



AN ISSUE WITH AN
INTERNATIONAL
THEME INCLUDING:

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HOLY TRINITY MELROSE

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Rector's Ramblings...

Reflections from Rector Rev Maurice Houston and an introduction to this issue

We are all watching with fascination the revelations of expenses that MPs have been claiming. 'It is a revolutionary moment' said the former standards commissioner. It seems that our elected politicians are preoccupied with reward (in the same way as bank chiefs and their bonuses) rather than running the country.

Many of the rich and the privileged seem to think it is their right to benefit from the public purse – as long as they are not found out. Clearly, if they had thought they were going to be found out, they would not have done it. Like Michael Portillo, writing in the Times a few weeks ago, they think it is not possible to live on a mere £63,000 a year.

The scandal about 'flipping' – making profit out of buying and selling a second home out of their allowances – suggests that while their own financial investment is secure they paid little attention to spiralling house prices that has left some constituents without even one home and left many young people unable to afford house purchase. As one commenta-



House of Commons Speaker Michael Martin, one of the MPs standing down over the expenses crisis

tor said, 'We need MPs who want to change society, not flip houses.'

This is the kernel of all our troubles, we want, we need people who are prepared to put their effort into a change in society: people in parliament, people in management – and people in the Church. Our houses are glass houses too and none of us can afford to throw stones. If those of us who can make a difference invested time and effort where it matters we would see great benefit for all our communities. When we concentrate less on the benefits to ourselves and more on others – says the gospel – we are blessed.

This issue of the Holy Trinity Magazine has stories about people who give and people in need. The Malawi wells, the Petra schools, Alice in the orphanage in Peru. I think we are a generous church. I hope and pray that our interest in others and in being agents who transform society will bless all who give and receive and maybe even be an example to others who serve our communities.

Rachel Magowan, HT's Melrose Festival Queen

I am ecstatic about being chosen as this year's Melrose Festival Queen. When I found out I burst into tears. I really didn't expect it. Also I am very proud of the rest of my court for being chosen.

After we found out I phoned home and mum answered. I told her that I was feeling very very well then I said because I am festival queen. She burst into tears on the other end of the phone (and she nearly set me off again). Also she asked me if it was a joke. I told her that I was serious and she was so proud of me.

I left school at half past two on a Friday and it was pouring with rain when I came sprinting out of school. Mum was under an

umbrella and gave me a hug. I can't wait until festival week and I hope that it does not rain on the crowning.

Congratulations to Rachel and her Melrose Festival court (pictured right)



More than just surviving

A brief profile of the Rev Christopher Hingley, Rector of the Petra Schools in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, who spoke at Holy Trinity in May

Christopher Hingley works in Zimbabwe, as Rector of the Petra Schools in Bulawayo, where he has the responsibility of giving young people a future and a hope through education, despite an unprecedented situation of severe political interference and economic catastrophe.

Christopher was brought up in what was then called Rhodesia, and educated there and in England, where he read Classics and Theology at Oxford University. Almost all his working life has been in Zimbabwe, where he has been involved in education and in the church, apart from five years in the 1980s as Tutor in Greek and New Testament at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford.

He was ordained in the Anglican Diocese of Matabeleland in 1982. In 1984 he received the Archbishop of Canterbury's Permission to minister in England, and came to work at Wycliffe Hall, an Anglican Theological College in Oxford. Christopher now ministers in an inter-denominational context in Zimbabwe, while holding the licence to officiate of the Bishop of Matabeleland.

On overseas trips this year, Chris has spoken in Baptist, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, Inter-denominational and Anglican Churches, Theological Colleges and Schools in England, Scotland, Switzerland, Malta, the United States, New Zealand and Australia, and has been interviewed by the media in Australia and Malta.

Actively involved in Christians Together for Justice and Peace in Zimbabwe, Christopher has worked with clergy and lay people from many churches to witness in Zimbabwe to Christian values of justice and truth.

Chris is the author of an article on Spirituality for Themelios (the magazine of the Theological Students Fellowship), which was also published in Chinese in the magazine Chinese Churches Today, and contributed



The Rev Chris Hingley outside Holy Trinity, and, below, at a parish lunch in the Trinity Centre

articles on Spirituality and Spiritual Direction for the New Dictionary of Christian Ethics and Pastoral Theology, published by Inter Varsity Press.

Christopher's sermons and addresses are not tales of woe and gloom. There is plenty of that in Zimbabwe, and justifiably, but Chris brings his and Petra's determination as a school to do their best, and to do more than just tread water and stay still... in fact, to grow and develop despite the current crisis.



Going the extra mile

Ruth McLachlan reflects on an adventurous family holiday in Peru

I wasn't in church this Easter. I wasn't in the Borders. I was in Peru. I had decided in a rather uncharacteristically adventurous way to visit my elder daughter, Alice. Steve, having given up flying 10 years ago, stayed at home but I took Ian (14) and Eve (11) to see their sister. It would never have entered my mind to go to Peru if she had not been there, but, as many of us know, our children take us places (literally and metaphorically) we would not otherwise get to.

Alice went to Northern Peru last August to work in an orphanage for a year before going to university. Some of you may remember that the previous summer she had gone to Zambia with the Borders Exploration Group, very generously supported by members of Holy Trinity and the Vestry. That trip was probably an essential springboard for this challenge. She went under the auspices of an organisation called Project Trust which has its headquarters on the Isle of Coll and places youngsters (in pairs) in projects throughout the world. Alice was paired with Hollie who had just left school in Essex and who I had met for about three minutes in Heathrow airport before they set off.

I had had no intention of visiting but last Christmas I became acutely aware that it was still two months before the half way point and a further six months after that and it just felt too long to be apart. We were, of course, exceedingly fortunate to be in a position to make the trip and Easter was our window of opportunity.

So, in the early hours of 31st of March we left home and arrived in Lima, exhausted, late that night. Air travel shouldn't be exhausting – you are sitting down and being waited on – but what with little sleep the previous night and Peru being six hours behind we were all fairly shattered and faced a 12 hour bus trip to Chiclayo where Alice and Hollie were to meet us. But this was no ordinary bus. This



Ruth's daughter Alice with local children

was a bus with dinner and pillows and blankets and reclining seats and films and bingo! Eve and I fell asleep as soon as our heads hit those pillows but Ian spent the night trying to sleep only to be repeatedly disturbed by the call of Spanish numbers!

Alice and Hollie did meet us and that first morning was fantastic. Reunited, we went in a crazy taxi through Chiclayo, this crazy Latin American city and out towards the coast to La Pimentel, 30 minutes away, where Alice had booked us into the hostel, the only place to stay in Pimentel. Just a few hours later we were sitting in the sun on the beach in Pimentel overlooking the Pacific eating cerviche (the traditional Peruvian dish of marinated raw fish) and drinking the local (non-alcoholic) drink, chicha.

Pimentel was our base and quickly felt like home. The orphanage is 10 minutes from Pimentel on the road to Chiclayo and so we were frequent travellers back and forth between city, orphanage and hostel in the combi vans – vans in various stages of disrepair that hurtle back and forth on various routes charging just 1 sol per person for the trip into

the city (1 sol=20p). The local market in Pimentel was a joy and there I met one of many people whose kindness and acceptance of us was such a gift.

I had bought a new holdall with wheels for the trip. We were taking a lot of things over for the orphanage (including 70 individual bags of chocolate eggs – why can I never say ‘no’ to my daughter!) and this new bag ripped as Steve lifted it into the car! Daniel, in the hostel said that I could get it repaired in the market and I managed to find the person who did repairs. In my broken Spanish I showed him the problem and he, with great care, examined the bag finding innumerable other weak points. Smiling he indicated he would fix it in dos horas and in two hours I went back to collect this new improved version. He asked 3sol 50 (70p) and I just hope he has some awareness of how much the encounter meant to me.

We are probably the only tourists to go to Peru and not visit Cusco and Machu Picchu, the iconic images of the country, but I do not feel deprived – well how many tourists get to take two teenage girls to Starbucks in Chiclayo, or spend the day at an orphanage or at the hospital where Alice volunteers when the children are at school, or meet the people who have changed and influenced her life.

And we didn’t miss out on some fabulous sightseeing. Peru is an extraordinary country both culturally and in the diversity of its geography and we managed to pack in experiences in the Andes, in the vast desert strip along the coast and in the jungle as well as seeing some stunning Spanish colonial architecture and Inca treasures. It is also a rapidly developing country and so some of the difficult things to reconcile are the huge disparity between rich and poor and the poverty and deprivation which is very evident.

The first weekend we took the girls up into Chachapoyas and from there to Kuelap a stunning citadel high in the Andes (the altitude definitely noticeable but not debilitating). The trip did go entirely according to plan as the overnight bus came to a halt in the middle of the night and was delayed by 10 hours due to a landslide. We found ourselves in a line of maybe 50 buses and trucks in the mountains and as the day went on people unloaded fruit and cakes from trucks and an



Ian, Alice, Hollie, Eve and Ruth in Peru

impromptu market evolved. Whilst I was sitting in the shade of a truck, someone came over with flattened cardboard for me to sit on – again the gift of kindness.

Returning from Kuelap to Pimentel gave us the chance to go down to the beach, to spend more time with the girls in some of their favourite haunts and visit a stunning museum at Lambayeke. Then, reluctantly leaving Alice and Hollie, we acted on a spontaneous decision to go to the Amazon for an unbelievably full and well organised two day trip with an overnight stay in a lodge in the jungle.

Our final fling was a trip down to Nasca, and a flight over the Nasca lines, a mysterious series of 13 images of animals and birds and geometric shapes in the desert, each drawn in a single continuous line. And then a final bus trip back to Lima and home.

I have just stopped saying to myself, so many weeks ago we were in... But the trip is still vividly in my mind and I am intensely glad that I was able to share just a tiny part of Alice’s experiences.

Would I recommend Peru as a place to visit – Yes. Would I want to go back – You bet!



Above: a view of the Andes. Right: the ‘Nasca monkey’, one of the mysterious series of Nasca lines carved into the Peruvian desert.

Life in Mozambique

Sheldeen Dawson gives us a glimpse of life in provincial Mozambique

I come from Mozambique which is on the East coast of Africa just above South Africa. Presently I am fortunate enough to be working in Midlem as Mrs Kitty Bulman's permanent carer.

My late husband and I used to farm in Zimbabwe but were one of the many who lost their farms. Despite the prevailing atmosphere that farmers were not allowed to remove farm equipment from the farms, we nevertheless managed to secure various items of farm equipment in our town friends' gardens. Much to the consternation of their dogs who felt that this very large machinery was too much! These we then drove over the wilds of bordering mountains into Mozambique and with these started farming again – a procedure that was in the vein of James Bond.

But this was a good lesson in coping with difficult circumstances and a forerunner to farming in Mozambique. Fortunately, our younger son is a farmer and he had joined us sometime before my husband died in a vehicle accident.

The farm is called Yonder Farm, for obvious reasons, and is fairly close to the eastern Zimbabwe border, looking onto a range of mountains called the Chimanimani Mountains. They are a large undulating range and form an imposing backdrop to the West. To the East is an extensive outcrop of granite domes, Zembe, that are a landmark in the area. There used to be a very beautiful indigenous forest nearby with many towering hardwoods but unfortunately with the slash and burn agricultural practices, this has mostly disappeared.

Up to a few years ago there were a small group of elephants there which I sadly did not see but did at least see their droppings! We do not see many wild animals as they were decimated during the 17 year old civil war when locals were forced to hunt wild ani-



The Chimanimani mountain range, close to the eastern Zimbabwe border

mals in order to stave off starvation. The war only ended in 1992, but we have had some visits from different types of buck and small nocturnal creatures.

The nearest town and provincial centre is Chimoio, about 45 minutes away – very scruffy, dirty, and rundown yet still possessing a definite character. We have one shop called Shoprite which would be a Tesco equivalent and this is a great place to meet other farmers who happen to be in town. A brand new Inter Hotel has just opened to great fanfare.

Our church is in Chimoio and is called the CIC, Chimoio International Church. It is non denominational and the only requirement is a belief in the Lord Jesus Christ (and to speak English!) Mozambique is a Portuguese speaking country and we are blessed with missionaries from throughout the world. I've met people from from Sweden, Ireland, Brazil, USA, UK, Portugal, Barbados and Canada. The list varies a lot from time to time.

It is an amazing church and given our small numbers manages to give wonderful service to God. There are women's retreats, men's breakfasts, family retreats, children's camps and fellowship. Three times a year the ladies hold a Ladies tea for anyone who speaks English and we try and encourage all faiths to come and join us in friendship, game playing and to hear a speaker give a talk on anything from parcel wrapping to regional cooking.

I trust I have given you a taste of life in provincial Mozambique. Do remember it is a wonderful country to visit with friendly people, stunning beaches and unspoilt wildlife areas now opening up. The coastal areas as well as the islands tend to be more developed with some quite luxurious options these days. It is imperative that you take your malaria precautions however.

Thank you for letting me share my home life and my warm welcome at Holy Trinity.

Life in the Borders

An interview with the Jamera family, who moved to the Borders from Zimbabwe

Q. Tell us where you are from?

A. Zimbabwe

Q. What was life there like before you left?

A. The political situation was relatively stable and life was manageable. The country had a strong economy and it was able to feed itself. The health and education were still functioning well.

Q. What brought you to Melrose?

A. Job relocation from England to Scotland

Q. What are the main differences about life here?

A. We used to do subsistence farming whereas here we buy everything. Here there is full Democracy and freedom of expression whereas back home there is none. Also the government takes care of everyone.

Q. Tell us about your training and job as a nurse?

A. Sandra – I was formerly a teacher back home and then here I did health care work for four years before I decided to train to be a nurse

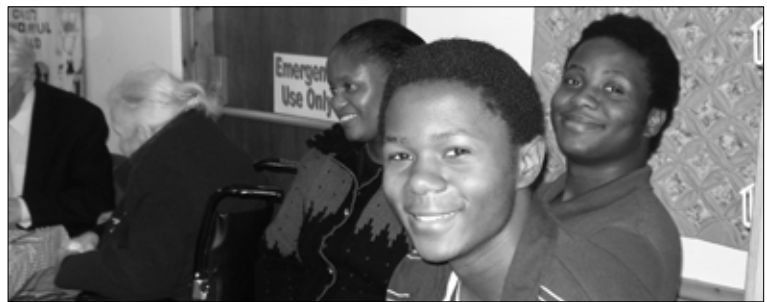
A. Israel – I was a nurse back home. When I came here I did my adaption under the accreditation of Derby University before working I started working at the local hospital in an Acute Medical Ward. Though I face different challenging situations in this job I still enjoy it.

Q. What are the boys doing at school – favourite subjects, favourite sports?

A. Tanatswa – I am in S3. My favourite subjects are Technological Studies and Chemistry. My favourite sports are basketball, football and rugby. I have been at trials recently in Perth and Linlithgow and will be starting to train with the Border Bullets mens team. I will also need to join a national league team of my age group so that national coaches can

see me play on a much more regular basis and monitor my progress.

A. Thinkwell – I am in S6. My favourite subjects are Chemistry and Business Management. My favourite sports are basketball, football and rugby.



Sandra, Tanatswa and Thinkwell Jamera

Q. What are your thoughts and feelings after your recent trip home (Sandra)?

A. The Zimbabwean dollar had been abolished and foreign currency was used. Everything was sold in foreign currency and most people did not have it. I felt really sorry for the people who were struggling to survive due to poverty and hunger, and many people in need were asking me for financial assistance. Because the health system had collapsed I was worried about acquiring cholera which was an outbreak at the time. With the unity government in place life has improved significantly in that there is now more food available in the shops, the economy has slowly started to grow.

Q. What do you see as different in the Church here?

A. There are no major differences; fellowship is the same here and there.

Q. What are the best and worst things about life in Borders?

A. The best things are that the majority of people are very friendly and helpful. The scenery is wonderful and plenty of rugby. The worst thing is that there is no variety of basketball teams around!

Diary dates, June to August 2009

Dates for the diary:

7th June, 11am – Trinity Sunday: Gift Sunday plus picnic lunch and barbecue.

8th June, 7.30pm – Vestry Meeting.

10th June, 7.30am – Book Group, the Rectory. We will be discussing Patrick White's 'Tree of Life'.

14th June, 11am – Melrosian Sunday: joint service in Parish Church.

18th July, – Wedding of Shona and Andrew.

25th July, – Wedding of Amy and Timothy.

2nd to 8th August – Glen '09: Glenalmond Youth Week 1.

9th to 15th August – Glen '09: Glenalmond Youth Week 2.

23rd August, 6.30pm – David Dalglish to be ordained Priest at Holy Trinity.

Regular events:

Choir Practice, Thursdays, 6pm.

Please note that there will be no congregational breakfasts through June, July and August.

Regular services:

Sunday Services, 8.30am, 11am. First Sunday of the month – prayers after the morning service and 6.30pm Evensong. Communion last Wednesday of month in Priorwood.

Holy Trinity at Glen '09



Mairi, Patrick and Thinkwell, pictured above, will be amongst the Holy Trinity contingent at Glen '09, the Scottish Episcopal Church Youth Weeks taking place in August. Young people and leaders from all over Scotland will gather together for six days of sports, swimming, arts and crafts workshops, fun events, worship and conversation. It is an action packed holiday week with a difference. There is plenty of time to relax, make good friends, and generally have the best time. Further details are available on the Scottish Episcopal Church website, <http://www.scotland.anglican.org>.

Holy Trinity buys shallow well in Malawi

The Vestry has purchased a shallow well in Malawi to help villagers cope with water borne disease. One in three children dies before the age of five in Malawi, often through impure water, but in shallow well villages water is safe to drink and uncontaminated.

More than 35% of the population have still no access to clean water. Many more shallow wells are needed. The villagers are asked to dig a hole up to 15 metres deep – they must dig, often by hand, until they find the water table – this is done in October when the water table is at its lowest. The well is then lined with bricks and cement and the hand pump is installed with a protective cover. Villagers are instructed in well maintenance.

The entire village benefits and a village population will vary between 60 and 300 people. The cost of a well can be up to £800 producing clean water that can last for ever. Please contact Brian Magowan for further details about the Malawi wells appeal.

A shallow well in a Malawi village like the one purchased by Holy Trinity

