



The Ammerdown Centre
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DATES FOR YOUR 2010 DIARY:

Open Gardens

11am to 5pm,
5 April, 3 May, 31 May,
30 August

Talk

Barry and Margaret
Mizen
Tuesday 1 June, 8pm

Summer Fete

2pm to 5pm
Sunday 15 August

100 Club

Recent winners were Keith Taplin (January), Sue Howard (February) and Peggy Vickers (March).

Summer Fete

The date of our Summer Fete has been changed from Sunday 13 June to Sunday 15 August (2pm to 5pm). Please put the new date in your diary.

Marking National Family Week

On Tuesday 1st June, at 8.00pm, Margaret and Barry Mizen will share the story of their son Jimmy, murdered two years ago, and talk about issues of faith, anger and revenge. The talk is free but pre-booking is essential (see the response form.).



A big Thank You!

We never cease to be amazed by the generosity of our supporters. In the last newsletter, we asked for help in buying a screen, projector and laptop that would enable us to enhance our worship in the Chapel. In total, we spent £1,552 and we raised... £1,533! The projector is a marvel. We have tried it in both dark and light rooms, and it has consistently offered excellent quality pictures. Altogether, the screen, projector and laptop will greatly help our work, and we cannot thank you enough.

Can you help?

When we held our 2008 Three Faiths Summer School, you, our supporters, gave money so that we could offer free places to people who could not afford the cost. Two Muslim refugees from Sudan (see Ismail on the photo) and one Jewish student benefited from your generosity. They not only loved every minute, but also greatly contributed to the week's success. We hope to do the same for this year's Summer School, and know we will have no problem in finding beneficiaries. If you are able to help, any gift, however small, will be gratefully received. **Thank You!**



The Ammerdown Centre



Newsletter

April 2010

In February, Ammerdown had the great honour of hosting the annual gathering of AMICUM, the *Anglican-Methodist International Commission for Unity in Mission*. This was an international gathering, with delegates flying from all over the world (including Brazil, Malaysia, Ghana, South Africa and Switzerland) and well used to globe-trotting: Mexico City in 2009, Ammerdown in 2010 and Cape Town in 2011!

So what exactly is AMICUM? It is the high level Committee appointed by the Anglican and Methodist Churches to pave the way for bringing the two Churches together. As you can imagine, the challenges are enormous. Discussions held at Ammerdown concentrated on building a shared understanding of the 'Episcopate' (i.e. what would be the role and power of Bishops if and when the Churches are in full communion), but there were many other sensitive matters to discuss, such as women's issues, ethical concerns, and the influence of different cultural contexts.

In spite of the difficulties, committee members had no doubt this was the right way forward. When asked why, the two co-chairs answered as one voice: **"because unity in church and mission is an imperative at the heart of the Gospel!"**. They all took comfort and inspiration from a score of examples from around the world where closer cooperation had resulted in highly effective mission.



We knew that Ammerdown, with its atmosphere of peace and quiet, would be conducive to the intense discussions that took place during the seven day meeting. But we were slightly concerned that we might appear rather 'tame' after Mexico City! We need not have worried. The delegates loved the experience of being secluded away in the country, and enjoyed their one outing to John Wesley's Chapel in Bristol, where the above photo was taken. The Committee will report in four years' time, and will no doubt help prepare the way for greater unity. We feel greatly privileged that Ammerdown was given a chance to play a part in this important endeavour!

With best wishes

Bénédicte Scholefield - Director

Much valued 'Ammerdown Experience'

In order to monitor the quality of its facilities and service, Ammerdown encourages guests who stay at least one night to fill in an evaluation form. In 2009, 1506 guests opted to fill in the form., and here are their ratings:

How would you rate Ammerdown as a venue overall?

Very Good	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	Very Poor
78%	20%	2%	0%	0%

How would you rate the standard of the food?

Very Good	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	Very Poor
74%	22%	4%	0%	0%

We are delighted that 98% of the guests who filled in the form were happy with the venue, and that 96% rated the food highly - no mean feat given the very wide range of tastes and needs we cater for. The decision we made five years ago to offer tasty and nurturing food that is freshly cooked on the premises is clearly paying off. And of course, our home-made puddings always go down very well...

These good ratings do not make us complacent, though. The forms also ask guests to point out things that they feel are not right or could be better. This has enabled us to make continuing improvements over the years, and we are therefore grateful for guests' feedback - good or bad!

Introducing our two new Korean Volunteers

Woojin and LeeHwan joined us from South Korea in early March. They have been brightening our days with their lovely smiles, their willingness to learn and serve, and their fast-increasing grasp of the English language. Both are in-between university courses and, faced with a few months to spare, asked Ammerdown whether they could join the team as volunteers, to "broaden their horizon and grow spiritually". Needless to say, we said YES!



Meeting A Need

Ammerdown has just produced a Legacy Leaflet encouraging supporters and guests to remember the Centre in their will. It tells the story of Bridie, an amazing woman who is over 80 and who has been a full time carer for most of her life - firstly of her severely disabled son, and then of her husband too, when he became wheelchair-bound after an accident. We know Bridie well because, for years, she and her daughter Ann have been coming four times a year for a free stay - the only break Bridie ever gets in her 24/7 life as a carer. Sadly Jimmy, Bridie's husband, has recently died, leaving her devastated. She and Ann have just come to Ammerdown for a rest, and Bridie could not thank us enough for the comfort and peace this visit gave her.



It is thanks to your donations and bequests that Ammerdown is able to help carers like Bridie, who devote themselves to others. Please accept our grateful thanks on their behalf. It makes a real difference to many wonderful people. If you would like to find out more about leaving a legacy to the Centre and have not received our legacy leaflet, please ask for a copy via the response form or by contacting us.



2010 Three Faiths Summer School

Ammerdown is well known within the field of interfaith dialogue for organising the only UK based week-long residential event that brings together Jews, Muslims and Christians. Our bi-annual **Three Faiths Summer Schools** offer a unique opportunity for shared study, worship, creative workshops, spiritual growth, friendship-building as well as... great fun!

The week has been described as 'life-changing'. As Sarah, a young Muslim, explains: "I have learnt that if you can respect a person, you can then respect what they believe". Our 2010 Three Faiths Summer School will take place from Wednesday 7 July to Tuesday 13 July. The theme will be 'Our Places of Worship', and the week will include a trip to Bristol to visit a mosque, a synagogue and a church. To find out more, please ask for a leaflet via the response form or contact Benedicte or Sarah at the Centre.



Auction of Gifts and Promises

A special 'Auction of Gifts and Promises' is to take place in June to help raise money for Ammerdown. There will be over 10 prizes, all unusual and not easily available on the open market - from a guided tour of the House of Lords by Lord Hylton and a tour of Paul Nicholls' well known racing stables, to a day of deer stalking on the Ammerdown Estate or a tour of the roof of Wells Cathedral. The bidding will take place by post or email, and will close in June. Prizes will go to the highest bidders over and above the reserve prices that have been set. If you would like to see a list of the prizes, tick the box on the response form or email Benedicte at b.scholefield@ammerdown.org.

Art Exhibition

The Kilmersdon Art Club is exhibiting its members' work at the Centre until the beginning of June (see Andrew Jolliffe and Director Benedicte admiring the huge variety of offerings!). You can come and see for yourself during office hours the amazing talent that a small village can muster! Or you can visit on Bank Holiday Mondays, when Ammerdown gardens are open to the public.

