

A view from
THE BRIDGE

'Our Father... who runs the railways'



It's the early 1980s and I'm a Tutor at a theological college and I'm giving a lift back to the station to a well-known visiting preacher. The traffic is horrific and I murmur my concern that he'll miss his train.

'Don't worry,' he says, 'My Father runs the railways.'

It was a difficult week to be saying that. Every paper and TV channel was covering the story of a little Italian boy who had fallen down a narrow well. Rescuers were tunnelling towards him day and night. Would they be in time? The whole world was said to be praying, including the Pope.

The little boy died before he could be reached.

It's good that we have The Bridge where we can read and write about things that matter, including some Really Difficult Questions. And prayer, which the centrespread of this edition considers, is right up there on the agenda. We've probably all had loads of experience. At my school some teachers made sure that prayers were said between every lesson. As a teenager I developed prayer lists like a disease. I had daily lists and weekly lists and monthly lists and emergency lists until they nearly broke my heart. I couldn't keep it up and so I walked out into the world in a daily cloud of guilt. Every day began with failure.

My current version of a prayer list is what I do when I can't sleep at night. I choose a letter from the alphabet and let memories of people whose name begins with it float into my mind: family, friends, some I haven't thought about for years, others in today's news. I just hold each person in God's presence.

What helps me most is hearing and reading about other Christians' prayer life. I like the surprises and it encourages me to keep learning. I hope that the centrespread will help you too.

Yvonne Craig

Southwark Cathedral remembers the Rwanda Genocide

Southwark Cathedral held the annual service to commemorate the victims of the 1994 Rwanda Genocide on Wednesday 7 April - on the anniversary of the start of the genocide which cost the lives of almost

one million men, women and children.

Later in the day, the Dean of Southwark and Baroness Chalker of Wallasey launched the Rwanda Genocide Memorial Project, which has two aims. The first is to establish a permanent memorial in the form of a unique sculpture monument in Cathedral Square. The second is to create a scholarship fund to provide support for post-graduate



Rwandans wishing to study at selected higher education institutions in the Commonwealth.

It is hoped that the monument will be completed and the scholarship scheme inaugurated over two years. Patrons of the project include Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the Rwandan High Commissioner and comedian Lenny Henry.

The approved design for the monument by the critically acclaimed sculptor partnership

Langlands and Bell is pictured above.

For more information about the project, go to: www.rwandagenocidememorial.org

Survivors & Memory

Photographs taken in Rwanda between 2001-2008 by Andrew Sutton were on display in Southwark Cathedral Refectory throughout April. Many of them portrayed the horrific wounds and yet remarkable resilience of victims of Rwanda's civil wars.

Diocesan schools Lent Call service

Children from Church Schools around the Diocese joined the Bishop of Kingston, Rt Rev. Dr Richard Cheetham, for the annual service of thanksgiving for the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call in Southwark Cathedral.

The service, on Tuesday 27 April, was a lively event with dance, song and drama

presented by schools.

After receiving the offerings that the schools had collected for the Appeal - £4276 from 16 schools - Bishop Richard asked the children about times when they had been tired or hungry or needed something and what had helped them through it.

He went on to talk about how the care and action of the schools in supporting the Lent Call would help to change difficult situations around the world and closer to home, with projects from Zimbabwe to Dulwich.

After the Bishop's blessing a number of schools took the opportunity to have their photo taken with the Bishop as a reminder of the day.



Bishop Richard receives the Lent Call offerings

THE BRIDGE

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Managing Editor:
Wendy S. Robins
(Communications & Resources)

Editor:
Bryan Harris
(Kent Christian Press)

ADVERTISING ☎
01474 852474
CIRCULATION ☎
01474 852474

Editorial Advisory Board:
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The June edition is due to be printed on **27 May**

and to be in your parish from the following Sunday. Material for that edition must be with Wendy S. Robins at Trinity House by

17 May

Whilst we try to include as much of what is sent into us as possible, because of space limitations, we cannot guarantee to publish everything. In addition we reserve the right to edit material.

Pray for those helping choose our new Bishop

In the last edition of the Bridge Bishop Richard said that he would be calling the Diocese to prayer before each meeting of the Crown Nominations Commission (CNC) who will help to decide who our new Bishop will be. Now he writes:

"The CNC meets on Friday 11 June and Monday and Tuesday 5&6 July. I hope that every church in the Diocese will use the first Sundays of June and July, which each precede the meetings of the CNC, to pray for wisdom and right discernment for those involved in the nominations process.

"Please use the Diocesan prayer (on back page) and I encourage everyone to spend some time praying and focusing on this important event in our Diocese."