

THE NET

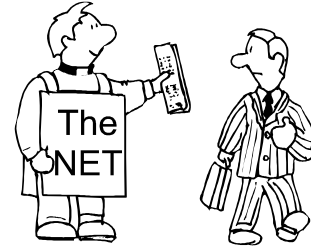
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An online Christian community based in the Diocese of Oxford, part of the Church of England.



Roller coaster

Despite having brought up four children I can't claim to have really mastered the art of enjoying the more scary aspects of fun fairs and theme parks.

As a young teen I went on the Waltzers when the fair came to town, more because my friends were doing it than because I liked it. I much preferred the Dodgems and the penny machines. I braved the Ferris Wheel when our first two children were young and had the terrifying experience of sitting through the whole ride trying to keep our daughter from falling under the bar as she tried to get away.

When our youngest two were little we went to Flamingo Land in North Yorkshire. While the older ones and dad went on more adventurous rides I took the dragon roller coaster for tinies with our youngest son and that was quite enough for me! For 'Ailsa', read 'wimp'.

However, somehow I found myself in the queue for the log flume. Goodness knows how I let myself be persuaded but I did. There was a sort of inevitability as we climbed into the 'log'. I still remember the creaking as we were winched up to the top. Then we sat there looking at the drop and I knew there was no way out of this predicament but down. Screaming wouldn't change anything—we still had to plunge down that steep drop and I had to trust those who operated the ride to keep us safe. Although I'm not sure I want to repeat the experience, there was a sense of euphoria when we reached the bottom with a mighty splash.

I think our recent life in i-church has been rather like that log flume ride. We've been creaking along a bit, with the odd protesting noise now and again. Now we've climbed up higher and

can see more clearly where we are. We're waiting to find our new Web Pastor and that's a bit like waiting at the top of the ride looking at the scary bit to come. We can't climb off; we have to sit tight. Screaming won't change anything (though it might make you feel better!). We have to trust the designer of the ride to keep us safe. But this is no human engineer. Our journey together is watched over by no other than God himself.

The advertisements for the new Web Pastor have gone out, the arrangements for interviews are made. In November we take the plunge and actually begin to choose who will lead us. As we hurtle to our destination we may feel like shouting 'Stop' but when we arrive with a splash I'm sure there will be a sense of achievement. We will have survived the ride and be ready for a new phase in our life together.

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Next Issue will be published on November 2nd.

Pastor's Letter

Joe Parrish

MOVING AHEAD



In the Fall we 'fall back' in time an hour on November 4th at 1 a.m. in the US, and October 28th at 1 a.m. in the UK. The clocks go back an hour, one hour is counted twice, we have 'an hour to spare', so to speak. And surely we need that!

Suppose all of our lives could be lived that way, that we have an extra hour here and there, what would we do with that extra hour? Would we squander it; would we rest in it? Or would we do something especially good that we had been putting off? Will that hour really move us back, or ahead?

In the environment, every hour means our world grows a bit warmer, a bit more polluted, and economically we become a bit poorer over all. It's the 'faster we run, the behinder we get' phenomenon.

In our personal lives we often 'short' the ones we are closest to; parents their children, children their parents, and so on. Even friendships lose a bit every here and there. So we need to focus our attention on how have we left undone those greetings, those 'catching ups' we meant to do, and actually do them? Maybe we can use that extra hour to begin to do that right now!

The Lord always reminded us to be watchful, to be ready, to be alert. Time is precious, and it never comes back to us.

Tell someone you haven't told recently that you love them. Let that word of friendship be warmed again, and now.

Peace and blessings, Joe

i-church Announcements

A number of i-church roles have been confirmed in the last month, as follows:

Pam Smith has been appointed Press Officer for i-church with responsibility for public relations matters. In this role Pam has been co-opted onto Council.

Pauline Higham has received approval from the Trustees to take up the role of Leader of the Spiritual Direction Group. There are two such groups, rather inventively called SDG1 and SDG2, each with a membership of about 8. James Johnson is the other approved leader of the SDGs and he and Pauline are currently joint leaders of both groups.

Karen Wellman has been approved by the Trustees to take up the leadership of the recently formed Vocations Group. This group is open to anyone either looking at their own calling or to others (usually ordained members) who want to offer support to those members looking at their vocations.

Joyce H is now co-host of How i-church works.

Tim H is now the i-church historian and is gathering a team to write our history.

If you want to know more about any of the Special Interest Groups now operating within i-church please take a look at the Forum & Group Index topic in the NEWS & Information category on the forums. There is also a summary of each group and who to contact if you are interested in joining the group. Most of the groups have space for extra members to join, some are designed to be smaller groups with a maximum membership and they might be already at capacity.

Ps & Qs

Puzzles and Quandries on the Way Richard Haggis

Praying for the Dead – What does it mean?

Here are two prayers published by the Archbishop of Canterbury for use at memorial services for the tenth anniversary of Diana, Princess of Wales:

God our Father, we remember before you Diana, Princess of Wales, and offer you our gratitude for all the memories of her that we treasure still.

Her vulnerability and her willingness to reach out to the excluded and forgotten touched us all; her generosity gave hope and joy to many.

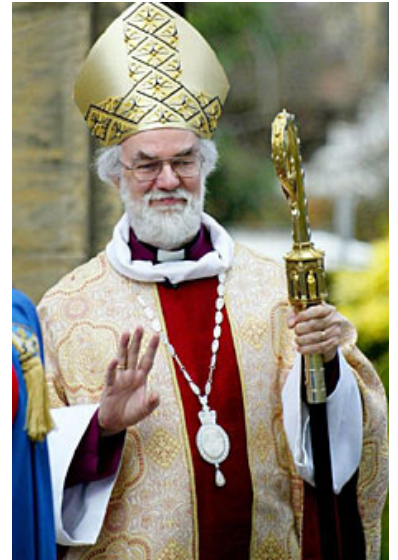
May she rest in peace where sorrow and pain are banished, and may the everlasting light of your merciful love shine upon her; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

and:

Father eternal, unfailing source of peace to all who seek you, we entrust to your love and protection all for whom this anniversary of the tragic and untimely death of Diana, Princess of Wales

reawakens the pains of grief and loss.

Comfort all who mourn, that casting all their cares upon you, they may be filled with your gifts - of new life, of courage and of hope; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Praying for the dead has been a very controversial thing between Christians. On the one hand, there has been an ancient tradition of including those who have recently died in our prayers, and also remembering them on the anniversaries of their death. Saints' days have traditionally been the day they "exchanged time for eternity" although there is a modern trend to celebrate the date of their baptism. On the other hand there is the more Protestant view that the dead are "past praying for". To some ears this sounds harsh and hopeless, but it is meant to be an expression of trust – when someone has died, it is to God's mercy alone, not human caprice and frail nature, that we must entrust them.

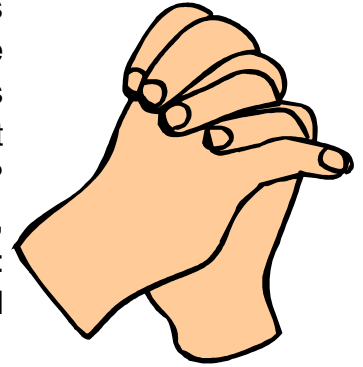
Only the first of the prayers above counts as a prayer for someone who has died – the clause beginning "may she rest in peace ..." is asking God to be merciful to her, and grant her rest. Of course, it is a rest that Diana may already have been granted, if that doesn't sound too absurd. And here we hit one of the problems of these prayers – the relationship between time and eternity. If God's plan is to be merciful, then surely he has already got on with it, and what use is it us blathering on about it?

There is another problem about the nature of God. I was once told by a widower that he didn't want to think that his late wife was in the hands of a God whose resolution could be swayed by the prayers – or failure to pray – of mere mortals like him. His view was that she was much safer in a world where human inadequacy couldn't reach her. There is much force to this argument. What sort of God would God be if he granted rest to those who are popular, with lots of people to pray for them, and forgot about the unpopular and the lonely? That doesn't tie in at all with what we see of God in Christ in the Gospels.

I don't think there's much arguing with either of these points of theology. But I also don't think that's the end of the story as far as praying for the dead goes. Christian people believe in the

Communion of Saints, which is the “company of all faithful people” living and departed. The Church we see about us is the “Church militant, here in earth” and its counterpart in heaven is the “Church Triumphant”, the “angels and archangels and all the company of heaven”. The saints we celebrate are those we are sure are part of that company. We may feel slightly less sure that some of those we love will receive immediate membership, and to pray for them is to express our solidarity with them, that they remain part of us in the life to come as they have been in the life lived. To pray for those who have died is an expression of our faith in God’s eternal mercy.

When we pray for those we love amongst the living, we don’t always intend to tell God what to do with them - our prayer comes out because we love them, and love is of God, so praying to God for those we love is natural and right. It doesn’t have to be “prayer for ...” anything. Without love for one another, how could we possibly come to know God’s love? And just as God’s love was not extinguished by the cross and the tomb, so our love is not extinguished by the grave. In William Penn’s words: “Life is eternal and love is immortal, and death is only an horizon, and an horizon is nothing, save the limit of our sight”.



i-church Elections

Phil Wright

In the last issue of The NET we were looking forward to holding elections during October to fill three vacancies on Council. The announcement of the election was made, on schedule, on September 1st but by the time the window for nominations had closed three candidates had been put forward and duly seconded. This meant that all three were deemed to be elected un-opposed and their names were immediately forwarded to the Trustees for approval.

Within 24 hours the Trustees had given their assent and our three newest council members were installed. Alan Shaw, Matt Clayson and Richard Haggis join council and will serve until the elections of 2011 - a term of 3 and a half years! So, we had all better get used to Richard, Matt and Alan because they will be with us for some time to come!

The Council is currently made up as follows:

Ex-officio members: Vacancy (Web Pastor), Joe Parrish (Assistant Pastor), Mark Gibbens (Technical Manager) and Phil Wright (Treasurer).

Elected members: Ailsa Wright (Lay Chair, 2010), Alan Shaw (2011), Jayne Tite (2009), Jennifer Ducker (2010), Matt Clayson (2011), Paula Franke (2009), Richard Haggis (2011), Susanna Collins (Council Secretary, 2010), and Tim Hutchins (Deputy Lay Chair, 2009).

Co-opted member: Pam Smith (Press Officer / Public Relations).

We now have 13 members with 5 of them non-UK based which is really good and reflects the makeup of our i-church membership. We have a wide variety of experience represented in the council members which should ensure great input into our deliberations. This is a very exciting time in the life of i-church with lots of changes and developments that should help us to move forward in implementing our vision.

If you have an issue that you would like raising in council, send a PM to one of the members and they can put it on the agenda.

Easy Money? . . .

Jennifer D

Raise Funds For Free When You Shop Online!

We've found a new and easy way for you to raise funds for i-church - simply by shopping online!

We've teamed up with easyfundraising, an online shopping directory listing over 400 of your favourite stores, including Amazon, NEXT, Debenhams, John Lewis, Tesco, DELL and many more. Every time you shop online with any one of them, we'll receive up to 15% of every purchase – at no extra cost to you!

It's completely FREE to register and use and it doesn't cost a penny extra to shop and raise funds in this way. In fact, you can even SAVE MONEY as many retailers give exclusive discounts, special offers and even 'e-vouchers' when you shop through the easyfundraising site.

There's also a great 'Free Funds' section where you can raise money for us without spending anything at all by participating in free trials, etc!

If you shop online anyway, then why not raise extra funds for us by using this completely FREE service. Registration with easyfundraising is completely free too. Every penny you raise will help us to grow and flourish.

This service is easy to use and it's completely FREE.

Whenever you are shopping online go to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> ichurch login using your username/password. This is how the system recognises who you are and that i-church benefits when you make purchases, then start shopping!

Finally, click any of the retailer links provided and then shop just as you would normally. Providing you login and use the retailer links provided they'll track all your transactions and pay i-church the appropriate donations. You will need to switch off ad blocking.

That's all you need to do - apart from remembering to return to the easyfundraising site next time you shop online!!

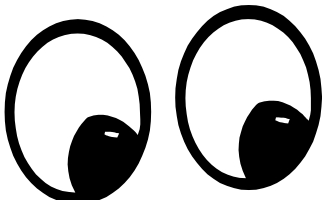
So please bookmark this website.



. . . and more Easy Money

easysearch

easysearch is a new charity search engine where you can raise funds for i-church, simply by surfing the web!



LOOK!

Powered by Yahoo! the world's 2nd largest search provider, easysearch works just like Google giving you fast, accurate search results every time you search online.

When you search using easysearch i-church will receive approx. one pence for every search you make. It doesn't sound like much, but a keen searcher can raise £25.00 a year - or more - just through their normal online searching!

easysearch is completely free to use, so this is a great way to support i-church - just by surfing the web as you do already!

Ready to search or surf and raise money for i-church? Go to <http://ichurch.easysearch.org.uk/> .

Reunion 2007

Ailsa Wright

The invasion has begun! Nick and Phyl arrived in the UK on Friday evening and soon were enjoying coffee on the Portobello Road in London after a good night's sleep. I did hear rumours of a blog being written so we may hear more in the future. I know that Phyl had a big itinerary planned. The last we heard from Nick they were at the Tower of London.



On Tuesday Helen travelled to London to be with Nick and Phyl and it sounds as though they had a brilliant day. The Queen was not at home to meet them unfortunately, but they attended the tercentenary of the birth of John Wesley at Westminster Abbey. There they met the Archbishop of Canterbury, Bishop John of Oxford and Bishop Colin of Dorchester (our bishop). We're hoping there will be more about this on our website soon.

On Thursday morning Paula landed safely at Manchester after a very long journey, although she was early at least so that was good. Phil and I recognised her instantly and she seemed to recognise us too. We even switched on a glorious sunrise for her!

Today (Friday) we're going into Wakefield to have a look around in a touristy fashion and get some food in for any who will be with us tomorrow for lunch or a BBQ. Various people will be meeting with us at times on our itinerary here. Hopefully we will have photographic evidence too! If you want to join us, read the post in i-church Times for details. The more the merrier!

And the meet goes on

Joe Parrish

So far about 18 of us are coming to Oxford on Monday, October 15, for a breakfast with our Bishop, Colin Fletcher, and Alastair Hunter, the head of our Trustees, beginning with Matins at 0745, followed immediately by a delicious English breakfast--total cost about 14 pounds (Breakfast is £8.95 and we are asking for donations to pay for the room, hence the price). If you can join us, please let me know by PM or email <joe@i-church.org>, so we can plan which size room to use. The breakfast and prayers will be at the Linton Lodge Hotel where Matt Clayson, one of our new i-church Council members, works; the hotel's address is 11-13 Linton Road, Oxford, OX2 6UJ. Near to the hotel (within walking distance) is the University Parks. We currently have reserved the Garden Room at the hotel for us, but we may need to move to a larger room if the group grows much more.

And on Sunday, October 14, at 11:15 AM, God willing, we will worship together at Christ Church Cathedral in Oxford, so join us if you can! It will be a beautiful sung Anglican Eucharist, and we expect all will enjoy it, be you Anglican or not.

On Saturday, October 13, at 10:30 AM we will have a brilliant Eucharist together at St. Andrew's right beside the Linton Lodge.

There will be significant pub/eating/touring opportunities around these three days also, and we will give you those details when we see you or you can check them out in issue #13 of The NET.

It would be wonderful to see you in Oxford if that is possible for you with or without your significant other, friends, whomever!

Your trash is worth cash

Jennifer D

Your office trash can be worth thousands of pounds to i-church

Office materials that normally end up in the bin - toner and inkjet printer cartridges, and old mobile phones - can be recycled to raise valuable funds for i-church. If you're guilty of throwing away used printer cartridges and other recyclable office materials, read on!

i-church has teamed up with leading recyclers at the Recycling Appeal in an environmentally friendly fundraising scheme. Every time you donate a cartridge or old mobile phone to the i-church Recycling Appeal, i-church will earn cash.

i-church's Recycling Appeal is an easy way to help the environment while supporting a great cause. We are raising funds to maintain i-church and to employ a Web Pastor and with your support, we are confident our Recycling Appeal will be a great success.

Not only will your participation in the i-church's Recycling Appeal raise the organisation much needed funds, recycling allows you to make a positive impact on the environment, it will help reduce your carbon footprint.

Rob Morton of the Recycling Appeal says:

"Throwing away old mobile phones and used printer cartridges sends them to landfill sites where they become part of our nation's growing waste problem. The vast majority of mobile phones contain toxic substances, which can leak into the surrounding soil and pollute it, and printer cartridges take hundreds of years to biodegrade. Why not use these products for something good? Send them to the i-church Recycling Appeal and they will be refurbished and re-used. Some of the mobile phones even end up in developing countries where little or no landline infrastructure exists meaning your old mobile could provide a lifeline for someone."

So put your old mobile phones, inkjet and toner printer cartridges to one side. The Recycling Appeal provides free collections if you have more than ten items, and freepost envelopes if you have less. To get more details and begin recycling, visit www.recyclingappeal.com or call the Recycling Appeal team on 08451 30 20 10. Use your trash to help the environment and support i-church. It won't cost you a penny.

And now for every envelope/packet returned you will be entered into a prize draw to win a break at Champneys Health Resort courtesy of www.champneys.com

<http://www.recyclingappeal.com/latestnews/prizes.asp>

Get recycling for your chance to win!



GIVE A LITTLE, HELP A LOT

Used printer cartridges? Old mobile phones?
Don't bin them – recycle them to raise valuable funds!

Call: 08451 30 20 10 / Visit: www.recyclingappeal.com

All products collected will support:

Collection locations:

The poster features a blue border and four images: a silver mobile phone, a white mobile phone, a blue printer cartridge, and a blue printer. The text is in green and black. At the bottom, there are two input fields for 'All products collected will support:' and 'Collection locations:'. The logos for 'i-Church' and 'recycling appeal' are also present.

Book Review

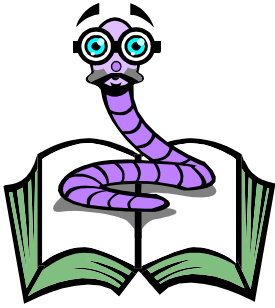
Nick Battaglia

An Infinity of Little Hours: Five Young Men and Their Trial of Faith in the Western World's Most Austere Monastic Order

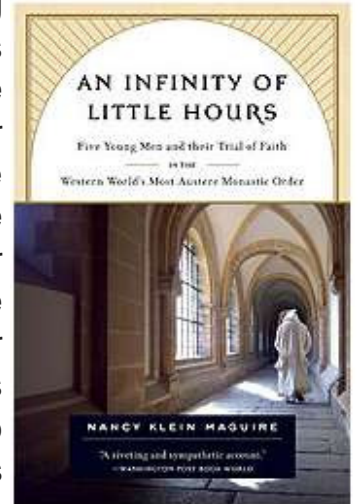
By Nancy Klein Maguire

Public Affairs Books Paperback 2007

ISBN 978-1-58648-432-3 272 pp \$13.95 in the US



Although probably overused as praise for reportage, it feels particularly right to say that Nancy Klein Maguire's account of five novice Carthusians' lives reads very much like a novel. Frankly, the thing is a page-turner with a great cast of characters, a superb setting, and a compelling 'plot'. From the irritations felt by a musically talented novice as he learns to sing the office in choir with monks who have come to understand that prayer is not about all sharing one same key, to the breakdown that leads one of the novices to his departure and return to his former life, to the poignant-comic-tragic scene when two of the monks find themselves at Hampton Court and in their 12th century habits are mistaken by the tourists for part of the show, the book is good fun rolled up with superb meditation fodder to boot. As one who has regularly felt a tiny interior urge to solitude in his spiritual life for many years, the monks' story -- set of stories, really -- is at once entertaining, inspiring, and more than a bit sobering (even unsettling or frightening). I think there is not a chance on earth that I could succeed as a monk, let alone a hermit monk! (I don't think it's much of a spoiler to relate that four of the five young men whose stories Maguire relates to us 'fail' as Carthusians and go on to other lives, which seems to be a fairly typical rate of attrition for the order.) But the book has reminded me that I'd love to somehow find my way to an extended silent retreat of sixty or ninety days' length.



There are lots of reviews of this special little book. No need for another. So if you'll allow me to just react to my reading instead of trying to come up with anything as ponderous as a review, I think we'll both save ourselves the bearing of that burden. What struck me most about the book was how much it caused me to imagine myself as a postulant at St. Hugh's Charterhouse at Parkminster. Relatively few of those who begin Carthusian life 'make it' all the way to solemn vows. I pretty sure I'd be one who would come up short; but I'm just not certain. And reading this story made me wish I could somehow find out. I am more than a little bit envious that there are those who have an opportunity to stare down their own interior selves in a room alone with God, day after day after day for a whole lifetime of days that are very intentionally very much the same. I found myself wondering what sort of interpersonal relationships one might be able to form with other hermit-monks with whom one shares just liturgy, except for Sunday dinner and weekly long walks during which one is permitted to have conversation (but conversation that the order expects will be about nothing as serious as what you are all really up to: life alone with God). What impact to have only annual brief visits with parents? Etc. Etc. Finally, what to do when face-to-face with God alone for a lifetime?! Frightening in many ways; but who wouldn't like to test himself? Who wouldn't be curious? Listen to Maguire characterize the experience of Dom Malachi, one of the five young men whose stories she so engagingly follows: "He found that being alone with God made him depressed, overflowing, merry; happy, more often just peaceful, and sometimes terribly bored." (I guess maybe that sounds very like *any* life understood and lived as a vocation, now that I think about it. And so on another level, isn't this book about *all* vocations!) And Maguire gets at every

bit of that wild interior roller-coaster of a life. I'll never know what this sort of unblinking focus on God and prayer might do to (for) me. Maguire's book whets my appetite to know and provides me with ways to think about myself in such a life. She gives me clues about a way of life that would give me clues about myself and about God. She cracks open that door just a little bit for me. And all through my reading of this story I kept coming back to two questions over and over: It is even possible that I could 'make it' as a Carthusian hermit? Is there a way to build some little bit of this aloneness with God into my own life?

I am reminded of a number of the little stories of the Desert Fathers and Mothers, and one in particular that has frequently been on my mind since I read it a number of years ago. I'm sure you've heard it before: One of the brothers went to see Abba Moses and asked him for counsel. The old man said: Go and sit in your cell, and your cell will teach you everything.

Open House - Cursillo

Phil Wright

The regular Open House sessions in Live Chat on Tuesday evenings at 19:00 hrs GMT continue to be popular. Richard Haggis has been able to find a number of interesting speakers, occasionally aided and abetted by others - including me. I had suggested that we invite Jenny Lowery, a friend of mine, who is the President of the British Anglican Cursillo Council. Since Jenny lives only a few miles from our house, she was invited over so she could log into i-church and get instant help if she ran into any difficulties - which of course she did not.



Jenny had never used Live Chat before, so it was all a bit strange at first. However Jenny soon got the hang of things and the pace of questions and answers certainly "hotted up" over the course of the next hour. So much so that Jenny was amazed to find the clock showing 9 o'clock (locally) and time for our regular evening worship.

Cursillo has some familiar aspects to anyone in i-church - founded on Benedictine principles, Cursillo is focussed around prayer, study and action - something familiar to our i-church forum regulars. Where Cursillo is different is that it offers a 3 day residential weekend (often called a Cursillo Weekend) where the Cursillo method is explained and explored. A Cursillo weekend has a series of 5 meditations and 15 talks, some given by ordained people but many by lay members.

Interwoven between these talks is time for discussion, activity, contemplation, reflection, prayer and quite a lot of fun and laughter.

However, the most important part of Cursillo is after the weekend, sometimes known as the "4th day", or the rest of your life. It is in our daily lives that the Cursillo method is lived out and Cursillo provides a support mechanism to encourage and assist everyone to live out their Christian life to the full.

Cursillo started in Spain after the civil war there. It was designed as a method to "re-Christianise" Spain and was initially aimed at the young. The pilgrimage to the shrine of St James at Compostella was often part of the life of early cursillistas, and indeed our Lay Chairman Ailsa walked the last 100 miles to Compostella last year (and we have photos of her blisters to prove it). The Cursillo method swiftly grew in popularity and was taken up in the USA after which it re-crossed the Atlantic to Britain in the late 1980s.

Cursillo is active in the majority of dioceses in Britain, including Oxford diocese. If you want to find out more you can do so at <http://www.ukcursillo.org/> or you can send a PM to me and I'll answer any questions.

Holy Molé

By Paula Franke

Part of my summer reading included William Horwood's *Duncton Wood* first published in 1980. I'd found the novel amongst the hundreds of science fiction and fantasy books we inherited from my mother-in-law, who died in 2005.

The main residents of Duncton Wood are moles. Those furry little burrowers that are the bane of gardeners but Duncton Wood moles are a "cut above" the typical sort.

As in human society, in Duncton Wood burrows can be found good and evil, industry and sloth, dark and light, intellectual curiosity and "don't worry further than where the next worms for supper can be found".

In Horwood's mole world, the Great Library, scribemoles and clerics can be found at the "Holy Burrows of Uffington", the central repository of molekind's accumulated knowledge, scholarship and teachings.

At first glimpse it would appear to be a whimsical anthropomorphism of an animal society facing the pressures and stresses of good vs evil. But the further I got along with the book, the whimsy was transforming into a not-so-subtle comment on the human condition.

While some people are uncomfortable or dismissive of assigning human characteristics to animals or inanimate objects, sometimes the truth can be distressing so anthropomorphism can be a handy literary device.

That's the case with *Duncton Wood*. There's something of the Old Testament, and something of the Gospels, but from a mole's perspective. There's plenty of questioning, cogitating and worrying at bits of truth and asking "why?"

The mole's perspective may seem sometimes simplistic, sometimes downright silly, and other times somewhat obscure. But it's almost always engaging and thoughtful.

I'd mentioned in Live Chat one evening that I was reading *Duncton Wood*, and asked if anyone else had heard of it. I was surprised that someone else not only had heard of the novel, but also mentioned there was a trilogy and she had all three volumes.



I'm visiting the UK as I type this in Wakefield (and here is a picture of Wakefield Cathedral - visited today while I was being a dutiful tourist). When I arrived Thursday morning, I found a box posted to me (in care of Ailsa) from Heidi. In the box was the *Duncton Wood* trilogy, which I immediately opened for my bedtime reading (despite major jet lag, the moles of Duncton Wood conspired to keep me awake).

Heidi says, "Moles Rule!"

I agree and recommend the series highly.

(*Duncton Wood*, *Duncton Quest* and *Duncton Found*)

Recipe

By Richard Haggis

Louise Burgers

First catch a Louise. No, you don't really have to. This very simple little method was first shown to me by a lodger of mine (Louise! - but then you guessed that) who was on the Atkins Diet - you know the one, all meat and cheese and no carbohydrates? - so when she got in from work she needed food, and needed it FAST. I'd had home-made burgers my grandmother made, but never tried it myself.

Ingredients:

Minced beef (lean or extra lean if that's what you prefer - most of the fat falls out anyway in the grilling). For quantity - have a look, and see how much you want.

An onion or two (depends on size - you don't want the onion being more than about a quarter of the burger).

Some garlic (but some don't like garlic, that's up to them, leave it out).

Coriander - preferably freshly chopped, a handful or so.

Tomatoes - preferably freshly chopped beef tomatoes, but they work fine from a can too.

Seasonings - whatever you like! Salt, pepper, Worcestershire sauce, tabasco, other herbs etc.

Gently fry the onion (and garlic, if you're using it) in vegetable oil or butter. When it starts to go golden and soft, it's done. Put it in a deep mixing bowl (and let it cool down - you're going to mix it with your hands!).

Add the beef and mix.

Add the coriander and mix.

Add the tomatoes and mix - but just a bit at the time, so that the whole mix doesn't become too wet.

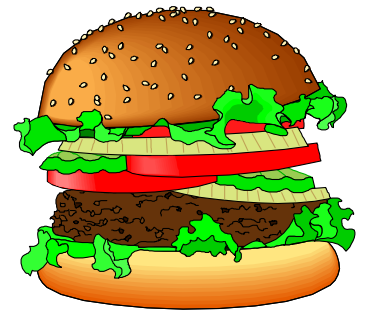
If you feel like it, add some Worcestershire or Tabasco Sauce, or anything else that takes your fancy.

Squidge away with your hands until the mixture turns into neat little burger parcels in the palm of your hand. If you can hold it top-and-bottom then it is firm enough to cook. If it feels flaky, put in some more tomatoes or oil. If it's too wet, squidge out some of the juice and discard it (or put in the dog's bowl).

Heat a grill - medium-to-hot, and put them under. Don't put them too close to the grill as the fat will splash up on the hot element and fill your kitchen with smoke. Turn a few times, in between sipping a glass of something cool and comforting.

15-20 minutes and they should be done - brown on the outside, a little less on the inside (but cook them more if you like meat darker than that).

I'm afraid it's a play-it-by-ear recipe - you have to feel confident that you know what you're doing, or just be confident to make it up! It costs relatively little and it's ready in no time. Infinitely better than any burger you will ever eat out.



Council report

Ailsa Wright

As a result of a member's request, council looked at the names of the Situations Vacant and Rough Guide forums. It was decided to leave Situations Vacant as it is but Rough Guide has been changed to Explorers of Faith.

New groups have come into existence in the past month. There is a second Spiritual Direction group (SDG2), a Bible Study group and a Vocations Group. These, along with SDG1, appear to be working well. References were sought for leaders of these groups where there is a pastoral nature to the group and, as you will see elsewhere, Pauline and Karen have received Trustee approval. A team is now being gathered by Helen W to look after The Guest House, a Special Interest Group for new members, where they will be able to ask questions if they need to as they get their bearings in i-church.

The copyright and copying guidelines are now agreed and in Docs and the Mod guidelines have been updated to include more detail about copyright issues. There is currently a discussion ongoing about publishing council procedures and Moderator guidelines.

The Council forum has been rearranged to make working more efficient. There is now a designated area to keep documentation and one to store council decisions for ease of reference. Minutes of all decisions made from the beginning of the i-church Council are gradually being created. The method of handling the agenda has also been changed and is working well. Discussions are now split into two types; formal discussions which are dealt with in The Council Chamber, and informal ones in Council Discussions. These changes will be reviewed in three months. Council now has a policy on voting including the issue of quorum in a 24/7 environment, how we should handle items passing through council to allow adequate discussion but not slow things down unacceptably. Council is also looking at the election procedure to ensure clarity.

The Fresh Expressions conference has come and gone, with my presentation and notes being made available on the forums for those interested. The latest news is that the conference papers will be collected into a book to be published by SCM. The Trustees have given their approval to my talk being written up for inclusion in the book.

Prayer threads will now be hidden if inactive after three months and deleted after a year. Birthday greetings will now be deleted after three months. Details are given at the top of the relevant forums.

In the light of a possible increase in our numbers in the future, discussions continue about a chaplaincy team. This is the final section to pursue from the vision document generated in January. This idea was well received at a recent Trustees' meeting and discussions will continue, with a view to including the new Web Pastor in them later.

Council continues to be updated on progress with the website and is also looking at how i-church is listed on the Fresh Expressions website and at our mission statement.

The worship leaders group have been running a series of special services on the theme of Creation/environment including a pet service, celebrating St Francis' Day and a harvest festival. During the week we had an Open House on the theme of Christians and the environment led by Martin and Margot Hodson.

The finance group has submitted a grant application and is awaiting the outcome. It continues to research ways of raising funds for i-church.

The search for a Web Pastor

Advertisements have now been placed in the search for our new Web Pastor with applications due in by October 29th. You will also find a copy of the advertisement on the i-church website (<http://www.i-church.org>).

The Trustees will draw up a short list of suitable candidates who will be invited to participate in an online interview, using a specially created room in Live Chat. The on-line interviews will take place during the week commencing November 5th.

The on-line interview panel (one Trustee and 3 members of Council) will make a recommendation on who should be invited to a final face to face interview to be held in the week commencing November 19th. The final interview panel will be Bishop Colin, Alastair Hunter (Chair of Trustees) and Ailsa Wright (Chair of Council).

The successful candidate will be invited to become our Web Pastor sometime around November 26th. The actual date of appointment will depend on individual circumstances - it could be almost immediately or as much as three months after the offer of the job is made.

However, whoever is selected for the job we should know who it is by the end of November.

Our search will soon be over!



Staying in Oxford?

If you are visiting Oxford, and you need somewhere to stay then read on. i-church member Matt Clayson has fixed up a special deal at the Hotel where he works.

Double/Twin room	£90 (based on 2 sharing)
Single	£80

All prices include tax at the current rate and full English breakfast. Dinner is available for £20 extra per person in our Library Restaurant.

To book, either PM/email Matthew Clayson, check out the web site (<http://www.lintonlodge.com>), telephone +44 (0) 1865 553461 or send us a fax on +44 (0) 1865 559327.

All enquiries must be directed to Matthew Clayson or Karen in Reservations (or you won't get the special rate!). Bookings are subject to availability.

How to join i-church

Not everyone who reads The NET is a member of i-church, and if that applies to you, please read on . . . It is great to find you reading our newspaper. Hopefully reading these pages will whet your appetite to find out more about us.

If you go to our main website, www.i-church.org you will find lots of information about i-church, what we do, when we do it etc and if this sounds like the kind of church you would like to belong to, please do ask to join.

We have members in the UK, Europe, The United States, Caribbean, South America, Africa, Asia, Australia and New Zealand. We are very much a world wide broad church, and there is usually someone around, somewhere in the world 24 hrs a day.

Whilst we are formally part of the Church of England, we have members of many denominations and varied churchmanship. It is our diversity which makes i-church such an interesting place to be. And you can be a member of both i-church AND a more conventional bricks and mortar church at the same time.



Scrooge writes

I know what you are saying! "Isn't the likeness between our Treasurer and Scrooge uncanny?" And not just in the picture, I hear you mutter under your breath. The quill was a present from Paula who plucked it from one of the

peacocks on her farm, or maybe it was just lying on the ground, discarded by the bird as surplus to requirements. Well the peacock's loss is my gain.

Which neatly moves me on to some of the great initiatives set in motion by our finance sub-group, under the guidance of Jennifer. A few months ago Jennifer showed us how we can turn surplus phones, printer cartridges into cash, and she has updated that information in this issue. Elsewhere you can read about some very easy and low cost (to you) methods of generating funds for i-church. This means that if you happen to be someone who does not have a bank full of ready cash to divert into the i-church vaults you can still make a financial contribution - all it takes is a small amount of organisation and a little time. OK, the amounts on their own are tiny, but it is surprising how they can add up. The more members that take an active part in these fund raising ideas the more cash we will generate - which will secure our future well into the future.

Our long term finances are especially important when we are actively looking for our next Web Pastor. Obviously we want the best person for the job, and somewhere out there is the ideal candidate. i-church members continue to say how important it is that the Web Pastor is a paid priest within the framework of an Anglican diocese. What will be important to our new Web Pastor is that we have a long term future. And that's where we all have a part to play!

Worship in i-church

Being a 24/7 church is a constant challenge. We have had several discussions about what would be good times to meet for worship and the best we can manage is always a compromise.

The new compline service designed for members in the US is beginning to be attended regularly by some, not all of whom are in the States. We seem to have some insomniacs in the UK who are attending also. If you haven't tried it yet, do pop into chapel on Saturday, Tuesday and Thursday at 10pm EDT (Sunday, Wednesday & Friday 0200GMT). You will be warmly welcomed.

Service Times

Keep this guide by your computer to help you remember when all the service times are. There is space for you to write in the local equivalent times:

<u>Worship</u>	GMT
Mon to Fri	08:00
Sat & Sun	09:00
Daily	20:00 & 21:00
Sun & Wed, Fri (i.e. Sat, Tue, Thur 10pm EDT)	02:00
As advertised	11:00

Open House - Tuesdays

Study	19:00
Chat	19:45
Worship	20:00

