

Holy Matrimony



3rd December *Steven Thomas McMahon
and Ashley Eleanor Watt*

Holy Baptism



20th November

Isla Caroline Dorothy Barry

East Herts Christian Aid Walk

Saturday 12th May, 2012

Planning is already well under way for next year's walk. Please make a note of the date in your diary now. This time All Saints' Church will be responsible for the starting checkpoint at Chauncy School, Ware. The times for being at Chauncy are between 7.30/45 am and 9.30 am approx; the walkers start between 8.30 and 9.30 am. If you can commit to helping now, it would be great! Please talk to Rosemary Bolton (01992 589535).

The Walk Committee and Publicity

The 2011 Christian Aid Walk has so far raised about £14,250, which is down on last year's total. We believe that increasing the number of walkers taking part, would be the key to raising the amount we collect. For the last 5 years, the number of walkers starting has been around 300. We would like to increase this figure to 500. The

organisation of the walk can easily cope with them – we have around 200 volunteers actually helping before and on the day.

Christian Aid
We believe in life before death

The walk committee believe that more, better publicity will bring in more walkers and therefore funds. We have willing helpers on the committee, but would like a **new person** to join and take an overview of the publicity, not to **do** all the jobs, but just to make sure each job is done – basically a nagging role! The committee consists of members from many local churches, all pulling together. We meet about 4 times a year. We enjoy what we do – please think about joining us!

For further information, or to volunteer, please contact Anne Hirst (01992 421833). Thank you!

Music at All Saints

Having something of an occasional walk-on part in the parish, mainly on Sunday evenings, I was delighted that the Advent Carol Service, Darkness to Light, was a success both in the way it was presented and in the music. The choral and organ music was excellent, and it was wonderful to see and hear and to appreciate afresh the meaning of Christ's coming.

Of course, you may ask what I know about this – isn't this the man who sang Elvis and Strawbs songs with his guitar at a recent parish event? Well, I have very wide musical appreciation; you could call it catholic taste. Which may be why I also appreciate great music by composers such as Palestrina and Victoria, Tallis and Byrd, along with "Holy Minimalists" Gorecki, Pärt and Tavener. Over the years I have come to know when music sounds authentic.

Music at All Saints has been very varied over the years (I would love to hear and worship with the jazz mass again) but I have been aware that for a while there has been a

challenge in maintaining the choir. There was a phase when a number of people either moved away or moved on, leaving somewhat depleted forces. I have been full of admiration for the way in which those remaining have been so loyal and have striven to continue our choral tradition. At the Advent Service, we seemed to have come full circle, with the choir stalls full and a truly inspiring sound. I hope that this will continue and be further built up.

The music in a church is to glorify God, of course, not for our entertainment. The wonder of having a good choir to lead the music of worship is that the dedication in practice and the expertise in producing a good sound is more that I (and any of us on our own) can offer. Through the choral music we can have a sense of sharing in the praise of God which has been presented in music down through the ages, as well as sharing in more recent devotional music. My hope and prayer is that through 2012 we will be able to build on our current improved situation, and continue to give glory to God together, not only with our lips but with our lives.

Doug Loveridge

Tools for self reliance [TFSR]

TFSR is a charity which collects hand tools and sewing machines, refurbishes them and sends them directly to partner groups of artisans co-ops, colleges, women's refuges and other grassroots groups in seven African countries. We also help them with training, health education, business skills and funding for their projects. We have been doing this with great success for 30 years. Apart from 8 employees, the whole operation is run by about 700 volunteers nationwide, including some 70 groups in many locations who collect and refurbish the items, raise funds and do publicity. The organisation has two employees in Africa making contacts, getting feedback and doing progress reports for our newsletters.

I have been a volunteer since 2006, working mainly by myself. I have recently moved to Hertford from Palmers Green and I'm

looking to form a group in Hertford. I have a small workshop at home and could train a volunteer or two in that space. I would plan to have one evening a week, initially, for this. I am retired so daytimes are possible. If you think you would like to be involved in ANY of these activities, please do phone me and we can have a chat. Do have a look at the national website www.tfsr.org.uk

Home phone: 01992 554 392

Peetamber Robins.

Is it legitimate to talk about religious beliefs in healthcare?

I was invited recently to join a discussion on Three Counties Radio, taking place in their Sunday morning Melting Pot programme. The topic was the controversy about Dr Richard Scott, a G.P. from Margate who has been informed that he may receive a warning from the General Medical Council for allegedly sharing his faith with a patient. Dr Scott has decided to contest the issue legally, and we await the outcome.

The programme included members of the public ringing in, plus a representative of the Christian Medical Fellowship, which supports Dr Scott's position, and the Chair of the National Secular Society – which doesn't! As Spiritual and Pastoral Care Manager in our Trust I represented the spiritual care which we promote, aware that I would not entirely share the views of either group.

The issue of consent is all important. The information in the newspapers is not entirely clear, but it does appear that the 24 year-old man gave consent to his GP to talk about faith issues. The patient having been "in a rut" for some time, the GP said that he found that belief in Jesus can help people. Later, in conversation about the appointment with his mother, it was she who decided to make a complaint. Along with the concern about consent, there is the question of whether a GP practice should be talking about faith during NHS time.

Spirituality is something which I feel is basic to us all – it animates us, giving us hope, meaning and purpose. Spirituality helps us to cope with life's problems, and through reflection and openness we can enrich our well-being. Religious belief is a significant form of spirituality, and I consider that it can be an excellent focus for finding meaning and purpose which could otherwise become diffused among the varieties available.

To speak about spirituality in healthcare is to acknowledge that the word "care" is about feelings and personal qualities. One person who rang in to Melting Pot said that if he goes to the doctor for an injection he expects just that, not religion, nor – referring to my statements that spirituality helps us in coping with pain and illness – does he expect anyone to offer to help him cope. Fair enough, I too would expect the injection I had come for – but what if it didn't work? Or what if, later down the line, his situation worsens, perhaps becoming terminal? And what if his loved ones become distressed? Perhaps dealing with this would be seen as entirely private, but aren't we dedicated to care?

In caring in the hospital, I approach Spiritual and Pastoral Care differently from the way I would in a church context. There you can talk freely and discuss issues about faith and life. In hospital it requires sensitivity and openness, and checking the appropriateness of talking about spiritual things. However, I find that almost all patients are willing or even keen to talk about their feelings, their hospital stay, the way they are seeing things. Depending on how the conversation flows we may well talk about their feelings of trust and hope, and how this fits with their faith. As I said on the radio, I work with whatever faith people represent but I am not in the position of trying to change their minds about their beliefs. Supportive care needs to include a willingness to talk about a person's faith where relevant, but I am not convinced that "evangelism" can be justified in an NHS context.

It was suggested by the Secular Society that those who are Christians might want to

convert people, but how would they feel if – say – Muslims did the same. The question was designed to undermine the GP's approach, but unfortunately gave the impression that Muslims are a form of threat. Could it really be the Secular Society promoting religious hatred? I stated that working in Watford I meet many Muslims as doctors, nurses and patients and I have great respect for them. Furthermore, the form of working with patients to give them appropriate spiritual care in difficult times can be done by people of all beliefs or none, provided they are sensitive to people's deepest needs.

This came at the end of the interview, and as I was about to vacate my chair a Muslim from the local Council of Faiths came into the studio for the next item, smiled and shook my hand warmly. It felt like a very significant moment. And when it comes to spiritual care, there are many significant moments for people in response to suffering and healing. We can all seek to be there for others in giving them our care and attention, meeting them on their own terms, to seek their well-being and wholeness.

Doug Loveridge

HARLOW JEWISH COMMUNITY
AND
HARLOW BRANCH OF THE COUNCIL
OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS

INVITE YOU
TO A

**HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL DAY
EVENT**

at

**HARLOW SYNAGOGUE
HARBERTS ROAD**

on

**Thursday 26th January 2012
6.45pm for 7.00pm**

All are welcome.
Refreshments will be available afterwards.

For further information contact:
Julia: on 01279 442901
email: hxjulia.johnson@btinternet.com