

# ICSNews *and Prayer Diary*

**'TAKE HOLD OF THE ETERNAL LIFE, TO WHICH YOU WERE CALLED' 1 TIMOTHY 6: 12**



Over 130 gathered at St. Peter's one hundred and fortieth anniversary Holy Communion service on Sunday 11 July 2010 to give thanks for God's work through ICS in Zermatt—blessing countless people worldwide since 1870—and to pray for its future mission. Inside you will find more photos, reports and testimony. Zermatt is featured too in this year's ICS charity card and gift range: an order form is attached, which may also be used to make a contribution to the Anniversary Appeal for important repair works.

**Zermatt 140th anniversary special issue (page 17)**



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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.*

We hope this quarter’s articles inform you and inspire you to pray for those in whom God is at work: in Corfu, Ibiza, Switzerland and beyond. As our mission partners in Europe explain, ICS is helping Christians living abroad to grow in Christ, and others to find faith in him. Read too of how God has been at work for one hundred and forty years at St. Peter’s, Zermatt. I encourage you to order and send ICS Christmas cards and gifts to your friends this year—excellent value, and all profits enable our mission. Thank you.

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 2010 *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](http://www.ics-uk.org/about/articles.shtml)

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# Recycling little works of art for ICS

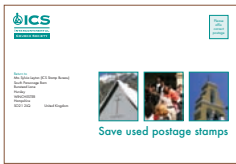
*Why do we throw away increasingly rare little works of art? Anyone—young or old, rich or poor—can recycle often beautifully illustrated used stamps and so benefit ICS.*



Could your church, youth group or workplace support ICS's work? All used stamps (except the British ones bearing only a large Queen's head and the value indicator, e.g. '1<sup>ST</sup>') can be sold to collectors, the majority for at least 5p each. To make it easy we have introduced used stamp collecting envelopes, available in any quantity from the ICS office. This is all you do:

1. When opening mail, carefully cut off the corner of the envelope, leaving a small border around the postage stamp.
2. Place the used stamp, still stuck on the paper, in your collecting envelope.
3. When it is full, affix the correct postage for a large letter and post it to the ICS stamp bureau, including your name and address to request a replacement collecting envelope.

Sylvia Leyton (who runs our stamp bureau) sorts the used stamps and sells via philatelic societies to collectors or by auction; all proceeds go to ICS. Recycling used stamps helps ICS fund ministry to tourists, start new congregations, and maintain the historic 'English churches' in Zermatt and Wengen. We can also raise money from selling first day covers, albums, and stamp or coin collections (is there one in a family loft?).



**An every member ministry!** If you find it hard to encourage congregational interest in world mission, why not order envelopes for everyone in your church? Have one person collect up the filled envelopes and send a large shipment to ICS, or bring them to an ICS meeting to save postage. Anyone can begin a lifelong interest in world mission in this way.

Every day now, Sylvia receives an envelope of used stamps from somewhere in the world: she received over 500 in the last year. In 2009 the scheme raised some £2,000 for ICS's work. As electronic communication means fewer stamps are used, and as the number of collectors is increasing, we anticipate that the value of used stamps will rise. So thank you to all who already collect them for us; if you have any questions, need collecting envelopes or wish to make arrangements to pass over a bulky collection, call Sylvia Leyton or ICS (see back cover). ■



## John 4: the source of eternal life

*We asked John Gulland, who has recently moved from the Isle of Man to be chaplain on Corfu,<sup>1</sup> and his wife Mary<sup>2</sup> to share their vision for mission there.*



John and Mary Gulland

We arrived at Holy Trinity last October which proved to be good timing, enabling us to get to know the local congregation outside the busy summer tourist season and while permanent residents were free from the preoccupations of looking after the thousands of summer visitors. The tourist invasion begins each year at Easter as visitors flock to this beautiful Greek island for the spectacular Holy Week and Easter celebrations and processions. Easter 2010 was especially busy and ecumenical as our own celebrations coincided with the Orthodox Easter: a rare occurrence.

Since our arrival we have been warmly welcomed by Nektarios, Metropolitan of the Orthodox Church in Corfu, Paxi and the Diapontian Islands; Archbishop Ioannes Spiteris of the Roman Catholic Church; and Miltiades Pantelios, minister of the Greek Evangelical Church. We have been delighted to be able to join with brothers and sisters in Christ from the churches of the Island on a number of ecumenical occasions.

In November John spoke at a presentation organized by the Greek Bible Society, sharing the lectern with Archbishop Ioannes Spiteris, Miltiades Pantelios and a representative of the Greek Orthodox Church. The same day John was also invited to preach, in English, at the Orthodox funeral of a Scottish lady whose Orthodox Greek husband was anxious that family members flying from Scotland for the funeral should be able to understand at least part of the service. The Orthodox priest in the village of Gastouri was welcoming and concerned for both Greek and English-speaking members of the congregation.

Towards the end of January the congregation of Holy Trinity was invited to contribute to a Service of Christian Unity, also attended by the Evangelical Church and an Orthodox speaker, at the Catholic cathedral. The Women's World Day of Prayer in March then brought together the

<sup>1</sup>ICS has supported the ministry on Corfu since 1841, and consistently provided seasonal and permanent chaplains since the nineteenth century.

<sup>2</sup>Mary is a professional artist.



Easter Saturday Procession,  
Corfu Town



Holy Trinity Church,  
Corfu Town

congregations of the various churches of Kerkyra (Corfu) in a united service of worship and prayer. The Orthodox processions for Easter are spectacular and John was once again pleased to be invited to join the witness to our Lord's Passion and Resurrection in the processions on Easter Saturday.

The ecumenical celebrations are important but there are more than 10,000 English-speaking people resident on Corfu and the main focus for our work must always be to present the good news of Jesus Christ to them. We have been trying to learn as quickly as possible how best to fulfil this task. One of the keys is, self-evidently, to use appropriate means of communication. With this in mind we have redeveloped the church web site ([www.holytrinitycorfu.net](http://www.holytrinitycorfu.net)), although our best estimate is that only three in ten households on Corfu have internet access. We have certainly attracted internet response from potential visitors searching for a 'Mama Mia' style Greek island wedding! In the meantime, our greater concern remains how to reach the year-round residents.

During Lent we followed the USPG<sup>3</sup> Lent course. This was based upon Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well in Sychar (John 4: 4–42). We found ourselves discussing why Jesus was attracted to the well, concluding that the village well would have been a major meeting place for the community—an ideal place for Jesus to meet with needy people. Jesus' choice of meeting place was clearly inspired because the woman said to her fellow villagers, 'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?' (v 29). Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever done.' (v 39). They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.' (v 42).

Our concern is to identify the 'wells', the meeting places for English-speaking people on Corfu, so that more and more will be able to say 'we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world'. Please pray with us. ■

TO PRAY see day 15

<sup>3</sup>United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel



## God at work in Ibiza

*The Chaplaincy of Ibiza and Formentera is located on one of the Med's best known islands. So who lives there? Chaplain Bob Short explains:*



Bob and Clare Short

Ibiza is one of the most fascinating islands in the Mediterranean. It has a very long history with all sorts of people coming and going over the centuries, from the Phoenicians to the Romans, the Arabs/Moors and then the Christian Catalans in the last millennium. Finally in the last few decades there have been influxes of Germans, Britons, Andalucians from mainland Spain, South Americans and Romanians, to name but a few. Many come for construction, much of it centered around tourism, because this is the tourist and party island possibly without equal in this region.

It appears to be a place where people can come and forget their problems, make a new start, enjoy life, etc. However, outward appearances do not always tell the whole truth. Many, yes, are looking for freedom through a hedonistic lifestyle, but many realise ultimately this is not the panacea for all difficulties and disappointments in life that it may appear to be at first experience.

Our chaplaincy reflects quite well the many types who come to this island, which is so unique in many ways. A confirmation last November reflected five decades of age groups and of length of time on the island. Two of our confirmands went back nearly forty years. One had been brought up here as a youngster whose parents were contemporary and friends with the likes of comedian Terry Thomas, who used to own a property here. The mother of another candidate had been acquainted with the English-speaking church, and since she passed away and was buried here, he has become more and more involved in our church life, being part of the choir, attending different courses, and becoming 'part of the furniture'.



The other candidate who goes back a long way was married to an *Ibicenco* (*Ibicenco* is also the local dialect). She has been a pillar of the local Cala de Bou community outside San Antonio, being very involved in all sorts of community events, from Age Concern to Cancer Research. She had, however, had little or no contact with the church until three



years or so ago after the death of one of her friends, who herself had come quite late into the church. She is now a sidesperson and an integral part of the church Christmas Fair team.

The youngest candidate was on holiday here on the island nearly two years ago. He was just out of the navy, twenty-two, and enjoying a break before deciding what to do. His stay was extended as he was falsely picked up in San Antonio for allegedly dealing drugs; he spent nine months in jail until given bail without his passport, and then spent another eight months living from hand to mouth as he could not get a legal job until after his court date in November last year. The prosecution had no case whatsoever and, without an apology, he was given a full release and pardon but had missed out eighteen months of his life. However, he had become a part of our church. Please pray for him as he seeks to fit back into life in the UK.

The other two ladies who were confirmed are in their thirties and forties, both sadly divorced. The Lord had already done a great deal in each of their lives and continues to use them and make them a blessing to us in our chaplaincy: one of them is now on the chaplaincy council and leading the Alpha course.

We have a fascinating group of people, as I am sure most chaplaincies in Europe do. I have not had room for Dave the Rave, an ex DJ/entertainer who, since a very serious illness overtook him over eighteen months ago, has become another integral part of God's people here, while still struggling with his illness. He has returned as an older man to his Christian roots. Nor is there room to mention all the faithful people who have kept this chaplaincy running for more than forty years, but without their work it would not exist today.

The richness and variety of our congregations is one of the privileges of being part of the Diocese, and I am very grateful to the Lord to be a part of this challenging work here. ■

TO PRAY see day 21

Remember also the ministry of the seasonal chaplains who have worked for Bob this summer in tourist outreach (David and Jenny Rouch, Colin and Jenifer Pontin, Michael and Daphne Savage). May the Holy Spirit be at work in the lives of those they encountered.



## Discipling Christians on the move

*How do international Anglican churches seek to present mature in Christ those who might only worship with them for a year, or who are frequently travelling? We asked Roy Ball.*



Roy and Joke Ball

‘How’, I am asked, ‘do you care for the mobile church member, the travelling businessman, the migrant worker?’

Looking back on sixteen years of mission and ministry linked with ICS in three different countries<sup>1</sup> I cannot claim any success story in this area. For one thing, in each place I have worked I have been involved in helping small congregations grow, so the great priority has always been to focus on setting up, coordinating, and trying to provide stability and a platform for growth. And yet we have seen many short-term members of our churches helped in their walk with God through the encouragement of alert and caring Christians. It is a job for the whole church. There is a vital role also for ‘link people’, such as readers of *ICS News*, who will encourage friends to seek out churches and inform the chaplaincies of new arrivals in our areas. We appreciate so much Christians who have a vision for linking and informing, not least in the cases of students abroad. So keep that *Directory of English-speaking Churches Abroad*<sup>2</sup> to hand!

Four main areas for action spring to mind as needing special care: relate, pray, encourage and help.

**Relate** First we must get to know and relate to people. This means we need the precious commodity of time. In the past my wife and I have worked hard in the area of hospitality to get to know new church members. This is demanding and time-consuming. If church leaders are too busy, then they will need to involve good lay people who have the time available.

In practice if a businessman is going to worship with us, say, twice a month for six months, then we need to relate to him immediately. Of course the best chance to do this is in fellowship time before and after services. We must not be so absorbed in reverent quietness before services that we fail to welcome and relate to newcomers and isolated believers. Contact and fellowship with them are priorities too.

It seems impossible at times to make *plans* for deepening links with short-termers. In the nature of the case one cannot predict future situations and numbers. Each church therefore

<sup>1</sup>Roy and Joke served previously in the Diocese in Europe in France (Grenoble) and Lithuania (Klaipeda); they are now in The Netherlands at Heiloo

<sup>2</sup>Only £4.00/€6.00/CHF9.00 from the ICS office or see our web site.



Steve Turner, our most travelled member, who helps when he can

has to be self-aware, work out its resources and talents, and play to its strengths. In Klaipeda our churchwarden was assistant manager of an oil terminal which had catering facilities as well as a swimming-pool. We were able to use these to welcome new intakes of students—they enjoyed a fun time and also heard a talk introducing the life of the church. In other churches occasional meals can be offered. In Grenoble a monthly bring-and-share lunch after church was an excellent way to help people feel they belonged. On a wider level we need to encourage and educate all members to open their homes and get to know the folk who cannot regularly be in church.

**Pray** Every church can pray for its absent members. It is easy to forget the people who do not appear too often, so in Heiloo we have a monthly prayer calendar for members, so that those who are out of sight are not out of mind. Perhaps we should also have e-mail prayer trios—encouraging people to share their doings and prayer requests with one or two others each week, wherever they may be. The needs of travelling members can, too, be mentioned during intercessions in church and in prayer meetings.

**Encourage** The third requirement is active, spiritual encouragement for the less regular worshippers. Just as we in ICS-linked churches are greatly encouraged when prayer partners let us know we are prayed for, so these more isolated people need to know that we are praying for them. Modern technology means that distant worshippers do not need to be out of touch with their fellowship. Some churches post sermons and service details on their web sites. We praise God for computer experts who can instantly spread the latest



After church—building relationships

news of church life worldwide. And let us not forget the value of lending Christian books and magazines to travellers, who are often alone and can be glad of a good read!



Heiloo's bulb fields

**Help** Fourthly we can offer practical help. Newcomers need lots of information and are usually glad to be shown around. As it happens, in the Heiloo church our rather few men possess skills which make them a natural 'removals team'. This is good for the men as well as for the people we have helped! But most of all perhaps we can support wives and mothers who can feel isolated and unsettled. For many the fellowship of a home group is a vital support. We should not depend on the church notices to advertise possibilities—such people will need personal invitations and visits. Some will take to a group easily, but the less confident may need more follow-up and patient regular inviting.

A final problem: when do you start involving short-termers and using their gifts? Too early involvement can lead to mistakes, but one cannot wait six months to be safe! In a high turnover church you need discernment and the Holy Spirit more than ever. But it is good to observe that travel and change were common in some of the New Testament churches too.

So we thank God that he is still Lord, and his Spirit is able. Having called his church into being, he is still today our sovereign and guide. ■

TO PRAY see day 16



Ter Couls-erkerk—  
'our home'



## Location, location and witness

*Basel's Anglican Church (ACB) is in NW Switzerland's Dreiländer region bordering France and Germany. Chaplain Geoff Read explains the context in which ACB shares Christ.*



Geoff and Marie-Louise Read, with Rebecca and Katarina

In the twelve years I have been chaplain the significance of the three countries' regional dynamic has played an increasingly important role, not least in relation to the English-speaking community who come here to live and work. Cross-border commuting and shopping, health care and transport infrastructure are a day-to-day reality for newcomers and a younger generation.

English-speakers coming to the region are typical of those across Switzerland: often highly educated, bringing skills to international companies with headquarters and production in Switzerland, drawn by the tax and financial climate, and the high quality of life and standard of living. For Basel these skills are focused on life sciences, pharmaceutical and chemical industries plus associated service industries. But having said that, ACB has also experienced a different demographic shift with an increase in African members, including refugees, and people who need to draw on Swiss social care and support. This has meant developing a partnership with a local Christian social concern agency as a source of information and a conduit into those services.

Newcomers sometimes ask what Swiss society is like. The starting point is that there is no one 'Swiss position' on any number of issues. Even in referendums on national policies, there are strong and distinct cantonal variations. As throughout the Diocese over the past few years, the Swiss Archdeaconry has got to grips with a child protection policy. It soon became clear that, although there could be a common statement of intent, each church would need to seek out how it would be implemented in whichever of the twenty-three cantons members reside—and this in a country of just the area of Massachusetts and New Jersey taken together. For ACB this means dealing with four cantons, plus French and German regulations!

Switzerland has a long and well-deserved history of hospitality to foreign nationals, a history that interweaves intimately with that of ICS and our Diocese. But pause for a moment and consider the impact on a society with 1.5 million foreign

Church House, Basel





Alpha poster

residents (21 per cent) out of a total population of 7.5 million. Compare that with the UK, where the figure of 1.5 million foreign nationals also features, but in that case representing just 5.4 per cent of the total working population.

I recently had a visit from one of Basel's prison chaplains to ask if we had any old hymn books she could give to inmates and we were glad to donate old but serviceable Anglican Hymn Books. I was shocked to hear from her that over 50 per cent of inmates in Swiss prisons are non-Swiss (compared with 14 per cent in the UK). Basel is one of the two reception centres for refugees in Switzerland. Recent changes in Europe-wide legislation for asylum seekers have made for an appeal process that may take longer but leads to fewer applications being granted. Switzerland has tightened up the support it can offer to those applying. One tolerated consequence is an increasing number of asylum seekers who simply go underground in society, forced into a lifestyle that makes them very vulnerable indeed.

The tradition of hospitality is only one example of the way that Christianity has shaped Swiss society. Read the words of the Swiss national hymn below and you'll see what I mean! But as in much of Western Europe, membership of Swiss state churches today has shrunk dramatically: a survey in 2000 showed church attendance had dropped by ten per cent in ten years. In spring 2010 there was lively reporting and debate in the *Basler Zeitung* about the future use of several Roman Catholic churches in the city.

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#### Swiss national hymn in English

<p>When the morning skies grow red, and over us their radiance shed, Thou, O Lord, appeareth in their light. When the alps glow bright with splendour, pray to God, to Him surrender, for we feel and understand that He dwelleth in this land.</p>	<p>In the sunset Thou art nigh and beyond the starry sky, Thou, O loving Father, ever near. When to Heaven we are departing joy and bliss Thou'lt be imparting, for we feel and understand that Thou dwellest in this land.</p>
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When dark clouds enshroud the hills  
and grey mist the valley fills,  
yet Thou art not hidden from Thy sons.  
Pierce the gloom in which we cower  
with Thy sunshine's cleansing power;  
then we'll feel and understand  
that God dwelleth in this land.

But ours is the God of resurrection! At a recent *Christustag* in Bern, when thousands of Christians crowded into the Stade de Suisse, a beautiful sign of God's purposes for Switzerland was acted out. On the pitch participants held up cardboard panels of red and white to create the Swiss flag. As they then turned them together, the stem of the cross on the Swiss flag lengthened to create a beautiful new cross. ACB is keen to play our part in this renewal. Pray for us as we work with ReSource, an Anglican mission agency, and plan towards an outreach initiative in May 2011 among English-speakers, locals or incomers, in the region.

TO PRAY see day 22



### The Swiss Archdeaconry

This is the most compact of the archdeaconries in the Diocese in Europe, with nine full-time chaplaincies. In addition there are eighteen further congregations or regular ministries, either as daughter ministries of the full-time chaplaincies or as ICS and other seasonal chaplaincies. ICS is patron of several permanent and seasonal chaplaincies. 'Small is beautiful' and it enables each chaplaincy to have a good and living relationship with the others. Do pray for the Archdeacon, Peter Potter, pictured with his wife Shareene, and all the archdeacons in the Diocese. ■



The Adventist church in Basel where ACB meets



## First impressions: summer evangelism

*Did you see that television documentary 'A short stay in Switzerland' starring Julie Walters, which ended in death? We experienced fourteen days in Switzerland leading to life.*



John Wilson, with Val, who volunteered for seasonal chaplaincy this year

This was our first ICS chaplaincy and although we had been thoroughly briefed both by the team at Warwick and a couple of people who had been to Interlaken on seasonal outreach, there was still some apprehension. On the day before our journey to Interlaken, Val was given Exodus 23: 20. 'See I am sending an angel ahead of you to guard you along the way and to bring you to the place which I have prepared.'

When we arrived and found our feet we realised that nearly all the hotels had been supplied with literature, so we decided to 'blitz' the shops. We found most shopkeepers so friendly and gracious, and one bookshop manager told us that people had been coming in to enquire about the English-speaking church. Our experience on the buses and trains was really encouraging. The ICS-provided chaplain's badges were a great help and a couple we met as a result of a five minute conversation on a bus joined us on Sunday morning, inviting us to their apartment and promising to keep in touch. They had had no idea that there was a church in Interlaken for English-speaking people during the summer.



The cloister chapel where services are held

Our visits to some of the campsites were fruitful too. We chatted to many people, sharing our Christian faith and asking them to worship with us. One Dutch family along with their three children came on the second Sunday. In fact we had eight children that day and John had to bring out his children's talk. We enlisted the help of a churchgoer from our hotel whom we had asked to join us. Her job was to count the hairs on the children's heads. She decided that John had only twenty-three hairs! So you can guess what the talk was about!



John in conversation with Dr Roseveare (left)

On our first Sunday a gospel singer from America sang a solo and a very elegant lady dressed in a stunning peach-coloured trouser suit and a friend joined us for coffee at a local hotel after the service. We discovered they had been doctors on the mission field. After chatting with them for about an hour we found we had been speaking to the well-known missionary doctor and writer Helen Roseveare.

On a free boat trip for John's birthday, Val met again a lady who had been in the congregation and she was able to

listen to her problems about work and family. On another occasion John jumped on a Shearings coach and when asked whether he was a tour guide he said 'no' but was able to share in about a minute the way to heaven and with permission left some leaflets explaining the gospel. Space won't allow us to tell you more!

The downside of the trip was working in the heat, with temperatures averaging 35–40°C most days. Sometimes the mountains were a cooler place to be but even there the sun was blazing. From this point of view we were glad to be back in breathable Britain!

Our abiding memory of Interlaken is that it is an open and friendly place to work. In contrast we had a few hours in Geneva on the way home as Val wanted a nostalgic visit to see the fountain on the lake which she had last seen as a child. It was heaving with people and traffic, and if it had not been for the quick thinking of a shopkeeper we would have been pick-pocketed.

It has been a tremendous privilege to serve the Lord in this way, and we are so grateful to him and ICS for making this possible. ■

*John and Val Wilson*

John and Val Wilson were two of ICS's many short-term mission partners in Europe this year: Interlaken is one of fourteen resorts in which ICS conducts outreach each summer. Pray for lasting fruit in the lives of those who heard the good news of Jesus Christ.

TO PRAY see day 24



Relationships and hospitality—an integral part of the ministry



## Seedtime to harvest

*Peter and Anna Bement reflect on their fortnight's ICS seasonal chaplaincy at Saumur in the Loire Valley, part of ICS's summer tourist outreach in France.*



Peter and Anna Bement

One sows and another reaps, said Jesus. Walking round the campsite, or sitting in the bar or restaurant wearing our chaplaincy badges, we met people at various points in this process from seedtime to harvest.

We were able to encourage established Christians who were contemplating further steps into ministry and service. At the other end of the spectrum, there was some stony ground: evasive and sometimes openly hostile responses. Of the people we met with some previous contact or involvement with church, it was remarkable how many whose experience had been on the whole negative. There were those who had drifted away for no discernible reason, and those with no Christian history at all.

With so many arrivals and departures on a large, busy campsite, there were few opportunities to speak to individuals or families more than once. Laurence Singlehurst in his excellent book *Sowing, Reaping, Keeping* stresses the importance of an achievable goal in such encounters: communicating the message, 'God is good and we're OK'<sup>1</sup>. One hopes and prays that this will be part of a process in which other Christians would be involved, leading eventually to harvest.

Our best opportunity came with the young holiday company couriers, mainly gap-year students or recent graduates. We invited them around for a meal, got them talking about themselves, and then, when they wanted to know how a former university teacher and his colleague-wife came to be doing something so odd as Christian ministry, we were able to share our testimonies of conversion and new life. Two girls returned to talk to us next day, and when they all came back the next week for drinks and snacks, we were able to give them some evangelistic literature. We pray that the Lord will bring them into contact with lively churches where they can be led into the way of Christ. ■

TO PRAY see day 29

<sup>1</sup>i.e. the church is trustworthy



## Mission and mountains

*This summer many met to give thanks for one hundred and forty years of God's work in Zermatt, where the English Church opened five years after the first Matterhorn ascent.*



Hazel Perrin, Warden, and Trevor Letchford of ICS

Over 110 gathered at Birmingham Cathedral and 130 in St. Peter's, Zermatt: we hope the following images and excerpts share something of the ambience of each event, and encourage you and help you pray for ICS's mission to tourists and English-speaking residents in Zermatt.

**In Birmingham** on Monday 14 June 2010 Alan Strange preached on Hebrews 12: 18–24, given that St. Peter's is a memorial chapel to many climbers (including Charles Hudson who died on the first successful British ascent of the Matterhorn). Comparing the mountains that humans like to conquer to biblical ones, he challenged us with 'as I think of those ancient mountaineers, hurling themselves against the Matterhorn in equipment that was by our standards astonishingly primitive, it leaves me with one question . . . am I as single-mindedly, obsessively passionate about the cause that I proclaim—a mountain that *cannot* be touched—as these mountaineers are about the mountains that can be?'

### LIKE TO LEARN MORE?

Alan Strange and David Healey's sermons and a brief history of St. Peter's, Zermatt are available from the ICS web site or by calling ICS. *A Church in the Alps* by Cicely Williams is also obtainable from ICS for £4.00 including postage.

**In Zermatt** on Saturday 10 July 'A church in the Alps—a brief history of St. Peter's, Zermatt', a presentation by David Healey and Trevor Letchford of ICS, included contributions by Paul Ridgway and Roger Scoones: ICS's ministry in Zermatt had been profoundly influential in their lives.

Churchwarden Hazel Perrin also spoke on the importance to the tiny permanent congregation of ICS's seasonal ministry (just as in Wengen): 'My Lord Brentford, Lady Brentford, Lady Hoare, Archdeacon, Your Excellency, Mr Bushnell

Congregation members and local people drawn together at the informal Saturday dinner at the Monte Rosa Hotel



[Honorary Consul], Herr Schmid, ladies and gentlemen . . . . It is a great honour and pleasure for me to welcome you to Zermatt this afternoon to celebrate the one hundred and fortieth anniversary of this beautiful church in the Swiss Alps. Since its opening on 29 June 1870 this church has only been closed on two occasions—during the two world wars [ICS previously held services at the Monte Rosa Hotel, beginning in 1862].’



Andrew Woodcock, Deputy Head of Mission at the British Embassy, Bern, who honoured us by attending

‘We are a seasonal ministry: we cater essentially for tourists during the winter season, from the Sunday before Christmas until the end of the season in April; and from the first Sunday in June until the latter half of September in the summer season. A small group of people [four in the winter, seven in the summer] living and working here make up the permanent congregation . . . .



The Nixon family (whose late father Ivor was warden); Elizabeth Ratiu, former warden; and Hazel Perrin

‘Because of the presence of this church here in Zermatt, we are offered the opportunity to worship our Lord God regularly each week, in the company of other Christians and led by our faithful chaplains. We are not alone, we belong to a larger community . . . . We are very thankful to the chaplains who come out here and help us with our faith, who give us assurance, who inspire us and fill us with enthusiasm; who pray with us in difficult moments. We give thanks to God for this church and for all those who ensure its continued ministry.’

L to R: Archdeacon Peter Potter; Herr Peter Graff, Manager, Alpine Museum and a council member of the Swiss Reformed Church; Herr Edy Schmidt, President, Alpine Museum; Elizabeth Ratiu; Lord Brentford, ICS President; Herr Klaus Aufdenblatten, President, Mountain Guides of Zermatt; Herr Christoph Burgin, Mayor; Shareene Potter



Many local dignitaries and church representatives attended the Holy Communion service on the following day: the Archdeacon presided, Jack Holt (seasonal chaplain) led, and David Healey preached on Joshua 4: 1–14, observing, ‘This service is about remembering. This is a memorial chapel: some of us come to remember before God those whom we loved and who loved us, but are no longer with us. We will give thanks for them during our prayers, as we will for the friendship of Zermatt’s other churches and one hundred and forty years of God’s goodness.



Jack and Barbara Holt, with Dr Holt (centre), a frequent visitor to Zermatt

‘So we gather to celebrate happy times, encounters with God, and blessings received (for our spiritual journeys are often difficult and we need encouragement); and to give thanks for the Holy Spirit’s presence and the vision and commitment of those who built this church to reach out to others, for first and foremost this is a place of *mission*. The building helps us remember what God has done for us: the stained glass reminds us of the Cross and God’s offer of forgiveness, the Bible verses around the walls remind us of God’s truth, and the little *An invitation to pray* cards in the pews remind visitors to pray . . . . Our prayer for . . . this mountain chapel is simple: that when people come here, they will find Christ (the way, the truth and the life) and go away knowing him a little better, or will hear him say “Come, follow me” as their Lord and Saviour.’ ■

TO PRAY see day 24



Ian Thompson, Alpine Club member and organist at both anniversary services, Judy Thompson and David Healey



Vevey chaplaincy members who travelled specially to join in the celebrations



## Crossing the great divide

*We are indebted to Stephen Finch, whose story of his journey to faith, reproduced here, was shared at the Zermatt one hundred and fortieth anniversary service in Birmingham.*



Stephen Finch

In March, just forty years ago, my boss asked me to sort out a security problem in our Zurich office. He kindly added, ‘when you’ve finished with them, if you would like to ski, why not take some of your leave?’ In Zurich, when I asked the secretary to book a room in Zermatt, she said, ‘You must be joking; there are never any unbooked rooms in Zermatt in the weeks before Easter’, so she booked a room in Adelboden.

On my last evening in the office, my Swiss colleague said ‘I won’t need my room in Zermatt in your second week, would you like to take it?’ ‘Hooray! Many thanks’.

So, after a good week in Adelboden, getting my ski legs back, I took the trains through to Zermatt on the Saturday. On Sunday, I naturally went to the early morning service at the English Church, St. Peter’s: quick in, a short service, quick out, breakfast and up to the slopes. Imagine my astonishment when that early service included a sermon. Oh well, it was quite interesting and I was soon on the slopes, but with that sermon still on my mind. All through the day it kept reminding me to get back for the sermon at the evening service. While the other half of my mind kept telling me, ‘you are on holiday; you have been to church; you don’t have to cut the day short for another service’.

Ten minutes to six o’clock that evening found me climbing up the slope to St. Peter’s Church and another interesting sermon about living as a Christian. As I left the church I said goodbye to the chaplain (the late David Steele); he added, ‘Won’t you join us for a drink at the Sport Hotel?’ – which I did!

Chatting with a couple of much younger men, we got around to discussing the sermon. I do not now recall exactly all that was said, until one of them remarked ‘Of course, you are not a Christian’. I was not amused! ‘What do you mean, “not a Christian”? I must be twice your age. Wherever I have been in the world on a Sunday I’ve been to church. If I did not know the local language, I went to the Catholic Church because I know Latin. Forty years of dutiful churchgoing and you say I am not a Christian?’

When I had quietened down a bit, he asked if I thought all that churchgoing had made me a better Christian. Did it help me understand the Bible? Was I more like Jesus? I could not say 'yes' to any of these. He drew a sketch of a man on a cliff, with his unforgiven sin round his neck; in front of him is a ravine with another cliff on the far side, which is heaven. The only bridge across the ravine is the Cross. The only way the man can get across the ravine will be to accept that Jesus' death on the Cross has paid the penalty for his sin. He would have to ask Jesus for forgiveness.

During the next three days I was able to help the two young men improve their skiing and they answered my questions and helped me understand more about what they believed. The majestic mountains, the snow covered slopes and the absolute quiet spoke of God's sovereignty over his creation. Come Thursday evening, when I got back to my small room over the rather noisy bistro, I knelt down and read the four prayers at the end of John Stott's little booklet *Becoming a Christian* and I asked the Lord Jesus to forgive my sin and accept me. My two friends knew I worked in the City of London and had told me about a good church that had a lunchtime service on Tuesdays. I hope to be there again tomorrow, when I expect to meet a friend who is getting to know Jesus.

Looking back, I now know that my boss's suggestion, that 'last minute' bed in Zermatt, the prayer, oversight and care for St. Peter's Church by the Commonwealth and Continental, now Intercontinental, Church Society, David Steele's two challenging sermons, the two young men in the Sport Hotel, and the overwhelming beauty of God's creation were all part of the Lord's hand leading me to become a Christian and showing how to help others along the way. ■

TO PRAY see day 24

The Anniversary Holy Communion congregation in Zermatt, including the Mayor (second from left), President of the Mountain Guides of Zermatt (front row right) next to Peter Graff of the Swiss Reformed Church





# 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.*

## COMINGS AND GOINGS

Recent retirements include Ben (and Anne) Eaton from St Raphaël, and Roy (and Mieke) Farrar from Neuchâtel—which will be served by a new assistant from St. Ursula’s, Bern; Brian (and Pam) Davies is due to retire from The Vendée in November. We give thanks for each of their varied service and wish them every happiness. May Hazel (and Martin) Door know God’s blessing as she moves from Christ Church, Brittany to be Assistant Chaplain in Poitou-Charentes.

## EGYPT

**Cairo** The first Alexandria School of Theology Summer School ran in August, including teaching from Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali. Meanwhile, Jos (and Adrienne) have joined the Cathedral’s English-speaking staff team and are helping us develop contacts and connections.

TO PRAY see day 1

## BELGIUM

**Ostend** On 24 July twenty people came together for our first away day, entitled ‘Getting to know you’, in the grounds of a lovely house near Bruges rented by a member of the congregation. We hope this will be the first of many similar annual gatherings.

TO PRAY see days 4–5

## FRANCE

**Cannes** Our main morning service is usually full, so we have started an earlier service which seems to be growing. This should ease pressure at 10.30 and allow Sunday Club leaders to have adult Christian input on days when they are teaching.

**Chantilly** On our first visit to Burundi (13–25 August) five people joined the diocesan anniversary celebrations at Gitega. We pray for such visits to strengthen our faith sharing and effectively support educational and agricultural projects.

St. Peter’s restoration has now entered a new phase: the interior, including renovation of the floor, wood panelling, lighting, heating, electrical rewiring, audio-visual system, and then repainting. We thank God for his provision, and seek his strength and wisdom as we continue.

**Grenoble** French army Protestant chaplain Pierre, whose family worships with us, is due to return to Afghanistan



shortly to support French troops: remember him and all foreign and indigenous Christians witnessing there, and families missing their loved ones.

**Lyon** We are trialling the 'Crossing Boundaries' Bible study materials in a new Tuesday night home group which started on 14 September.

**Paris** After a wonderful year working with us as an intern, we welcome Ruthi Banbury back with us on staff as a ministry assistant amongst those (like her!) under thirty.

**Versailles and Chevry** This summer a group of young people, led by youth leader Nathan, spent time in Masaka, Uganda, teaching English, French and Bible stories, painting classrooms and doing whatever else was needed. Anna Thorley worked with Rivers of Life in Uganda; Laura Simmons worked with Cry in the Dark Orphanage in Romania; Claire Simmons returned to the Burmese refugees on the Thai border; and Nick Kenchington went to Chile to work in La Trinidad Church, Santiago. Let us take a leaf out of their book: mission is for everyone!

TO PRAY see days 7–13

#### GERMANY

TO PRAY see days 14–15

#### GREECE

TO PRAY see day 15

#### THE NETHERLANDS

**Düsseldorf** We now have four home groups (next year there is the potential for six) with hosts and new venues, but urgently need leaders with teaching abilities.

**Corfu** The Gullands give thanks for their first year of ministry here: the enthusiasm and faithfulness of the people, the vital support of the Diocese in Europe and ICS, and an awareness of God's blessings and strength in our weakness.

**Amsterdam Central** May the chaplaincy support the first English-speaking New Wine Europe conference in Belgium, 8–12 August 2011 (see [www.new-wine.eu](http://www.new-wine.eu)). Mark and Sue, and Alastair and Sophie are on the leadership team.

**The Hague** We are implementing '2020 Vision', a strategic plan that started with the city-centre 'Feel at home fair' for newly arrived English-speakers on 19 September, and the Back-to-Church Sunday welcome services and lunch the following week.

**Schiphol Airport** We give thanks for a new partner in mission at the airport ministry: the Old Catholic Church. The cooperation is to be formalised shortly.



TO PRAY see days 16–20

## SPAIN

**Utrecht** We enjoyed two firsts for Holy Trinity, Utrecht this summer: our first ever ordination service, and our first ever assistant curate when Chris Nicholls was ordained deacon here on 27 June; remember him in your prayers as he begins his ministry.

**Voorschoten** St. James's took a step of faith by employing youth workers from New Zealand who required a work permit. Praise God that this came through after quite a simple procedure: be bold—allow the Lord to work out his plans!

TO PRAY see day 21

## SWITZERLAND

**Ibiza** The Prison Ministry has been going on this island for many years. Angela, a Roman Catholic, has been involved since the beginning, and Bob and Mick also make weekly visits to chat with prisoners and run courses like Alpha or Start as opportunity arises.

**Basel** ACB is working with ReSource consultant Roger Morgan to plan a week of mission initiatives in May 2011 called 'Imagine!': preparing with an autumn sermon series and a spring course called 'Beautiful Lives', written by Roger and introducing the principles of 'stay evangelism', working through networks of relationship.

TO PRAY see day 22–3

## BRAZIL

**Vevey and Château d'Oex** The church councils are both working towards enabling Penny Frank to return to minister at Château d'Oex for three years from November, after the success of her initial trial period which ended in July.

**Rio de Janeiro** Many of the cars and lorries that cram the streets of Rio de Janeiro have Christian words or stickers emblazoned on them. This outward show of faith is not always reflected in the driving. How many of us have outward signs of faith, not reflected in what we say and do?

TO PRAY see day 26

## FALKLAND ISLANDS

**Stanley** Most Falkland Islanders of all ages love to dance, and many gathered for the parish barn dance in July. This, together with regular bring-and-share Sunday parish lunches, is an effective and enjoyable way of welcoming others and making new friends.

TO PRAY see day 28

## AUSTRALIA

**Bush Church Aid Society** Strathfieldsaye, on the Bendigo interface between urban and country, will have a new full-time ministry from February: a Fresh Expression church-plant to a new community of 15,000 over the next three years, thanks to the support and commitment of BCAS. ■

TO PRAY see day 31