Our growing team of Honorary Travelling Secretaries (HTS) and Diocesan Reps are recruiting new mission-minded Christians to support and serve ICS.



Michael and Rhodanne Heaney

In September 2008 John Dinnen was appointed HTS for Northern Ireland, and then Michael and Rhodanne Heaney were appointed joint HTS for Southern Ireland. Last year Dave Healey met with John, Michael and Rhodanne at Hillsborough, Co. Down to outline the brief for the Irish operation and to set up plans for the year ahead. Michael and Rhodanne have regularly served in seasonal chaplaincies in France and Switzerland; John has served as a locum in various chaplaincies and as a seasonal chaplain in Switzerland.

New supporters are essential for the future of all mission agencies. The aim of all HTS and Diocesan Reps is to help recruit a whole new generation of individuals and churches to partner ICS and serve in its work: by increasing awareness of the work, encouraging prayer support for ICS's wider work and specific chaplaincies, and encouraging financial giving. As HTS we do this in three main ways:

- Deputation: speaking about ICS at church services, prayer breakfasts, midweek meetings and diocesan synods.
- Recruiting individual supporters and encouraging churches to support the work.
- Organising supporters' events such as coffee mornings and prayer meetings. John Dinnen has established a northern prayer group, and sold all 120 tickets for a fund-raising concert at Hillsborough Castle hosted by our Vice-Patron, the Archbishop of Armagh.

TO PRAY see day 30

We set out to meet as many clergy and church members as possible, as rapidly as we could. Some parishes and clergy were sent a pack with a covering letter. It must be said few responded. Next, plans were laid to visit each of the diocesan synods. Dave had supplied an excellent banner which was erected behind the stand/table. On the table was much of the usual publicity material supplied by the office, with notelets, Christmas cards and copies of the *Directory of English-speaking Churches Abroad* and *Faith and New Frontiers* for sale. Each parish or incumbent was given a pack of sample material which included an invitation to twin with a permanent chaplaincy and to partner ICS through visiting, service, interest, prayer and finance.



John Dinnen

As a result of these activities a number of parishes showed interest in twinning and a number of clergy expressed interest in offering to serve as seasonal chaplains. There was also some interest in working as permanent chaplains, or helping out as locums, for example during a vacancy. In these times of financial constraint many parishes and churches are already under great strain. It has been difficult to move beyond raising the awareness of the work which ICS is doing. However, time and opportunity are in God's hands and from a zero knowledge base, we are indeed 'moving up'.

Michael and Rhodanne have now visited the Synods in Dublin, Tuam and Ossory and so have met nearly two hundred clergy and many more church members. They plan to visit Limerick and Meath in 2011. From these, one clergyman has been accepted as a seasonal chaplain and another has been in discussion with ICS. Two more are thinking seriously about volunteering for seasonal outreach. Three parishes are considering twinning. One clergyman is thinking about applying to serve in a chaplaincy full-time.

John Dinnen has visited a number of synods in Northern Ireland and writes: 'Busy church programmes are the main challenge to a Travelling Secretary, honorary or not! Clergy are already over committed with the responsibilities of leadership, preaching, pastoral care: even getting an appointment is difficult. Casual networking and contacts therefore



Revd Mark Cregan, David Healey, the Archbishop of Armagh and John Dinnen with pianist Laretta Bloomer at the concert



The ICS stand at a recent Dublin and Glendalough Synod

seem the best option. Having made it on to the agenda, the next challenge is to get a spot among the “visible results” mission projects which build homes, schools or clinics.

‘The obvious, but easily overlooked, aspect of church life is that we most certainly cannot live by bread alone, and in stringent economic times that may be more easily recognised. In that respect the ministry of ICS carries even greater significance.

‘As an Anglican mission society planting churches and providing for the spiritual needs of people away from home, we have a key task in terms of mission initiatives. The two areas of that, offering the best links for local churches, are the need for ongoing and informed prayer support for the chaplaincies, and specific projects with costs they might contribute to. Both of these are well documented in *ICS News and Prayer Diary*.’

Though there are many challenges, it is truly a privilege to be a reporter of the work of the Holy Spirit in so many churches linked with the Society today. ■

Michael and Rhodanne Heaney

INVITE A SPEAKER

If you would like someone to speak at your event about ICS, call one of the Committee; for Great Britain see page 47.

Alongside the HTS in Ireland are volunteer Diocesan Reps and other clergy who together make up ICS’s Irish Committee: John Bond, Ian McDonald and Paul Redfern (Connor), Stanley Bourke and Bryan Martin (Clogher), Charlie Coombe and Henry Hull (Down), Raymond Ferguson (Kilmore), Andrew Forster (Armagh), Robert Keogh (Derry and Raphoe).



Deans Henry Hull and John Bond with the Bishop of Down and Dromore, Harold Miller, at an Irish Committee meeting



News from the chaplaincies

Further information for praise and prayer may be found on the indicated relevant day of the Prayer Diary each month, which begins on page 32.

EGYPT **Cairo** We are steadily making improvements to our premises and supporting a wide range of care ministries, but we do need to let out the old school building here for a reasonable price and to reliable tenants. We would love to see this resolved early this year, and find freedom to develop outreach and ministry.

TO PRAY see day 1

NORTHERN CYPRUS **Famagusta** In the last few months, Robin and Val Brookes have retired, but three couples have joined our ministry team. Pray that the work will grow through them.

TO PRAY see day 3

BELGIUM **Leuven** St. Martha and St. Mary's, Leuven gained official recognition last summer. With help from ICS a new permanent chaplain will be appointed in summer 2011. Our tasks this year are to begin to grow the congregation, to put ourselves on the map in Leuven and to develop the organisational infrastructure of the chaplaincy.

Ostend There is a real ministry in visiting choirs and musical groups. We give thanks for the visit of the Sutton Chorale from Surrey and the Volante Strings from Worcestershire in October (both groups may return); also the Sevenoaks School Choir to sing at the Knokke Carol Service along the coast from Ostend. (Knokke used to be part of the Bruges/Ostend chaplaincy and is now linked to Ghent.)

TO PRAY see days 4-5

FRANCE **Aquitaine** Bramwell Bearcroft, who was previously active elsewhere within our chaplaincy, has become our new Assistant Chaplain in Bordeaux. Bramwell and Jennifer will focus on building up the existing congregation and reaching out to the English-speakers in this great city, especially young families and the many international students here for one or two years. Besides the city ministry, we also look to develop our ministry in the large area to the west with its potential for year-round and summer ministry. We thank the Lord for the long-established congregation in Bordeaux; for Bramwell and Jennifer's passion to minister here, and for others (such as Roger Watts) who have done so in recent times; and for the support of our Diocese and ICS in this appointment.



Brittany We hope to appoint a new Priest-in-Charge in December, to begin ministry to Christ Church in April 2011.

Cannes We recently held an auction of talents after our Sunday service (a couple of thousand euros was raised); it was good fun and will help people make connections across the congregation.

Chantilly Our mission trip to the Diocese of Gitega, Burundi (18–25 August) was an inspiring visit, enabling us to establish relationships with the Bishop and his staff. We were able to visit projects that St. Peter's had supported financially and to assess where we can make a future contribution both materially and relationally. Developing this partnership has become a major part of our mission as a church.

Fontainebleau Dan Hogarty, a volunteer from Virginia, USA, is heading up our youth work until June and is involved in a number of other projects in the life of the church.

Lyon As well as the midweek Wednesday prayer meeting, there is now a more exuberant African midweek fellowship and prayer group, meeting in the Eglise Réformée in rue Bancel, Lyon 7ème, and there are plans for a Mandarin-speaking midweek fellowship group.

TO PRAY see days 7–13

GERMANY

Düsseldorf Last year saw some spiritual advances. As we now face ongoing material needs and work we need wisdom to concentrate on what matters eternally and to sit light with what is temporal and of little lasting worth.

Leipzig On 17 October 2010 our fifteenth anniversary was celebrated in a moving service, with a PowerPoint presentation of testimonies from many former and current members, two adult baptisms and a sermon on the Lord's words to Aaron: 'I am your share and your inheritance among the Israelites.' Numbers 18: 20

TO PRAY see days 14–15

GREECE

Corfu We are planning to lead a tour 'In the steps of St. Paul' on the Greek mainland (25–30 April). Any ICS supporters who might be interested in joining us are invited to contact us for further information by e-mail (htccorfu@gmail.com).

TO PRAY see day 15

THE NETHERLANDS

Amsterdam South Leaders from St. Mark's, Versailles and Christ Church Amsterdam, together with Trinity Church Eindhoven are hosting a new summer conference next year: the New Wine Europe summer conference, 8–12 August 2011,



at Leuven, Belgium. We welcome those with a heart for Europe who would like to join us in this venture which seeks to equip international English-speaking churches in continental Europe through a ministry of the Word and Spirit (more details on www.new-wine.eu).

Amsterdam Central With a new church-plant in south Amsterdam and while considering our next church-plant, we are also taking some time to review how the chaplaincy is structured and how much autonomy and financial independence each congregation should have. Pray for wisdom and unity as the council and leadership teams find a structure to enable our existing congregation to grow healthy and strong, and plant many more churches: at present only three per cent of the population of Amsterdam attends church on a Sunday.

TO PRAY see days 16–20

SPAIN

Barcelona Andrew and Billie were delighted to accept the Archbishop of Barcelona's invitation to attend a special service for the consecration of the Templo de la Sagrada Familia on 7 November, with Pope Benedict XVI presiding.

Ibiza The Maya Tzeltal Agricultural Centre in south-east Mexico has been adopted as part of our chaplaincy's outreach programme. One of the main parts of their work is helping the Maya Tzeltal people develop sustainable and ecologically friendly systems for growing the basic staple of maize. The traditional 'slash-and-burn' method of farming is very destructive and the centre is helping hundreds of farmers to find viable alternatives.

TO PRAY see day 21

SWITZERLAND

Vevey and Château d'Oex Penny Frank and her husband Tom are returning to Château d'Oex for a three year period to serve the community of St. Peter's and develop the church's ministry. Penny and Tom spent six months in the area in early 2010 and to everyone's delight have agreed to come back.

TO PRAY see day 22–24

FALKLAND ISLANDS

Stanley You never know whom you will meet here. Earlier this year, Terry Waite was ashore from the cruise ship on which he was a guest lecturer: he found his way to the Deanery and joined us for lunch. What a fascinating Christian man!

TO PRAY see day 28

AUSTRALIA

Bush Church Aid Society This is a new financial and accounting year for us: we pray that the donor climate will improve and the negative effects of the global financial crisis will be a thing of the past.

TO PRAY see day 31

News from the office

Central to our development as a mission must be prayer and well-informed support. Could you join an ICS prayer or supporters' group, or ask for a copy of ICS News for a friend?



If there is no ICS group near you (see page 47), could you gather round you a handful of mission-minded Christians, introduce them to ICS's work and meet regularly for news, encouragement and prayer? Contact Jeannette or Dave for information about how to do this and for ICS prayer diaries. We can then invite other ICS supporters to join you. If you compile your diocesan or parish prayer calendar, our *Annual prayer calendar* can be downloaded from our web site at www.ics-uk.org/about/articles.shtml to help you. If you would like a monthly article about ICS for your church newsletter, e-mail Jeannette to go on our distribution list.



Chris and Susie Martin (Lyon) and Stuart Robertson (ex-Barcelona) meet Clifford and Isobel in Edinburgh.

Over £3,000 raised July's *ICS News* featured Clifford and Isobel Owen's impending John O'Groats to Land's End cycle ride, in aid of ICS and two other Christian missions. Thank you to all involved, not least Clifford and Isobel, who appreciated the many supporters who prayed, sponsored, provided overnight hospitality or encouraged them en route. It was an enormous effort (especially without an accompanying support team): they completed the route very tired but safe.

Comings and goings We are most grateful to God for the dedicated service of Robin and Val Brookes, now retired to the UK. Previously in Ayia Napa (Cyprus), they then planted the Famagusta church in Northern Cyprus, a ministry influencing people for Christ from all over the world, now under the leadership of Zinkoo Han. Do pray for Zinkoo, and for Robin undergoing further treatment for prostate cancer. We congratulate James Brown on becoming the ICS Intern based at Holy Trinity Brussels; John Wilkinson (Fontainebleau) and Trevor Whitfield (Maisons-Lafitte), now Canons (and Trevor an Area Dean); Gillian Wilton now priest-in-charge in Leuven (see page 5); and Brian Davies, Liz Morris and Bramwell Bearcroft as they join the Aquitaine chaplaincy team. We were saddened to hear of the death of Eric McLellan, former Chaplain and Archdeacon based in Paris, and our Diocesan Rep for Rochester. We thank God for his many abilities, and his and Edith's commitment to the Society's work and the gospel. ■

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