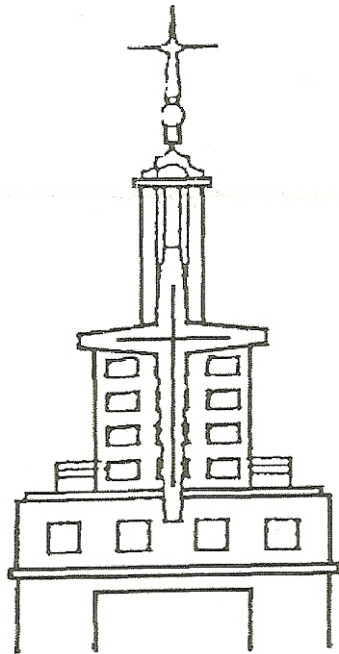


# CLARION RECALL



**NUMBER 29 JUNE 2010**

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## EDITORIAL

This edition of CLARION RECALL comes to you just a few weeks before the proposed 2010 REUNION EVENT AT JK - see next page. We hope that a timely reminder about this will stiffen (or spark into action!) your resolve to 'come on down' again to the place where you enjoyed many moments of your teenage and twenty-something years.. ..

**The opportunity to see old friends (and re-visit old haunts) inevitably decreases as the years go by (not least because of concerns about mobility and health). But a gentle summer trip back to Mill Hill on what is going to be a blissfully sunny day? .... (or even if not, there are spacious indoor alternatives). Here's an ideal chance to catch up one more time with friends from JKCYC and AYPAs days - and the relaxed, extended form of the event makes it ideal for sitting and chatting and exchanging news and views. The present congregation at JK promise a warm welcome, --- so come on folks, make a special effort! You might regret it if you just potter about at home that day ... And the World Cup Final doesn't start till 7.30 pm.**

Let Shirley or Rex know if you plan to come (our e-mail addresses and phone numbers are on the front-page) so that we can give some idea of 'RECALL reader numbers' to those doing the catering. There will be no charge, but a donation in the collection-plate during the day wouldn't come amiss .....

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JK's newly appointed vicar (see pages 4-7) isn't entirely unknown to your editor. When he was a young ordinand at Westcott House in the 1990s, Chris Chivers came on a short attachment to the parish of St Mark, Newnham, Cambridge, where Rex and Wendy worship regularly. He took part in some services and looked and sounded good then - and his subsequent career seems to bear out the fact that he's going to make a big impact in his first incumbency.

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Our first issue of CLARION RECALL was in August 1987 and we have had another 28 since, so our 23-year run has comfortably outlasted the original CLARION magazine, which ran between 1952 and 1958. But looking back at the smudgy quality of the pictures we printed in that first edition makes you realise how far technology has come in the meantime. So we might try a re-run of some of those pictures in future issues.

And since publisher and editor now prepare each issue through electronic communication rather than hard copy, we took a straw poll of some readers about whether they would like RECALL made available by e-mail. Some who are keen on saving paper say "Yes"; but others express a preference for "something tangible - something you can leave around on the bedside-table". Let us know your views ....

## **'BACK TO JK' DAY -- Sunday JULY 11th 2010**

The gentle professor poet, John Keble, preached his 'Assize Sermon', (designed to wake up the Church of England from its current lethargy) at Christ Church, Oxford on July 14<sup>th</sup> 1833. That sermon is commonly held to be the date which marks the start of the 'Oxford Movement' a successful nineteenth-century bid to reform the C of E and restore life and beauty and colour to its services, as well as remind the church of its historic catholic (with a small 'c') traditions.

That is how July 14th comes to be date of the annual Patronal Festival at JK - and the parish has always made a special occasion of the Sunday nearest that date. In recent years, special Festival services have been accompanied by jollifications for the rest of the day - and that is what is planned again this year. Which makes it an appropriate occasion for ex-Jk-ites to return and enjoy a reunion, as well as join in celebrations with the rest of the parish. So CLARION RECALL readers will be warmly welcomed to join in the fun on Sunday July 11th; and it's an ideal chance to catch up with old friends in a relaxed atmosphere through the day.

Here's the programme for the day;

### **10.30 am (NB the later-than-usual starting time) FAMILY COMMUNION**

Preacher will be the Revd Martin Poll, a former curate at JK in the 1980's and now a senior Royal Navy chaplain.

**11.45 Festivities begin.** (Outdoors if fine, in the hall and church, if wet.) There will be a **lunchtime barbecue cooking up a Hog Roast** and a bar.

**A host of activities and entertainments are planned for the afternoon** -- a Brass Band, a dancing display, an exhibition of martial arts, and Punch and Judy. Stalls will be selling toys, summer gifts, cards, cakes, and all the usual church fete things! There will be side shows such as 'Smash the plates' ' Splat the rat' and 'Beat the Goalie' A Ducking Stool will present the opportunity for well-known church personalities to volunteer (or be volunteered.. . .) to sit on a chair with a bucket of water over their head, whilst, for a small fee, you have the chance to aim tennis balls at a target and if successful tip the bucket.. . .

And you can just stroll around, recognise some old friends and sit and chat .....

Cream teas will be served later and the day will be rounded off with ...

### **4 pm Choral Evensong**

# NEW VICAR FOR JK

In 75 years of JK's history, there haven't been too many opportunities to use the 'New Vicar' headline. And the last time was thirty years ago. As we mentioned in RECALL 28, JK's previous vicars number just six - Oswin Gibbs-Smith (1932-41), Edward Motley (1941-1957), Rennie Simpson (1958-62), John Ginever (1963-70), John Dennis (1971-79) and Oliver Osmond (1981-2009).\*

But after a long-ish inter-regnum, following Oliver Osmond's return to Canada, a new vicar has been named and the appointment has already caused considerable excitement in the parish and been warmly welcomed. **The seventh occupant of the JK post will be Canon Chris Chivers, at present Canon Chancellor of Blackburn Cathedral.** He will take up his post in Mill Hill early in September 2010.

Chris is 42 years old and married with three small children, Dominic, Gregory and Jonathan. He met his wife, Mary, when he was a young curate in North London, at Friern Barnet. She claims to already know JK church at close quarters having abseiled down it for charity twenty years ago - surely a unique claim for a new vicar's wife to make?! (We think this must have been on the day that JK Scouts and Guides arranged a spectacular mass abseil from the tower of the church when raising funds in a campaign early in the 1990s.. .).

**Chris Chivers's c.v. is long and impressive, as you will see, if you read on . . . . .**

## EARLY MUSICAL YEARS

He was born on 16 July 1967, (encouragingly close to JK's Patronal Festival date. ..) and educated at Bristol Cathedral School where he was a chorister in the cathedral choir and pupil assistant organist. He subsequently read for a degree in music at Magdalen College, Oxford where he was an Academical Clerk (Choral Scholar) in the College Choir, the President of the College Music Society and Musical Director of the Oxford Chamber Choir.

He is a published composer whose choral works have been sung by the choirs of King's College Cambridge, Westminster Abbey, Blackburn, Bristol, Cape Town and Gloucester Cathedrals, as well as by the choirs of Gonville & Caius and Queen's Colleges in Cambridge and New College, Magdalen, Lincoln and St Peter's Colleges in Oxford. Following graduation he successively spent short spells as Director of Music at New College School, Oxford and Assistant Director of Music at The Cheltenham Ladies' College before being appointed as Lay Chaplain and Housemaster at King's College

School, Cambridge (1989-1994), where he had pastoral responsibility for the choristers of the world-famous King's College Choir.

### GETTING ORDAINED

In 1994 he went to Westcott House, Cambridge, to prepare for ordination (1994- 1997) whilst reading for a Theology and Religious Studies degree at Selwyn College, Cambridge (1994- 1996).

He also spent much of his third year (1996-97) in South Africa devising a workshop (Children's Ubuntu Project) to support the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and working with street children and those living with HIV and AIDS. This led to his first book, *Echoes of a Rainbow Song*.

He was ordained in 1997 in St Paul's Cathedral by the Bishop of London, and served his curacy in the Parish of Friern Barnet. During his time there he was named one of the top ten preachers of the year in *The Times* 1999 Preacher of the Year competition.

In North London he met and married his wife Mary and they had their first son Dominic (born 1999) while he was still in the parish.

### SOUTH AFRICAN INTERLUDE

Moving to South Africa, he took up an appointment as Canon Precentor of St George's Cathedral, Cape Town. This appointment saw him oversee the cathedral's liturgy, music and outreach programmes.

In 2000-2001 he coordinated the cathedral's centenary year and was director of the project to add 'Liberation panels' to the cathedral's Great West Window as one of the first public memorials in South Africa to the anti-apartheid struggle. He was also chair of the Cape Town Holocaust Centre's interfaith support group and became one of the first priests in the world to give an address at Friday Prayers in a Mosque - the Claremont Main Road Masjid - following 9/11.

He contributed frequently as a freelance journalist to *Cape Times*, *Cape Argus* and *Sunday Independent*, and a collection of his articles and sermons, *The Hard Road to Glory* (Pretext Publishing) appeared in 2001. His and Mary's second son, Gregory was born in Cape Town in 2000.

## RETURN TO BRITAIN: WESTMINSTER ABBEY AND BLACKBURN

In November 2001 he was appointed Precentor of Westminster Abbey in London, with responsibility for the worship of one of the world's busiest religious institutions. At the same time he became Chaplain of Westminster Abbey Choir School. Within months he had overseen the funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother on the same day that he led a service for victims of the Rwandan Genocide. A book of sermons, *The Open Window* (Pretext Publishing), appeared in 2004.

Late in 2004 the Crown announced his appointment as Canon Chancellor of Blackburn Cathedral and he was installed in March 2005 with a specific brief to develop inter-faith relations as the cathedral's canon theologian.

During his time at the cathedral he has appointed the first Muslim, Anjum Anwar MBE, to the staff of a cathedral anywhere in the world, to act as dialogue development officer, and the two of them have formed a Christian-Muslim dialogue partnership that is a first of its kind. This work has been the subject of numerous articles, profiles and newspaper letters. It has also been featured in their own contributions to leading public discussions. He and Anjum Anwar presented a paper at the international conference, *Beyond Reconciliation*, held at the University of Cape Town in December 2009 to mark the UN Year of Reconciliation.

A freelance journalist and broadcaster, he writes for *The Guardian*, *The Church Times* and *The Tablet*, among other publications. Appointed a Trustee of USPG: Anglicans in World Mission in 2005 he has since 2006 been a Presenter of 'The Daily Service' for BBC Radio 4 and broadcasts frequently on local and national radio. In 2006 he scripted and broadcast the BBC Radio 4 Christmas Meditation with Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu and in 2009 he broadcast live from the Inauguration of President Barack Obama in Washington DC.

In 2008 he was named the North West's Man of the Year in the Fusion awards for his work to foster community relationships, the same year that he received an award at the British Muslims' Awards Dinner in the House of Lords and acted as a worship coordinator for the Lambeth Conference.

He acts as a faith advisor to the Charity Commission, a community advisor to the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust and also advises figures in local and national government and the Police. In 2009 he became a Companion of the Melanesian Brotherhood, the largest Anglican monastic order in the world.

## COMING BACK TO NORTH LONDON

Commenting on his appointment he said: **"I am very much looking forward to joining the community at John Keble as they begin to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the building of the church. Whilst I shall miss the immense challenges and opportunities that Lancashire has offered, especially in relation to some of the toughest issues for our contemporary world, I know that there is so much to learn from the challenges people face in Mill Hill. I look forward to being there and to what we shall be able to do together."**

One previous vicar of John Keble Church shares both Blackburn and Westminster Abbey connections with Canon Chivers. Rennie Simpson, vicar from 1957 to 1965, had previously been Succentor of Blackburn Cathedral and went on to be Precentor of Westminster Abbey.

For further biographical information on JK's new vicar, see the John Keble Church website or: [http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Reverend\\_Canon\\_Chris\\_Chivers](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Reverend_Canon_Chris_Chivers). **We hope to interview him for a future issue of RECALL and hope also that he will get to know many of us.**



**Here's a picture of JK's new vicar (from September 2010),  
Canon Christopher Chivers.**

- *An altogether more difficult task than naming JK vicars would be to name the curates (and, more recently, non-stipendiary ministers) who have served at John Keble since the church was founded in 1932 - there are probably 40 or 50 of them. There doesn't seem to be a list anywhere in the parish histories or on the church notice boards. Would anyone zealous RECALL reader care to compile one? Almost all of them were leaders of the youth club and /or AYPAs at some time or other. We offer a small prize for the longest (accurate) list of JK curates received, by the time we go to print with RECALL 30 .....*

## **MALCOLM AND THE MAUNDY MONEY**

**Former JK curate and youth club leader, Malcolm Cherry, who now lives near Bury St Edmunds, tells how he got a summons through the post.. . . .**

It was a day at the beginning of March. We received in the post the usual supply of large envelopes containing 'begging letters' and bills. We quickly glanced at these without enthusiasm and put them down. Only later in the day, when they were moved did we discover that one of them was an envelope marked 'Buckingham Palace'. Inside was an invitation to be a recipient of the Royal Maundy in St Edmundsbury Cathedral on Maundy Thursday 2009. I was flabbergasted! So, after filling in some brief details about myself for the Queen, I replied, greatly honoured.

I was not surprised that the Royal Maundy would be taking place in Bury St Edmunds. In January our Archdeacon had come to a meeting of the Bury St Edmunds Clerical Society and while discussing our future programme we had found that our April meeting would be on the Tuesday in Holy Week. The Archdeacon had pointed out that the Diocesan Chrism Service would be on that Tuesday "*for reasons I am not at liberty to disclose*", that rang bells in my head. When I was serving in St Alban's Diocese, the Chrism service was always on the Tuesday before Easter as our Diocesan Bishop was Lord High Almoner at the time and always had to attend the Queen on Maundy Thursday with a rehearsal on the Wednesday..... So I guessed aright.

The Royal Maundy Service goes back to before 1066AD and appears to have been roughly the same since the 12th century. It fell into disuse during the Commonwealth period but was revived by King Charles II who washed the feet of poor people at the Maundy Service; a task later devolved to whichever Bishop was Lord High Almoner at the time. The act of washing of feet at this service seems to have been discontinued about 1730 but the Lord High Almoner and his assistants are still girded with linen towels at the



ceremony, in remembrance of Christ's washing of the feet of his disciples at the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday.

Until the 1950s, the service was always held at one of the Royal Chapels or at Westminster Abbey. When our present Queen came to the throne, she decided to have the service at a different cathedral each year: in 2008 she went to Armagh Cathedral in Northern Ireland. During her reign she has missed only four of these services, due either to maternity leave or foreign visits. The recipients these days are those chosen by the cathedral she visits, for having given Christian service to the community.

About a fortnight before, we assembled in St Edmundsbury Cathedral to meet the Lord High Almoner, the present Bishop of Manchester, and other officers of the Royal Almonry Office. We were given the history of the service and briefed on our part and how to address the Queen ("Ma'm" and NOT 'Ma'rm"). This was followed by tea.

On the great day itself, Peggy, my wife, and our daughter Joanna, arrived in the city at 8.30 am; there was a parking space reserved for us at Shire Hall. The police then screened us (we had to show a passport or driving licence with photograph). We were given a badge and then boarded special coaches (which had lifts for wheelchairs) and were taken to the Athenaeum (assembly rooms) opposite the Cathedral for a final briefing and some refreshments.

Peggy and Joanna left me and went to the cathedral; I had to wait along with 82 other men, and 83 ladies (one for each year of the Queen's life). We were the last to enter the cathedral before the various processions of dignitaries - Lord Lieutenants of the county, Judges, Mayors, etc. We walked in procession to our designated chairs which were facing inwards in the aisles of the nave.

The service was timed to begin at 11.00 am but as anticipated, the Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, was early by five minutes. At the appropriate moment, we stood and she walked down the lines handing two leather purses to each one of us and offering a word here and there. Each purse was about five inches in height with a drawstring at the top. The white purse contained 83 pence in silver coins of different denominations; the red purse had two special coins - a £5 coin commemorating the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the accession of Henry VIII to the throne and a 50p coin commemorating the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Kew Gardens. The red purse notionally contains 'an allowance for clothing and provisions', and the gift was formerly given in kind! I murmured *"Thank you, your majesty, it's a great honour"* as I received the purse, given with a warm smile.

It was a very moving occasion and went exactly according to plan and to schedule. Indeed, the organisation was so excellent that we all felt relaxed. The Queen always brings the Yeoman of the Guard, her personal bodyguard (founded by King Henry VII), resplendent in their red uniforms and they carried in the red and white purses. She also brought her own choristers from the Chapel Royal, robed in scarlet with lace and gold braid, who joined forces with the Cathedral choir. One of those who received a purse on this occasion was a lady aged 107, the oldest known recipient of the Royal Maundy. She was on our table at the luncheon afterwards, in a magnificent marquee beside the cathedral.

It was a stunning day and a great honour.

## **FAREWELL, DENISE**



We are sad to report the death of ex-JKCYC member Denise Durrant (nee France) in May, after a long and brave battle with cancer. Denise and her husband Peter and family had lived in the village of Assington near Colchester since the 1970s, and she had been senior churchwarden of her village church for over twenty years. The church was full for the funeral on a gloriously sunny day in June which was her 72<sup>nd</sup> birthday. "Denise has organised the weather perfectly for today, just as she has organised perfectly everything else for her own funeral" said her vicar, Robin Fox, opening the service. He went on to recall with a smile that he and others in the congregation had 'suffered at her hands' in a

literal sense, since many of them had been patients of hers at her flourishing physiotherapy practice in Sudbury, Suffolk.

Addresses at the funeral were given by Rex Walford and David Durrant, Denise and Peter's elder son, and Denise was interred in the churchyard directly after the service. Rex recalled her years as a member of JKCYC and spoke especially of Denise's contributions to the annual Hendon Youth Arts Festival, (where she had won classes in writing poetry, reading-prose and directing drama), and to The Good Companions, with whom she had played many leading parts between 1956 and 1960. Malcolm Cherry, who had prepared her for confirmation at JK in 1955 (she was among his first set of confirmation candidates) was one of those who attended the funeral and Ricky and Shirley Collman represented RECALL readers.

Denise, an Old Cophthallian, attended several of the JK reunion events and was last seen, (looking as cool and elegant as ever) with Peter, at the 2005 reunion at the Old Finchleians Club and also at the 2007 JK anniversary lunch.

## **CLARION CALLS - NEWS FROM AND ABOUT OUR READERS**

**Thea Cooper, widow of former JKCYC leader Angus**, writes to let us know that he has moved back to Melbourne to be nearer to her family, and reminisces along the way about the time she spent at JK from 1953-55. "The photos in RECALL are great - it does put everyone into the 'here and now' perspective" she says "but I can remember you all as 55 years younger!" Thea says she has ALL 28 copies of CLARION RECALL filed and often looks back at them.

Thea recalls ; "Remembering back -getting married at 23 and sailing off to England (having never left home before) was a very traumatic (even if exciting) experience for me; I remember being very homesick for a long time, since it was far too expensive to phone home in those days. So we were lucky to be at JK where everyone was so friendly and welcoming. It was a very big learning curve for me - but I survived and now have great memories to look back on.. .."

While they were here Thea and Angus lived in the curate's house at 27 Sefton Avenue. Another ex-Sefton Avenue resident **Joan Ford (nee Warland)** was also recalling the many JKCYC folk who lived in that road on a recent visit back to the UK from Spain, where she now lives. She recalled the **Holdens (Derek and**

**Michael) the Wicks-Bagots (Serena and Jennifer), Gillian Grantham, Peter and Ann Stephens . . .** and wonders what ever happened to her neighbours **the Owens - the lively Beverley and the more lugubrious Nick** (Nick always remembered as 'the one who played the drums' - and loudly.. .). Does any one know?

Rex, our editor, was leading a U3A day workshop in Sussex recently on "The poets and tunesmiths of Tin Pan Alley" and found **Brian and Jose Wright** (now living in Cuckfield) amongst his students. Typically, when the course members were asked to write a song lyric as an exercise, it was Brian's effort which stood out head and shoulders as wittier and more polished than the rest.. ..

**Ricky Claydon** left behind in his possessions a film of a televised JK communion service from the 50s. **Paul Fernberg** has now transcribed this on to DVD and if anyone would like to see it, we can probably arrange to have a copy made for you. **Richard Whitfield** writes from Lyme Regis to tell us he is still busy and that "I still get moved to write poetry, and occasionally try to stir-up the educational world which, as so many feel, has hugely lost its way over the last 30 years by crass political interference and all the nonsense over targeted 'bean-counting'". He has set up a new registered educational Charity, the Face to Face Trust. The word 'trust' here is an active noun and the core aim is individual and social trust-building. The Trust will be launched with a day event somewhere in the Thames valley corridor this coming October 9 or 16. Anyone interested should get in touch with Richard by 'phone [01297-4425291 or via rw @richardwhitfield.co.uk.

## **PEERING AT THE PAST: No 51**

Continuing the cricket theme from last issue --- this is probably the oldest picture we have ever featured in this long-running series. It's a picture of the Deansbrook Primary School team which took on Barnfield Primary School in 1945. Some JKCYC members here, seen in their youthful 11-year-old prime!

(see next page)



Back row, standing (left to right); Colin Marshall, John Reeves, Ken Hague, Alan Thomas Centre row; Brian Richmond, Roy Sharp, Brian Bennett. Front-row: Michael Day, Alan Stem, Geoff Owen, Geoffrey Nunn.

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## **SOME CONCLUDING CLARION ECHOES**

ROBERT ATWELL, a very popular curate at JK in 1979-81 went off to spend 10 years as a monk before returning to parish ministry as the Vicar of St Mary's, Primrose Hill. He has recently been appointed as the Suffragan Bishop of Stockport. Thanks to all those readers who have sent Shirley subscriptions since the last issue. As long as you keep topping up the money in the RECALL treasury, we suppose that we had better keep providing you with issues! This one (No 29) is quite soon after No 28, because we wanted to get something out to remind you about the JK Summer Fete on July 11" - and to hope that you will rendezvous with us and there. Even better if you bring with you some written material or photographs that can grace the pages of RECALL No 30....