

## Faith inspires Henry Olonga to protest

says **NIGEL BOVEY**

# OVER?

**Z**IMBABWEAN fast bowler Henry Olonga caused a storm during last year's Cricket World Cup when he and team-mate Andy Flower took to the field wearing black armbands in protest at human rights violations in their country. While England ummed and ahed about whether to play in Harare, Olonga – Zimbabwe's first black Test cricketer – nailed his colours firmly to the mast.

It was not an empty gesture. The cricket authority sacked him. His girlfriend dumped him. He received hate mail. He lost the freedom to live in his homeland. And if Zimbabwe (thanks to rain stopping play) had not scraped through to play the next round in South Africa, he probably would never have been able to leave Zimbabwe – and might have been dead by now.

What made him take his courageous stance?

'As a Christian, I couldn't sit by and do nothing about the oppression, starvation and poverty in my country,' he tells *The War Cry*. 'I was convinced God was calling me to make a stand. God had spoken. I had heard him. There was no use trying to deny it. I had to decide: Do I do what God wants me to do or do I live the rest of my life in regret?'

Today, many people face that same question: Obey God or live in regret. Following God is not always easy. It can cost. It can take courage. Some people might try to stop us. Threaten us. Turn their backs on us. Cut us off. Cut us down. But the joy that comes from pleasing our Creator far outweighs the difficulties.

**'I couldn't sit by and do nothing'**

'I couldn't have made my protest if I didn't know God was by my side,' says Henry. 'As I took that first step, God walked with me. I know now, as never before, that God can be trusted – that he'll come through for you, whatever you face.'

Could you do with someone like that on your side? Then ask him. Now.

**HENRY OLONGA FIELDS QUESTIONS**

– see centre pages

## Mode of witness

**A BAN on wearing replica football shirts in school is understandable. As well as the name of the club's sponsor, a football shirt advertises allegiance, rivalry and (at £40 a throw) wealth. In short, footy shirts spell trouble for schools.**

Last month the French Parliament voted overwhelmingly to ban the wearing of Muslim headscarves, Jewish skullcaps, large crucifixes and other 'overt' religious symbols in its schools.

Fearing that the increased wearing of Islamic headscarves was a political rather than a devotional statement, French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin said: 'In the French republic, religion cannot, must not, be a political project.'

Those people who thought such a ban could never happen in the UK must have had a shock last week when Icknield High School in Luton announced that it will be lifting its embargo on the hijab. From the start of the summer term, Muslim girls will be free to wear the headscarf in school.

It is a welcome move.

**Discrimination against one religion – no matter how minor – does not benefit other faith groups. Christians don't win a victory if Muslims and Sikhs are banned from wearing their headwear. Hindus and Jews gain nothing when Christians are barred from holding a service in a town centre. Indeed, what happens to one group of religious devotees today could be imposed on all faith groups tomorrow.**

**Religious tolerance does not mean agreeing that other – or all – faiths are right in what they believe. It means allowing all faiths the same freedom of expression.**

**For believers, faith is not a hobby – something to be squeezed into evenings and weekends. Faith is not mere allegiance – like following a football team and sporting its shirt. Faith is not a fashion statement. Faith is not a preference.**

**Faith is a conviction. A commitment. An identity. A lifestyle.**

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# Welsh back fashion statement



Shima struggles to make a living in Bangladesh

**WELSH shoppers are willing to pay more to ensure that their clothes are not being produced using sweatshop labour, a survey has found.**

Research among 150 shoppers in Swansea and Cardiff, carried out by Christian relief and development agency Tearfund, found that 78 per cent were prepared to pay more for clothing that was fairly traded. Only 29 per cent had bought fairly traded clothes before but 84 per cent said they would do so in the future if ranges were offered in their favourite high street stores.

'The results of the survey are proof that there is a ready market for fairly traded clothing in Swansea and Cardiff,' says Tearfund media volunteer Rebecca Hansell. 'When it comes to choosing

clothing, it seems that many shoppers are willing to put ethical considerations above price, to ensure that those who actually manufacture their clothing are getting a fair deal.'

The survey was conducted as part of Tearfund's Lift the Label campaign, which encourages consumers to be aware of the people behind the products they buy.

Rebecca Hansell explains: 'Garment manufacturing makes up a large percentage of the income in countries like Bangladesh and China. Yet often workers have few rights, and health and safety regulations, if they exist, are poorly enforced.'

'Garment workers are sometimes forced to work extremely long hours – as much as 16 hours a day – for very poor pay. Wages of 20p and 30p per hour are not uncommon.'

## 'Restore faith in the political process'

MORE than 80 people from faith groups discussed whether they still have faith in democratic politics, when they attended an event organised by the Christian Socialist Movement (CSM).

At Faith in Politics, Jonathan Gorsky of the Council of Christians and Jews, Sher Khan

from the Muslim Council of Britain and Beth Breeze from CSM debated the low turnouts at recent elections and examined what could be done to revitalise the democratic process.

Jonathan Gorsky argued for the inherent value of democracy but Sher Khan warned that many young Muslims feel the system is skewed against them. Beth Breeze suggested that politicians are partly responsible for the apathy towards politics because they 'are too keen to please everyone'.

Speaking after the event in the House of Commons, CSM director Graham Dale said: 'The meeting agreed that the status quo is not acceptable. We have to challenge why the public are not voting and look at ways of getting those people re-engaged.'

## GIBSON'S 'ANTI-JEWISH' FILM AROUSES PASSIONS

THE Council of Christians and Jews has warned that Mel Gibson's film *The Passion of the Christ* could be detrimental to improved understanding between Jews and Christians.

In a statement, the organisation argues that the film – due to be released in the UK later this month – reinforces prejudices and ignores historical scholarship by placing 'the main burden of guilt ... [for Jesus' death] on the Jews'.

However, the general director of the Evangelical Alliance the Rev Joel Edwards arrives at a different opinion of the film. 'Although the movie has already been attacked as being anti-Semitic, we do not believe it to be so,' he says.

'In a haste to criticise the detail we risk missing the central theme of the film. From a Christian perspective that must concern not just a victim of violence, a man who suffered an agonising death, but the fact that Jesus was the Son of God who died for the sins of all humanity.'

### PUZZLE ANSWERS

#### CROSSWORD

ACROSS: 1 Mail. 3 Vet. 5 Seal. 7 Purchased. 9 Sold. 10 Pity. 11 Bring. 14 Mayor. 15 Reeve. 17 Omega. 18 Nohow. 19 Vital. 20 Nasty. 23 Kind. 25 Fork. 27 Go-between. 28 Pair. 29 Tar. 30 Lass.

DOWN: 1 Mass. 2 Laud. 3 Vicar. 4 Train. 5 Seep. 6 Lazy. 7 Plaything. 8 Direction. 11 Brown. 12 Ideas. 13 Gravy. 14 Man. 16 Eel. 21 Avert. 22 Tower. 23 Keep. 24 Dour. 25 Fell. 26 Kiss.

#### QUICK QUIZ

1 Nephew. 2 They are father and daughter (Francis Ford Coppola and Sofia Coppola). 3 Table Mountain. 4 Italy. 5 Edward. 6 Read-only-memory.

## School choirs sing songs of praise

SIX school choirs were picked to sing in front of celebrity judges Pete Waterman and Carrie Grant in Celebrate, the Songs Of Praise annual school choirs contest. The competition, which was hosted by Aled Jones at the Symphony Hall, Birmingham, is scheduled for broadcast on BBC One tomorrow (Sunday 14 March).



BBC picture

### If you'd like some help...

Dear War Cry, I'd be grateful if you'd send me

- Basic reading on the Christian faith
- More information about The Salvation Army
- The name and telephone number of a Salvation Army officer whom I could contact

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Send to The War Cry, 101 Newington Causeway, London SE1 6BN

## HONEYBALL AVENUE



**Happiness: everybody's looking for it. But what is it and how do we know when we've found it? In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus began each of the Beatitudes with 'Blessed' or 'Happy are...' The people in question are so happy, in fact, that they are to be congratulated. They have found something worth having; worth holding on to. What is Jesus endorsing? Right words? Right actions? No. Right attitudes - the heart of all we do and say. The Beatitudes are a description of true Christian character. The more we display these attitudes, the happier we will be.**

**In the last in a series of articles on these sayings STEPHEN POXON looks at 'Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven' (Matthew 5:10 New International Version)**

**W**HO'D be a football manager? It could be said that Gerard Houllier, the beleaguered manager of Liverpool, is enduring a form of persecution at the moment. Following Liverpool's FA Cup exit at the hands of Portsmouth, the Frenchman has had to put up with abusive graffiti scrawled on the wall of Liverpool's training ground and a death threat in the post.

Persecution of football managers might be a recent phenomenon but it is nothing new to the Christian Church. From the days of Nero, the Roman emperor who derived pleasure from setting fire to Christians and watching them burn, through the Hitler years and on to the madness of Idi Amin in Uganda, Christians have been easy targets.

The Romans turned the murder of Christians into a popular spectator sport, thinking nothing of seeing members of this new religion coming face to face with lions in arenas.

Stalinist Russia represents another period of persecution for followers of Jesus, when owning a Bible was seen as a serious crime. More recently the Ceausescu regime persecuted Christians in Romania, with believers being thrown into prison and tortured.

Even now, when we might expect the world to be more tolerant, persecution continues. In fact, it is estimated that more Christians are being harassed and persecuted now than at any other time in history. To be a Christian in North Korea is punishable by imprisonment, hard labour or even execution. Followers of Christ in China are subjected to beatings in the hope of them being 'reconverted' to Chinese Communist ideals.

Persecution is not confined to Christians. Followers of other faiths also suffer because of their religious convictions. Tibetan Buddhist monks are

# Stand firm

Be happy - get some  
**BE-ATTITUDE!**

**One can only imagine the type of courage it takes**

frequently humiliated and made to suffer at the hands of soldiers.

It's nothing new. It's been going on since Bible times. The Jew Daniel, a character in the Old Testament, was thrown into a den of lions because he refused to bow down and worship anyone except God. Thankfully, he lived to tell the tale because God closed the lions' mouths. The New Testament records the story of Stephen, the first Christian martyr (see Acts 7).

While persecution is a terrible thing, and most of us would flinch at the thought of torture, this Beatitude tells us that the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who value their faith in God more than life itself.

The promise of Heaven (that is, eternal life in the presence of God, after death) is given to those who steadfastly refuse to renounce their faith. One can only imagine the type of courage it takes to stand firm in the face not only of insults and abuse, but beatings,

starvation, isolation and imprisonment in awful conditions. Little wonder that Jesus promises such a great reward!

This provides food for thought. We might not suffer extreme hardship but our faith could cost us our reputation or respect in the eyes of others. The important question is: Do we have a faith that is more valuable to us than anything else?

Who is willing to take a stand for what is right? Jesus certainly was, and was martyred for the sake of righteousness. Not only that, he was crucified for our sakes, volunteering to bear the punishment for our sins in his body on the cross. By doing so, he opened up a way into Heaven for those who receive him as the Saviour.

Prizing our relationship with God above all else is what makes us blessed.

**We might not suffer from extreme hardship but our faith could cost us our reputation or respect**



## QUICK QUIZ

1. In the TV series *Open All Hours*, what relationship is Granville to Arkwright?
2. What links the directors of the films *Apocalypse Now* and *Lost in Translation*?
3. Over which mountain is fog described as 'The Tablecloth'?
4. Gorgonzola cheese comes from which country?
5. What was novelist E. M. Forster's first name?
6. In computer terms, what does ROM stand for?

Answers on page 2

**W**HAT a marvellous day for cricket! Harare Sports Club, 10 February 2003. The sun is shining, the ground is packed and the players have done their warm-ups. Namibia have won the toss and launch their World Cup campaign by putting Zimbabwe in to bat.

In the home dressing room openers Craig Wishart and Mark Vermeulen are padding up, grooving their forward defensives, shaking out pre-match nerves, waiting for the bell that will summon them to the crease. What happens next? Henry Olonga.

'There's about 15 minutes to go. Andy Flower and I look at each other and nod. We get out the rolls of black tape, cut off a length and wrap it round our left arms. Andy calls for quiet and announces to the team what we are doing and why. The management didn't agree with our protest but we went ahead anyway.'

As well as the black armbands Olonga and Flower issue a more formal statement.

It begins: 'It is a great honour for us to take the field today to play for Zimbabwe in the World Cup. We feel privileged and proud to have been able to represent our country.'

It continues: 'We cannot in good conscience take to the field and ignore the fact that millions of our compatriots are starving, unemployed and oppressed. We are aware that hundreds of thousands of Zimbabweans may even die in the coming months through a combination of starvation, poverty and Aids. We are aware that many people have

been unjustly imprisoned and tortured simply for expressing their opinions about what is happening ... We are aware that people have been murdered, raped, beaten and had their homes destroyed because of their beliefs and that many of those responsible have not been prosecuted ... We believe that if we remain silent that will be taken as a sign that either we do not care or we condone

what is happening in Zimbabwe.'

It concludes: 'We have decided that we will each wear a black armband for the duration of the World Cup. In doing so we are mourning the death of democracy in Zimbabwe. In doing so we are making a silent plea to those responsible to stop the abuse of human rights in Zimbabwe. In doing so we pray that our small action may help to restore sanity and dignity to our nation.'

The minute Flower goes in to bat the TV cameras pick up the armband. By the time Olonga – Zimbabwe's first black Test player – takes to the field the protest is already global. (At Lord's, meanwhile, the England management team agonise over the morality of Hussain and Co playing their scheduled match in Zimbabwe.)

What so fired the man with 68 Test wickets that he would risk his career – and perhaps even his life? Sitting in the comfort of an English lounge, a year after he resigned from international cricket, Henry reflects:

'Some years ago I read a dossier by the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace in Zimbabwe. It was shocking. One of the accounts was of a couple of pregnant teenage girls who were raped by soldiers in a village suspected of harbouring dissidents. Some months later the army returned and brutally slaughtered the girls. They slit them open and left the foetuses lying on the ground. There were many other accounts of people being butchered in the most inhumane ways. I thought: How can these things be happening in my country? But I did nothing about it.'

**T**HEN just before the World Cup, Andy Flower told me he'd been approached by somebody with the story of how Zimbabwean MP Job Sikhala had been tortured. I thought it was outrageous that such a thing could happen in a supposedly free and democratic country. We discussed stepping down from the World Cup but decided that wearing armbands and making a statement would be the least disruptive method of making a peaceful protest.'

But, once in the World Cup dressing room – clock ticking – and not knowing the potentially violent reaction to his peaceful protest, how tempting was it to shove the roll of tape, unused, deep into his kitbag?

# Olonga deli world over

## Zimbabwe's cricketing hero HENRY OLONGA talks to Nigel Bovey

'It never crossed my mind. The battle had been days before. It's impossible to describe the kind of battle that happens in your mind. There's a compulsion, a force that drives you, telling you this is right. Then you have all the insecurities. What's going to happen to me if I do this? What will I lose? Who else do I endanger? That kind of thought tempers everything.'

'But I was convinced – and still am – that it was God who was calling me to make a stand. God had spoken. I had heard him. There was no use trying to deny it. And when God is on your case, you've either got to do it or live the rest of your life in regret.'

'It's very hard when you discover that you might have to give up your life to do what God requires. I prayed about it and got a sense of peace. I then knew that, whatever happened, everything would be OK. Whatever I had to sacrifice would be worth it. God was calling me to do it, so he would take care of me.'

Henry's inspiration is more than divine. The film *Gladiator* becomes essential viewing.

'At one point in the film, the gladiator-slave Maximus becomes

more popular than the emperor. And in a way that popularity makes him more powerful than the emperor.'

**I** THOUGHT: What a contradiction! Here is a slave without any power, yet the power lies in the fact that people recognise him, not the Roman emperor, as the hero. That struck a chord with me. I was just a cricket player. The only thing I had over President Mugabe was credibility. I had no personal reasons for making a protest.

**When God's on your case, you've either got to do it or live the rest of your life in regret.**

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS WORDSEARCH

Look up, down, forwards, backwards and diagonally on the grid to find these well-known people who were born in March

ANDRESS (Ursula)  
BEATTY (Warren)  
BELAFONTE (Harry)  
BELL (Alexander Graham)  
BRODERICK (Matthew)  
CAINE (Michael)  
CAPRIATI (Jennifer)  
CAREY (Mariah)  
CHAMBERLAIN (Richard)  
CLAPTON (Eric)  
CLOSE (Glenn)  
COLE (Nat King)  
CRAWFORD (Joan)  
DION (Celine)  
EINSTEIN (Albert)  
FRANKLIN (Aretha)

HOUDINI (Harry)  
JOHN (Elton)  
LENDL (Ivan)  
LLOYD-WEBBER (Andrew)  
MACPHERSON (Eile)  
MARCEAU (Marcel)  
MCQUEEN (Steve)  
MILLER (Glenn)  
MINNELLI (Liza)  
MURDOCH (Rupert)  
NIMOY (Leonard)  
ROSS (Diana)  
SEDAKA (Neil)  
SHATNER (William)  
STONE (Sharon)  
TE KANAWA (Kiri)  
VAN GOGH (Vincent)  
WIEST (Dianne)  
WILLIAMS (Vanessa)  
WILLIS (Bruce)  
YORK (Michael)



# Every bowls

PA picture

the next round to be played in South Africa. They need to draw against Pakistan to make it but if England beat Australia it will be stumps for Zimbabwe and God knows what for Henry.

**‘W**E were to play Pakistan in Bulawayo, about the furthest inland you can get in Zimbabwe. The day before, a cyclone had blown in from the Mozambique coast. That kind of thing doesn't normally happen in Bulawayo. On match day, it rained the whole time. Not a ball was bowled. The match was declared a draw. We got the points we needed. Australia beat England and we were going to South Africa. I know it sounds arrogant but I believe God sent that cyclone so I could get out of Zimbabwe.’

Even as his plane leaves the tarmac, Henry doesn't know he's surveying

his homeland for the last time – at least for the foreseeable future.

‘When I was in South Africa I spoke to my dad. He said I shouldn't go back. It wouldn't be safe. He'd been tipped off by someone in the Central Intelligence Organisation that they'd be gunning for me after the World Cup. I also got some abusive emails, including: “You stupid nigger, I hope Mugabe is going to find you.” My girlfriend, who is related to the President, dumped me by email. I'd been sacked by my cricket club, so there was nothing to go back for.’

After the game against Kenya in Bloemfontein (3 runs and 1 for 21 off 4 overs) Henry announces his international retirement, evades a kidnap attempt and goes into hiding. A stranger offers him a plane ticket. He emerges in England, is honoured with membership of the MCC and joins the commentary teams on Channel 4 and Sky. Currently he is enjoying his first love, music. His debut album (a mixture of operatic tracks, R&B and jazz) is due out soon. Next month he flies out to Australia to get married. Life is looking good for Henry. Providential?

‘Things fell into place only after I did what I knew God was asking me to do. There were times during my struggle when it was as though God was silent. Maybe it was his way of saying: “You're old enough to work it out yourself, what do you think my will is?” The only thing I had to go on was the sense of peace which came with knowing it was the right thing to do.’

‘Making the protest was a step

**‘All is not well in Zimbabwe’**

of faith. As I took that first step, God walked with me. I know now, as never before, that God can be trusted – that he'll come through for you, whatever you face.’

As a boy, Henry attended an Anglican school and became a Christian in his teens.

‘I became born again when I was 16 at a Christian youth camp. I heard the gospel and decided this was right. I'd always been a goody two-shoes. I wasn't the kind of kid that was always in trouble. But when this guy was preaching the gospel it struck a chord with me because he was saying no matter how good we are, we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.’

‘Until then I'd always thought that as long as you are a good person, God loves you. That theory was being blown to shreds. The Bible was saying no matter how hard I try to please God by being good, it wasn't good enough. I needed the death of Jesus to cover my sins. So I thought: Stuff this, I don't want to go to Hell. I want the assurance that if

I die today I am going to Heaven. And I made my decision for Christ.

‘One of the biggest things my faith gives me is direction. How should I live my life? A lot of people don't believe in right and wrong any more. They don't live by conviction. They live by preferences. But I don't believe we are free to do what we want, how we want. God has moral laws.’

**‘G**OD also operates on grace. No matter how hard I try to follow God's laws, my righteousness is like filthy rags. The only way out is to believe Christ's death is sufficient to clean me. To me, Jesus is my God, my master, my saviour and my friend. He's the one who sticks by me no matter what. I have God on my side. I have God to guard me, guide me and provide for me. I wouldn't have taken the stance I did if it wasn't for him. My faith gives me a sense of purpose, of meaning.’

A year on, was the protest worth it?

‘Oh yes. I have no regrets. It is not easy to quantify what we've changed but at least now the whole world knows where I stand about Zimbabwe. I am passionate about it. I feel deeply for the people of my country. Through my music I'm hoping to raise money for victims of human rights abuse. I want to tell the whole world that all is not well in Zimbabwe and people need to intervene.’

‘I loved playing cricket. I saw it as a service for my country. I'm not interested in going into politics, but maybe the stance I've taken will do more for Zimbabwe than my cricket ever did. I feel embarrassed about being labelled a hero. There are people back home who've lost their homes or their lives for standing up for what is right. They are the real heroes.’

What a marvellous day for cricket!

**Henry Olonga was Zimbabwe's first black Test cricketer**

Picture: NIGEL BOVEY

‘There were times when I wavered. Times when I asked: Is it worth it? I knew I'd probably lose my career and my home. But once you know God has called you to do something you look at the consequences in a different light.’

As Henry straps the black tape to his red and green shirt he is in the dark about many things. How will the Government react? Will he be safe? Will he be able to get out of the country if he needs to?

A month into the competition, the teams face their last group match. With only two wins, Zimbabwe have a snowball's chance of making it into

**It is on your  
either got  
the rest  
a regret**





## Win rare Cliff documentary

**F**ILMED in 1969, just over 20 years after the establishment of the modern State of Israel, *His Land* was a musical documentary in which new Christian Cliff Richard accompanied Cliff Barrows to places such as Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Haifa.

Now available from DD Video on VHS (£12.99) and DVD (£14.99), this rare documentary majors on the idea that modern Israel and its resettlement is a direct fulfilment of biblical promises and prophecies – evidence that God is still interested in people and human history.

The film includes historical news footage and is itself an account of what Israel looked like 35 years ago.

*The War Cry* has three videos and three DVDs to give away to readers who can answer

the following question:  
**Which biblical prophet saw the restoration of Israel through a vision of dry bones?**

- Zephaniah
- Zechariah
- Ezekiel

Send your answer on a postcard – stating preferred viewing format – to *His Land* Competition, *The War Cry*, 101 Newington Causeway, London SE1 6BN. Entries must be received by Monday 22 March. The first three correct entries drawn in each category on 23 March will receive a copy of the documentary. The Editor's decision is final.



## Dream house seekers turn to do-it-yourself

**S**EARCHING for a house that is perfect for your needs can take months. One house could have the right number of bedrooms but a kitchen that isn't big enough, another the wrong-sized garden or too few bathrooms. And the search can go on and on.

Self-build projects are becoming more popular as people choose to design and build their own house from scratch in order to get a dream home tailor-made to their specification. But where do you start?

Companies which specialise in self-build projects will show you a range of housing to help give some design ideas. These might include old heritage, rectory or bungalow. You pick the style and discuss



Some people roll up their sleeves and do the work themselves

the plan in more detail with the experts.

Then, with the help of an adviser, you find a plot, organise the finance, obtain planning permission and select the subcontractors.

Once the planning is out of the way, you have to decide how involved you want to be. It can be as effortless as just signing the planning application or as strenuous as rolling up your sleeves and doing the building yourself.

What does it cost? There are a number of things you have to weigh up. First, you need to buy the land. You can get a feel for the price you will pay by talking to local estate agents.

Organising everything yourself will be a lot less expensive than hiring a builder to do all the work. But following expert advice is essential.

Most self-builders need help with their finance in the form of a mortgage. Self-build mortgages differ from ordinary mortgages on existing properties in that they are paid in stages as the build progresses.

While many lenders do lend on self-build projects, the terms and conditions of any mortgage should be carefully considered.

## Technology traces mobile 999 callers

**T**ELECOMMUNICATION networks have jointly developed a system which will help emergency services trace people calling 999 from their mobile phones.

The 'enhanced location information' facility will enable control rooms to locate stranded callers more quickly and could help save lives by cutting response times by the fire, police, ambulance and coastguard services.

The system has been developed by mobile networks Orange, T-Mobile, O2, Vodafone and 3, and by BT and Cable and Wireless, the companies which connect 999 calls dialled from mobile phones to the emergency services.

With the technology, control rooms will be able to identify the nearest mobile phone mast to the caller. A spokesman for new media watchdog Ofcom, which initiated the scheme, said the new technology will have an 80 per cent probability of tracing someone within that area.

The system will, however, be more accurate in urban than in rural areas, where climbers and walkers often get lost in bad weather.

Peter Walker, senior adviser for Ofcom's technology strategy group, says: 'More than 43 million 999 calls are made each year and more than 50 per cent of those are from mobile handsets. The enhanced service represents a major step forward in helping the emergency services respond to calls from mobile users as speedily as possible.'

The new system will also make it easier to track hoax callers.

# Organ donor scheme makes drive for drivers

**S**IX million motorists are the audience for a campaign to raise awareness about organ donation. Organ donor registration forms are being sent to vehicle owners with vehicle tax reminders.

Nearly 4.7 million drivers have pledged to help someone else by donating organs and tissue after their death since a scheme was introduced nine years ago enabling them to join the NHS Organ Donor Register simply by ticking a box on their driving licence application form. The scheme has become the main source of registrations.

More 16 to 18-year-olds join the NHS Organ Donor Register than any other age group and most of them enrol by the driving licence route.

Penny Hallett, UK Transplant's communications director, says: 'The scheme is very successful but only reaches new drivers or people who have had to apply for a new licence in the

past nine years perhaps because they've changed their name or address. We believe many more drivers would be willing to help others and register their wishes. We just need to reach them.'

UK Transplant and the DVLA aim to reach them through the new campaign, Leave More Than Memories. If this pilot is successful, UK Transplant hopes to extend the opportunity to the drivers of all 30 million vehicles registered in Great Britain.

The campaign image – which shows a bouquet of flowers tied to roadside railings – reflects the pride felt by donor families whose loved ones have been able to help others after their death.

More than 7,000 people need a transplant to save or dramatically improve their life. But the shortage of donors means fewer than 3,000 are carried out each year. Every year nearly 400 people die while waiting and many more lose their lives before they get on the transplant list.

Penny Hallett says: 'One of the reasons for the shortage is that many people have not thought about donation or discussed it with their families. Most people who refuse consent for their relative's organs to be used do so because they have never discussed organ and tissue donation and simply do not know what their loved one would have wanted.'

'We know from public research that 90 per cent of people in the UK support the principle of organ donation. But only about 18 per cent have got round to registering their wishes.'

'Transplants save and enhance lives. Donor families say it gives them comfort to know that their loved one, although no longer with them, has been able to help someone, somewhere.'



LEAVE MORE THAN MEMORIES



## IT HAPPENED IN MARCH

THE Forth Railway Bridge was opened by the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII, on 4 March 1890.

THE Spitfire made its first test flight on 5 March 1936.

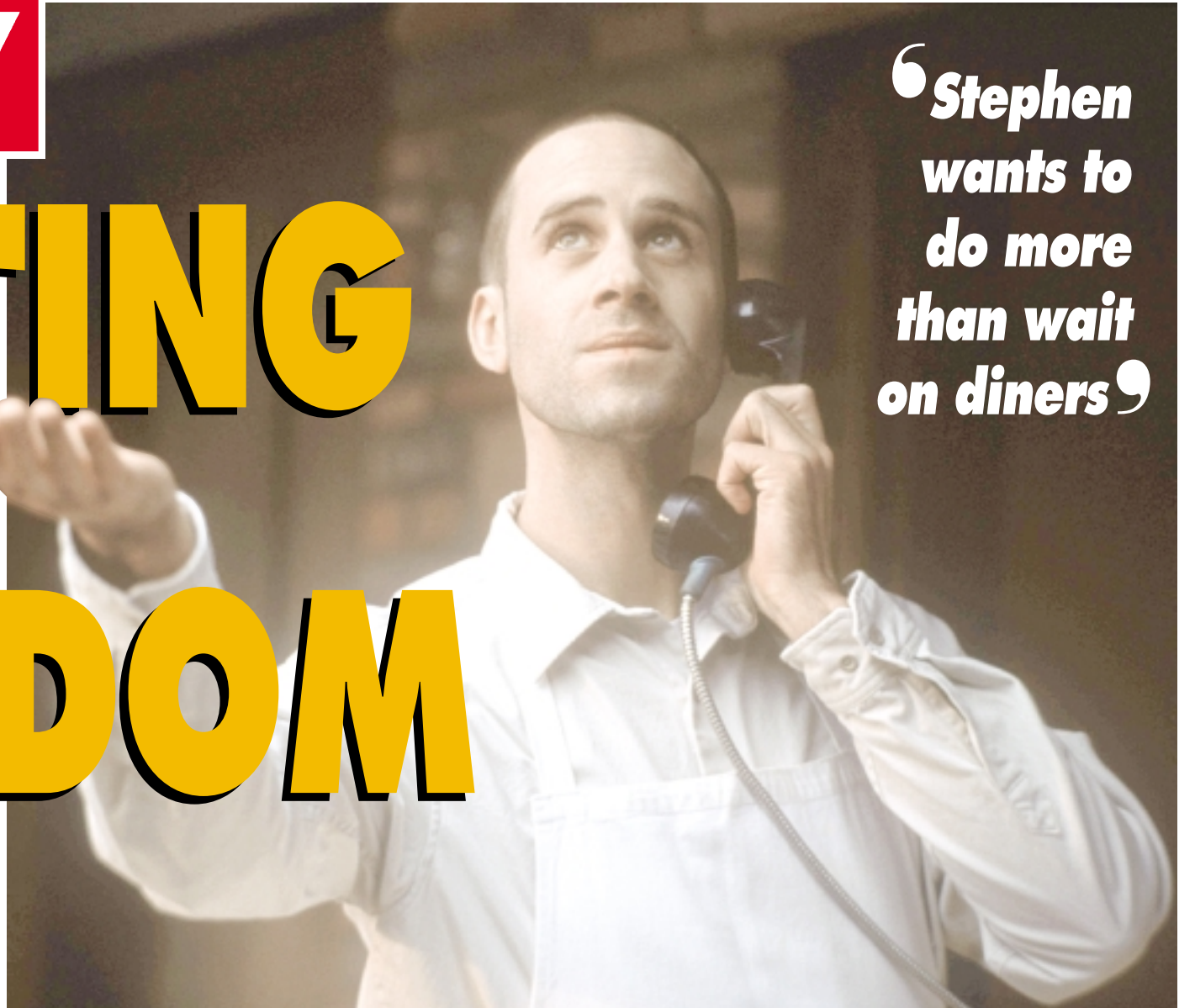
BANK of England £1 notes were demone-tised on 11 March 1988, having been replaced by £1 coins.

JOHN LENNON and Yoko Ono were married in Gibraltar on 20 March 1969.

THE BBC began broadcasting daily weather forecasts on radio on 26 March 1923.

THE Royal Albert Hall was opened by Queen Victoria on 29 March 1871.

BOTH boats sank during the annual Boat Race between Oxford and Cambridge on 31 March 1912.



‘Stephen wants to do more than wait on diners’

# WAITING FOR FREEDOM

**J**UST released – the film *Leo*, which went into cinemas yesterday (Friday 12 March), and the character Stephen who, in the opening scenes, walks free from his prison cell.

Stephen (Joseph Fiennes) is taken to a diner where he is to work during his parole. It's not Mississippi's most welcoming eatery. While waitress Caroline makes her famous shepherd's pie, the ever-present owner Horace (Dennis Hopper) dishes out abuse.

Stephen wants to do more than wait on diners. He's writing books to explore how he has become what he has become.

The film's focus shifts between Stephen and the events surrounding the birth of Leo.

Cue Mary Bloom (Elizabeth Shue). She appears to be happily married but is frustrated because she shelved her academic ambitions to play housewife.

When a casual sexual encounter is followed by tragedy, she believes she is being punished for her infidelity. She regards the son born to her – whom she names Leo after a character in a book she read long ago – as ‘the seal of her sin’ and starves him of affection.

## Do we long for escape?

wonders **PHILIP HALCROW**

Growing up, Leo puts a flair for writing to use by sending letters to a prisoner telling his life story. ‘My life began long before I was born,’ he writes.

### Nightmare

Also reflecting on the past, Stephen suggests that history is a nightmare from which we are trying to escape. How did he end up in prison, convicted of murder? In looking for his escape he looks far back.

Leo and Stephen are not alone. In trying to understand how we have become what we have become, humans have always looked back to long before they were born.

First-century writer Paul – who spent time inside because his message caused a disturbance of the peace – looked to one ancient story to express the fact that he and the rest of humankind fell short of being the kind of people they were meant to be.

But Paul did more than trace our problems back to the figure of Adam, who represented the tendency to ignore God. He also pointed out a solution. Jesus' words and actions – notably the way he responded to his enemies while being put to death – reveal God's love for us, even when we've gone wrong.

‘Adam's one sin brought condemnation upon everyone, but,’ Paul argues, ‘Christ's one act of righteousness makes all people right in God's sight and gives them life’ (Romans 5:18 *New Living Translation*).

This is about what we can become. God's love opens up the possibility of forgiveness and freedom from the nightmares of our own histories.

RECEIVER: Joseph Fiennes in ‘Leo’

UIP picture

## QUICK CROSSWORD

### ACROSS

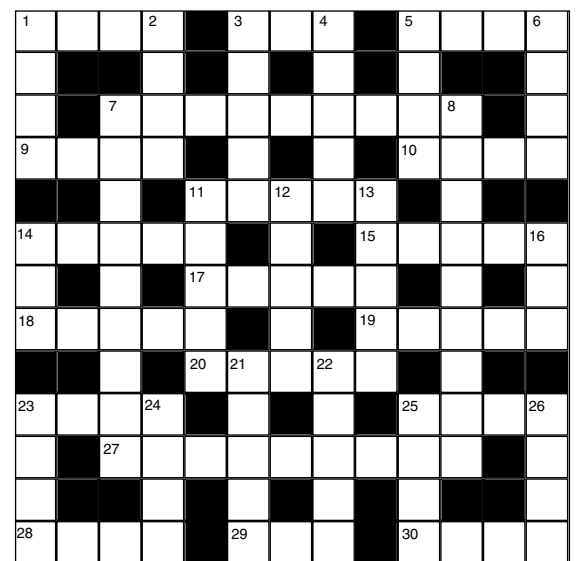
1. Post (4)
3. Animal doctor (3)
5. Fasten (4)
7. Bought (9)
9. Retailled (4)
10. Compassion (4)
11. Fetch (5)
14. Town chief (5)
15. Magistrate (5)
17. Greek letter (5)
18. In no way (5)
19. Essential (5)
20. Loathsome (5)
23. Benevolent (4)
25. Cutlery item (4)
27. Intermediary (2-7)
28. Couple (4)
29. Pitch (3)
30. Young girl (4)

### DOWN

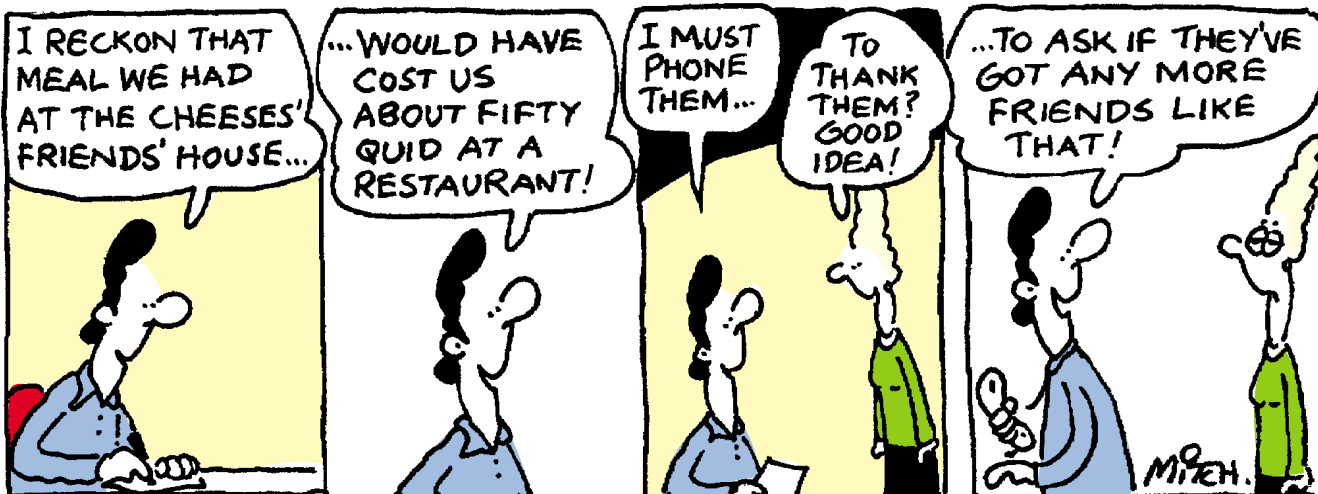
1. Heap (4)
2. Praise (4)
3. Parish parson (5)
4. Drill (5)
5. Ooze (4)
6. Idle (4)
7. Toy (9)

8. Course (9)
11. Colour (5)
12. Notions (5)
13. Meat juice (5)
14. Male (3)
16. Snake-like fish (3)
21. Avoid (5)
22. Turret (5)
23. Retain (4)
24. Grim (4)
25. Tumbled (4)
26. Caress by lips (4)

Answers on page 2



## the CHALKS and the CHEESES



THE ADDRESS OF YOUR LOCAL SALVATION ARMY CENTRE IS: