

A view from THE BRIDGE

'...the perfect model for the future'



Soon after her coronation, while I was a choirboy at Chichester, the Queen paid a visit to the town. People complained, I remember, that she looked sour, as if they expected her to be able to smile and perform like Grace Kelly.

But being Queen is no laughing matter, and our Queen certainly did not want to become Queen when she did. She felt the loss of her father bitterly. He was the model on which she based herself. George VI died young of cancer, his life already turned upside down by his older brother's careless attitude towards duty, and by the incredible stress of the Second World War. I remember February 6, 1952, when our school assembled at the foot of the stairs to be told about the death of the King.

In my memory George VI is always wearing naval uniform - perhaps because my father was a naval officer. Coming from a military and naval background may have strengthened my sense of the monarch in uniform as the figurehead of the military parade which the whole country did not stop being in the early post-war years.

Elizabeth as Princess and heir presumptive was part of that war - came to maturity during it. She first met the Duke of Edinburgh in 1939 and their marriage eight years later did not have to be arranged. As we celebrate the Queen's 90th, following hard upon her overtaking Victoria in the longevity of her reign, we need to be grateful also that the Duke has outpaced every previous royal consort by decades.

During the last 25 years, of course, I have seen the Queen and the Duke at the start of each quinquennial General Synod. She has performed her duties with impeccable care and considerateness. She has been the rock that our United Kingdom will continue to need after her time, embodying both our past and our present as a country and a community, in the way she performs her service. We need the continuity our queen has guaranteed us, the sense that she is the feeling foundation as well as a real person, who by the grace of God holds the head point in our complex hierarchy.

In her role what she expresses continues not just to resonate within us but to voice positively what we often need to be thinking. The feudal autocracy from which our constitutional monarchy emerged was already growing towards more democratic ways when Shakespeare's queen, Elizabeth I, reigned. Under our present queen we have become more democratic. But she has, just like King George VI, provided the perfect model for the future - careful and caring, and surprisingly close in so many ways to the divine rule in which we as Christians believe.

Tom Sutcliffe

'I expected to have six or so meetings a year...'

Canon Wendy Robins writes...

On Tuesday 10 May John Kempzell 'bowed out' as the Chair of the Board of Finance at the second full meeting of the Diocesan Council of Trustees in the Garry Weston Library at Southwark Cathedral.

In his Presidential Address to the Trustees, in their role as the Diocesan Board of Finance, Bishop Christopher said, "I would like to thank John Kempzell for the contribution he has made in the stewarding of our financial resources."

Later in the meeting John Kempzell responded: "Thank you for the kind words, thanks especially to Bishop Christopher because I think we wouldn't have been able to go through all the changes, particularly in the last two years, without his support and leadership."

"It was quite a struggle and quite a significant change that we made in the last two or

three years. It has been very time consuming and at times quite difficult but I think we've come through.

He remembered asking Simon Parton in 2007 'what sort of time commitment might I be called upon to give to the Diocese? (as Board of Finance Chair)'

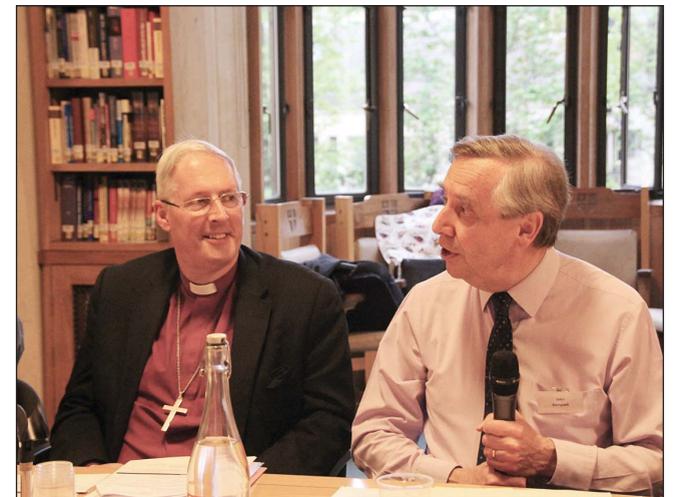
"I think he said: oh well, four to six meetings of the DBF each year and a few other meetings from time to time, and I said, OK, I'll give it a try."

"When I got the Diocesan calendar for 2008 I made a note in my diary all the meetings I was expected to attend - and it came to 42!"

"I thought this is rather too many. I did have some success in trimming them down."

"But it does mean that as Chair of Board of Finance you do get a strong feel as to what's going on in the organization."

"Whilst I shan't miss the sleepless nights that I've had over the last few years, I shall miss the friendliness of, particularly, the Archdeacons



and the Board of Finance and all members who voluntarily give of their time, quite considerable amounts of time, to the management of the finances of the Diocese.

"I should sail off into the sunset and actually retire, which I didn't do nine years ago and perhaps see a bit more

of Rosemary - although I think she's already at a conference somewhere up in the Midlands today!"

Read the full text of the Bishop's Presidential Address at <http://www.southwark.anglican.org/who/Speeches/BoF-Presidential-address-May16>



Woolwich retired clergy say farewell to Bishop Michael

The Woolwich Area Retired Clergy met on Monday 11 April in St Saviour's Church, Brockley Hill for their Annual Eucharist and meeting followed by a buffet lunch.

They were joined by Bishop Michael for the last time to preside and preach. He stayed after the service to talk about his appointment as Bishop of Lichfield.

The Revd Ray Turpin reports: "Some said it was one of the best meetings we have had and how sorry they were that Bishop Michael was moving on but they were also pleased for him as he takes up his new post. Our prayers and good wishes go with him."

"We look forward to meeting again later in the year".

THE BRIDGE

is produced & published by Kent Christian Press for Communications and Resources on behalf of The Diocese of Southwark, Trinity House, 4 Chapel Court, Borough High Street, London SE1 1HW Tel: 020 7939 9400 Fax: 020 7939 9468 e-mail: bridge@southwark.anglican.org

Managing Editor:

Wendy S. Robins (Communications & Resources)

Editor:

Bryan Harris (Kent Christian Press)

ADVERTISING & DISTRIBUTION

☎: 01474 854503

E: kcpress@btinternet.com

Editorial Advisory Board:

Christopher Skilton (Chair)

Adeline Cole

Carol Coslett

Roxanne Hunte

Betty Percival

Wendy S. Robins (Secretary)

Dr Jane Steen

Tom Sutcliffe

The **JULY** edition is due to be printed on **7 JULY** and in your parish from the following Sunday. Material for that edition must be with **Wendy S. Robins** at Trinity House by **MONDAY 27 JUNE**.

Space limitations mean that we cannot guarantee to publish everything we receive and material may be edited. The editorial team will assume that all photographs submitted for publication come to us with the necessary permission for printing. So, please ensure that people are happy for their photographs to be submitted before you do so. A form for permission for the use of photographs of children and adults who may be vulnerable can be found at www.southwark.anglican.org/what/diocesan-policies-procedures

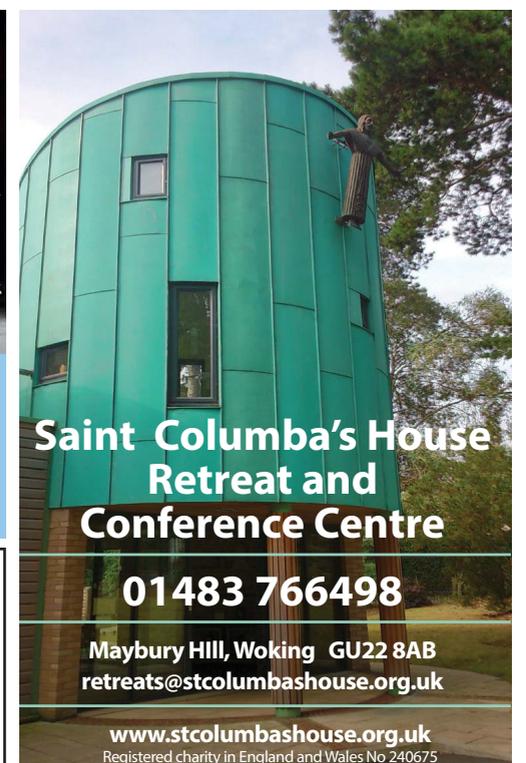


enhancing church interiors
Ronald Emmett fine furniture
www.ronaldemmettfurniture.com
01308 868025

CHURCH PEWS

UNCOMFORTABLE?

WHY NOT TRY SAFEFOAM'S TOP QUALITY UPHOLSTERED FOAM PEW CUSHIONS?
Safeoam, Green Lane, Riley Green, Houghton, Preston PR5 0SN
www.safeoam.co.uk Freephone 0800 015 44 33
Free Sample Pack of foam & fabrics sent by first class mail
When phoning please quote SB0616



Saint Columba's House Retreat and Conference Centre

01483 766498

Maybury Hill, Woking GU22 8AB
retreats@stcolumbushouse.org.uk

www.stcolumbushouse.org.uk
Registered charity in England and Wales No 240675