

Translating the Bible into Culture



Matthew van Duyvenbode who works for the Bible Society and is a member of the English NSC reflects on the challenge of finding a language to communicate the truths of the Scripture to those around us.

- Parents fared little better, with over half thinking that a plot from the recent 'Hunger Games' series of books and films came from the Bible.

The tendency when hearing these kind of statistics can be to feel overwhelmed by the scale of the challenge of 'biblical illiteracy'. But elsewhere, there were encouraging signs of openness in society to the treasures that the Bible can offer. Around 80% of

parents surveyed said that they would like to pass on Bible Stories to a younger generation – whether it's because of a religious or spiritual conviction, whether they think the stories are important, or whether they think the Scriptures provide a strong moral and ethical framework. The challenge which we face as Christians is how to help others overcome the barriers which prevent them from engaging with and sharing the Bible – whether it's lack of confidence, lack of desire or lack of awareness! It's my deep conviction that people like you and I, walking in the power of the Holy Spirit, are part of the solution to this challenge!

Surfing the internet recently, I found this list of humorous statements that pupils had written about the Bible:

- 'Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.'
- 'When Mary heard that she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta.'
- 'St Paul cavorted to Christianity. He preached holy acrimony, which is another name for marriage.'

I spent quite a while browsing the whole list, and had a good chuckle at some of the misunderstandings. But these rather light-hearted examples (which I'm quite sure are not all genuine!) point towards a more significant, genuine issue of biblical unfamiliarity and disconnection with the Christian Scriptures in our wider society.

We believe that every child should have the opportunity to experience the Bible.

That is why in 2014 we have launched 'Pass It On', a campaign to encourage parents to read, watch or listen to a Bible story with their child. We aspire to offer one million children a 'Bible Bedtime' throughout the year. Our campaign is about the people that count in children's lives helping to keep the Bible alive for many generations to come. We want to remind all those that value this classic text, regardless of their reason, that we must 'use it or lose it'.

Source: Bible Society Website

WHY BOTHER?

But first, we need to ask ourselves whether we should even bother with helping our society engage with the Scriptures. Isn't the Bible the 'book of the Church'?

It's very important to grasp that when the Bible is described in this way, it is with reference to the question of the Bible's authority - not its intended audience. Consider for a moment the 'great commission' of Jesus to His disciples at the conclusion of Matthew's gospel, where He sends them to *'make disciples of all nations...teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.'* Note that Christ doesn't say 'make disciples of one another' or 'teach them a little bit about me'. His encouragement is to go to all and share everything he has commanded!

And the Bible itself is not something which shies away from human

THE CONTEXT

Recently, for my work at the Bible Society, we conducted some research amongst children and their parents in England and Wales to understand and share a real picture of biblical knowledge in our society. Some of the results were quite shocking:

- Over six out of ten children say they have no awareness of the Feeding of the 5,000, the Good Samaritan, the Creation story or Daniel in the Lion's Den.
- 30% of children in secondary school didn't identify that The Nativity story came from the Bible.



23%

8-15yr olds surveyed indicated that they have never read about, seen or heard of Noah's Ark

culture. The words of the Scriptures were written in a variety of human languages, using cultural references and appealing to deep-seated emotions. Dei Verbum (the Vatican II Constitution on Divine Revelation) insists on the sacred, inspired nature of the Bible, but describes the mystery of revelation in the Scriptures as 'the words of God, expressed in human language' (§13) As God takes on human flesh in the Incarnation, in a similar way, the words of God take on a human shape and texture in the sacred writings of the Bible. But given that the Bible has significance and connections for all, how do we begin to have a conversation about the vitality and goodness of the Scriptures with the people we meet in our everyday lives?

BECOMING A TRANSLATOR

Firstly, it's crucial to say that we've got a good starting position! Despite some of the challenges illustrated by the statistics above, we have a rich heritage which is full of Bible stories – but only if you know where to look! Art, History, Sport, Politics, Science, Architecture, TV, Economics, Music, Film and – of course – Literature are all deeply affected and influenced by the Bible. Even the language we speak is suffused with biblical references: 'A leopard can't change its spots', 'As old as the hills', 'the land of Nod', 'out of the mouths of babes'. These conversational starting points can all help you point people towards the Bible;

and in parallel, the Bible can be really richly complemented by reading it in the knowledge of how it has shaped these areas of our everyday lives. This is where the notion of translation comes in. Do you consider yourself a translator? Despite a good grade in my French examinations, I think I'd struggle to buy a bag of apples in Paris these days. But whenever you or I are helping to make these connections between everyday life and the Scriptures, we're becoming translators. As the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, quoted in his address to the Bible Society on our 200th Anniversary, 'You may be the only translation of the Bible some people ever read.'

SOME 'TRANSLATION PRINCIPLES'

In my work at Bible Society, I'm steeped in a history of Bible translation – we've been working at it for 210 years now! One of the key things I've learned about achieving a successful translation is that you need some 'translation principles' in mind before you begin – otherwise you can go way off course. In the third section of the recent Apostolic Exhortation Verbum Domini, I think Pope Benedict XVI had three key ideas or 'translation principles' in mind about sharing the word of God with our world. I've noted them as the '3 C's':

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1) Christ. Our sharing of the Scriptures (the 'written word') with others needs to draw its inspiration and content from our own encounter with Christ (the 'Living Word'). Having sat through countless theological lectures on the Bible, it's really clear when somebody is communicating with genuine conviction and experience of seeking a personal encounter with the Author of the Scriptures. Likewise, this authenticity is really important when we ourselves share the Scriptures with our culture. ***How has your own life been enriched by Christ's message to you in the Scriptures?***

2) Credibility. If there is a disconnection between the words we are sharing and our own lives and commitment to acting with justice, those who we are talking to could quite rightly question our commitment to the Scriptures. Of course, we're all sinful people, but if I'm talking to somebody about the Fruit of the Spirit on a car journey when I'm also yelling, swearing and beeping my horn, it might dissuade them of the potential transformative power of the Spirit pointed to by the Bible! ***In what areas of your life are you witnessing to the transformation promised in the Scriptures?***

3) Culture. A genuine commitment to those we seek to serve means that we take time, energy, and often a certain amount of discomfort to get to know the cultural language of the person we're engaging with. Of course, we need to preserve the integrity of the message we're communicating, but – for example – the 'dialect' we use with young offenders will be quite different from the one we use with successful businesspeople. Thinking about what we say before we say it can be enormously helpful! ***Where might you have the opportunity to share God's word, and what 'dialect' might you need to speak in?***

And – of course – these 3 C's are all deeply resonant of living life in the Spirit. The Spirit leads us into a deeper intimacy with Christ, by bringing the Scriptures alive in our hearts. The Spirit transforms us from the inside out, so that we feel conviction to see justice done and to demonstrate mercy ourselves. And what was the first miracle of the Pentecost event? The Spirit gave the believers the right languages to speak!

What our culture badly needs today are people who are willing to act as translators – to help share the Scriptures generously, to find connection points and to live lives which demonstrate that which the Bible points to – the prophetic, healing, creative, and restoring power of Christ for our world.

For more information about the research quoted, visit www.biblesociety.org.uk/passiton

The Other Half



Sue Whitehead

Many of you have heard me speaking and will know that whatever subject is the title of the talk, I invariably find I need to mention my illustration of 2 Corinthians 4:6,7 – “*we have this treasure in jars of clay*”. Sometimes I have given out small pictures of my visual aid – a small jar with holes in, with a bright light shining against a dark background – a reminder that we are created by God and, as Christians, carry the light of Christ within us.

Recently I was speaking and had this picture of the small jar projected on an overhead as I spoke. When I finished I was surprised when someone said that they had found the picture disturbing as the background looked so threatening. They did not think I should use it. I have been thinking about that and praying. It disturbed me that what I see as such a helpful visual aid may have been causing distress to someone. As I prayed I realised that I had never really looked closely at the background – my eyes were always drawn to the light. I had taken the photograph a few years ago – draping a piece of grey muslin over a board to form the background to the jar. The reason and focus of my thoughts was to capture an illustration of what I felt God had said to me.

In a way I feel that the message of the jar is now, for me, even stronger. It emphasises that however dark and threatening the world may be, the light of Christ overcomes and draws us to Himself. The picture is of a night-light in a jar and, of course, that light will eventually go out. But the light of Christ within us is everlasting – never fading nor failing. Our responsibility is only to let Him be seen - to let His personality grow within us and to act in us to meet the needs of those we meet.

At the top of the picture I have written the words from a song I heard which put my thoughts into words.

You are the light,
the light of the world.
We shine you, Lord.

Maybe the world is getting darker, more disturbing and threatening. Maybe we are finding life especially difficult at the moment. Do not fear. Our Lord is always with us. He will never desert us and He will always overcome.

© Sue Whitehead

Translating Bible stories

David Beredford reflects on the ways he has tried to communicate creatively the Gospel Message.

I often find myself standing on a tray of fresh eggs retelling the story of Saint Peter climbing out of his boat to walk for the first time on the Sea of Galilee just like his master Jesus. Standing on the eggs is a great tool for the story as there is a sense of excitement and awe when the eggs hold my weight. The egg boxes always creak and squeak wonderfully to heighten the tension. No matter how many times I have done it, I am still nervous because sometimes the eggs break and I sink as spectacularly as Peter did.

When I am not standing on eggs I may find myself shaking up a can of Coke and telling the story of Jesus preaching in his home town. The Coke cans enable us to see that we are just like Jesus. We all have the Holy Spirit in us (the fizz), but the difference is that with Jesus the fizz is all shaken up. I tell other stories with balloons, skewers, candles, water and anything else I can think of a way to use. I spend lots of time looking for different science or magic tricks that I might be able to link to different bible stories. After a fantastic circus skills workshop with my daughter's Brownie pack recently I had a great walk home discussing with Molly how we might link the different skills with different stories. I was very proud as Molly quickly reeled off different values and principles of Jesus' teaching that she could see linking to the different tricks and skills we had just learned.

As Matt says in his article, we have to be translators of the Bible, and in my experience of working with adults, young people and children these visuals help people to engage with the stories. I love telling the stories and making links with my own life and asking questions of the listeners. An example of this is the can of Coke trick. The fizz is such a simple illustration of the Holy Spirit dwelling inside us, and the realisation that we have the same Holy Spirit in us as Jesus is easy to see because every can looks the same. Shaking the can vigorously and pretending to open the can always causes a great reaction. Everywhere that Jesus goes, the Holy Spirit is just exploding out of him, causing reactions and transformations everywhere. People are healed, brought back to life, fed, taught and loved all the time. That's what I want to be like, don't you? The question of how fizzy I want to be becomes very easy to grasp.

In the Gospel story though, people question Jesus' authority and his right to speak the way he does. They say, "Isn't he Joseph and Mary's boy?", "Isn't he the carpenter's son? How did he get

such learning without having been taught?" As each question is thrown out, the shaken-up can of coke is flicked. People make such cheap throwaway comments but they hit us with such weight sometimes. It only takes 5 flicks of the can for it to be safe to open without exploding everywhere.

Only a few comments, just a few expressions of a 'lack of faith' produces the situation whereby Jesus cannot work any miracles in their presence. It only takes a few comments from our peers to knock our own self confidence. 'Are you wearing that?', 'What would you expect from a blonde?', 'He's only young!'. We have all heard the voices at different times and some of us hear these voices constantly in our minds. The Gospel story ends

with some hope for the listeners with Jesus walking through the crowds unharmed. The encouragement of the Gospel is that we can do the same. We can find our worth in the knowledge that we are children of God. My value is secure because I am created and loved by God

The stories themselves don't bring people into a deep relationship with Jesus, but they do allow the seed of faith to be sown. I know that that is what Jesus asks me to do. Sow the seeds, not to worry about the ground on which it lands, simply keep on sowing. Too

many people have too narrow an image of who Jesus really is. The Bible is a record of humanity's encounter and relation with its Creator and also the 'Living Word' speaking God's truth for all to hear. The challenge surely is to speak its Words for all to hear and to be the words for all to experience.

What I have learn't through telling these stories though, is that I am as much part of the story as the words themselves. People are looking at how I talk about Jesus. Do I know Him? Do I love Him? Does what I am saying match up with who they encounter me being day to day? Am I somebody who steps out of the safety of His boat to dare to walk with Jesus on water? Do I 'flick' words at people? Do I love well?

One of the joys for me of telling Bible stories, is that I am at my best telling them when I really love them, and I love the stories most when I most deeply love Jesus.

David Beresford has a Masters in Biblical Studies and is the new Director of the Catholic Bible School.



What is the Holy Spirit doing in Wales?



Revd Gareth Leyshon, Parish Priest of St Philip Evans Parish (Cardiff), does a round up of what is happening round Wales.

In the year 1904, many nonconformist chapels in Wales were touched by the power of the Holy Spirit; many hearts among the people of Wales were turned away from wrong-doing and circuit judges arriving in small towns often found they had no cases to try. 100,000 people gave their lives to Christ; new chapels were built and old ones extended. This became known in due course as the “Welsh Revival” and ripples from it touched many nations. But within a few years the life of the Christian community in Wales had returned to what it had been before the revival; and ten years after the revival, the world was rocked by the outbreak of the Great War.

In 2004, a woman named Gail Dixon, living in South Wales, received a vision of “sparkling water the colour of sapphire” which people of many nations were trying to touch, but none could reach. She believed that God was saying that if people from those nations came together for seven years to pray and worship, then God would cause the water to rise up and break out. In obedience to this word, Gail and her supporters arranged a week-long international festival of prayer, the “Celebration for the Nations”, on Llanelli’s festival fields each summer from 2007 until 2013. No event is planned for Llanelli in 2014; the organisers believe that they have now completed what God has asked of them, and the next move is in God’s hands.

A strong ecumenical network growing in Wales spearheaded by New Wine Cymru

During these seven years, a strong network has grown up between church leaders of Anglican, independent and Catholic traditions in Wales. The New Wine network grew out of Anglican Charismatic Renewal and is best known in England for the annual summer festival at Shepton Mallet. The Welsh branch, New Wine Cymru, is autonomous from, though supported by, New Wine in England. At first, it took over the running of the Flames of Fire annual holiday conference in mid-Wales, but in 2009, New Wine Cymru instead felt called to focus on running national and regional events across Wales to support leaders – pastors, congregation leaders, worship leaders and youth leaders. Last summer, New Wine Cymru’s national conference saw around 200 church leaders from all across Wales gather in Lampeter. There was a

very positive atmosphere, an expectancy that God was on the move across Wales – and unusually for a national event in Wales, the attendance was not dominated by leaders from the major cities. With an explicit emphasis on involving and empowering young leaders, and a clear reach into rural Wales as well as urban ministry, large numbers of Anglican and Pentecostal church leaders and a small but growing participation by Catholics, New Wine Cymru is forming an extensive and broad-based network of Christians across Wales.

Network leader, Julian Richards from the independent Cornerstone Church in Swansea, has a recognised gift of prophecy. His main message to the gathered leaders last summer was to be expectant for a new move of the Spirit in Wales, when God’s healing power would break out of the churches and touch people on the streets. Evangelising using the gifts of the Spirit

Earlier in 2013, New Wine Cymru had already co-sponsored a 4-day training conference on ministering using the gifts of the Spirit: a thousand delegates from as far afield as Holland travelled to Cardiff to receive this teaching. The key speakers were Bill Johnson from the Bethel megachurch in California, and Tom Jones and Randy Clark (key figures in outbreak of the “Toronto Blessing”). New Wine Cymru have invited Randy to return for their 2014 Leaders’ Conference, 15-17 May in Swansea, to teach on how churches can use healing as a means of evangelising.

Meanwhile, the Catholic National Service Committee in Wales felt the time was right to re-start a national Catholic conference in Carmarthen after a gap of several years. On the last weekend in August, nearly 100 participants (mainly Catholic but some Anglicans too) gathered to hear teaching from Catholic evangelists Derek Williams and Andy Stayne. They also emphasised the role of the Spirit’s gifts in evangelising, and on the Saturday afternoon, two teams set off into Carmarthen town centre: one to offer prayer ministry for those willing to sit on the “prayer chair” set up in the High Street, and another group who had prayed for prophetic words on a “treasure hunt” to find and bless the people they felt God was leading them to. This was a new and bold departure for a Catholic conference in Wales!

Places of healing and revival

Two places in Wales seem to have had a recent anointing for healing and revival. On the south-west tip of Wales, the small retreat centre of Ffald-Y-Brenin (Welsh for “Sheepfold of the King”) has a reputation as a “thin place” where people who come for quiet prayer often report encounters with a divine presence. And in the middle of 2013, an independent church meeting in



an industrial unit in Cwmbran experienced several months of continuous blessings. This “outpouring” led to talk of revival and for several months, the Victory Church in Cwmbran held revival meetings five nights every week. In September, after more than 150 such meetings, they reported that 1,157 attendees had made a first-time commitment to Christ. Now they only hold one such meeting a week but have planted several satellite churches in nearby Welsh towns. You can join in their worship on-line using a webcasting service called LiveStream.

The influence of C

The regional network of (Catholic) Celebrate Weekends has included a Cardiff weekend since 2011. Following the 2013 Celebrate, the small prayer group at St Brigid’s Church in Cardiff, in which 6-10 people had met faithfully for many years, experienced a sudden influx. It is now regularly attracting 20-30 people for its weekly Sunday 7.30 pm prayer meeting. The new blood has enabled a full-blown music ministry to serve the prayer group and a new format has developed with praise, adoration, a sermon and small-group sharing. Canon Matthew Jones, the parish priest and a long-time supporter of renewal, is now being supported in leading the group by myself, by New Dawn regular Revd Ambrose Walsh, and several lay members of the group.

Diocesan Evangelisation project

In 2012, Archbishop George Stack of Cardiff asked Fr Ambrose Walsh and me to set up a Diocesan Evangelisation project, based at the newly acquired Cornerstone building adjacent to our cathedral in Cardiff’s city centre. We began in June 2013 with a series of six lunchtime sessions offering all comers a free bread-and-soup lunch while there was a half-hour testimony from that day’s speaker. These attracted about 40 people each time. Testimonies included Mary Cameron (founder of the Hereford Catholic Conference) on how her faith was affected by losing a child to leukaemia, Deacon Peter McLaren on marrying into a Catholic family in sectarian Glasgow (a Sion Community Mission was influential in bringing his faith alive some years later) and my own perspective on being a practicing Catholic and professional research scientist without conflict.

Members of many different churches are contributing to Foodbank and Street Pastors projects which are now present in many towns across Wales.

New radical ecumenical proposal in the reform tradition

Five denominations met in Aberystwyth in 2012 to explore the possibility of making their ministry truly interchangeable, so that a minister from any one of the five traditions could, as the need arose, lead services in the church of any of the others.

Methodist, United Reformed, Presbyterian and Covenanting Baptist leaders were present together with those from the Anglican Church in Wales, to consider the radical proposal that the Anglican bishops would ordain three leaders from the other traditions into Bishop’s orders (participating Baptists would be grouped with United Reformed Churches for this purpose), and that the leader would then lay on hands and commission their own denomination’s future ministers. Existing ministers would be asked to receive a laying-on of hands jointly by an Anglican and a non-Anglican bishop as a sign of entry into covenant ministry (this would not be called an “ordination ceremony”). In this way Anglicans could recognise the other ministers as “validly ordained” and therefore able to preside at Anglican liturgies. The other denominations are now discussing this in their own leadership structures before any final decision can be made. The Catholic Church is not a partner in this discussion but two Catholic observers were present at the gathering.

Daniel Fast for Revival

Recently a Christian group placed a prominent advert in a South Wales newspaper inviting Christians to spend 40 days from February 1st in a “Daniel Fast” (vegetables and plain food only) for God to bring revival to Wales. It’s unclear whether this was done in obedience to a prophecy or just in a well-meaning effort to further the signs of revival in Wales, but it all adds to the sense that Wales is on the brink of some kind of spiritual breakthrough. Watch this space!



Behold I am doing a New Thing

Fr Chris Thomas encourages us to see the new thing that God is doing under our noses.

When I was a University Chaplain many years ago I, along with a team of people, ran the Life in the Spirit seminars. There were all sorts of people who came along, most of whom had little or no experience of Charismatic Renewal. There were people of faith and no faith. There was even an atheistic Jew. The discussions on each evening were lively and interesting as together we explored the Gospel message. When it came to the evening for prayer for the release of the Spirit I wondered who would turn up. There had been some scepticism the week before. I was really surprised when everybody arrived and the prayer took place. The week after one girl said to me that she felt as though she had a party going on within her. I met her just recently some twenty plus years on and she said to me 'the party's still going on.'

The Gospel is essentially about an encounter and wherever that encounter takes place I believe that God is doing a new thing as He did and does within that girl. As hearts are transformed through love, where forgiveness is setting people free, where the wounds of sin and division are being healed then God is doing something wonderful and something new in the life of that person and through them in the world. Grace in a real and concrete way is working its miracle as it flows from one to another.

I have sat in many meetings in recent years where we have been praying for the new thing to happen. We have almost pleaded with God for a new outpouring of the Spirit and I have sensed a disappointment when the fireworks haven't happened in the way we thought they might have done. We have prayed for a new Pentecost and I believe that God, our faithful loving God, always hears our prayer.

Could it be that an over preoccupation with revival in the narrow way that we understand it stops us seeing what God is doing in the here and now?

So could it be that God wants us to stop, open our eyes and see that the Spirit is always being poured out and that a new thing is always going on in the lives of God's people? Could it be that an over preoccupation with revival in the narrow way that we understand it, stops us seeing what God is doing in the here and now? Could it be that the more we focus on one reality the more we are unable to see what is happening around us? Who could

doubt that God is doing a new thing in the life of the Catholic Church with the advent of Pope Francis and his desire for reform, his call to simplicity and the new spirit of openness which seems to be sweeping through the Church?

I hope it's not my imagination but are we not seeing a new impetus to ecumenism as the Pope blesses those of other traditions and makes links with them? Is it not the work of the Spirit as the movements within the Church come together to celebrate what is good and God given forgetting the differences that sometimes separate us from one another?

Who could not watch with excitement and bated breath what is happening in what is known as the emerging Church which is growing alongside the traditional structure of the Church. The organisations for the "Emerging Church" movement are prayer groups, bible study groups, centring prayer groups, justice groups, and the "new monasticism". The "Emerging Church" is happening all over the world and is ecumenical, biblical, prayer and justice centred. It has to be a new outpouring of the grace of God. Look at the lives of individuals and see what God is doing in the hearts and minds of so many who are being turned toward the Gospel of Christ. I know many young people who are giving their lives to the Gospel in new ways and older people who are waking up to a new dawn in their lives.

If we are looking just for signs and wonders we might be disappointed although I very much doubt that we will be. Throughout the Church's history there have always been waves of charismatic activity and I have no doubt that in the future there will be more, but I think the challenge of the moment is not necessarily to implore God for a new Pentecost. This will happen as and when it does. Rather the challenge is to stop, look and listen for what God is already doing and to see in that movement of the Spirit in the life of the Church the newness that we are always looking for, and then very simply to rejoice in it!



Fr. Chris Thomas heads up the Irenaeus Project. He is a member of the Emmaus Family of Prayer.

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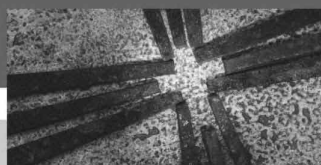
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NEW MEMBERS OF THE ENGLISH NATIONAL SERVICE COMMITTEE

We are delighted to inform you that we now have four new members to the English National Service Committee for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Eddie Drozdziak, Helen Wells, Fr Matt Anscombe and Duncan Mitchell.

In this issue Fr Matt and Duncan tell us a bit more about themselves.

Please pray for them and for the whole English National Service Committee as they seek to serve the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in England.



Fr Matt Anscombe

I was ordained priest in 2010 and currently serve as Catholic Chaplain to the University of Bristol. We have a residential chaplaincy with 11 students living in the house. Ours is a lively chaplaincy community and we are always looking to take things to the next level, particularly by encouraging students into a deeper awareness of Jesus' love in their lives and being open to the power of the Holy Spirit. As well as the chaplaincy work, I am also Vocations Director for Clifton Diocese and am seeking to help the diocese deepen its culture of vocation by raising the profile of this ministry. This is so important for the New Evangelisation. Where priesthood is concerned, we have very few seminarians, and I am trying to be bold about how we preach about this essential ministry in the life of the Church. Seeds are being sown!

In 2011, I started a diocesan mission team, called 'New Awakenings'. To date, we have been into four parishes and have a further two missions lined up for this year, including one in the cathedral parish. These missions come out of an experience of CCR, although they are not explicitly charismatic. If anyone has their antenna tuned in, though, they will surely realize that the 'fired-up' nature of these missions comes from an openness to the gifts of the Spirit.

I am, of course, supportive of all things related to CCR. My involvement was sparked off by participating in the Life in the Spirit Seminars in a local parish when I was just ordained priest. This led me to understand that my own heritage with regard to faith and calling was deeply rooted in an experience of baptism in the Spirit back in the year 2000. I am currently chaplain to the Celebrate Bristol core team. I now look forward to serving on the National Service Committee and trust it will bring many blessings.



Duncan Mitchell

I was brought up in a very happy, non-believing family. Although, I can think of many movements of God's grace in my life it was only when I was at University that a Pentecostal/Anglican mission moved me to make a commitment to the Lord in a definitive way. I was so blessed that the Pentecostal evangelist in reply to my saying that I felt moved to become a Catholic replied that if that was what God was asking I must follow. He prayed for me and the following Monday I approached a priest, soon after began the RCIA programme and a year later, in Lent 1991, was baptised and received into the Church. My relationship with the Renewal was more distant at this time; I had gone along to a couple of Charismatic services but there was just too much hugging and hand waving for my taste! Two events overcame my reticence. The first was the result of attending a New Dawn Conference in the late 90's where I was struck by some great teaching and by just how much people loved God; the second was getting married in 1999 to Joanna, who had been involved in Renewal for many years – there was now no escape.

In 2000 we became aware that God seemed to be calling us out of parish life and our prayer group towards community life. We had a friend in the Cor et Lumen Christi Community and, after a few visits, decided to make a commitment. In 2001 we gave up our jobs (I as a social worker, Joanna as a teacher), moved out of our home and went to live in the Community house in Chertsey. More than twelve years and nearly six children later we continue to find God's grace and generosity in abundance through our lives at Cor et Lumen. I have been equipped to develop a teaching ministry – mostly focusing on sharing a love of the Bible – as well as having served for a time as the Prior of Highfield House and assisting in the mission of the wider Community. I am constantly struck by just how much God wants to pour out his Holy Spirit and his gifts on those who respond to his call. I am delighted and honoured to be asked to serve on the NSC.

FORMAL RECOGNITION OF SCOTTISH CATHOLIC LAY COMMUNITY



The Community of the Risen Christ, a Catholic Charismatic Covenant Community, founded by David and Margaret McGill over thirty years ago in January

1981, has been formally recognized as a Private Association of the Faithful within the Glasgow Archdiocese. David and Margaret attended their first charismatic prayer meeting in 1975 and soon afterwards were both baptised in the Holy Spirit changing their lives and priorities for ever. At the time David McGill was a successful businessman but he was eventually led to give this up to launch the Risen Christ community. He commented, "We knew there was more God wanted to do with us and we knew it had to do with community." John Jackson, senior co-ordinator

of the community today commented, "The function of our particular group apostolate is the sanctification of its members and the evangelisation of the surrounding secular society. It is to bear witness to the sanctity of marriage and family life. It includes standing for Christian truth and promoting unity among Christians." Much of the growth of the community has come from the children of community members who, when they have grown up, have chosen to make adult commitments to the community.

Members of the Risen Christ community live in their own homes, attend their own parishes and work in secular employment. As part of their covenant to the community, they attend community gatherings, participate in faith sharing groups and contribute some of their time and money to the community's outreaches and apostolate. John Jackson commented, "We are excited about the way God is moving in our Church at this time, especially for the future lives of our young people."

Archbishop Philip Tartaglia, who signed the decree, was struck by the fervour of the gathering and commented that the young people present were "a sign of vitality for the Church."

HIGH PROFILE INTERNATIONAL INDEPENDENT CHARISMATIC CHURCH LEADER AND HIS WIFE JOIN THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



Pastor Ulf Ekman, the founder of the Word of Life, a large world wide network of independent charismatic churches, shocked the evangelical world when he announced just before Easter that he and his wife Birgitta after a long period of prayer and reflection, were planning to join

the Roman Catholic Church. Ulf Ekman is very well known in the evangelical/charismatic world and a great evangelist. He and his wife founded the Word of Life church in Sweden in 1983 and then went on to found a network of churches all over Eastern Europe. He and his wife are personal friends of Charles and Sue Whitehead and a couple of years ago Ulf was a speaker at the Celebrate conference and at the Harvesters' Men's Weekend.

Ulf explained that in the last ten years of his ministry "an increased longing for and understanding of the importance of Christian Unity started to grow in us. We wanted to help our network, and believers in general, to have a deepened understanding of the Body of Christ and relate stronger to God's people in the historic churches." Charles and Sue Whitehead helped organise trips for Word of Life pastors to Rome to help facilitate this. Through prayer, study and conversations with individual Roman

Catholics, Ulf discovered "how little I really knew about them, their spirituality and their beliefs. Unconsciously I carried many prejudices and bad attitudes and have been quick to judge them without really knowing what they actually believed."

The more he reflected the more he understood that the Lord was actually leading him and his wife not only to appreciate but to become part of the Roman Catholic Church. He emphasized that this was a personal decision and would not affect the future of the Word of Life network, nationally or internationally, from which he has stepped down from the leadership a couple of years ago. He commented, "The Word of Life is today much more open to the greater body of Christ than it was ten years ago. Unity is part of its vision but it will continue its distinct calling that has been the same since 1983 which is to "equip God's people with his Word of Faith, teach about their spiritual weapons, train them how to use them and send them forth in victorious battle for the Lord."

As Roman Catholics, we have greatly benefited in the past from high profile converts like Cardinal Newman in the 19th century, and more recently academics like Scott Hahn, who have often helped us as a Church to appreciate the depths of our own riches. They have also often brought with them, valuable new insights or ways of doing things from their own tradition. So we wait with anticipation to see what Ulf Ekman will bring to the Church and we will certainly be asking him in the future to share his thoughts in Goodnews magazine.

CELEBRATING PENTECOST 2014

One of the callings of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal is to encourage the celebration of the feast of Pentecost, which is so often the forgotten feast in the Catholic Church. One of the best ways of helping people to benefit from the fullness of this feast is by organising the Life in the Spirit seminars in the Easter-tide period leading up to the feast of Pentecost, which this year falls on Sunday 8th June 2014. Below are details of some of the groups round the country who have told us about the Life in the Spirit seminars they are doing and their Pentecost events.

ALL NATIONS LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS AND PENTECOST CELEBRATION IN SOUTH LONDON

The All Nations Catholic Charismatic Groups network (English and non-English groups based in the London area) led by Simon Maduekwe are pooling their resources to put on a joint Life in the Spirit seminars (LSS) with a difference this year. Five of the groups are hosting the LSS at their prayer groups in the Eastertide period, leading up to Pentecost. The plan is for everyone to come together on Pentecost Sunday for a big celebration day of talks, praise & worship and prayer for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Sunday 8th June 1pm-7pm (hosted by Fr Paul Hough at St Elphege's Church, 120 Stafford Road, Wallington, Surrey SM6 9AY). This will include a special Pentecost Mass concelebrated by Bishop Paul Hendricks, a talk by Fr Britto Belevendran and prayers for anointing by Fr Mark Binang. The celebration will end with a feast of international cuisine. **For more details contact Simon Maduekwe 07947 493683 or Frances Anderson 0208 761 0380**

Part of the vision for the seminars is that members of the groups will receive training in the different ministries. A day for the training of speakers was arranged in conjunction with the CCR centre, with a view to creating a pool of speakers from the different groups who could then be sent out to give the seminar talks over the 8 week period. Those with strong music ministries it is hoped will also go and share their gifts with other groups. Locations for the All Nations LSS include:

THORNTON HEATH - Start 27th April-8th June (Sundays) 7pm-9pm organised by Christ the King CCR at St Andrew's Church, 45 Brook Road, Surrey CR7 7RD **Contact 078337 40651 or 07828 027885**

LONDON - FULHAM - Start 27th April -8th June (Sundays) 2-5pm organised by Lord of Pardon CCR (Filipino community) at the Church Hall of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 2 Tynemouth Street, SW6 2QT. **Contact 07588 457643 or 077332 10142**

CAMBERWELL - Start 26th April -7th June (Saturdays) 7-9pm organised by Divine Love Community at Sacred Heart Church, 2 Knatchbull Road, London SE5 9QS **Contact 075359 24420 or 07983 592003**

CROYDON - Start 25th April – 6th June (Fridays) 6.30-9pm organised by Padre Pio CCR at St Mary's Catholic Church, 70 Wellesley Road, CR0 2AR. **Contact 07533 911071 or 07405 636211**

NEW ADDINGTON - Start 24th April – 5th June (Thursdays) 6-8pm organised by Good Shepherd CCR at Good Shepherd RC Church, 25 Dunley Drive, New Addington, CR0 0RG **Contact 07529 633106 or 07898 906947**

OTHER LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS TAKING PLACE

FARNHAM - 23rd April – 4th June Wednesdays at 7.45-9.30pm at St Joan of Arc Parish Centre, Tilford Road, Farnham GU9 8DJ. Speakers include: Charles Whitehead, Jenny Baker, David Payne, Niklas Carlson, Geoff & Gina Poulter, Tim Stevens, Derek Williams. **Contact: Alastair Emblem tel 01252 714809 or email: alastairembem@yahoo.co.uk**

ABERGAVERNNEY - 29th April -10th June at 7pm at Our Lady & St Michael Parish, Penn y Pound, Abergavenny NP7 5UD. Speakers include Fr Matthew Jones, Fr

Barnabas Page, Kevin Loud, Kristina Cooper, Simon Cameron, Jenny Baker, Fr Matt Anscombe. **Contact Michael Woodward 07790 943853 www.shotwithspirit.com**

TELFORD - 12th & 19th May, 9th & 16th June, 23rd & 30th June Mondays at 7.30-9.30pm at Our Lady of the Rosary & St Luke's, Church Road, Trench, TF2 7HG Speakers Peter Stokes, Benoit Ritzenthaler, Fr Joe Donlan, Pauline Heffernan, Rev Leslie Burk, Fr Iain Griffiths. **Contact Rita Wilkinson 01952 276782**

LONDON CHelsea - 1st May -19th June (Thursday mornings) organised by the CCR Centre at 11am-1pm for the parish of Our Lady of Dolours Church, 264 Fulham Road, SW10 9EL. Speakers Fr Pat Ryall, Rev Roger Evans, Niru Fernando, Daphne Kilner, Fr Chris O'Brien, Monica Chiles, Madeleine O'Connell **Call 020 7352 5298**

BRACKNELL, BERKS - 6th May- 17th June (Tuesdays) 8pm to 9.30pm at ST Joseph and St Margaret Clitherow Church, Stanley Walk, Town Centre, Berks RG12 1HA. Speakers include Jenny Baker, David Matthews, David Payne, Maria Rodrigues, Matt van



Duyvenbode, Charles Whitehead, & James Wilkinson. **Contact 01344 420465 www.bracknellcatholicchurch.org.uk**

EASTBOURNE - 8th May -12th June (Thursdays) at 7pm-9pm at St Agnes RC Church, Whiteley Road. Speakers Jenny Baker, Kristina Cooper, David Matthews, Fr Neil Chatfield, Fr Bill Keogh, Charles Whitehead. Includes day of prayer on 31st May. **Contact Angela at asquizzoni@sky.com 07582 267546**

BRENTWOOD - 8th May -19th June (Thursdays) 7.45-9.45pm at Brentwood Cathedral parish hall, Ingrave Road, Brentwood. **Contact 020 8531 7020 or email eileenalana50@talktalk.net (special thanksgiving Mass on 26th June).**

CARDIFF - 22nd April -17th June 7.30-9.30pm at St Peter's RC Church, St Peter's Street, CF24 3BA **Contact Spiro 07815 165104 www.stpetersprayergroupcardiff.org.uk**

IRELAND

Sr Bridget Dunne, the chairperson of the National Service Committee for the CCR in Ireland, regularly runs the Life in the Spirit seminars at the Haven in Cork, where she is based. She is also a fount of knowledge about local Life in the Spirit seminars which are taking place. **For more details contact her at bridgetdunne@eircom.net or tel 00 353 21 425 1100**

PENTECOST CELEBRATIONS

LIVERPOOL

Two cathedrals Service. 3 Days of Prayer to welcome the Holy Spirit. Inviting all Christians of Merseyside to unite in prayer, waiting and desire for the coming of the Holy Spirit. **Further details katemartin_au@yahoo.com.au**

LONDON-EALING - Pentecost Vigil (Sat) 7.15-9.30pm organised by Westminster DST for CCR at Ealing Abbey parish hall. (Vigil Mass at Ealing Abbey at 6pm) **Further details Brenda1cox @aol.com**

PAISLEY, Scotland - Pentecost vigil (Sat) at St Mirin's Cathedral, Incle Street, PA1 1HR. Start 10am end vigil Mass 4.30pm with Bishop John Keenan. Speaker Fr Bill Keogh. **Contact Anne Gafney (01505) 342690**

KNOCK Ireland - Pentecost Vigil (Sat) 7th June 9pm-1am including Mass at 12 midnight with Fr Eamonn Monson sac. Theme "The Joy of the Lord is your strength" (Nehemiah 8:10) Evening led by Youth2000, Pure in Heart and Irish School of Evangelisation(ISOE). **For details call ISOE 00 3531 282 7658 or email isoe@esatclear.ie**

PENTECOST RETREATS

DURHAM - 6th-8th June (residential) led by Anne Liddell (worship leader) at Minsteracres Retreat Centre, nr Consett, Co Durham DH8 9RT. **Tel 01434 673248 or info @ minsteracres.org.uk**

DALMALLY - 6th-8th June (residential) led by Fr Pat Collins CM at Craig Lodge retreat centre, Dalmally, Argyll PA33 1AR. **Tel 01838 200216 or email mail@craiglodge.org**

POST PENTECOST CELEBRATIONS

20th -22th June "Renew Your Wonders" with Damian Stayne. A conference equipping you with keys to inherit the miraculous promises of Pentecost in your life. Also Open Miracle Healing Service at 7pm on **21st June** at St Andrews shared church, Washington Drive, Cippenham, Slough, SL1 5RE. **Contact tel 01932 565747 www.coretlumenchristi.org**

NEW RESIDENTIAL UK BASE FOR FAMOUS INDIAN RETREAT CENTRE



The Divine Retreat Centre Kerala (popularly known as Potta) has stepped out in faith and bought St Augustine's Abbey in Ramsgate as a base in Europe for their retreats and for their TV channel. An estimated 10 million people from all over the world have attended their retreat centre in India, and it has been one of the key tools the Lord has used to evangelise and bring renewal to the Catholic Church in India.

As the bank would not give them a mortgage, the £1.9 million asking price for the building, which used to belong to the Benedictines, was raised in the form of gifts and loans from the public. The Abbey is very large, with 60 bedrooms, and sits in 4 acres of grounds. Although a lot of restoration work still needs to be done, the

supporters of the project are very excited by the future and there are plans to run English and Malayalam speaking retreats in the future.



Archbishop Peter Smith blessed and inaugurated the centre at a special celebration Mass on 16th March 2014 attended by 1500 people. Prior to the celebration, there were two day retreats led by Fr Augustine Vallooran (in English) and by Fr George Panackal (in Malayalam) at the new premises. Fr George will be overall in charge of the project but the practical running of the centre is in the hands of Fr Joseph Edattu. ***Those who would like to know about forthcoming retreats, should please contact him on Tel 07548 303824.***

NOVENA to the HOLY SPIRIT

Renew your wonders
in this our day
as by a new Pentecost.

Pope John XXIII

Father, pour out your Spirit
upon your people,
and grant us
a new vision of your glory,
a new experience of your power,
a new faithfulness to your Word, and
a new consecration to your service,
that your love may
grow among us,
and your kingdom come:
through Christ our Lord.
Amen

PENTECOST NOVENA CARDS

Pray for parish renewal with our famous Pentecost Novena cards. Still **only 10p each + postage (or £10 for 100 including postage)**. Cheques payable to "CREW Trust".

Send a Pentecost Greeting with Mary di Piro's beautiful Pentecost painting. **Only 30p each or 4 for £1, plus postage.**

Give a friend a copy of '50 Days of Freedom' with prayers and reflections from Easter Sunday to Pentecost. **Reduced from £2 each to £1 each plus postage for those buying more than 5 copies.**

Contact Goodnews office 020 7352 5298 / ccruk @ onetel.com



PRAYER INTENTIONS

Please pray for all those doing the Life in the Spirit seminars at this time, that there will be a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Remember especially the volunteers from the CCR Office who will be running the Life in the Spirit Seminars on Thursday mornings from 11am-1pm for the parish of Our Lady of Dolours Church, where our office is based, starting on 1st May until 19th June. For information about more seminars see page 32.

CONGRATULATIONS



Fr Tom Kenny, former member of the English NSC and apostle of Evangelisation in Yorkshire celebrates his diamond jubilee on 24th July 2014.

There will be a celebration Mass at English Martyrs Church, Wakefield the following day on 25th July at 7.30pm.

LAUNCH OF NEW CATHOLIC MAGAZINE - SHALOM TIDINGS



SHALOM, a media ministry that grew out of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in India, launched an English version of their popular magazine Shalom Tidings in the UK in March this year. It is a similar version to

the one they publish in the United States, but with a couple of articles from English writers. It is a full colour glossy magazine beautifully presented with lots of pictures and good Catholic teaching. Those who would like a copy should contact them at **Shalom Tidings, Dalton House, 60 Windsor Avenue, London SW19 2RR tel 020 3514 1275 or EUROPE @ SHALOMWORLD.ORG**

PRAYING FOR HEALING

with excitement, expectation and the presence of Jesus the Christian Healing Mission in London is running a three session course on prayer ministry 8th, 15th, 22nd May at 7.15pm-9.15pm.

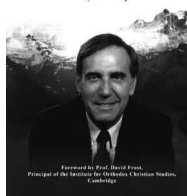
Christian Healing Mission, 8 Cambridge Court, 210 Shepherd's Bush Road, London W6 7NJ

Tel 020 7603 8118 - www.healingmission.org

PRAYER GROUPS LIST - URGENT!

If you would like the details of your prayer group to be included in our summer prayer group list supplement (July/August issue), please send details by 15th May 2014 to Goodnews (prayer group list) CCR Centre, The Crypt, Our Lady of Dolours Church, 264 Fulham Road, London SW10 9EL or email ccruk @ onetel.com. Please include day of the week you meet, time, location (full address) and contact details.

Visited by God
The story of Michael Harper's 48 year long ministry told by Jeanne Harper



NEW BOOK OUT ABOUT FR MICHAEL HARPER APOSTLE OF CHRISTIAN UNITY

"Visited by God" is the story of Michael Harper, the visionary and Charismatic leader, who did so much through his long ministry to spread Charismatic Renewal and bring about Christian Unity through personal relationships and his writings and ability to bring leaders to work together. This memoir, written by his wife Jeanne, his collaborator and co-worker, tracks his personal faith journey from being an Anglican evangelical curate to joining and becoming the first dean of the British Antiochian Orthodox community. Archbishop Rowan Williams said about him, "Michael Harper witnessed in a most direct and convincing way to the great truth that holds believers together." **Book available on Amazon.**

ERRATUM in last issue

The correct dates of the Birmingham Charismatic Conference 11th-15th August 2014. See page 21

‘Restoring the Prophetic’

CATHOLIC PROPHECY CONFERENCE

AT THE HOUSE OF THE OPEN DOOR, WORCESTERSHIRE
WITH ANDY STAYNE & THE NEW LIFE COMMUNITY

10th-12th OCTOBER 2014

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sons and daughters”



Join our Pentecost renewal retreat
with Anne Liddell

Friday 6—Sunday 8 June 2014, £120

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or e mail info@minsteracres.org
Minsteracres Retreat Centre, near Consett, County Durham, DH8 9RT

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for a quote if you want to have an INSERTS

CCR Centre

THE CCR CENTRE IS NOW 1 YEAR OLD!

Following last year's wonderful celebration Mass for the official opening of the CCR Centre in Chelsea, it was decided to make this an annual event for prayer group leaders and friends and donors of the Renewal. Thus on Thursday 27th March, we had our second Mass at Our Lady of Dolours Church in Chelsea, concelebrated by Archbishop Kevin McDonald, in thanksgiving to God for all the blessings he has given the Catholic Charismatic Renewal over the last year, and in particular the graces we have received through the CCR Centre. As last time our wonderful Centre volunteers outdid themselves in preparing a marvellous buffet of home made goodies and delicacies, which were much appreciated by the 130 or so prayer group leaders and other guests who attended. Music was provided by Peter Moran and the Sion community and Michelle Moran gave a short address outlining the work of the centre and some of its future plans.

One exciting new development is the **Life in the Spirit seminars** which are being organised by the CCR Centre team and friends for the parish of Our Lady of Dolours, starting on **1st May until 19th June 2014** on Thursday mornings 11am-1pm. This will conclude with a light lunch, when the culinary gifts of our volunteers will no doubt once more be on display. One of the talks will be given by Fr Pat Ryall, the parish priest of Our Lady of Dolours, who was involved in the CCR in its early days, and another by Fr Chris O'Brien, another Servite priest with a background in CCR, who is also part of the Servite community. Please pray for this event and that it will bring conversion and transformation to all who attend.

- We continue with our weekly sessions on **Mondays** (2-4pm) with Prayer for Healing in the church colonnade, open to anyone interested.

- We also have a monthly Outreach on the **2nd Wednesdays** (12 noon-3pm.), when we invite passers by in for tea/coffee and use the opportunity to share the Good News of the gospel with them.

- On the **3rd Wednesdays** (11.30am-3pm) we have an intercession day and time of fellowship, which leaders are also welcome to come to.

If you would like to join us ring Gabriele on 020 7352 5298 or ccruk@onetel.com

On Monday 14th April at 6.30pm we had our first theological evening with a paper delivered by Stefanie Donovan who through her PhD research into the work of Olivier Clément, has discovered that several theologians like him have had a Baptism in the Spirit type experience which had changed their lives and propelled them into new areas of research. She was intrigued by this synergy between spiritual experience and theological development and gave a paper on this theme entitled "Louis Massignon, Thomas Merton, Olivier Clément, Christian de Chergé: Theology of Hope, Theology of Encounter".

