

A-Z of THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Confused by Church jargon? Consult our regular *Pompey Chimes* feature that aims to take the mystery out of church life.

K is for...

KINGDOM OF GOD: Words used by Jesus to describe both a future prospect (ie. his Second Coming, when all evil will be swept away) and a present reality (ie. our world today, which has been transformed by Christ's life, death and resurrection, and is still being transformed today). He also suggested that it belonged especially to the humble and child-like, rather than self-righteous religious people, which should worry some of us.

KNEELER: Rectangular, often embroidered, cushion placed strategically in front of a pew to help worshippers kneel to pray. Rarely completely comfortable, but then that's not really the point.

KYRIE ELEISON: Brief prayer for divine help: the Greek words translate as 'Lord, have mercy'. Often used with the phrase 'Christe eleison', which means 'Christ, have mercy'. Latin phrases used in our services include 'Agnus Dei', 'Te Deum' and 'Nunc Dimittis'. Sadly, those Icelandic Benedictions never really caught on.

L is for...

LADY CHAPEL: A chapel dedicated to 'Our Lady' (ie. the Blessed Virgin Mary) in a larger church. Smaller, more intimate services may happen in the chapel rather than the main body of the church. In fact, some congregations needn't bother meeting anywhere else.

LAMBETH PALACE: The London home and office of the Archbishop of Canterbury. For a national figure who is expected to take a moral lead on religious, political and economic matters, his resources are pitifully small.

LAMBETH CONFERENCE: Get-togethers for bishops and archbishops from the whole Anglican Communion, around every 10 years. Their resolutions are important, but not binding, which is a relief as 10 years is a long time to wait to get a policy changed.

LAST SUPPER: Jesus's final meal with his disciples before his arrest and crucifixion. Traditionally thought to have been a Jewish Passover meal, at which Jesus symbolically washed his disciples' feet. We recall it by eating bread and drinking wine at Communion services. They would be very different if foot-washing was also a regular feature.

LAYING ON OF HANDS: People often 'lay hands' on an afflicted area as they pray for God's healing for someone. Occasionally people talk of a burning sensation coming through those hands, but that doesn't mean the hands have any specific powers – any healing comes from God. Understandably, even the best 'healers' are reluctant to lay hands on some, more private, afflicted areas.

LECTERN: Bookstand to hold the Bible or prayer books. May be elaborately decorated, often like an eagle with outstretched wings perched on a sphere. This apparently represents God's word being spread around the world, although the precise role of the eagle in this is hard to pin down.

LECTIONARY: Book listing extracts of the Bible to be read at public worship. It takes three years to go full circle, so you need to know if we are in lectionary years A, B or C. 2004-2005 will be 'A' and begins on Advent Sunday, if you're wondering...possibly also the Year of the Rat.

• More A-Z next month.

Traffic is halted as islanders dance through streets of Sunyani

TRAFFIC came to a standstill in the Ghanaian town of Sunyani as 24 visitors from our diocese danced through the streets.

Worshippers from the Isle of Wight and our cathedral joined the dancing crowds making their way to St Anselm's Cathedral for a thanksgiving Eucharist to mark their safe arrival.

Their visit over the summer also coincided with the ordination of Joseph Agyemang, the Ghanaian theology student who visited our diocese last autumn. There was also plenty of

singing and dancing during an exuberant five-and-a-half hour service.

The preacher at the ordination was Canon Nick Ash, our cathedral's precentor. He also led the ordination retreat, and Canon Bruce Carpenter, a retired priest from our diocese, was chaplain to the three ordinands.

"It was a wonderful opportunity and a privilege to be asked to do it," said Nick. "It showed something about what our IDWAL links are all about to be joining together in prayer and worship rather than just sending money. The ordinands got

some English theology from me, and they shared their African theology.

"There was a dancing group in the middle of the service from the C of E secondary school in Yamfo, and the ordinands carried crosses as a sign of their service as clergy. It also lasted a lot longer than our ordination services!"

The July visit also gave a chance for partnerships to be strengthened between Isle of Wight churches and parishes in the Sunyani and Tamale diocese – as well as between Portsmouth and Sunyani cathedrals.

A presentation of books was made to St Nicholas's Seminary to improve the resources of the newly-opened Stevenson Library – named after Bishop Kenneth.

Links were developed between Cranewater Primary School in Southsea and St Anselm's and Bishop Lemaire's School in Sunyani, as well as between St Luke's School in Portsmouth and Yamfo School.

Pupils from St Catherine's School in Ventnor visited St Paul's School in Wenchi to inspect projects their school had been supporting and to

join the Ghanaian classes.

Three worshippers from Shalfleet, Calbourne and Newtown on the Isle of Wight visited Yelwoko in the Tamale diocese.

Gwen Bevington, Richard Hawes and Barbara Saunders gave books, bookmarks and a photo of Shalfleet C of E Primary School to Yelwoko School, and presented the church's Sunday School with a banner from their Shalfleet equivalent.

"We felt extremely lucky to be linked with Yelwoko, and came back feeling very excited about the link,"

said Gwen. "The villagers are poor by our standards and live a hard life, and yet they have a tremendous community spirit, and the Sunday morning worship in St John's was probably the high point, not only of our trip, but of our year – indeed of our lives!"

They will talk about their experiences at two evening events, on October 16 at 6pm in Shalfleet hall, and on October 21 in Calbourne Recreation Centre. Each will include the chance to see slides and to experience African dress, music and food.



Ghanaians welcome visitors from our diocese on the streets of Sunyani by dancing, cheering and waving handkerchiefs



(Above): schoolchildren from Bolgatanga, in the north of Ghana; (below): Sandown teenager Christine Leahy at the baby centre

Eye-opener as teenager sees poverty up close

VISITING Ghana was an eye-opening experience for 17-year-old Christine Leahy. She got to meet the young woman she was sponsoring, stroke a crocodile and cuddle babies with Aids.

Christine, from Christ Church, Sandown, visited Ghana over the summer. She experienced a joyous welcome in Sunyani (see above) before heading to Tamale to meet Jessica Abibatu, the 24-year-old who her school's Christian Union had been sending money to.

"She did seem very shy, but it was brilliant to meet her," said Christine. "We were able to drive to her home in Walewale, and I was able to meet her family and see her house.

"She comes from a really poor family, her dad died four years ago and her mum is quite old."

Christine went with parishioners from Seaview

and St Helens to the parish of Bolgatanga. One experience when she tried to give balloons to local children there made a real impression.

"I blew one up and gave it to the first child I saw, and quickly I was surrounded," she said. "The children were pushing, shoving and screaming, trying to get a balloon. I was actually quite scared and they couldn't hear me shouting.

"It was then that the desperation of these children really hit me. I couldn't get over how little they must have to be so desperate for a simple balloon."

She visited a centre that cares for mothers and babies who have Aids, and a centre where women are taught to sew and then start their own business.

She saw a family of elephants in a water hole and touched a crocodile's tail. And she experienced a



church service that was three hours longer than any other she'd been to!

Back on the Isle of Wight, Christine, who plays the organ and flute in church and helps leads Sunday School, was baptised in the sea. She has been telling friends at Sandown High School and at church about Ghana.

"The whole trip was an amazing learning experience," she said. "I have learnt lots about the Ghanaian way of life, what's important to them and how they live."

THERE will be a real taste of Africa at our cathedral this month as our links with Ghana continue to inspire.

Worshippers will be given the chance to try out African drumming, dancing and music before our annual service to mark our Inter-Diocesan West African Link (IDWAL). And parishioners who have recently visited Ghana will talk about how the experience has sharpened their faith and widened their vision.

The service is just one way in which our diocese is developing its links with Ghana at the moment. Others include:

- one of our curates, the Rev Chris Maclay, will head to Ghana this month as part of the latest clergy exchange;
- parish links continue to be developed, with one parish hoping to build a clinic in Ghana and another contributing to the creation of a road bridge;
- several schools within our diocese have developed links with Ghanaian schools, thanks to visits over the summer;
- and two IDWAL members are also due to travel there this month to help set up much-needed computers at diocesan offices.

The annual IDWAL celebration at our cathedral on October 24 will start with workshops on dance, drumming and music led by the Ghanaian group Osagyefo Theatre Company. Those workshops will happen between 3.30pm and 5pm, and will be followed by tea.

The all-age service itself will take place between 6pm-7pm and will include music and dancing. Four people who have visited Ghana will be asked to talk about their experiences.

The theme of the service will be the story of Jesus appearing on the Emmaus Road to his disciples – the same as the theme of the ordination retreat led by our cathedral precentor Canon Nick Ash in Ghana this summer.

The service will take place a few days after the Rev Chris Maclay, from St Thomas and St Nicholas, Bedhampton, travels to a theological

seminary in Ghana for an eight-week exchange. His visit to St Nicholas's Seminary in Cape Coast is the second such exchange to take place. He follows the Rev Barry Dugmore, who was seconded there for three months last year.

Chris, who previously worked for the Church Mission Society in Nigeria, said: "I'm really looking forward to spending some quality time back in Africa. I am under no illusions that it will be a particularly easy experience, but I am looking forward to learning plenty and giving as much as I can to the seminary.

"I have an MA in rural social development and I am hoping I can put some of that to use in teaching ordinands. Church leaders and their



(Left): Raymond Otchewemah; (right): Chris Maclay

wives are in a pivotal position to make a huge difference to living standards and understanding of villagers. Many of them, though, need time to begin to understand developmental theories that will stop them imposing well-intentioned 'solutions' that actually further disempower the people they are trying to help."

IDWAL's original plan was for Raymond Otchewemah, a deacon from the seminary, to visit our diocese between September and December. However, his visa was initially refused, and IDWAL officials now hope he might be able to visit in January.

Links between individual parishes in our diocese and Ghanaian dioceses continue to develop. The village of Buriton is hoping to raise at least £2,000 to provide living quarters for doctors and

a labour ward at a clinic in Dominaise - their link parish. Fundraising has already taken place during the village show and among the congregation. And one enterprising fundraiser is charging people to watch his video of village life on November 13.

Assistant curate the Rev Di Townsend said: "It was Mary Kelsey, who went there with me last year, who has been inspiring this fundraising. What is great is that it is the village of Buriton, not just the church, that has got involved."

And parishes in Hayling Island continued their association with Ayiesu when they donated thousands of pounds to help turn an existing footbridge into a road bridge. The three parishes had already paid around £7,000 towards the building of the footbridge, which links Ayiesu with the local community, and for wells delivering fresh water. Now the bridge will be widened so road deliveries can be made to the village.

And IDWAL representatives have found another way to help their partners in Ghana. This month Alan Hoad from Hayling Island and Pete Atkins from Petersfield will travel there for around three weeks to install 20 Pentium III computers and 10 printers in diocesan offices around the country.

The project, which is costing IDWAL around £5,000, involved buying refurbished PCs from the charity Computer Aid International and sending them to Accra by sea.

"The provision of computers is very patchy out there," said Mr Hoad, who is also IDWAL treasurer. "I was there a year ago and one bishop had an Amstrad from the 1980s. Other diocesan offices were using manual typewriters.

"But access to the internet is vital as the surface mail and phone systems aren't perfect. Yet the Church is expanding rapidly, and bishops need to keep in touch with new churches that are opening all the time."

Anyone who would like to contribute towards the work of IDWAL, to reimburse the charity for the amount spent on this project, can contact Mr Hoad on 023-9246 4982.

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