



# The Marksman

**The magazine of  
St. Mark's Church, Versailles,  
and  
St. Paul's Church, Chevry.**

Christmas 2009

## Welcome

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This issue of the Marksman has some “breaking news” about our young people’s Mission visit to Uganda next summer. It also records in word and picture a few of the exciting events of the last quarter of 2009, and reminds you of what’s in store for 2010.

Other topics range from distributing Bibles in Paris, to views on climate change, and to what ICS is up to on various Mediterranean islands.

Oh, and if that sounds a bit heavy, there are also some irreverent remarks on Popes, Rabbis and Archbishops.

*John Penhallow*

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**Just for starters!** Pourquoi les curés n’ont-ils pas besoin de voiture ?

A cause de leurs vêtements sacerdotaux

*(Groan)*

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## A Word from Paul...

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Christmas Day is nearly upon us. The weeks of preparation (and celebration!) through Advent have almost reached their culminating point: the birthday of Jesus, the Son of God, our Saviour, revealed to the world.....for the world.

It's a funny thing, isn't it, but these days we do so much of our celebration before the actual event that when the Great Day finally arrives and is done, so are we. Done! Finished! Exhausted by the food preparation, the festivities, the organising of children, the multiple church services and Nativities, the hospitality, the nervous energy of it all. From this point on, what's really needed is a few days rest and recuperation.

It was not always that way. Christmas used to begin on Christmas Eve and then be celebrated for the twelve days of Christmas, till on Jan 6<sup>th</sup> the decorations would be taken down, everything put away, and life would return to normal for another year.

Actually a true Christmas perspective is surely somewhere in between. The Christmas message goes way beyond a "reason for the season". God sent his Son into the world as its Saviour. God is With Us – and we need his saving grace every day. In one of my Christmas sermons I made the necessary connection between Christmas and Easter. The Rescue Mission is incomplete if we stay with the baby in the manger; Phase Two is the Cross and the Resurrection. We are saved by putting our trust in the One who lived, and died and rose again for us.

But I hope you have enjoyed the festivities so far – a successful Christmas Fair, a joyful and touching Nativity Service, excellent Carol Services, and hearty carol singing under the stars. It has been gratifying to see many new faces in church; clearly people feel confident to invite friends along to be part of our church family celebrations.

I hope you will feel equally confident to continue extending invitations to people to join us for other activities through the year. Our October Kingdom Training Day with David and Mary Pytches was something of a watershed in the spiritual life of the church, and clearly many have taken big strides forward since then. Equally our Download Day in November was a time of great blessing. We look forward to Feb 13<sup>th</sup> when Anne Coles will be with us for the next Kingdom Training Day. Please book the date now, and be sure to invite friends from many other churches.

Lastly, I would like to say a big THANK YOU to all who through your regular and special gifts support the work of this church and of God's Kingdom. The Day of GRACE was an indication that generosity is really lodged in our hearts. Several people have clearly also been communicating to their friends and neighbours concerning the needs of the REACH Building Project, and a steady stream of gifts is coming in.

It is a spiritual response, backed up by a practical one, that is building God's Kingdom here at St. Mark's. I am delighted to be part of it. Thank you for your part.

I wish you a blessed and joyful, Christ-filled Christmas.

*Paul Kenchington*

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# Grace Day

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**RESPONSE TO GRACE DAY** Many thanks for the wonderful responses so far, both financially AND spiritually – in terms of the commitments people made to serve, to work for the Lord, to PRAY for people regularly and faithfully, to take God a whole lot more seriously, and to SHOW it by a deliberate re-ordering of priorities. Financially, when all the pledges are honoured, for REACH and the General Fund together, St.Mark's Church has received just over **40,000 euros** (maybe as much as 43,000). Praise God. On top of this several people joined the planned giving scheme, promising a further extra **8,000 euros** per year.

**RESULT of CHRISTMAS FAIR** Many thanks to all who worked so hard to make it a great success; lots of lovely things were purchased and over **2,500 euros** were generated for REACH. Items are still available for sale after services.

If you were not able to be part of either event, you can still make a gift using one of the envelopes at the church door, and the response slip if you wish (or not). For people who at this end of the year, are thinking about your money and sorting it all out before God, there are leaflets at the door of church: 1.Principles of Giving (Christian Principles), and 2. An article on how to optimize giving within the French tax system and its generous encouragements to give to good causes. Help yourselves or contact the Church Office for the leaflets



GRACE = **G**enerosity,  
**R**eaching-out, **A**ction & **C**ommitment  
**E**xpressed

*Paul Kenchington*

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## UGANDA - The youth group's mission trip for Summer 2010

### STEPPING OUT IN UGANDA

So it's happening! You may have heard rumours about it; you may have heard a bit more than just rumours or you may have heard nothing about it. But now it's official, and you're sure to hear about it: this summer, a group of young people from St. Mark's is going off to Masaka, Uganda on a mission trip.

After Slum Survivor in May 2009, the leaders who were present started sensing a call from God to go a step further than simulating a Slum and trying to empathise with the world's poorest as well as raise awareness of slum conditions. So in June, we started to make some initial plans. After having chatted with Paul Kenchington, we spent some time listening to God as a group. Paul had mentioned that Uganda might be an opportunity to explore, as he is on good terms with Henry Orombi, the Archbishop of Uganda.

So Nathan refused to let anybody in the youth group know about what countries had already been talked about. And we listened, and one of the members of our group heard God saying "Uganda". That was a clue! Ever since then, God has been showing us in incredible ways that Uganda is the place for us.

Paul Kenchington went to an internationals' lunch at New Wine and was sat just opposite...a Ugandan chaplain for the University of Kampala. He was our initial contact.

It just so happens that the NewWine conferences in 2009 were titled "Step out" (we had already decided to brand this mission project "Stepping Out in Uganda"), and at Soul Survivor, the youth group heard some very stirring talks from Ants Watt, a speaker from New Zealand who spoke to us about Hope and Love, challenging us in emphatic terms to serve the last, the least and the lost.

Since then, Laura Simmons has put us in contact with a couple in Masaka, Alan and Beryl Went, from a charity called Love in Action. For the past seven years, they have been working there, developing community projects, shaped by a desire to love as Christ loved. This contact has been very fruitful, and these are the people that we will be partnering with. You can check them out on their website: [www.loveuganda.org](http://www.loveuganda.org)

There have been many other subtle ways in which God has been confirming that Uganda was the place for us, and one very unsubtle way: Anna Thorley had been hunting gap-year projects, to no avail. She finally got in contact with a charity

called Lightforce International, which allows people to go out any time of the year, which was one of Anna's main provisos. And so she was offered to do work in Romania, Albania and "Africa". Anna's dream had always been to go to Africa, and that was her hope for her gap year. So she wrote back, saying that Africa was her preference. And she got an answer saying: "our work in Africa is based in Uganda. Does that suit?"

So we are fairly sure that God is behind this, that he has been guiding our plans, and that he has been bringing about incredible circumstances, to not only confirm his word, but to also open up opportunities of service there. That is the main reason we are going: it is simple, basic obedience to God's crystal clear call.

So after we have been vaccinated, after we have got our visas sorted out and made sure that our passports are all in order, after having bought plane tickets, got travel insurance and after having raised around 1 200 € per person going, we will be setting off to Uganda from the 3rd to the 22nd of July 2010. We also have to provide appropriate training for cross-cultural missions and we will be staging regular prayer meetings which the whole church will be invited to. But more on that further down...

Once we are there, we will be linking up with Alan and Beryl Went in Masaka, and we will be using them as a base as we go out for three or four days to various schools in the Masaka area. Now when I say "in the Masaka area", you have to hear this in African terms. A school which is very close geographically takes 45 minutes to get to. So this is why we will be staying on site in each school once we get there. We will have beds and mosquito nets provided for us on site, but the rest of normal comfort will be pretty scarce, the lavatories being the real down side from what Beryl has told me.

At these schools, we will have the opportunity to help some of the students with English, mainly doing assisted reading with them, and we will also have the opportunity to set up a French club, where we will be able to give willing students the chance to learn basic French. Our young people will also be able to sit in on some classes with children their own age, and experience Ugandan learning conditions.

There may well be other projects, but Uganda being as it is, it is rather difficult to know in advance what will be happening. There is the possibility that we will have the chance to help build a school or a home, or to work on a community farm which helps people to survive throughout unemployment and we may even be able to be part of a leadership team on a children's summer camp. But none of this is definite, and all will depend on what projects will materialise between now and our arrival.

We will take one day every week to also go and explore the wonders of the beautiful country that is Uganda (so we hear), and so we might be able to go on a Safari trip, or go and see some of the wildlife on lake Victoria. But more on that aspect of the programme will unfold as we go along.

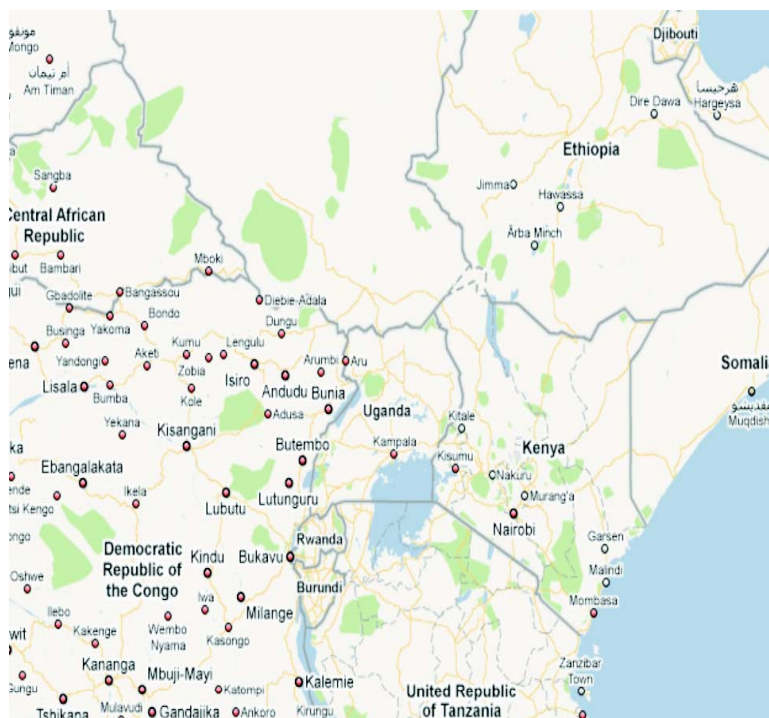
One thing is sure: the trip will end with a relaxing two days to debrief in a hotel in Kampala, to prepare the young people to come back to France.

We will be putting on various fundraising events. The first one of these is one for your diaries: on **January 23rd**, we will be staging a concert at St. Mark's. If you liked the "Houlgate's got Talent" show at last year's week-end away, then you'll love UgandaAid 2010. We'll have a whole crop of artists from St. Mark's and beyond coming to entertain you and yours for a mere 7 € (5 € if you buy your tickets early).

We will also be bringing out a **youth group worship album**, with all of our favourite songs, plus some compositions from some of the members of our youth group. It will be released in March, for a bargain 15 € per copy, all of the proceeds going to the Stepping Out project. We will only be releasing 150 copies, so **sign up and book one now**.

There will be other events sometime down the line (there is even a rumour that Nathan might shave his hair, and even get his legs waxed if you manage to make it worthwhile financially), and we are hopeful that our financial target is attainable if we trust God for the money. Our aim is to not undercut the Reach project, so we will also be appealing largely to the wider church, and to other areas of your budget than the giving budget, such as your entertainment or food budgets.

We will be having the first of our four prayer meetings on **March 6th** where you will have the chance to meet the team of people going, and start praying this project into life.



We are incredibly excited about what God has been doing with the youth group, and we know that greater things are yet to come in Uganda, and beyond. Excitedly,

*Nathan Lambert*

## Ladies' Day of Prayer and Fellowship

On the 16th January (from 9.00-17.00) we will welcome Rev Sarah Williams to lead us in a day set apart by the ladies for praying together, listening to God and being taught by Sarah on "How Deep the Father's love (is) for us".

Of course most of the ladies can't set apart a day without the help and support of their husbands running the home and family for the day to allow them space for having time with God and each other, so thank you guys!

Sarah is vicar of Lydd, Greatstone and Dungeness in Kent and before that was part of ICS as Asst Chaplain in Tervuren, Brussels where she had previously lived. So she has experience of living and bringing up her family in another country. Lunch will be provided but please RSVP to Clare by the 10<sup>th</sup> January.



Sarah Williams married to Rocyn for nearly 32 years, mother of two sons Rhys and Medwyn, shortly to be a grandmother to Rhys and his wife Susana's first child. Her background was as a primary school teacher, which she loved, in the UK and at the British School of Brussels. Founder member of St Paul's Tervuren 1988. From 1999 to 2003 she founded, trained and ran teams of volunteers providing Christian clubs in English speaking schools. She was ordained in 2003 in Bristol, served her curacy there in Warmley Bitton and Syston. She was invited back to minister at St Paul's Tervuren, 2006-2009. She is now Priest-in-Charge of All Saints' Lydd, St Peter's Greatstone and The Sanctuary Dungeness in Kent, UK.

She is passionate about Jesus, an advocate for children, a motivator and encourager and a committed team player.

# Photo Opportunity

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### *A picture is worth a thousand words*

It was once famously said that a good picture is worth a thousand words. In life we need *both* words and images, or words and deeds (if something is being acted out) to tell a complete story. Try watching a soap opera with the sound turned down...soon you will be reaching for the volume control. Life makes no sense without explanation. Words need actions to authenticate them. Actions need words to explain the motives behind the actions...and Christianity is no different.

At Christmas we celebrate God's coming from heaven in Christ to reveal himself and save us from our sins. That was his mission: it is our mission, the mission of the church, to witness to that saving love. Mission has many different dimensions: we proclaim the Good News; teach, baptise and nurture new believers; respond to need by loving service; seek to transform unjust structures of society; and steward wisely. Note the word though 'proclaim'. To proclaim is the essence of evangelism, a much distrusted word but one which simply means to *announce, proclaim or bring the good news* that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, was buried and was raised from the dead. Evangelism involves both *words and action*: the faith will make no sense to the world around us if we do not explain it. Nor will our words be credible if we do not try to live them out.

Sometimes eclipsed by Advent is St. Andrew's Day on 30 November. Andrew is remembered by the church as the first evangelist because he said to his brother Simon: 'We have found the Messiah' (John 1: 41) and took him to meet Christ. It can take real courage to ask a non churchgoer to a carol service, or explain what you believe, or demonstrate love. Such a simple act can though be enormously significant in God's plan for someone's life, as Andrew's example shows us.

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# Christmas Fair

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## Christingle

It's rounded like an orange this earth on which we stand;

and we praise the God who holds it in the hollow of his hand.

So Father, we would thank you for all that you have done,  
and for all that you have given us through the coming of your Son.

A candle, burning brightly can cheer the darkest night,  
and these candles can tell how Jesus came to bring a dark world light.

The ribbon round the orange reminds us of the cost;  
how the shepherd, strong and gentle, gave his life to save the lost.

Four seasons with their harvest supply the food we need,  
and the Spirit gives a harvest that can make us rich indeed.

## The Story of the Candy Cane

1. The candy cane is in the shape of a shepherd's staff. Jesus is our shepherd and we are His flock. A sheep follows his own shepherd, knows his voice, trusts him, and knows he is totally safe with him. A sheep will follow no other shepherd but his own. This is how we are to be with Jesus if we truly follow Him.

*"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep." (John 10:11)*

2. Upside down, the candy cane is a 'J' which is the first letter of Jesus' name.

*"You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus."*

*Luke 1:31*

3. The red stripe represents the blood that Jesus shed on the cross for each one of us.

*"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace" - Ephesians 1:7*

4. The white stripe represents the sinlessness and purity of our Lord.

*"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in His mouth." 1 Peter 2:22*

5. The flavouring in the candy cane is peppermint which is similar to hyssop. Hyssop is of the mint family and was used in Bible times.

*"Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow."*

*Psalms 51:7*

6. If we share our candy cane and give it to someone we love, it represents that same love of Jesus because He is to be shared with one another in love.

*"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal*

## Bar committee

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Last orders, please!



Summer accommodation in England's second most beautiful University City

**Family House to let:** in Oxford (Summertown), from Summer 2010. Three-bedroomed detached house in quiet and friendly neighbourhood, with bathroom, separate shower room, downstairs toilet, living room, dining room and a good-sized kitchen. 90ft garden, with a shed suitable for storing bicycles. £1040 / month [excluding water rates and other bills] Contact Tim Norman ([timnorman1@gmail.com](mailto:timnorman1@gmail.com)).

# From Spectators to Activists

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*John Coles of New Wine offers some thoughts on helping everyone to become active and involved members of the Church family:*

A high proportion of most church congregations probably just 'sit there' and 'watch' while a few gifted and favoured people lead it all.

Of course being part of a crowd is what some people want. I remember a report in the early 90's found that one of the roles of large churches was to give people wanting anonymity an opportunity to come to a public worship service, and stand at the back, and only get involved at the rate at which they wanted to. This is at the opposite end of the spectrum to a small friendly church which pounces on the occasional visitor and offers full inclusion, and a job to do, on the first visit.

A congregation is of course very different from a crowd, and a major part of that difference is in degree of participation, and therefore in sense of belonging. And I think that is what I want to work out more carefully – how can we really help 'attendees' at our Sunday crowds (of whatever size they are) feel they really belong, are taken seriously as they try (and often fail) to be a disciple of Jesus, and are part of the unfolding story of the church. Moreover how do we give them a chance to identify emotionally with others in the church, and to be part of the unfolding story of the church in such a way that they are actually able to make a difference to the outcome of the story.

This may seem rather a long way from Christmas, but in fact it's the heart of the Christmas story. God himself did not stand at a distance from the world, watching it as a disinterested Spirit-being. He has a huge emotional attachment to human beings, and his involvement is 100%; he became a human being and changed the outcome of the story forever!!

*John Coles*

\*\*\*\*\* 0000000000 \*\*\*\*\*

"No man is an island entire in himself, but every man is a part of the main..."

*John Donne*

## Young Marksman chairs UN debate



Have you ever wished you could take the floor at a United Nations conference? Do you wonder what it would be like to step into M. Sarkozy's shoes just for a weekend? Does the idea of joining with hundreds of other students from around the globe and debating real-life issues turn you on? If the answer to any of these questions is "yes"

(and you're still at school) then I suggest you think about MUN.

Last weekend, I participated in my 3rd Model United Nations conference at the UNESCO building in Paris. This year, just over 900 delegates came together for a 3-day conference, each representing a country in one of 9 committees, discussing topics from the renegotiation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, to a review of the Kyoto Protocol, to the acceptance of Kosovo to the United Nations. As well as all coming together for a general assembly on the last day, delegates spent time writing separate clauses signed by various other countries, leading to often heated debate. MUN is an opportunity for young people to really get involved in world issues. It's a way for them to learn more about different countries and a great way to practice speaking in public. As well as this, the strict dress code and use of parliamentary language, as well as the surroundings of the Paris UNESCO building and the people working there, really give the whole experience a very realistic feel. Don't worry, it's not all work though. It is also a great way of getting to know other people from all over the world with different views and different dance moves. The social event is legendary and everyone who goes comes back saying what a great time they had. And for those who don't know if they would be able to speak in front of 90-odd people, you can also apply to be part of the press corps, giving a totally different view of the whole conference and writing articles every day about the committees. Of course, PaMUN is not the only conference that happens, MUN conferences happen all over the place. So if this tickles your fancy, talk to me, talk to a teacher, spread the word, who knows, you might end up there next year..

*Nick Kenchington*

## Looking Back

*Paul Kenchington summarises the highlights of St Mark's life during the last quarter of 2009.*

Oct 24, 25 **Youth Weekend @ Pierrefonds.** Along with Nathan and Beki, four of our youth attended this French-speaking event. Spirit-led worship was clearly something new for some of the young people, but Nathan said he felt there was a far greater depth than previously; this was not Soul Survivor (!) but despite feeling a bit like the spiritual minority, our young people were generally positive about the experience.

Oct 25 **Harvest Service** – non-perishable gifts of food were received and passed on to the Diaconesses de Reuil.

Nov 6 **Love Europe Prayer Focus** – PK represented ICS as well as St.Mark's at a meeting in St.Aldate's Oxford. This is what he reports:  
*It was a very good and worthwhile event. A full church (350?): People from a dozen, maybe 15, nations - mostly western Europe: France, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, Austria, Lithuania, Rumania, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Spain, Italy..... St.Aldate's vision is to support what already exists rather than a church-planting initiative from them. The Oxford Centre for Church Growth (which St.A's have developed) offers a Diploma in Practical Church Growth; it will be delivered by St.Aldate's but offers the chance for participants to attend some University lectures.*

*St.Aldate's sees Oxford as having an important historical and spiritual link with growth that has spread throughout Europe, and so they are aiming to stand in that tradition and support churches from Europe who would find that link helpful. For instance, one Swedish theologian I spoke to was very eager to have his students complete their three years in seminary with one year practical in Oxford. The major focus of the two days was Prayer and Unity. There was a great sense of being "in this together" and clearly the people who had come from all over Europe were getting fired up by the prayer support and interest they were receiving from St.A's and indeed from other European Christians.*

*The sense of God doing something exciting to impact Europe was very strong, and to me it felt very good. I was glad to have been there....even if it was a long drive! I intend to stay in touch with St.Aldate's. As a personal aside, it was 36 years since I had been there as a very new Christian undergraduate, and I found that intensely moving and rather wonderful. Good to be back.*

Here is Aldate's own report:

<http://www.staldates.org.uk/news.asp?pageRef=130&articleID=320>

Nov 13 & 14 **PCC Retreat** at l'Ermitage.

Nov 15 OYM Service followed by **THANKSGIVING Lunch**. 60 people sat down to a full "turkey with all the trimmings" lunch provided by John and Deborah Ferrero. Their aim was to host the meal as their own Thanksgiving offering to God, and so to encourage people to respond to the Lord in their own way with similar thanksgivings. It was an excellent meal – a great talent to be able to provide simultaneous hot meals for ten or more different tables! Many thanks to Debs and John for all the hard work of preparation, beautiful presentation and a lovely atmosphere. Thanks also to their helpers who prepared and served the meal.

Nov 21 **Men's Prayer Breakfast**. Fifteen men attended the prayer meeting and as usual there was a powerful sense that God was among us. Several suggestions were made that we should do it more often. Thanks to Clare for the breakfast.

Nov 24 **Download Day** – Speaker: Mark Aldridge. Mark and his two-person team had set off from Acton, London at 4 a.m. to be with us for the day of training in prophecy. 30 people attended and were blessed, encouraged and given practical training in how to hear God and trust what he is saying. St.Mark's members had made a very big effort (and in some cases real sacrifice) to be present; sadly leaders from other churches were not able to be present. Breakthrough in building the network of contacts is still a major prayer need.

Dec 13 was a busy day, when two of our major Christmas events were celebrated. The NATIVITY PLAY drew around 130 people. The children put on an excellent play, well-rehearsed and managed; they were audible and amusing; they sang beautifully to a strong and tuneful trumpet accompaniment. Many thanks to Catherine Fourel and Sarah Hartley for master-minding it all.



The CAROL SERVICE witnessed the hard work in rehearsal of the choir under Dilys Barré - they sounded good. The church was not full: of the 200 seats provided about 150 were occupied. However, if all people from both services had been together, it would have been uncomfortably overcrowded.

Some people commented that having the two separate events (which we have now done for two years) loses the "family-ness" and spontaneity of the previous all-together Carol Services. It was also clear that many of the regular church family were not present at the Carol Service, but instead we had many more visitors.

On the other hand, separate events allow for different style in each (one more child-friendly, the other more "adult" - like a Nine Lessons And Carols); it is easier to manage the children while other things are being done; and there is room for growth and expansion at both services.

PK

DID YOU KNOW?

*The [Twurch of England website](#) now allows you to follow the conversation in real time and log-in to twitter and get involved. The site has a blog, where "Mouse" (a poor church-mouse, presumably) will offer up his periodic stats and other views on what the Twurch is discussing, but also hopes that it will be an 'open blog', where the majority of posts will come from others who want to discuss how the church is engaging with those outside it*



## Lord of each Moment

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The Lord (Jesus) taught his disciples to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread", as well as teaching that each day's trouble is sufficient for the day. Each hair on our heads is counted and any glance at the telly will tell you that unless you use the right shampoo the inventory is likely to change significantly every day. Does an army of heavenly clerks constantly adjust the capillary data-base?

Nothing is hidden from the Lord and by all accounts, he definitely does take an individual and very personal interest, as well as a collective interest, in what we are thinking and doing and what is happening to us. The Bible is full of evidence to this effect. In fact it teaches us quite clearly and often very dramatically, that he has invested heavily in us and that he directly intervenes in our every day lives. He actually has a perfect plan for each of us.

Fortunately for us, God is not frivolous like the mythical and bickering gods of the ancient Romans or Greeks, but He is the only one, the living, all knowing, all powerful, holy, loving and therefore very personal God. Are you content and godly? That, said the apostle Paul, should suffice for us. Let's not at this stage, delve in to the depths of meaning of these two conditions. Let it suffice to consider the implications of God's interest in our being. Such is that interest, in the full sense of the word in fact, that when we commit to Him, he actually seals us and abides with us through the Holy Spirit to watch over and guide his investment.

How often do you speak to your banker? Unless you are very rich, I suggest you won't see him without first making an appointment and that will be constrained in time and subject. When you ask anything of him, he will consult figures and policy before advising what his masters want to promote, whilst refusing what they will not. He is only interested in you in terms of returns and risk. This principle sadly, also sometimes orders relationships between individuals and groups.

On the other hand, how much do you commune with God? Weekly? Daily? At all times? "Pray constantly" exhorted the apostle Paul. Well, if you love someone and are permanently in their company, you can commune at any time. If that person is the living God, we certainly won't get bored and had better not let familiarity breed contempt. He won't let it happen and you will quickly notice that you need to get things right again, with all due respect. Even the silences will speak to us.

On a December Friday, I visited an annual environmental exhibition and conference named Pollutec. As this deals principally with all aspects of water, waste and energy efficiency, I combed through every aisle, searching for familiar stands and faces. My old employer, a well known water company, was listed as having a stand. "Lord", I said, "it would be really nice to meet up with an ex-colleague, any ex-colleague that I got on well with." After about three hours of walking and occasionally talking and at least ten kilos of accumulated documentation (all good stuff), I got back to "Go" a bit despondent, having neither seen the stand nor met anyone I knew. The bright young lady attendant said I could buy the brochure to try to locate the stand again. Not at this stage thanks, I thought, I'm about to leave. "David?" called a voice behind me. There was Arnaud, an old colleague who had left the company many years ago. He is about the nicest person you might wish to meet. After a sandwich lunch and travel back together to Paris, he asked me for my CV in case his company could use my services. We went our separate ways, determined to maintain the renewed friendship. Thank you Lord.

Reaching Montparnasse station, encouraged by God's grace, I said, "Lord, it would be really nice to meet a special person on the train." It was a slow train back to Rambouillet. I got on and stood to help an elderly lady place her suitcase on the rack above our seats. It was early afternoon. As I turned to sit, I heard the very familiar voice of someone very special indeed, but who was the last person I expected to be on that train at that time. It was Christine, my dear wife, who saw me stand in the carriage as she headed further down the platform. That's God's care and attention for you and this kind of direct intervention certainly does feed contentment.

On the Monday and for the very first time, I joined the Gideon teams to distribute New Testaments outside the Law Faculty in central Paris. After several days of rain, the weather was really pleasant. "Lord, please guide me to people you have prepared to receive your word", I prayed. The team was spread over a long distance along the pavement opposite the Jardins du Luxembourg and many people whom I offered the little blue books to had already got or refused one. Some students were handing out leaflets outside the entrance to the Fac. "What are these about?" I asked. They were for students, I was informed politely, if a bit discouragingly. "Can I interest you in one of mine then?" I asked, offering the New Testament with a word of explanation. No bite this time.

The team was very helpful and welcoming and I was able to talk with several members as I moved from one place to another, seeking to be where it seemed best for me to be to help the work.

"Are you Jewish", one asked, "David is a Jewish name". I explained that my maternal grandfather was, though not a practising Jew. My mother chose the name out of admiration for King David and when we moved to England, there were five Davids in my class! "I'm a Messianic Jew", he said. "What was your grandfather's surname", he asked. "Schidlof", I answered. He said that it is a Russian name and I told him my grandfather was Austrian, but probably with Russian ancestors.

A very short while later a group of students passed us by. One young man holding a New Testament was a bit confused. He wanted to hand it back to us as he seemed to remember he shouldn't have it. "I'm Jewish", he explained. "Without you people I wouldn't be here", I answered and that seemed to connect, so he kept it.

Opposite the Fac was a bus stop which like a lung, was gradually filled and then emptied of people at every passage of a bus. Careful timing would ensure that a new group was met every visit. There was a man in his forties, standing at the stop with a young boy. On being offered a New Testament he explained that he was Russian and that his French was limited. Not that much, I guessed. I explained that my grandfather had Russian origins. That connected and he took it with pleasure!

The lean, old, but athletic looking man preparing for his exercises in the park was very dry and dismissive. "Certainly not, I'm Jewish", he almost spat the words at me and turned back to face a wall to stretch his sinews. No chance of connecting there. A student girl who was torn between the desire to talk about the things of God and the start of her next lecture gratefully took one and hurried on. A Muslim man accepted one after I explained that an English interpretation of the Koran lay beside my bed (its true). A clearly poor lady pensioner took one with thanks, but said she would only read it when she had enough money to change her glasses. She talked on and I had to eventually pull away.

As I walked through the park there was a lawn with a big tree and middle aged woman sitting on a seat squarely facing the tree, rather as I imagine Doctor Dolittle might have sat if he wanted to patiently and respectfully commune with the tree. There was clearly an aura of Eastern mysticism imported to Europe, as in the seventies. "Go ahead", I could almost hear, so I approached and proffered my wares. We talked on for over twenty minutes and I do believe that the whole gospel principle of godly substitution was explained. The New Testament was graciously received.

There were many others, yet it transpires that that morning fewer books were handed out than usual, but now let's let the Holy Spirit do His work.

Try it!

*David Logan*

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## Pastors Past

Martin Oram, former chaplain of St. Mark's, now in charge of a parish in Northern England, writes:

- ❖ In both the family and the church here people are battling with job insecurity and reduced work. As elsewhere, we have ghost shops and brown-field sites. But there are solid friendships, great culture and the feeling we've been here before – and survived. Work is busy, challenging and encouraging, for which we thank God. He is great and is committed to meeting all our needs; people just need to know that! That's why we celebrate **Emmanuel** – God with (and for) all of us. May he be with you too this Christmas.

Older members of Saint Marks will be pleased to know that David Vail (chaplain of St. Marks in the 1970s) and his wife Sue are both well and still travelling the world to visit their family and friends

## Christians and Climate Change

Our Suffragan Bishop David Hamid writes : Initiatives and programmes (on climate change) are growing in number to help Christians engage with our calling to be good stewards of the planet. The Church of England has just published a report entitled *Church and Earth*. It is a statement of our Church's beliefs, activities and ambitions relating to climate change and environmental action over the next seven years. It is part of the global effort to tackle climate change and associated environmental challenges.

The commitments in the report include:

- Carbon reduction target of 80% by 2050, with an interim target of 42% by 2020
- Annual carbon and energy reports for all parishes and dioceses by 2016
- All church buildings to have carbon footprints calculated and recommendations made by 2012
- Advice for all parishes on choosing green energy tariffs by 2010
- Tree-planting to be encouraged on church land
- 'Eco-twinning' between UK and developing world parishes, faced with early effects of climate change
- New Climate Justice Fund offering aid to churches in the developing world
- All dioceses to target Fair Trade status before 2016

On 16 November, at the Church Centre for the United Nations in New York City, Lois M. Dauway, a member of the World Council of Churches Central Committee challenged Christian Churches to embrace the task of addressing climate change. She proposed the "Nike School of Theology", referring to the well-known manufacturer of sports shoes. Nike's brand slogan sums up what the Church is called to do: it is time for action, ***"Just do it, just do it!"***

In the Diocese in Europe we all have work to do! There are many suggestions in the *Church and Earth* report that can be followed up in our own congregations

(Other comments can be found at : [eurobishop.blogspot.com](http://eurobishop.blogspot.com))

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## High-speed line from Canterbury to Rome?

No, not an extension of the TGV, but a reaction to Pope Benedict's recent proposal to dissenting Anglicans. The Pope's declaration made headlines in the French (and presumably also in the British and American) press. Even our Bishops Geoffrey and David were moved with admirable restraint to say the papal announcement had been received "with some degree of surprise".

Shorn of its ecclesiastical jargon, the Pope's idea is to make it easier for dissenting Anglicans to cross over to the Roman Catholic church while still retaining their "Anglican heritage". Similarly shorn of jargon, the response from the Archbishop of Canterbury would appear to be that this is not in line with the ecumenical discussion of the past 40 years which have aimed for "a restoration of complete communion of faith and sacramental life".

When Archbishop Rowan Williams visited Rome in November he almost certainly did not say "Benedict, right now I need your friendly suggestions like I need a hole in the head" because that is not the way Top Churchmen talk. But he just may have thought it.

*(the above does not represent the opinion of St Marks or of Paul Kenchington)*

## Semaine de l'Unité Chrétienne

Those who are looking for more down-to-earth fellowship with French Protestants and Roman Catholics of all shapes and sizes should note the date of **WEDNESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2010** when St Mark's will be hosting an evening of prayer and celebration to mark the **Week of Christian Unity**. Put it in your diary now!

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*John Penhallow*

## Oh, Island in the sun...

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Many Englishmen and women find living on or visiting a (sunny) island highly attractive. Mediterranean islands draw countless holidaymakers each summer. Apart from the usual qualities that turn a place into a resort, islands offer the added dimension of solitude, or even safety: there is a stretch of water between *you* and the rest of the world. Our forefathers often built monasteries on islands, the isolation enabling more focussed reflection and less distraction. Islands attract, too, creatives: all that water affects the quality of light for us photographers!

Over the decades many have chosen islands as places to start a new life: 10,000 English-speakers live on Corfu, over 6,000 on Crete, and numerous Britons have found Cyprus and Ibiza attractive. On each of these islands are international Anglican chaplaincies, ministering to e.g. tourists, incomers, and people come on holiday and then married locals. ICS is helping fund a new church in Northern Cyprus: see page six of October's *ICS News* to hear how God is changing lives there. John Gulland (from the Isle of Man) has just been appointed the new chaplain of Holy Trinity Corfu: pray for him as he begins ministry there in November. And pray for the Ibiza chaplaincy, where ICS sends seasonal chaplains each summer to help the chaplaincy reach out to tourists. Pray for each of these churches as they seek to pastor and share the good news with everyone they encounter and for many who have sought to start a new life on an island to find new life in Christ.

**Used postage stamps** If you (or your church or work place) does not already recycle used postage stamps for charity, could you do so? Just call Jeannette on +44 1926 – 430 347 or e-mail [ajskuse@ics-uk.org](mailto:ajskuse@ics-uk.org) for some *ICS used stamp collecting envelopes* and you can then send in used stamps to ICS, and we can auction them to collectors to help fund our mission.

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## New Church members!

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*Unto us a  
child is  
born!*



# The Pope and the Rabbi

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Many centuries ago, the Pope decreed that all the Jews had to convert to Catholicism or leave Italy. There was a huge outcry from the Jewish community, so the Pope offered a deal. He'd have a religious debate with the leader of the Jewish community. If the Jews won, they could stay in Italy ; if the Pope won, they'd have to convert or leave.

The Jewish people met and picked an aged and wise rabbi to represent them in the debate. However, as the rabbi spoke no Latin, and the Pope spoke no Yiddish, they agreed that it would be a 'silent' debate. On the chosen day the Pope and rabbi sat opposite each other.

The Pope raised his hand and showed three fingers.

The rabbi looked back and raised one finger.

Next, the Pope waved his finger around his head.

The rabbi pointed to the ground where he sat.

The Pope brought out a communion wafer and a chalice of wine.

The rabbi pulled out an apple.

With that, the Pope stood up and declared himself beaten and said that the rabbi was too clever. The Jews could stay in Italy !!! Later the cardinals met with the Pope and asked him what had happened.

The Pope said, 'First I held up three fingers to represent the Trinity. He responded by holding up a single finger to remind me there is still only one God common to both our beliefs'.

'Then, I waved my finger around my head to show him that God was all around us. He responded by pointing to the ground to show that God was also right here with us'.

'I pulled out the wine and wafer to show that God absolves us of all our sins. He pulled out an apple to remind me of the original sin'.

'He bested me at every move and I could not continue'.

Meanwhile, the Jewish community gathered to ask the rabbi how he'd won. 'I haven't a clue' the rabbi said. 'First, he told me that we had three days to get out of Italy, so I gave him the finger'.

'Then he tells me that the whole country would be cleared of Jews and I showed him that we were staying right here'.

'And then what' asked a woman?

'Who knows?' said the rabbi. 'He took out his lunch so I took out mine'.

## Looking Forward (Dates for your Diary)



an international church to the west of Paris

### **2010**

- Jan 10 Welcome to "Communion Before Confirmation" those who have requested to be prepared.
- Jan 14 PCC Meeting
- Jan 16 Ladies Retreat Day with Rev. Sarah Williams (previously assistant chaplain Tervuren, Brussels)
- Jan 17 OYM with Sarah W speaking
- Jan 20 Ecumenical Service 8.30pm @St.Mark's:Prayer for Christian Unity

### **Kingdom Training Days and Download Days for 2010:**

- Feb 13 **Anne Coles** (KTD);
- April 20 **Bob Payne** (DD);
- June 5 **Charlie Cleverley** (KTD);
- October 9 **John Hughes** (KTD);
- Nov 23 **Barry Kissell** (DD)

### **Some 2010 dates to keep in mind:**

- April 14-17 Archdeaconry Synod
- May 21-24 Pentecost Weekend away at Houlgate
- June 28- July 2 ICS Conference in UK
- July 24-30 New Wine Summer Conference

**St Mark's Anglican Church, Versailles**  
**In the Diocese of Europe**  
**founded in 1814**

St Mark's is a self-financing chaplaincy working in partnership with:  
The Intercontinental Church Society, 1 Athena Drive, Tachbrook Park,  
Warwick CV34 6NL United Kingdom

**“Our God is able to do abundantly more....”**

**31 rue du Pont Colbert, 78000 Versailles**

**Tel: 01 39 02 79 45    Email: [office@stmarksversailles.org](mailto:office@stmarksversailles.org)    Web: [www.stmarksversailles.org](http://www.stmarksversailles.org)**

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|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Chaplain:</b>                          | <b>Paul Kenchington</b>                                                                                        | 01 39 02 79 45 |
| <b>Associate Chaplain St Paul's:</b>      | <b>Elaine Labourel</b>                                                                                         | 01 69 04 09 91 |
| <b>Administrators:</b>                    | <b>Christina Galley</b>                                                                                        | 01 34 52 28 85 |
|                                           | <b>Kevin Bodsworth</b>                                                                                         | 01 30 95 84 49 |
| <b>Youth Worker:</b>                      | <b>Nathan Lambert</b>                                                                                          | 06 88 35 51 97 |
| <b>Children's Programme Coordinator:</b>  | Catherine Fourel                                                                                               | 01 30 24 79 15 |
| <b>Evangelism Coordinator:</b>            | Kevin Bodsworth                                                                                                | 01 30 95 84 49 |
| <b>Music Ministry:</b>                    | Paul Kenchington                                                                                               | 01 39 02 79 45 |
| <b>Churchwardens:</b>                     | Judy Johnson                                                                                                   | 01 30 56 52 31 |
|                                           | Barry Saunders                                                                                                 | 01 46 23 99 09 |
| <b>Deputy wardens:</b>                    | Maggie Simmons, Karen Thorley, Neal Cotton                                                                     |                |
| <b>Lay Assistants:</b>                    | Buki Kogbe, Gareth Lewis, Clare Kenchington, David Logan, Barry Saunders, William Morris                       |                |
| <b>Church Council:</b>                    | John Ferrero, Catherine Fourel, Alan Kendall, Anne-Marie Laidet, Beki Lambert, Anne-Charlotte Tassin, Ian Wray |                |
| <b>Archdeaconry Synod Representative:</b> | Allison Pineau, Jim Watkins                                                                                    |                |

**Worship:**

|                         |         |                                                             |                        |
|-------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>St Mark's</b>        | 9.00am  | 1st Sunday                                                  | Holy Communion (BCP)   |
|                         | 10.30am | 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday                                      | Morning Worship (CW)   |
|                         |         | 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays                   | Holy Communion (CW)    |
|                         |         | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday                                      | All-Age Family Worship |
|                         |         | 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday                                      | Praise & Prayer        |
| 5.30 pm                 |         | Evening service                                             |                        |
| <b>St Paul's Chevry</b> | 5.30 pm | 1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Sundays | Holy Communion (CW)    |
|                         |         | 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays                   | Evening Prayer (CW)    |

Association Culturelle Déclarée (d'après la loi de 1905)