

THE BRIDGE

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE PARISH OF MALEW



THE ABBEY CHURCH, BALLASALLA
MALEW PARISH CHURCH, CHURCH BENDS
ST. MARK'S CHURCH, ST. MARKS

MARCH 2010AD

MALEW DICARRAGE

The Season of Lent

"Pretend we know nothing, and tell us about 'The Season of Lent'," I was asked a few days ago...so here goes!

Originating in the fourth century of the church, the season of Lent spans 40 weekdays beginning on Ash Wednesday and climaxing during Holy Week with Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Day.

Originally, Lent was the time of preparation for those who were to be baptized - hence Bishop Robert's 'Baptism at Peel' - and it was also the time when those who had been separated from the Church could prepare to rejoin their community.

Today, however, Lent is marked rather by a time of prayer - look out for our 4-part Lent Course in March! - as we begin our preparations to celebrate Easter. Look out, as well, for our Special Services at the Abbey Church, each evening during Holy Week, from 6.30 pm until 7.30 pm.

Since Sundays celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, the six Sundays that occur during Lent are not counted as part of the 40 days of Lent, and are referred to as the 'Sundays in Lent'. The number 40 is connected with many biblical events, but especially with the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing for his ministry. Accordingly, we Christians today use this period of time for our own introspection - self-examination, if you will? - and reflection.

This season of the year is equal only to 'The Season of Advent' in terms of importance during the Christian year, and is part of the second major grouping of Christian festivals - and sacred time, no less - that includes Holy Week, Easter and Pentecost.

I hope you find the above of interest.

God Bless.

Michael



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Erin Arts Centre

Tuesday 2nd March, 7.30pm
Tickets £5 from Erin Arts Centre

Chapel of St. Thomas

King William's College
Thursday 4th March, 7.00 pm
Admission Free

Everyone Welcome

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC : LIZ GREEN

ORGANIST : GARETH MOORE

THE ABBEY CHURCH

WELCOMERS

READERS

PRAYERS

COLLECTION

FLOWERS

MARCH 2010 AD	7TH	14TH	21ST	28TH
Welcomers	T.A.S.K.	PETER H.	MAUD	MARGARET T.
Readers	T.A.S.K.	PETER D.	BARBARA H.	DAVID
Reading	SPECIAL READING	COLOSSIANS Chapter 3 Verses 12 - 17	PHILIPPIANS Chapter 3 Verses 4 - 14	PHILIPPIANS Chapter 2 Verses 5 - 11
Prayers	T.A.S.K.	MICHAEL	CAROLINE	MARGARET
Collection	T.A.S.K.	ORRY and TED	BARBARA and JOHN L.	ANN and MIKE
Flowers	LENT	LENT	LENT	LENT

A 'helping-hand' each week: Ted. If you are away, please arrange a 'swap'. If you would like to be included in the Rota please see the Vicar.

"USE IT OR LOSE IT!"

As we approach the next decade, the Diocese of Sodor and Man finds itself at the most exciting of 'crossroads' - I'm only sorry that I'm retiring next year! - but which way will it decide to go?

Notwithstanding that a goodly number of us (including the Vicar of Malew!) felt that such change should have begun to happen some fifteen years ago - and call it now, 'Fresh Expressions of Faith', or whatever you will - please read the article below and ask yourself where you see YOUR CHURCH in, let's say, another fifteen years... and then let the Church Wardens and me know.

Indeed, this is one of the reasons why I am suggesting at the present time that each of our Churches has a greater degree of autonomy; as my heading states, 'use it or lose it'!

Mission Planning and Church buildings

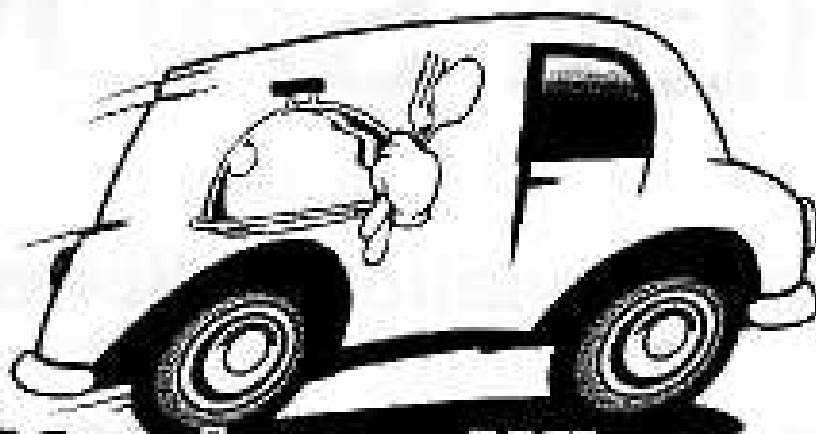
The first task of the new Mission Partnerships will be to establish a mission audit of resources, challenges and opportunities. Guidelines for assisting Partnerships with the audit will be provided. As part of the mission audit, each parish would be asked to provide its Mission Partnership Council with a detailed report on the use of church plant. During this audit, members of the Mission Council and churchwardens are asked to read *Churches and Faith Buildings – Realising the Potential*. This can be downloaded from [www:http://www.cole.anglican.org/news/pr3508.html](http://www.cole.anglican.org/news/pr3508.html)

As far as possible, churches - particularly those of historic and/or community significance - should not be closed. For many - probably all in rural areas - this will inevitably mean that additional, complementary uses should and must be found. However, those parishes unwilling seriously to consider such additional uses cannot expect the Diocese to use scarce resources on funding them.

It is not satisfactory simply to turn over church buildings to conservationists, expecting that Christian ministry can still be provided to the community without a funding-stream through committed Christian giving. Our churches are not buildings, they are living organisms whose treasured buildings are one means by which people worship God and serve the community. Church buildings open for an hour or two a week and no more are failing to fulfil the purpose for which they exist: God and people.

- 10.1 Each Mission Council should undertake a mission audit of resources, challenges and opportunities.
- 10.2 By 30 April 2010 each parish should prepare a written report to its Mission Council on the use of all its church buildings, the potential for additional uses and the possibilities for shared use with other trinitarian denominations:
 - * on the use currently made of each building in their care (churches, halls, etc.) and the hours per week that each is used;
 - * on the relative historic importance of each building, particularly if any building has been designated as of particular significance;
 - * on possible additional, complementary ministries¹ which each of the places of worship may exercise; and
 - * on the results of discussion with all the other Christian denominations in the parish concerning the shared use of buildings.

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by Chris Astley

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at Carols by Candlelight)

Tuesday 2nd March 2010

St Marks Old School 7.30pm

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St. Mark's Road, Ballasalla. Telephone: 822469
E-Mail: revroberts@manx.net

Michael welcomes visitors to the Vicarage at any time;
and he is also available in The Abbey Church Vestry
from 11.30 am - 12.30 pm Tuesdays and 6 - 7 pm Thursdays.
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EDDIE ASKEW

(died 27th September 2007)

Thank You

Over the years I have been privileged to read many of the books by this Author. Eddie and his wife Barbara are much associated with the Leprosy Mission of which he became International Director of worldwide operations in the 1960s. However, it is through his books that he has touched and had a profound effect on many people. His poems, his paintings, his thoughts and prayers relay to the reader Eddie Askew's own relationship with God. They are steeped in reality and voice so often one's own thoughts:

*"Lord, I like the theory.
The idea of forgiveness.
The principle's fine: that every time my brother upsets me
we get together and put it right,
And visa versa.
The problem is the way it works out"*
from "A Silence and a SHOUTING"

*"Love makes the world go round,
that's what the cliché says.
I wonder, Lord,
sometimes it seems the opposite is true.
It's greed and hate and violence
that calls the shots....."*
from "Unexpected JOURNEYS"

*"Lord, there are moments
when I just can't get my balance.
When I'm pulled one way, then another.
So many pressures and demands,
Times when I'm scared to move"*
from "No Strange Land"

Eddie Askew's last book, produced by his daughters following his death is entitled, "Walking into the Light: A Journey through Grief in poems, prayers and thoughts",

This found me regularly in tears as I followed, through extracts from Eddie's journal, the illness and death of his wife; his own illness and death; and the thoughts of their daughters.

Three excerpts:

"THE CREDIBILITY GAP - Between what you write and preach and affirm that you believe - (the ease with which you pray and leave so-and-so in God's hand) and the hard reality of seeing someone you love deeply, lying helplessly, totally dependant.

*"When is an act of faith real, when is it a cop out?
Each day I look for the smallest bit of progress, grab it,
and hold hard."*

Eddie Askew

"Last night I picked up one of my books, 'Facing the Storm'. I opened it at random and found a piece titled 'Resting in God'. One phrase grabbed my attention. 'But in the end, the relationship between God and me has to go beyond that - to resting. Learning simply to sit with him, quietly. Leaving the final decisions with Him'"

Eddie Askew

"If you are grieving, there will be times when you wake, and all seems normal. The day fills and the sadness of your loss lies light across your shoulders.

And yet there will be days, when no matter how strong the intention, another wave of grief will come, pressing down, taking your breath away. It will take your attention again, and you will pause, and listen, and weep, and wait for it to pass. These are the days where kindness is needed, where expectations must stay soft amongst the bedclothes, as memories beckon, and time stands still by the door. We pause and wait for these days to pass in a bitter sweet haze, mystified at the passage of the world without us.

We wait, until hope appears at the door." Jenny Hawke with Stephanie Bell

EDDIE ASKEW

Rest in Peace

Andrea

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 

Let Everything That Has Breath Praise God

A Service Prepared by Christian Women of Cameroon

Friday 5th March 2010

ALL WELCOME – MEN WOMEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

2.15pm at the
Living Hope Community Church
Port St Mary

Speaker: Mrs Thelma Wilson
Refreshments

+++++

8.00pm
Evening Meeting with Slides



