

View from The BRIDGE

"The Passion of Christ"

Rev Francis Makambwe



Think twice before NOT seeing this movie, whether you fear the sight of violence, or wish not to be reminded of the power of LOVE which overcame the evil cruelty of man against the Christ in his final days, an event which was to shake the world.

This production reveals the devil at work throughout the drama, tempting Jesus in Gethsemane, prompting the betrayal by Judas, abusing the powers of Caiaphas, Herod and Pilate, stoking the fires of the scourge, turning Judas to suicide and breaking the body of Christ with previously unimaginable cruelty.

Yet the bleeding and broken body of Jesus radiates only love for his persecutors. This film is not anti-Semitic.

The behaviour of the Jews and Romans portrayed is but a reminder of the misuse of power.

The violence against Jesus is a reminder of the violence we suffer yet now on this planet, how we violate our environment, how we foment wars for economic or political gain, how we impose impossible conditions on the weak in the third world to repay debts.

Yet the broken body of Christ rose from the dead, as the film seeks to confirm, giving hope, indeed confidence for a redeemed future.

What others thought of the film.... pages 4 & 9

New Director of Education for Southwark Diocese

Barbara Lane has been appointed as the Director of Education for Southwark Diocese. She will succeed Linda Borthwick who retires at the end of August.

Barbara Lane, 47, is currently Project Director for Partnerships for Church of England Schools. She has worked as an education consultant and for Hackney and Lambeth Local Education Authorities in a variety of roles, including Assistant Director of Education of The Learning Trust in Hackney. Barbara Lane has also held a range of senior management positions in the private sector.

A former Chair of Governors of a Southwark Diocesan Church School, she worships at Southwark Cathedral where she has been Cathedral Warden.

She is Chair of Southwark Cathedral's Millennium Trust, is a governor of the Cathedral School and has represented the Cathedral on various national bodies.

Barbara Lane says, 'I am delighted to be appointed Director of Education for the Diocese of Southwark and for the opportunity to build on the excellent work of Linda Borthwick and the Board of Education team. It is an exciting time in education with new opportunities and partnerships and I look forward to leading this important work.'

The Rt Rev. Dr Richard Cheetham, Bishop of Kingston and Chair of the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education, says: 'The Board's work has developed extremely well under the able leadership of the retiring Director, Linda Borthwick, and her staff. It now stands at a crucial stage of



development with many interesting and exciting new possibilities.

"Barbara Lane brings a unique mix of experience in education and management, which equips her very well to undertake this important and demanding role and lead the work of the Board into the next phase. I look forward to working with her'.

The Rt Rev. Dr Tom Butler, Bishop of Southwark, commented: 'Barbara Lane has a proven track record in educational management, and knows Southwark Diocese well. She will bring many skills and much experience to this important post and I am delighted by her appointment'.

Barbara Lane begins her work at the Board of Education in September.

History comes alive at St. Mary's

Part of the history of St Mary's, Battersea, has come to life recently through a stained glass window and a rather shabby-looking painted memorial in the crypt.

The window has stood proudly gazing down on the congregation for decades. It is ablaze with flags and the noble profile of one Benedict Arnold. The plaster memorial sat rather ignominiously down in the crypt - where Arnold's bones are

buried—scuffed and ignored by countless Sunday school children. And so it would have continued to exist, unnoticed by many, another part of the quirky history of St. Mary's, had it not been for retired State Senator Bill Stanley from Norwich, Connecticut, USA.

As a schoolboy in the 1940's, Stanley developed an interest in one of the most intriguing figures of the American War of independence, Major General Benedict Arnold. He was responsible for winning the Battle of Saratoga, which changed the fortunes of the American colonists and turned the tide of the war. However, Arnold later defected to the British, and has been held in contempt by generations of Americans who remain unaware of his significant contribution to their country's independence. Bill Stanley's interest evolved into a lifelong crusade to set the record straight.

Seven trips to the UK over 25 years and reams of correspondence culminated in the creation of a new memorial dedicated at a service in St. Mary's on 22 May. The service included an address by Prof. James Kirby Martin, author of "Benedict Arnold, Revolutionary Hero: An American Warrior Reconsidered".



The new memorial stone to Benedict Arnold. The two people at the front represent Peggy Shippen (Benedict's second wife) and Benedict Arnold himself. In the background are members of the Norwich Connecticut Foot guard, which was founded and funded by Benedict Arnold. This group along with 25 others, led by Bill Stanley, came from America to be at St Mary's for the commemoration of the stone.

Bill Stanley has, entirely at his own expense, had a replacement memorial made from granite quarried in Vermont—where Arnold won several significant victories.

The Vicar of St. Mary's, the Rev. Paul Kennington, comments, "Although we are lucky enough to have a beautiful historic church, we are not a Georgian heritage society; we

are a living community of faith. We honour the diversity of people's life stories, and their individual struggles. And as Christians, we believe that Arnold—like everyone else—deserves God's mercy and grace."

The long-dead General, who served two countries, would probably have approved.

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@dswark.org.uk

Managing Editor: Wendy S. Robins (Communications & Resources)
Editor: Bryan Harris (Kent Christian Press)

Editorial Advisory Board: Christopher Skilton (Chair) Jeremy Blunden Adeline Cole Giles Fraser Rosemary Furber Carol Madison Graham Francis Makambwe Hugh Montefiore Denise Mumford Betty Percival Wendy S. Robins (Secretary) Tom Sutcliffe

ADVERTISING
☐ 01634 401611

CIRCULATION
☐ 01474 852474

Printed by East End Offset, Empson Street, Bromley by Bow, London E3

The Bridge is on Internet at : www.dswark.org

The JULY/AUGUST edition will be published on 7 July

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

Monday 28 June

Whilst we try to include as much material as possible, because of space limitations, we cannot guarantee to publish everything we receive. In addition we reserve the right to edit material submitted.

SOUND SYSTEMS

Audio excellence can be heaven but need not cost the earth

We offer: Bespoke sound systems to suit most budgets. Free of charge consultation including site visit. All systems available for full on-site approval prior to purchase. References supplied.

Specialists in **Loop Induction Systems**

OLD BARR AUDIO LTD. Tel or Fax: 01732 832494