

Outlook

The magazine of the Diocese of Canterbury



ISSUE 7 AUTUMN 2011

OPEN FOR LEARNING!

Sissinghurst Primary School unveil new school building



Inside: News from around the Diocese ● Chaplains serving our community ● The Gathering 2011
● What's on this Autumn ● Back to Church Sunday ● Meet Frank Skinner

Outlook

The magazine of the Diocese of Canterbury

**The Magic Flute at
Goodnestone Park
3rd September**



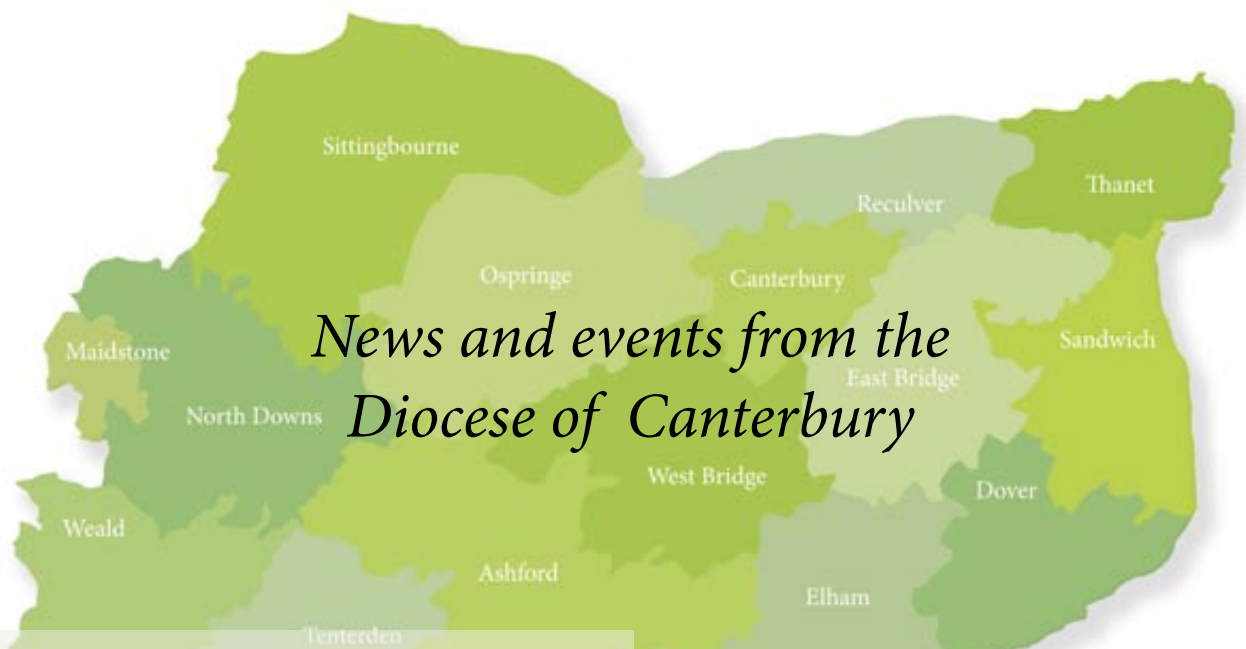
**The Gathering
Canterbury Cathedral
16-17th September**



**Open Evening
Canterbury Cathedral
5th October**



Diocesan events not to miss - find out more on pages 12-13



News and events from the Diocese of Canterbury

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FEEDBACK

We hope you enjoy reading Outlook
Magazine. Please send your articles,
photos and comments to the Editor,
Emily Shepherd.

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Welcome

The Very Reverend Robert Willis, Dean of Canterbury Cathedral



On Friday 16th and Saturday 17th of September the Cathedral Church and its Precincts will be the happy hosts of a gathering celebrating community and discipleship from our whole diocese. This will be the second time that the

parishes of the Diocese of Canterbury have gathered in this way and we of the Cathedral community remember the last occasion two years ago with enormous pleasure. It is an occasion which uses all of the spaces of this holy place both inside and outside and enlivens them in a very special way.

Hopefully there will be fine days to sit outside and enjoy each other's company so that the sense of the community of the diocese deepens as stories of discipleship are shared. I remember a sense of both happy and concentrated conversations in nooks and crannies of

the gardens surrounding the Cathedral and the creative sound of music and activity all around us.

As a diocese, during these days we shall be welcoming many special guests who will be there to facilitate all that we do and there will be a sense of something for everyone. Hopefully people will be brave in the choices that they make, since for fourteen hundred years, this has been an active and creative community, making things and celebrating, in music and words, to the glory of God. But even if the weather is bad the huge spaces of the Cathedral with its Chapter House and Cloisters are there to give adequate shelter so that our activities can continue.

Together I know that we can make this event a time of growth and new beginnings but, above all, a time when a gathering of friends, new and old, can celebrate their own discipleship.

Robert

Front Cover Story

New school building for Sissinghurst School

In July, Bishop Trevor opened a £4.75M school building, the long awaited new home for Sissinghurst Church of England Primary School.

Since 1840 the school has operated from the cramped Victorian site on The Street in the middle of the village. For over 15 years, parents, staff and governors have campaigned for a new building on Common Road, led by the Chair of Governors, Mr Colin Rice.

Speaking to the children at the special service, Bishop Trevor described his joy at the design and location of the new building saying: "I believe this school with its great space, light and colour will help you develop the gifts and talents God has given you."

Headteacher, Ms Cathy Penfold, thanked all those involved in the building project including the architects, DASL, and builders, Jenner Contractors, and said: "We now have a 21st Century learning environment, which along with our dedicated and caring team of teachers will help our children develop the skills they need for the future." As well as classrooms, the new school building includes an IT suite, library, kitchen and extensive sports facilities.

Bishop Trevor blessed the building and cut the ribbon, before unveiling the plaque in the school's foyer. The event concluded with every pupil releasing a balloon, followed by the planting of a tree in the grounds.



Diocesan News



Photo: Robert Berry

Eight new deacons ordained by Archbishop in Canterbury Cathedral

After a special ordination service at Canterbury Cathedral on Saturday 2 July, three men and five women became new Church of England curates.

Among the group was Phil Greig, 34, who, as a young adult, experienced homelessness. During this time Phil was cared for by a Church in Hackney and heard God's call to priesthood. After leaving school with few qualifications, Phil went on to discover an interest for youth work, eventually becoming Youth and Children's Advisor for the Diocese of Rochester.



Newly ordained Phil Greig at home.

Phil says: "I am very conscious of all that God and the church has done for me to keep me safe, particularly in my teenage years. I am passionate about giving back what I can and thank God for all He has done for me so far."

Julie Coleman, grandmother of seven and mother of three, is another new curate. Her previous career involved working with the disaffected and teaching English to refugees. Since the age of 14, Julie heard God's call to ordained ministry, although admits to not always being a good listener.

Julie says: "The call to ordination grew throughout the years, even when I tried to run from it. It has given me strength to face my fears and doubts, and taught me to trust and be obedient to God's call on my life."

Archbishop Rowan also ordained Joyce Addison, Robin Bendall, Alice Pettit, Julie Khovacs, Phil Sheldrake and Susan Starkings as deacons.

School Inspection Success

Teynham Parochial Church of England Primary School, Charlton Church of England VA Primary School in Dover, St George's Church of England Foundation School in Broadstairs, Kingsdown & Ringwould Church of England Primary School and St Michael's CE Infant School in Maidstone have all achieved 'outstanding' in the recent SIAS inspections (Statutory Inspection of Anglican Schools).

George Bush becomes a Patron of The Canterbury Gift

Following an invitation from the Dean of Canterbury this summer, George Bush Senior has become a Patron of The Canterbury Gift in the USA. As the President of The United States of America from 1989 – 1993 and a lifelong Episcopalian, George Bush will join a list of very distinguished Patrons, including members of the Royal Family. The Duke of Kent is Patron of The Canterbury Gift in the United Kingdom, while the Prince of Wales is Patron of The Friends of the Cathedral. The total raised by The Canterbury Gift now exceeds £14M; it is hoped George Bush's involvement will result in an even greater response to the fundraising appeal.



Young people invited on theJourney

Young people from across the diocese are invited to a new youth event, theJourney, which will take place on Saturday 1st October from 6-8pm at Canterbury Christ Church University (CCCU) Chapel, North Holmes Campus.



Organisers promise: "Time to discover, share, and respond to God together". The event will consist of a creative mix of band led worship, interactive stations and a talk. Destiny Africa Children's Choir will be giving the opening performance, and throughout the evening there will be a free café featuring Fair Trade goodies. Admission is only £1.

To find out more about theJourney, contact Murray Wilkinson at Diocesan House 01227 459401, e-mail: mwilkinson@diocant.org or visit the ChYPs blog: www.chypsministry.wordpress.com

Year of Discipleship – Christ the King Celebration

As the 24/7 Live it! Year of Discipleship enters its final few months, members of churches in the diocese are invited to attend the concluding event of the year on the Feast of Christ the King (Sunday 20 November).

During 2011, churches, deaneries and schools have been participating in the Year of Discipleship using the Lent course and monthly postcards to help people develop as disciples. Between Ascension and Pentecost, church communities participated in nine days of prayer, praying for renewal in shared discipleship. Writing in a pastoral letter after the nine days of prayer Bishop Trevor commented: "We know 'that prayer changes lives' and the nine days of prayer has proved that over and over again. Together we have witnessed a tremendous sense of enthusiasm and hope being engendered in our communities."

The last event of the Year of Discipleship takes places on the Feast of Christ the King on Sunday 20 November. The Reverend Peter Ingrams, Local Ministries Officer says the special service which takes place at Canterbury Cathedral from 5.30pm-7.00pm will provide an opportunity to: "Celebrate Christ's story within us, listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the church and for each of us to commit ourselves afresh to following Christ wherever he leads."



Reader Ministry numbers boost

A record number of people from the diocese are due to commence a four year foundation degree which will enable them to qualify as Readers. After completing their training with South East Institute of Theological Education (SEITE), the eleven new trainees will join more than 140 Readers in active ministry in the diocese, leading services and providing pastoral support.

Canon Rob Macintosh, Director of Licensed Ministries and the new Warden of Readers, commented: "Reader ministry is a unique and invaluable lay ministry. I am delighted that this ministry is growing in the Diocese of Canterbury."

On Sunday 25 September Bishop Trevor will license three Readers who have recently completed their training: Kim Palmer (Thanet Deanery), Judy Vinson (Tenterden Deanery) and John Morrison (Canterbury Deanery).

John, 61, a Ministry of Defence Civil Servant, a member of Canterbury City Centre Parish and a Canterbury Street Pastor, explains: "After a career in the military I retired to Canterbury and without a thought to ministry I studied theology in the evenings at SEITE.



"What I heard set me thinking that I should seriously consider some form of effective contribution to the Church but heard no calling to ordained ministry. It was the examples of my Parish Reader,

Tessa Taylor and our Reader Emeritus, Tim Lawson that led me to believe that lay licensed ministry was really my calling."

The licensing and celebration service at Canterbury Cathedral on 25 September starts at 6.30pm and all are invited. For reader ministry information please contact Emma Sivyver, Vocations Officer on 01227 459401 or email esivyver@diocant.org

Presentation to Diocesan Synod on the Anglican Communion Covenant



At Diocesan Synod in July, The Reverend Canon Joanna Udal (Secretary for Anglican Communion Affairs) gave a presentation on how the Anglican Communion Covenant seeks to strengthen relationships between members of the Anglican Communion worldwide and its relevance to the Church of England.

Intending to offer a means by which Anglican Communion members can commit to shared processes of decision making, mutual accountability and responsibility, the Anglican Communion Covenant has been proposed by General

Joanna Udal at Synod.

Synod and is being referred for debate and vote in each of the 44 dioceses in England.

Speaking at Diocesan Synod, Bishop Trevor thanked Canon Udal for her helpful and insightful presentation and called on each deanery to consider the Covenant during the autumn before Diocesan Synod takes the final vote in February 2012.

More information about the Covenant and Diocesan Synod can be found at:

www.canterburydiocese.org/diocesansynodnews

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Parish News



Children celebrate survival of Great Chart Parish Church

In June, children from local schools gathered to celebrate a grant awarded by English Heritage, which will help assure the future of Great Chart Parish Church, near Ashford.

The grant of £72,000 will contribute towards the cost of a new roof for the 14th Century church of St Mary the Virgin and help fund essential repair works.

Reverend Tim Wilson said: "We need to raise £230,000 so that this beautiful building can continue to serve the local community. Thanks to English Heritage and our local fundraising efforts, the 'Raise the Roof' campaign has started well."

Madison, from year six at John Wesley Church of England and Methodist Primary School, who participated in the celebrations, said: "This is a very special place for worshipping God. I think the church is also lovely for baptisms and weddings."

Mrs Mary Allen, 83, who has worshipped at Great Chart for 57 years and been involved in fundraising coffee mornings, commented: "I am delighted that so much money is being raised. I shall continue to do what I can as this church is so very special."

Parishes join for bush-craft event

In a local woodland in June, a group of eight boys and eight men from Smarden, Biddenden, and Great Chart churches spent time practising bush-craft skills and hearing stories round the campfire as part of a survival weekend.



Alex Bienfait, Vicar of Smarden, described the first mission – which was to light a fire using nothing but birch bark and flint – as a surprising success.

However, trapping rabbits for supper was less productive: "The traps we made did manage to catch one rabbit but when young, inexperienced

hands came to pick it up, it used its powerful hind legs to get away. Our back-plan then came into operation: the local Smarden Butcher, Dave Luckhurst, supplied six rabbits specially shot the night before, which the team then had to learn how to poach and skin." Alex continued: "In the evenings, the men and boys toasted marshmallows on the campfire and shared tales from the Bible and traditional folklore; which stimulated many debates." The weekend concluded with a short and simple Sunday service.

Parishioners sign for church wall

In July, parishioners were invited to sign the east wall at Holy Trinity, Broadstairs, before work to repair and restore the wall and east window commenced. Priest-in-Charge, the Reverend Canon David Roper, commented: "Church members signed the wall, which will be covered by the new finish, in the long tradition of names being left when work is done. It was a fun way to mark the start of the project for which we have raised £60,000 and which has been eagerly anticipated by both congregation and town."

Running for Kampala children's centre



From Tuesday 27th September, Richard Read will be embarking on a sponsored Pilgrim's Run in aid of Kampala Children's Centre (KCC). Richard, 53, who is a full time children's worker at St. Luke's Church in Maidstone, wants to raise money in order to fund the completion of school building in Kampala.

Richard, who has annually visited the Ugandan capital over the last three years, explained his motivation: "I know the amazing work they do, having seen how the children are safe, loved and cared for. As an educator I am also aware of the positive benefits education can bring." He will be running 144 miles in five days along Pilgrim's Way, from Winchester Cathedral to Canterbury Cathedral – completing just over a marathon each day. Upon his arrival in Canterbury, Richard's achievement will be celebrated by young people attending 'theJourney', as they enjoy a performance from Destiny Africa Children's Choir, members of whom belong to Kampala Children's Centre.

As well as contributing to the construction works, Richard hopes the money raised from his run will support more Kampalan children with the cost of their education.

To sponsor Richard Read visit:
www.uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/PilgrimsRun

Unbreakable bonds across to Romania

The bond of faith and friendship between St. Stephen's, Lympne, and a Romanian church in Olteni, remains strong – ever since the link was founded in 1998.

It was through regular emails that Kevin Brown, member of St. Stephen's, learnt that Sandor, the Romanian Minister, was struggling financially.

Sandor's eldest son Peter, 14, had just had a tumor removed from his brain. The operation was carried out in Budapest, due to the lack of medical facilities in Romania; Sandor was in urgent need of around 5,000 euros to pay for the medical and travel expenses.

Kevin Brown, who coordinated the fundraising appeal, said: "Although Aldington Project Romania closed down a while ago, we always told our friends in Romania that we would try and help if a need arose."

Revd Nicholas Cooper, Priest-in-Charge, said: "I am not surprised at the fantastic response to the Olteni appeal, but I'm still very impressed with the generosity displayed by those who gave money."

The parish of Lympne, which has raised £2,000, continue to pray for Sandor and his family.



St. John the Baptist Church, Tunstall, welcomes Palestinian visitors

This summer, from July 6 to 13, the church of St. John the Baptist, Tunstall, welcomed visitors from Emmanuel Church, Ramleh, Israel, as part of an ongoing partnership which was formed in 2008.

Ramleh, a small town between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem on the West Coast of Israel, was first visited by members of the Tunstall Church congregation as part of their Pilgrimage to the Holy Land two years ago. Since then their overseas relationship has grown.

John Vaughan, a Reader from Tunstall, said: "The opportunity to get to know our guests and to learn what life is like for them was priceless, and has resulted in long-lasting memories and friendships."

He continued: "The stories of living a life rooted in the Christian faith, and steeped in hope in the presence of adversity, were both inspiring and challenging; an example to us all who live out Christian calling in the freedom of Western culture."

Methodist and Church of England get together in Hythe

Seven years after the introduction of the Anglican-Methodist Covenant, congregations in Hythe will celebrate, in October, a formal sharing agreement which enables both Church of England and Methodist congregations to share church facilities and worship together.

Last year the PCC of St Leonard's, Hythe, accepted the invitation from Hythe Methodist Church on behalf of the congregation of

St Michael's and All Angels Church, who currently worship in the 'Tin Tabernacle', to relocate within the present Hythe Methodist Church.

Writing in the event invitation, Reverend Tony Windross, Vicar of Hythe, and Reverend Barry Armson, Methodist Minister, said: "St. Leonard's PCC was pleased to accept this generous overture and liaison between our

churches has since become increasingly close."

The service that will mark the close relationship of the two churches will take place on Sunday 2nd October, 11am, at the Methodist Church – after this the church will be referred to as the St Michael's (Methodist-Anglican) Church Centre. Those attending include Bishop Trevor and the Methodist District Chairman.

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Pastoral visit strengthens links with

MADAGASCAR *By Reverend Colin Preece*

For two weeks this summer, I travelled to the island of Madagascar with a small group which included Bishop Trevor and his wife Margaret, and the Reverends Jackie Cray and Andy Bawtree. The aim of our visit was to strengthen our links with the Anglican dioceses on the island.



Children at Sakaraha Parish.

After a stopover in Mauritius which provided an opportunity for Bishop Trevor and Archbishop Jan to discuss some of the problems in the province, we visited the diocese of Antananarivo in the central region of the island. Here we met Bishop Jaona, held fruitful discussions about the link and Bishop Trevor preached at the Cathedral. We also visited the education and feeding programme in Akany Tafita, which we have supported

through the diocesan Poverty and Hope appeal and where we were charmed by the children who taught us songs.

In Tulear we met with Bishop Todd and we visited two new churches he was instrumental in building in Sakaraha. We spent two days training Catechists and evangelists in Antananarivo before visiting Fianarantsoa where we met Bishop Gilbert and celebrated the 8th anniversary of the creation of the diocese.

Back in Antananarivo we presented a cheque to the orphanage we have supported through the 2010/11 Poverty and Hope appeal and visited the Sisters of Tsinjohasina who run an inspirational medical dispensary.

Bishop Trevor is keen that we strengthen the link with the dioceses in Madagascar by forming more partnerships. This may include a greater exchange of people between the two countries, especially training curates who may undertake short term placements overseas. We will also build a prayer link, to include intercessional prayers for parishes in Madagascar and Canterbury Dioceses and encourage individual links between churches in Canterbury Diocese and parishes in Madagascar.

Everywhere we went we were humbled by the welcome we received and delighted to see how the church is touching the lives of

Malagasies. We look forward to strengthening our special bond in the months and years to come.

If your church is interested in forming a link with a parish in Madagascar please contact Reverend Colin Preece:

Tel: 01233 620672

email: colinpreece@btinternet.com



Tulear Conference for clergy, evangelists and catechists.



Visiting Bishop Gilbert and family.

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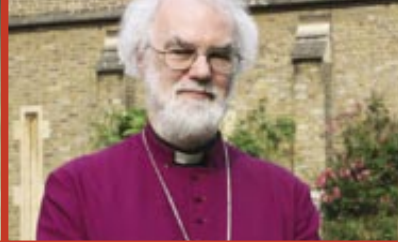
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In conversation with Frank Skinner

the gathering

Fri 16 - Sat 17 September Canterbury Cathedral



The Gathering presents acclaimed, guest speakers John Bell, Adrian Plass, Philip Blond and Frank Skinner at this year's two day event.

The Gathering will also feature activities for children and young people including interactive story-telling in a 60 foot whale (pictured, right) and up-close magic with a Christian magician.

Discipleship and the Community

Focusing on the themes of discipleship and community, The Gathering will provide learning and new experiences for lay people and clergy. On Friday 16 September, delegates can enjoy a conference style day which starts with a Bible exposition with New Testament Scholar, Dr Paula Gooder, followed by a keynote address with Frank Field MP and mid-day worship led by Archbishop Rowan and Bishop Trevor.

In the afternoon delegates have a choice of sessions including a seminar with John Bell of the Iona Community, a 'Question Time' style panel debate about the Big Society with national and regional leaders or workshops which explore pilgrimage with Dean Robert or labyrinths with Lizzie Hopthrow. From 7.30pm on Friday evening, multi-award winning comedian and broadcaster Frank Skinner will join the Archbishop of Canterbury 'in conversation' for what promises to be a candid discussion ranging through issues including atheism, sport, British identity, and the relationship between the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches.

All Age Day

The programme on Saturday 17 September includes talks and activities suitable for all ages with African drumming, 'Breathe' a reflective i-pod prayer experience, 24/7 discipleship interactive 'pause' stations and a chance to walk the prayer labyrinth. Teenagers can relax and play games at theSpace and children can enjoy puppet shows, craft in the Messy Church tent, pilgrim's art or costume tours.

Talks for adults include 'Jesus, a very poor role model?' with Adrian and Bridget Plass, 'Working as whole life disciples' with Neil Hudson of the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity and 'Venturesome love: Mission and Community Action' with community theologian Ann Morisy. The event concludes with a closing act of worship with a short address by John Bell of the Iona Community and a new piece of music specially written for the event.

Bishop Trevor encourages church members of all ages from across the diocese to attend 'what will be a truly uplifting experience'.

John Bell from the Iona Community



Tickets For more information and online bookings visit: www.canterburydiocese.org/thegathering or complete the booking form below.

BOOKING FORM

Title: _____ First name: _____ Surname: _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____
Tel: _____
Email: _____

Friday 16 September - Conference Day

10.00am - 5.00pm (registration from 9.00am)

I would like _____ tickets at £25 each

Workshops: indicate your preference 1 - 4, you will be assigned 2 workshops

- Paula Gooder, New Testament, Scholar
- 'Explore the Cathedral' with Dean Robert
- John Bell, from the Iona Community
- 'Question Time' with Bishop Trevor and Community Leaders
- Labyrinth Prayer experience

Friday 16 September - In Conversation

7.30pm - 9.00pm

Archbishop Rowan in Conversation with comedian Frank Skinner

I would like _____ tickets at £10 each
I would like _____ premium tickets at £15 each } limited to 6 tickets per order

Saturday 17 September - All Age Day

10.00am - 4.30pm (registration from 9.30am)

I would like _____ adult tickets at £10 each
I would like _____ child tickets
(under 16s go free when accompanied by a paying adult)

Payment by cheque

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made payable to: 'Canterbury DBF The Gathering'.

Please return this booking form to: The Gathering (booking), Diocesan House, Lady Wootton's Green, Canterbury CT1 1NQ.

Tickets will be posted later in the summer providing payment is received. Tickets are non-refundable.





Chaplaincy

Brief encounters of the hopeful kind *By Emily Shepherd*

Chaplaincy is ‘a ministry of brief encounters’ remarks the Reverend Keith Fazzani, Chaplain at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital. “We meet people and we help them in whatever way we can, but often we don’t know what we have done and we will never know.”

I witness one of these encounters just five minutes after I arrive at Asda Broadstairs to meet store Chaplain Captain Bernard Allen. Ricky, a staff member, asks Bernard about life after death. Ricky, who explains he is not a Christian, obviously enjoys and values the conversation and returns to work smiling. Reflecting on this conversation, which is just one of many that will happen today, Bernard says: “As a chaplain you must support people where they are and be flexible to their needs.”

Chaplains are religious representatives attached to secular institutions employed to help meet the spiritual needs of people of all faiths and none.

Chaplains in Canterbury Diocese are lay and ordained, employed and volunteer and serve in a wide variety of settings, including the army, police, hospitals, prisons, schools and in industry.

The work settings may be very different but each of the five chaplains I meet describes a ministry that has much in common.

It appears chaplaincy is based around meeting the very immediate needs of people, whether they have a faith or not. David Slater, lay chaplain at the Port of Dover explains it well: “I regard myself as a first-aider – you help people in the best way you can in that moment but you have to be prepared not to see what happens next.”

The encounters chaplains have vary greatly but include supporting people with relationship problems, bereavement, work-related issues, loss of control over one’s own life and fear of what the future holds. But most conversations are not about faith, as the Reverend Sally Womersley an education chaplain who works at Christ Church University, says: “We are not here to be religious, but we are here to bring a Christ like presence into a secular setting.” Chaplains provide a listening ear, they offer words of support and they provide prayer.

Chaplaincy also aims to emulate Jesus’ own ministry as Keith explains: “Jesus would say a few words, do something simple and go

on his way. Healthcare chaplaincy is very similar.”

But the chaplains also describe their work as a ministry of hope; the Reverend Cathy Hitchens, Coordinating Chaplain at Canterbury Prison, says: “We bring spirituality and pastoral care but most of all we bring hope.”

Captain Bernard Allen

Part time chaplain at Asda, Broadstairs

I visit the store one day every week for a few hours. I mainly work with staff but I also engage with customers. Conversations are wide-ranging and can be about football or politics through to deep discussions about the transcendental.

I have formed relationships with key people in the staff team who keep me up to date with issues. This helps me to ask pointed questions at appropriate moments.

In my role I pray with and for people, share words of support and help people with issues such as grief. I am also used to sign-posting people to professional counselling or other forms of help when that is required.

As a church it is essential we are active in the community. We have to keep communicating with people, and we have to build relationships with people not in church or else church becomes a building which ceases to have anything to say of any relevance.



Meet some of the Chaplains in the Diocese

Reverend Sally Womersley

**Education Chaplain,
Christ Church University,
Canterbury**

Christ Church University is an Anglican Church Foundation university and part of our role is to embody the links between education, the wider community and worship that have always existed here. We journey with people. By meeting people's spiritual needs and offering guidance we bring the presence of Christ into the community.

As a university chaplain the encounters I have with people are wide and varied. I help students and staff with pastoral issues and we preside at Eucharist every Thursday, with a meal afterwards. Our lead chaplain, Jeremy, also sits on many university committees and attends staff meetings.

In order to meet more of the students and staff I have sat in on lectures and I've been amazed at how welcoming everyone is. I also make sure I visit staff in their offices. Sometimes it is hard to walk in unannounced and without any real purpose. But I trust the Spirit to work through me so that I can meet people's needs.



Reverend Keith Fazzani

Chaplain at Kent and Canterbury Hospital

The healthcare chaplaincy team comprises around 30 volunteers, lay and ordained, mixed denominations and faiths. Every ward has one volunteer healthcare chaplain who comes weekly to speak to patients and staff.

We are very responsive to what patients need and meet them where they are. We help people answer questions about ethics. We try and make treatments sacred by thanking God for them. We help people deal with the loss of control over their lives and we help people with questions like 'why does God allow this to happen?' We pray, we hold a weekly service but also make communion available at any time, we hear confessions, anoint and bless people. Healthcare chaplains also sit on the ethics committee and provide training for healthcare workers.

Without chaplaincy in a hospital setting it would be very hard for people to have a connection to 'the other'; chaplains whose sole responsibility and interest is in spiritual life, provide that essential connection.



David Slater

Part time chaplain at Dover Port and part time chaplain at Eurotunnel.

People often spend more time in the workplace than they do in their home, but when they walk into spiritual buffers they still need help. Whilst I do engage with passengers most of my time is spent supporting the staff employed by the port and also those employed by contractors.

My office is where my phone is and as my role here is to be visible I try and get around the site as much as possible. It is not possible to make disciples unless people see you.

The big advantage of being a lay chaplain is that you can recognise where people are spiritually and be flexible to that. I aim to be non-judgemental and supportive. The time for deep theology is not when someone has an emotional problem.

We are not here to form another church. Sometimes there will be circumstances where we lead short worship or pray with people, but this role is about helping people pastorally. Prayer is also important and I make sure that I hold this community in my prayers, particularly issues that people have brought to me.



Reverend Cathy Hitchens

**Co-ordinating Chaplain,
Canterbury Prison, a
foreign national prison
with 314 prisoners from
around 70 countries.**

Our chaplaincy team includes one full time and 12 part-time chaplains who represent all the world's major faiths. Our duties include seeing prisoners when they are admitted and when they leave, visiting the sick, helping people with issues, leading services and prayer and attending a variety of prison meetings. We also support the staff team that work here.

At Canterbury Prison the chaplaincy works as a multi-faith team. This is not inter-faith chaplaincy but multi-faith, and we work as equal partners with people from all faiths and none. Our vision is that people respect each other for who and what they are. When prisoners go back home, whether in the UK or overseas, we hope people take the vision with them and change the world by helping others to be more tolerant.

We don't ask people to change and personally I find that the God I worship has not been diminished by working in a multi-faith chaplaincy, but enlarged.

Prison chaplaincy is the conscience of a prison offering people support, encouragement, spiritual and pastoral care, steadfastness and constancy. If you removed the chaplaincy it would be like ripping out the heart of the prison.



What's on in the Diocese

Compiled by Alissa Cooper

This autumn

St. Mary's arts venue opens

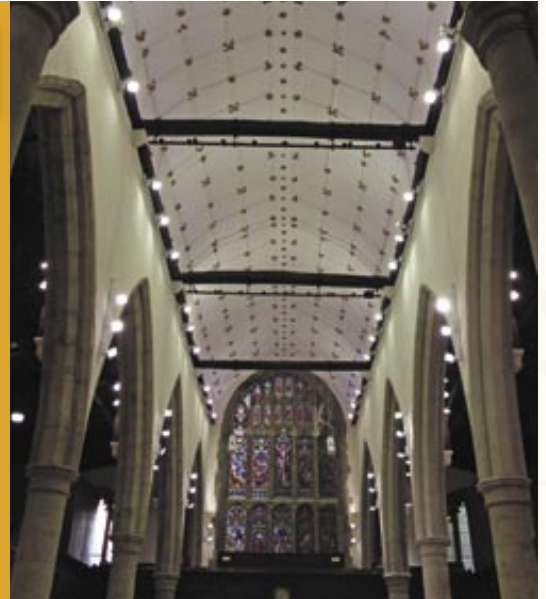
Orator Tony Benn will launch a season of performances at St. Mary the Virgin, Ashford, following the completion of £1.7m refurbishment which has transformed the church into a music and arts venue as well as a sacred space.

Described as a "new era of arts excellence for Ashford" by Judith Armitt, Ashford's Future managing director, the re-ordering project has created a flexible space in the nave for worship, and performances with movable seating and stage area along with improved disabled access, better kitchen facilities, lavatories and refurbished meeting rooms.

Tony Benn joins folk legend Roy Bailey on Saturday 24 September for a witty show of songs and stories which recall memories and anecdotes from a lifetime of British politics, reviewed by MOJO magazine as: "Majestic, provocative and quietly inspiring"

But that's just the beginning of a season of great events including the Mission Gospel Choir on Friday 23rd of September and the Aurora Orchestra on Saturday 1st October. Another event which is sure to be popular is a performance on Tuesday 4th October by the Destiny Africa Children's Choir, which includes orphans rescued from war zones, who have travelled especially from Uganda to perform.

For more information on events at St Mary's please visit: www.revelationstmarys.co.uk



Saturday 27 August

Organ Recital, St-Peter-in-Thanel Church, Broadstairs

7.30pm. Organ recital given by David Poulter, Liverpool Cathedral Organist, featuring works by Bach, Boellmann and Vierne. Interval with refreshments.

Tickets are available on the door (£10) or in advance (£8) from the Parish Office, St Peters Church Hall, Hopeville Avenue

Saturday 3 September at 7pm and Sunday 4 September at 5pm

The Magic Flute, Goodnestone Park Gardens, near Canterbury

Performance of Mozart's 'The Magic Flute' in aid of The Canterbury Gift. Tickets £25 (which includes entry to the Gardens) are available by calling 01227 464764, emailing info@thecanterburygift.com. Accompanied under 16s go free.

Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 September

Open Garden Safari around Sturry and Fordwich

10am to 4pm both days. Visit up to 20 gardens, choosing from three routes, and stop at St Nicholas Church for ploughman's lunches and cream teas. Duck hunt. Parking near the church. Admission: £3, children under 12 go free. Tel: 01227 710175

Saturday, 10 September

Organ Recital, All Saints Church, Birchington

7pm. Concert to mark the centenary of the church organ sees Dr David Flood, Organist at Canterbury Cathedral on the organ bench. Contact Parish Office. Tel: 01843 833586.

Friday 9 to Sunday 11 September

Flower and Music Festival

St. Rumwold's, Romney Marsh
Friday 9th 7pm: Pieces of Eight (a group of singers from Folkestone and Hythe Operatic and Dramatic Society) sing songs from the shows. Light refreshments, retiring collection. Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 from 10am to 5pm. Exhibits open for viewing. Ploughman's lunches, drinks and cakes.

Sunday 11 September

Journeying to Wholeness: This is My Story, Eastling Church, Faversham

10.30am. A time of worship, refreshment and prayer for healing. Contact: Mark or Hilary, Tel: 01795 890338.

Friday 16 and Saturday 17 September

The Gathering, Canterbury Cathedral

See page 9 for details or visit: www.canterburydiocese.org/thegathering

Friday 23 September

Mission Gospel Choir, St Mary's Ashford

7:30pm. Lively concert by local gospel choir.

Tickets: £5.00, Concessions £3.00, Under 16s free. Tickets available from Derek Goodwin CTA Secretary. Tel: 01233 332510 ctasecretary@ntlworld.com

Sunday 25 September

Welcome for Archdeacon of Maidstone, All Saints', Maidstone

3.30pm. All welcome

Monday 26 September

Canterbury Diocese Creative Mission Forum, Whitstable

10.30am to 3.30pm. At Seasalter Christian Centre. Picking up from, and building upon, the network of Emerging Churches Group the invitation extended to leaders from all forms of church around the diocese with a common interest and creative mission. Coffee and lunch provided free. Bookings: www.canterburydiocese.org

Wednesday 5 October

Canterbury Cathedral Open Evening

Starts with Evensong at 5.30pm and finishes with Compline at 9pm, with exhibitions of all the Cathedral's activities, including access to the bell tower and organ loft, tours of the Cathedral, exhibitions and chances to have a go at stone carving and gilding.

Thursday 6 October

Faith in Building Maintenance Workshop, St Mary's Church, Chilham

10am to 4pm. Free training day for volunteers who help look after historic faith buildings. Training provided to help you understand how your building works and how to solve problems caused by leaky gutters and blocked drains. Places must be booked in advance: katem@spab.org.uk Tel: 0207 456 0913 or visit www.spabfm.org.uk

Saturday 8 October

Autumn Fair, St. Peter and St. Paul's, Elham

10am to noon at Saltwood Village Hall. Cakes, jams and plants. Toys, books and refreshments. Free admission.

Saturday 8 October

Fit For Life: A CVM Regional Conference for Kent

10am to 4.30pm at Folkestone Baptist Church. Christian Vision for Men - organisation that seeks to help churches win more men for Jesus Christ. This regional day will address the issues of: man-friendly evangelism, gearing church up for men, men's discipleship issues and leading as a Christian man. Cost: £15 for the day, including fish and chips. More information available at: www.cvmen.org.uk/fit-for-life-kent-regional-day.html

For a full list of events in the parishes visit www.canterburydiocese.org/whatson/parish

To receive a full list of parish events by post, please send an A5, self-addressed envelope (with large letter stamp) to: What's On, Diocesan House, Lady Wootton's Green, Canterbury CT1 1NQ

Saturday 10 September 2011
Friends of Kent Churches:
Annual Sponsored Ride and Stride

10am to 6pm: Plan your own route, pop on your walking shoes or hop on your bike and participate in visiting some of the 750 churches and chapels across Kent involved in this annual fund-raising day.

By collecting sponsorship for your hard work you can gather money to support your own church.

Contact: Carolyn Millen 01622 843383
 or carolyn.millen1@btinternet.com
 www.friendsofkentchurches.co.uk



Saturday 15 October
Charities Fair
St. Laurence-in-Thanel Parish
Hall, Ramsgate

From 10.30am. Many stalls raising money for a range of good, local causes in the community. If you are involved with a local charity and you would like more details about running a stall at the event, please e-mail: stlaurenceevents@tiscali.co.uk or contact The Parish Office on 01843 592478.

Saturday 15 October
Organ Festival
All Saints' Church, Maidstone

From 2pm: Open to candidates under 21 years of age. Adjudicated by Dr. David Flood, Organist at Canterbury Cathedral. Awards for

the most advanced student. Starts at 2pm, tea at 4.15pm and recitals at 5pm. For syllabus and details visit kcoa.co.uk or email Mrs B Childs childs.tanglewood@gmail.com

Saturday 15 October
Organ Recital
St Clement's, Sandwich

7.30pm. Organ Recital given by David Flood – Organist and Master of the Choristers at Canterbury Cathedral. Tickets £7 (with concessions) available on the door and in advance from Julian Sampson: 01227 721697.

Saturday 5 November
Pastoral Care, Mental Health and

Well Being - St Paul's Church
Centre, Canterbury

9.30am-12.30pm. Diocesan event which explores changing Pastoral Care Teams and explores changing attitudes and the implications for Christian communities who are seeking to be faithful to the message of healing and wholeness Christ brings. Book online at www.canterburydiocese.org

Wednesday 9 November
Palestine: A Road to World
Peace? Elham Church

8.00pm to 9.30pm (bar open at 7.30). Talk led by Richard Llewellyn, former Bishop of Dover who spent three months

in Palestine earlier this year. Admission free.

Friday 23 December
Canterbury Cathedral Service of
Carols for Christmas

7.30pm. Non-ticketed event, seated on a first come first served basis. Doors open at 6pm.

Thursday 24 December
Canterbury Cathedral Service of
Carols for Christmas

3pm. Ticketed event. Public application for tickets should be sent in writing (with an SAE) to: Mrs Prebble, Cathedral House, 11 The Precincts, Canterbury CT1 2EH

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New officers provide additional support for churches

Churches wishing to grow and work with their communities are being offered extra help following the recruitment of two new officers.

In May, the Reverend Caroline Pinchbeck took up the new post of Communities and Partnership Executive Officer, a part time role she holds in conjunction with her post as Rural Life Adviser. Working with colleagues from the Communities and Partnership Framework, Caroline will help parishes and deaneries to strengthen society through partnerships with local authorities and other voluntary organisations. Caroline explains: "Historically, the Church of England has been at the centre of communities and research into the growth and development of social capital has demonstrated that the Church is still well-placed to be involved in community activity.

"Theologically, the Communities and Partnership Network is the outworking of the Church and the local church to live out Christ's teaching to 'love our neighbour'. I will be working with churches and deaneries and

in partnership with others to help strengthen and improve our communities."

The Reverend Canon Kerry Thorpe started work in July as the Mission and Growth Adviser, a role which forms part of the new Local Church Development Framework. Kerry who was previously one of the Diocesan Missioners, explains his hopes for the new role:

"Local Church Development will be working very much as a team. Our stated aim is 'Stimulating Growth'. Archbishop Rowan has called the church nationally to focus on growth, both spiritual and numerical, to re-imagine church life, and to concentrate resources where they can have greatest impact. We will be alongside the local church, in parishes and deaneries, helping to facilitate that process."

Julian Hills, Diocesan Secretary commented: "We have reorganised Boards, and Committees in a way that is



Meet the team: Reverend Caroline Pinchbeck and Canon Kerry Thorpe.

... our stated aim is 'Stimulating Growth'...

accountable, nimble and relevant to the issues that confront us. Each of the five frameworks, Education, Licensed Ministries, Management and Compliance, Communities and Partnership and Local Church Development will work together to focus upon the needs of churches in the diocese." He continued: "I am

delighted that the diocese will benefit from the considerable gifts that both Kerry and Caroline bring to these posts."

In November 2010 Diocesan Synod voted to re-focus the core work of the diocese into five key frameworks as well as approving plans to create a third archdeaconry. For further information please phone 01227 459401 or email cpinchbeck@diocant.org or kthorpe@diocant.org

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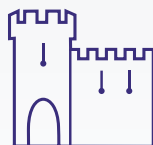
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BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY – WHO WILL YOU INVITE?

For the first fourteen years of my working life I worked in industry. After being ordained and returning to my home area and starting to attend various church gatherings, I was amazed at the people I recognised!

There was Fred from the tool-making shop, Bert from the machine shop, Beryl from the wages department and Arthur, a foreman in the foundry. Not to mention a member of senior management who played the trombone in the Salvation Army band!

There were lots of them and I had no idea they were church-goers. I was just as bad, but was astonished at the number of people who kept quiet about being Christians who attended the local churches.

The trouble is that many of us have been caught up in the privatisation of religion and the local church has become a kind of private club with its full range of special activities to meet our social needs. This, however, should not be our main priority. We are called to share the good news of the gospel and to reach out into the world with the message of God's kingdom. Effective evangelism flows out of the life and ministry of the church and we are meant to be an essential part of this. This is how most people become Christians; by meeting and knowing someone who is a person with strong faith and real commitment.

Someone was once asked: "What occupation should we compare with a vicar?" He replied: "A football coach. Not doing exciting things on the pitch, but training, supporting and encouraging his team of players." This is true of the local church. If only a small group is active, the church becomes a self-limiting organisation with restrictive growth.

St Paul reminds us that, as

church members, we are the Body of Christ; His lips, His hands, His feet in the world.

Sunday 25 September, Back to Church Sunday, is a call to reach out to other people and not be afraid to let our friends and neighbours know that we are committed to the life of our church. We want them to know the fulfilment we find in our relationship with Jesus Christ and invite them to join us for worship.

... the local church has become a kind of private club ...

The second point that we need to make is that it is not that easy to enter a church building if we have not done so for years.

This reminds me of the story of the young man brought up in a very strict manner. To enter a pub was anathema to his parents. But, as he began to establish his independence, he decided to take the plunge and visit one of these so-called places of iniquity. He chose a particular establishment and braced himself to experience this alien environment. Having reached his destination, he repeatedly paced up and down for thirty minutes before daring to cross the threshold.

This man, after being ordained, came to the realisation that it was a bit like that when entering a church after years of absence, with all kinds of hang-ups about what might be found. We may not like to think this, but it is how many people react to visiting a church. Where do I sit? How do I find my way around the various books?

Just look at the average group of people attending a baptism or a wedding, hanging around the entrance, putting off the moment when they have to enter this unfamiliar area, puffing on cigarettes, moving uncomfortably from one foot to another, all the

time the tension mounting.

Even if our church prides itself on having a friendly atmosphere, the tensions are the same for outsiders. Such misapprehensions are misplaced as most churches offer a very warm welcome to visitors. But what a help it is to be invited by someone we know who will look after us and make us feel at home and let us know when to stand up and sit down.

Back to Church Sunday can be an ideal moment to help someone we know cross the threshold of the Christian community that we ourselves love and enjoy.

According to research there are three million people who would come back to church if invited by a friend. We need to buy into

the vision that if we all invite someone we could double the congregation. 'Back to Church Sunday' is an opportunity to use our relationship with friends and neighbours and help our church to grow.

Canon Alan Dawkins was originally trained as a mechanical engineer before serving nearly thirty years as a priest and chaplain. Alan and Rosemary, his wife, are members of the welcoming church of St Alphege, Whitstable.

BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY

25th September

Over 110 parishes in Canterbury Diocese are taking part. For more information visit: www.backtochurch.co.uk

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MEET THE PEOPLE Frank Skinner

By Mike Field, chairman of the Diocesan Communications Advisory Group

Multi-award winning comedian, Frank Skinner, like all outstanding performers, has the happy knack of making it all look and sound so easy. An art I suspected he had perfected after much hard graft:

“Oh here we go . . . that old Protestant chestnut. If I have a work ethic it’s a Catholic one!” Good comedy, I suggested to Frank, was about taking risks and I wondered if playing away at Canterbury Cathedral was a risk: “It could be a trap!” laughs Frank.

“It could be pay-back for John Henry Newman. He was a famous Protestant who went over to the Catholic Church and I think the Protestants have been plotting ever since to get one of ours back and it could be me!”

And that’s how our little tete-a-tete went – quickfire responses – and once he realised I wasn’t setting traps he was remarkably open, honest and funny.

MF: Is it difficult to relate comedy and religion?

FS: There’s been a long tradition of religious comedy - certainly Jewish comedy - and lots of jokes about different cultures. But I do wish Jesus had told just one big joke just to say it’s alright to laugh. And just because he never laughs there’s a feeling that Christians should be quite po-faced and I think that’s a shame.

MF: Why do you think we have become a more secular society?

FS: I think the church, not just yours but mine, in this country has made the mistake of trying to compromise with secular society, instead of saying: Look, the stuff we believe in is supernatural and there’s quite a lot of magic and weirdness involved. Just get over it!

I think there’s been a bit more of a Bishop of Durham approach, like maybe there wasn’t a virgin birth and maybe there wasn’t a resurrection - and we’ve sold out. But strangely people are desperate to get into Harry Potter and Feng Shui and watch Most Haunted on the telly because we have a sense that there’s something different and odder than what we call ‘Real Life’ and I think that was a mistake. I think religion should reclaim its magic.

MF: You’ve suggested that there may be a new atheism around at the moment.

FS: There certainly is. In comedy there are atheist nights, when atheist comics get together and talk about science and basically do anti-religious jokes. I’m personally OK with that. Some of my best friends are atheists

and your proper atheists I have respect for. There are a lot of people who have really thought about the issues and thought, ‘Well actually, having considered both sides I’ve decided that I don’t believe in God.’ And I respect that. But other people are jumping on the bandwagon that haven’t really thought it through. They just think, ‘I like the fact that it’s quite cool,’ and that’s a pity.

MF: Let’s move on to the Archbishop. Would you have got embroiled with the government over the Big Society as he did?

FS: I think it’s important he says what he thinks. There’s a danger when there’s a marriage of church and state that the Archbishop just toes the line and becomes a secondary part of the government. He needs to be above that and I’m sure Archbishop Rowan thinks the same. What is the point of having the leader of English Anglicans watching his Ps and Qs when he’s talking about the big issues?

MF: So he should get stuck into the big controversies?

FS: I think he should be ‘a voice in the wilderness’. The Pope has been happy to upset governments all over the world saying what he thinks.

I find it hard to accept that the Anglican Church is so close to the state. You have to be careful. When I go to football matches at West Brom I buy my own season ticket even though I could sit in the directors’ box for nothing. So if ever the board is doing anything I disagree with I feel free to dispute it because I don’t owe anything. I think it’s the same with the Archbishop.

MF: Do you feel the Archbishop should join you on the terraces at The Hawthorns to get a feeling of the real British identity? Mind you he is, of course, a rugby man.

FS: I’ve had friends who’ve tried to get me into rugby and it hasn’t happened. If the Archbishop succeeded it could be his greatest conversion.

I think football and religion have a lot in common. Trying to explain to someone why I love football if they don’t is very, very difficult. They often associate it with tribalism, with trouble, with people behaving in a strange way, screaming and shouting and leaping around. I think religion has all those same problems. I would love to take Rowan onto the terraces. I could give him a lift as I only

live next door.

I chatted to Frank in the week that Amy Winehouse was found dead and it somehow felt the time to talk about the country’s obsession with celebrity culture and if we could learn anything from her death.

Again that original mind clicked into gear.

FS: People have always liked the idea of someone who’s famous – separate from the crowd – and Jesus was a celebrity. There are bits in the Bible where, having spent the whole day with the crowd, he’ll go off somewhere quietly to pray or go off in a boat. It’s like celebrities today trying to get away from it all. He was a public figure, a performer, people mobbed him, so it’s always been around. Amy Winehouse - I don’t know how much her death was linked to celebrity, but I have some experience of addiction myself. The bottom line is that you only get out of that vicious circle when you want to. No friends or colleagues are going to get you out of it. It’s self-motivated and it sounds as if Amy never got to that state.

Frank often feels he wants to interrupt church services because he disagrees with what’s being said. So, he has written seven of his own prayers in which he asks a series of probing questions.

MF: Are you still a believer?

FS: Totally. But I also think that doubting is very important. It’s almost as important as faith. I’m very wary of people who have no doubts, be they on the atheist side or the believers’ side.

And that’s where we had to leave our chat, promising to meet again at ‘The Gathering’ on September 16.

To buy tickets for the ‘in conversation’ event with Archbishop Rowan and Frank Skinner which takes place on Friday 16 September, call: 01227 459401, or visit: www.canterburydiocese.org/thegathering

