



SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL



A service of thanksgiving for the life of

RICHARD CARR-GOMM OBE

2 January 1922 - 27 October 2008

Wednesday 29 April 2009



CLARENCE HOUSE

I am delighted to be able to pay this small tribute to Richard Carr-Gomm. As Patron of Abbeyfield for the last thirty years, I have some understanding of the ideals on which Abbeyfield was founded by him and know only too well that the work inspired by Richard Carr-Gomm over the past fifty-three years has helped many thousands of vulnerable people, young and old, lead happy, secure and fulfilled lives.

Both Abbeyfield and Carr-Gomm had humble beginnings in Bermondsey, South East London. They and the other charities Richard Carr-Gomm founded all aimed to offer a safe home and support to lonely and vulnerable people. I was fascinated to read that one of the turning-points in Richard Carr-Gomm's life, inspiring him to leave the Army and dedicate his life to the care of others, was when he invited Billy Graham to lunch in the Officer's Mess in the barracks within St. James's Palace.

To-day, as I can testify from my visits to Abbeyfield houses over the years, there are thousands of Abbeyfield volunteers and dedicated staff providing Supported Sheltered Housing, twenty-four hour Residential Care and Dementia Care to over 7,000 older people across the United Kingdom and in many countries around the world.

Although I am not as well acquainted with their work, I know that Carr-Gomm helps a wide variety of vulnerable people, disadvantaged through mental or physical illness or disability or who may be lonely or suffering a crisis in their lives, helping and empowering them to value themselves and develop the skills in life that they need to move on to a future they choose, as a part of their community.

I am very pleased to offer this tribute in memory of Richard Carr-Gomm's life and to celebrate his achievements. As Patron of Abbeyfield, I very much hope to ensure that his real memorial, the work that he began, carries on into the future.

The bells of the Cathedral are rung half-muffled before the service begins

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Fantasia in C minor (BWV 562) J. S. Bach

Stand

As the Choir enters the Cathedral

WELCOME AND BIDDING

The Reverend Canon Bruce Saunders, Pastor

We look not to the things that are seen
but to the things that are unseen;
for the things that are seen are transient
but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Today we come together
to remember Richard Carr-Gomm before God,
to give thanks for his life
and to comfort one another.

OPENING PRAYER

Father in heaven,
we give you thanks for your servant Richard.
We praise you as we recollect his life and cherish his memory.
We bless you that in bearing your image
his has brought light to our lives;
for we have seen
in his friendship reflections of your compassion,
in his integrity demonstrations of your goodness,
in his faithfulness glimpses of your eternal love.
Grant to each of us, beloved and bereft,
the grace to follow his good example
so that we with him may come to your everlasting kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who died and rose again and opened the gate of glory,
to whom be praise for all eternity.

Amen.

HYMN NEH 417

O GOD, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home;

Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting thou art God,
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be thou our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Sit

TRIBUTE

David Carr-Gomm

SONG

'Fields of Gold' performed by The Gemstones, words and music by Sting

READING

Harriet Carr-Gomm

**Remain
seated**

RESPONSORIAL ANTHEM

Isaiah 35.1,2b,3,4,10a

All

**The ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.**

The wilderness and the dry land shall rejoice:
the desert shall burst into song.
They shall see the glory of the Lord:
the majesty of our God.

All

**The ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.**

Strengthen the weary hands:
make firm the feeble knees.
Say to the anxious: Be strong, fear not,
your God is coming with judgement:
coming with judgement to save you.

All

**The ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.**

READING

Luke 10. 30-37, The Parable of the Good Samaritan
read by Gary Lashko, Chief Executive, Carr-Gomm

Jesus replied, 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend." Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'

Stand

HYMN

When I needed a neighbour
Were you there, were you there?
When I needed a neighbour
Were you there?

*And the creed and the colour
And the name won't matter
Were you there?*

I was hungry and thirsty
Were you there, were you there?
I was hungry and thirsty
Were you there?

*And the creed and the colour
And the name won't matter
Were you there?*

When I needed a shelter
Were you there, were you there?
When I needed a shelter
Were you there?

*And the creed and the colour
And the name won't matter
Were you there?*

Wherever you travel
I'll be there, I'll be there.
Wherever you travel
I'll be there.

*And the creed and the colour
And the name won't matter
I'll be there.*

Sit

READING

Abou ben Adhem (*James Leigh Hunt*) read by Paul Allen, Chief Executive,
The Abbeyfield Society

Abou Ben Adhem (may his tribe increase!)
Awoke one night from a deep dream of peace,
And saw within the moonlight of his room,
Making it rich and like a lily in bloom,
An angel writing in a book of gold.
Exceeding peace had made Ben Adhem bold,
And to the presence in the room he said,
'What writest thou?' – the vision raised its head,
And with a look, made all of sweet accord,
Answered, 'The names of those who love the Lord.'
'And is mine one?' said Abou. 'Nay not so,'
Replied the angel, Abou spoke more low,
But cheerly still; and said, 'I pray thee then,
Write me as one who loved his fellow-men.'

The angel wrote and vanished. The next night
It came again with a great wakening light,
And showed the names of those the Lord had blessed,
And lo! Ben Adhem's name led all the rest.

SONG

'Something inside so strong' performed by The Gemstones, words and music
by Labi Siffre

TRIBUTE

The Right Reverend Christopher Herbert, Patron of The Abbeyfield Society
A reflection on the faith and works of Richard Carr-Gomm

ANTHEM

Southwark Cathedral Singers 'And I saw a new heaven' Edgar Bainton

Sit or kneel **PRAYERS AND COMMENDATION**

Including the Regimental Collect of the Coldstream Guards and concluding:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Stand **HYMN** NEH 420

During the following hymn a collection for The Abbeyfield Society and Carr-Gomm will be taken. Envelopes can be found in your service sheets. If you intend to place cash or a cheque in the collection plate, and are a UK taxpayer, place your gift in the envelope and fill in the details requested on the front. Your full name, address and postcode, otherwise we are unable to reclaim the tax.

The Abbeyfield Society helps an increasing number of older people enjoy a high quality of independent living provided through a range of services, including housing, support or care, with local community involvement. Carr-Gomm is a national charity providing high quality support and housing services that place individuals at the centre of planning and decision making, enabling them to have control over their lives.

O JESUS, I have promised
To serve thee to the end;
Be thou for ever near me,
My Master and my Friend;
I shall not fear the battle
If thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway
If thou wilt be my guide.

O let me hear thee speaking
In accents clear and still,
Above the storms of passion,
The murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me,
To hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
Thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised
To all who follow thee,
That where thou art in glory
There shall thy servant be;
And, Jesus, I have promised
To serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow,
My Master and my Friend.

O let me see thy footmarks,
And in them plant mine own;
My hope to follow duly
Is in thy strength alone;
O guide me, call me, draw me,
Uphold me to the end;
And then in heaven receive me,
My Saviour and my Friend.

John Bode (1816-1874)

**Remain
standing**

CONCLUSION AND BLESSING

The Reverend Canon Bruce Saunders, Pastor

Jesus said: Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you.
Not as the world gives give I unto you. Do not let your
hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

Neither death nor life
can separate us from the love of God
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Grant to us, Lord God,
to trust you not for ourselves alone,
but also for those whom we love
and who are hidden from us by the shadow of death;
that, as we believe your power to have raised
our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead,
so may we trust your love to give eternal life to all
who believe in him;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

The love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself,
the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his service,
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

VOLUNTARY

The Regimental March of the Coldstream Guards: Milanollo by Val Hamm

The Regimental Band of the Coldstream Guards appears by permission of Brigadier JJS Bourne-May Regimental Colonel, the Coldstream Guards.

Founded by the manager, Dorothy Mdoe, and the Musical Director, Marcus Davidson, the Gemstones are a semi professional choir, originally formed to take part in the BBC's 2008 Last Choir Standing competition. They started rehearsals just three weeks before the competition started and reached the last 60 in this event. Having done so well they took part in the X Factor later that year and were only kept out of the final by the size of the group! They continue to perform, exploring great songs. Dorothy Mdoe works for Carr-Gomm, met Richard several times and her enthusiasm for the cause has meant that the Gemstones have been wonderful supporters of Carr-Gomm for the last year. To our great delight they volunteered to sing at this service.

There will be a reception in the Millennium Courtyard after the Service, please follow directions from Cathedral Stewards.

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Dear Beloved,

RICHARD CARR-GOMM

I greet you all who have come to give thanks for the life of Richard Carr-Gomm, a man whose commitment to Christ and sensitivity to the suffering of others led him to give himself so wholeheartedly in the service of God and his fellow men and women.

Much will be said, I am sure, today, of the passion and drive with which Richard worked so tirelessly for the people his organisations housed and cared for. Though an entrepreneur, he was not really a project person, but first and foremost a 'people person' - a man who liked to laugh, but who could be deeply affected by the plight of the poor. He was determined above all to help the lonely find friendship and support.

As a Ugandan who was welcomed in 1974 into the UK during the time of the terrible killing fields of Idi Amin, I recall with particular gratitude how earlier my kinsman Edward Mutesa II, Kabaka and first President of the then independent Uganda, was made welcome and given a home by Richard Carr-Gomm when he had to flee to Britain in 1966. There was a friendship which stood the test of time, having begun in the 1940s when both men served in the Coldstream Guards, and continuing throughout his life.

Richard was enormously proud in 1998 to have been made an honorary Muganda in the presence of Kabaka Muwenda Mutebi II. He became the only white member of the Butiko or Mushroom clan, with the name 'Wagaba' or 'Giver'.

Richard's generous life stands out for us like a bright coloured robe, not so different from the royal ceremonial Kanzus he gave to Mutebi for his installation as Kabaka.

In Richard Carr-Gomm we saw woven together the threads of loyalty, compassion, friendship, vision, and above all the love of Christ. These are among the royal robes of the Kingdom of God, transcending bonds of kin or tribe or nation. I thank God for Richard, and for all he taught us of the way of Christ, who gave himself for us, to make us God's friend.

Love and Peace,

Henry Ebor:



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

The Cathedral and Collegiate Church of St Saviour and St Mary Overy, Southwark



Since **606** a church has stood on this site alongside the River Thames, a place where for many centuries stood the only dry crossing – London Bridge. In **2009** we join with the citizens of this great city to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the building of the first of three major bridges which have spanned the river here. During the reign of Henry II, work commenced on building a stone bridge under the direction of Peter de Colechurch, chaplain of St Mary Colechurch in the City. The bridge took thirty-three years to build through the reigns of Henry II, Richard-the-Lionheart, and King John. Bridge House Estates sought donations at the time to be given 'to God and the Bridge' and contributed to its construction. This charity, which traces its origins back to **1097**, is still active within the City.

The bridge was not just a highway but a place on which to live and to worship. As Peter de Colechurch was chaplain of the church where Thomas Becket was baptised, the Chapel on the bridge was dedicated to the newly martyred saint. Peter de Colechurch, who died in **1205**, was buried in the bridge chapel crypt.

London Bridge was finally completed in **1209**. At either end of the bridge stood a church: on the north, the Parish Church of St Magnus the Martyr on (Lower) Thames Street, whilst on the southern approach to the bridge stood the Priory of St Mary, Southwark. Both churches cared for the inhabitants and the life of the bridge and continue to do so. Pedestrians on the western footpath across the present London Bridge (opened in **1973**), will find the coats of arms of the two parishes on the parapet. The parish boundaries meet (as they have always done) in the middle of the river and the middle of the Bridge and where the Dioceses of London and Southwark meet. It is at this point that the clergy and congregation of both churches meet each year for the ceremony of the Blessing of the River.

Until the opening of Westminster Bridge in **1750**, London Bridge was the only bridge across the Thames in central London. It therefore served as both entry and exit point of the City. At night, the gates of the Bridge were closed and those not allowed into the City had to stay in Southwark on the South Bank. The area around the Priory therefore developed as a place of hospitality and entertainment, of players, pubs, prelates and prostitutes and a place where the poor and the excluded, refugees, pilgrims and others, gathered and settled.

In **1541** the Priory became the Parish Church of St Saviour and in **1905** the church was consecrated as the Cathedral of the newly formed Diocese of Southwark. The Cathedral continues in its historic role of standing by the bridge, as a place where people are welcome, where worlds meet, as a bridge builder between church and society, and a place where the difficult questions can be asked and where God is worshipped.

We therefore welcome you to this holy place and hope that you find a warm and open welcome, peace and serenity and a sense of the presence of God, whom this place has served as a living witness for over 1400 years.

Cathedral Shop and Refectory **OPEN DAILY**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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Conferences and Seminars	<i>Conference Coordinator</i>	020 7367 6722
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