

The War Cry

BRITAIN'S MOST POPULAR CHRISTIAN WEEKLY

23 April 2005

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Angela comforts Katy after the murder of her father

ANGELUV!

NIGEL BOVEY
watches the power
of a mother's love

ANGELA is on remand for a crime she did not commit. But there will be no Free the Weatherfield One campaign, as there was for *Coronation Street's* wrongly imprisoned Deirdre some years ago. This is no miscarriage of justice.

Angela has confessed to murdering her husband.

Angela and Tommy Harris moved to Weatherfield in fear of their lives a while back with their teenage children Katy and Craig. Angela had witnessed a murder and, after testifying in court, the family was resettled under the witness protection scheme.

Life was OK until Katy started dating Martin Platt, whose own daughter, Sarah Louise, was the same age as Katy. Tommy threatened, bullied and hit Martin on a number of occasions but, despite his efforts, Katy believed Martin was Mr Right, left home and moved in with him.

No father relishes the prospect of some bloke taking advantage of his daughter, so when Katy announces she is pregnant Tommy goes bonkers. No way is he going to be the grandfather of Platt's kid! Problem is, as he and Katy are barely on speaking terms, he's got to find a way to make her listen.

Fuelled by tittle-tattle from Angela, Tommy sees Martin with old flame Sally and convinces Katy that, there being no smoke without fire, Martin is having an affair.

Katy wants no more to do with Martin – or their baby. She has an abortion. By the time she learns the truth (that Martin was talking to Sally about Katy's surprise engagement ring) it's too late.

A distraught Katy confronts Tommy in the garage workshop. When he says he's glad she got rid of the baby, Katy snaps. She cracks him over the head with a wrench. For the second time Angela witnesses a murder.

Evidence

No mother relishes the prospect of her teenage daughter doing life. So Angela destroys the evidence, lies to heartbroken Craig and Tommy's grieving parents, and deceives her neighbours and the police.

For days Angela struggles to contain the guilty secret. The police take her in for questioning. At first she disputes the evidence that places her with Tommy in the garage. But when they talk of bringing Katy in, Angela cracks. She 'confesses'. The pressure becomes too much for Katy. She writes a letter of confession and commits suicide.

Even when Martin confronts Angela with the letter, she still wants to take the rap for something she didn't do. Why? For the same reason that the totally innocent Jesus was prepared to take the blame and punishment for our wrongdoing – love.

Like Katy, Angela, Tommy and every other character in Weatherfield, we do, say and think things that break God's law. We lie, we wish people dead, we cheat, we deceive, we covet, we can be cruel...

Natural justice says we should be punished. So does God's law: 'The wages of sin is death' (Romans 6:23 Revised Standard Version).

But because he loves us, God offers us a way out: 'The free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

If we confess our sin to him, resolve to turn from it and believe that in his death Jesus took the punishment for it, we will walk free – in this life and the next.

“Angela wants to take the rap for something she didn't do”

Angela is in the dock for the murder of Tommy (above)

Side-effects

HAVING a religious faith can help prevent the worst effects of Alzheimer's disease, according to new research. After the first study of its kind, Canadian neurologist Dr Yakir Kaufman said: 'The data suggests that people with higher levels of spirituality and religiosity have a slower progression of Alzheimer's disease.'

More research into the link is needed, the doctor added. And it's not just Alzheimer's. Dr Kaufman continued: 'There is a growing body of data showing the positive effects of higher levels of spirituality and religiosity on health outcomes, especially in other disease states.'

In the study, people who met the criteria for probable Alzheimer's recorded details of religious practice such as how often they attended a place of worship, how often they prayed and read the Bible. They also rated statements such as 'My religious beliefs lie behind my whole approach to life' and 'In my life, I experience the presence of the Divine'.

What can we conclude from these findings? Should a person become a Christian as an alternative therapy – as a way of avoiding illness?

Harmony

There are many good reasons for living in harmony with God, and Christianity is a positive lifestyle which offers holistic remedy for the human condition. But if our motive for turning to God is solely to avoid illness we will be disappointed.

Believers are not inoculated, or insulated, against the frailties of mind and body. People of faith get ill. Sometimes God answers their prayers for healing by changing things immediately. An open-handed miracle! At other times he answers through bearing that person in his arms for years – for the rest of their life.

Life is terminal. The Christian hope is grounded in the promise that those who put their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ in this life will suffer no pain, no mourning, no sorrow and no suffering in body, mind or spirit in the next.

That's what can give us peace of mind today.

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PRESSURE HINDERS CHILD DEVELOPMENT, SAYS ARCHBISHOP

THE Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, has warned that the pressures of modern life are eroding the time and space needed for the development of children.

In a lecture given in London at an event organised by the Citizen Organising Foundation, Dr Williams said: 'In a setting where relentless productivity is overvalued, we can forget what is needed to produce functioning human beings. We can become abusers of our children by default when we ignore the choices we can make that will better secure their stability and their sense of being seen and listened to.'

'The result is that we seem to produce people who themselves cannot properly look or listen.'

Dr Williams also claimed that adults need to grow up and face their own responsibilities in order to shape successfully the lives of children.

Celebrities breakfast with hope

TELEVISION presenter Gail Porter hosted a Hope Breakfast organised by Christian development agency World Vision, highlighting the issue of HIV/Aids among children in the poorest parts of the world. Gail and other celebrities at the event, including Atomic Kitten's Jenny Frost and Liz McClarnon and stars from TV's *The Bill*, learnt about the work of World Vision in providing healthcare, housing, education and food for people affected by HIV/Aids.

PRAYERLINK

YOUR prayers are requested for Michael, who is suffering from depression and stress because of a problem at work; and for Eugene, that he may come to know the Lord.

The War Cry invites readers to send in requests for prayer, including the names of individuals and details of their circumstances. Send your requests to PRAYERLINK, The War Cry, 101 Newington Causeway, London SE1 6BN. Mark your envelope 'Confidential'.



A protestor outside Westminster Abbey

Trade Justice Movement/SIMON RAWLIES

Vigil highlights trade justice

PUZZLE ANSWERS

CROSSWORD

ACROSS: 1 Release. 5 Wages. 7 Frantic. 8 Raise. 10 Cull. 11 Strangle. 13 Intact. 14 Strong. 17 Innuendo. 19 Mist. 21 Exert. 22 Erratic. 23 Fiend. 24 Tuesday.
 DOWN: 2 Leaflet. 3 Anti. 4 Excite. 5 Warranty. 6 Going. 7 Facsimile. 9 Energetic. 12 Accepted. 15 Omitted. 16 Advent. 18 Niece. 20 Brie.

QUICK QUIZ

1 Field-Marshal. 2 Julia Roberts and Catherine Zeta Jones. 3 Do not dry clean. 4 Table Mountain. 5 Bob Davies. 6 Baby grand.

SUDOKU

3	1	4	8	9	5	2	7	6
6	2	5	1	4	7	3	8	9
9	8	7	3	2	6	1	4	5
8	7	3	9	1	4	5	6	2
1	4	9	5	6	2	7	3	8
2	5	6	7	3	8	9	1	4
4	3	1	2	8	9	6	5	7
5	6	2	4	7	1	8	9	3
7	9	8	6	5	3	4	2	1

CAMPAIGNERS called on political parties to make trade fair, when they held an all-night vigil in Westminster.

A night of events, coinciding with the Global Week of Action for Trade Justice, opened with a programme of songs and readings at Westminster Abbey, featuring contributions from Ronan Keating, Thom Yorke, Pete Postlethwaite and Vanessa Redgrave.

It continued with a walk to Whitehall, where thousands of people took part in the vigil, remembering 'the millions of lives being destroyed worldwide by unfair trade laws'.

Before the event, Glen Tarman of the Trade Justice Movement, which organised the event, said: 'The British electorate is rightly concerned about the economy, health

and education – but not just in the UK. The free trade policies that the rich countries are pushing on the developing world are robbing people of health and education services, and promoting economic insecurity for communities

on a global scale.

'This is a wake-up call for political leaders of all the main parties – if elected, they must make sure urgent action is taken if we are to have justice in international trade and make poverty history.'

NEWS IN BRIEF

■ THE London Fire Brigade has become the first in the country to have a multi-faith chaplaincy service. Members of the chaplaincy team will be able to cater for the spiritual and pastoral needs of Christian, Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh fire service personnel.

■ A MONEY education charity has launched a manual to help people take control of their finances. *Thinking About Money*, from the Christian-based Credit Action, offers advice on subjects such as budgeting and dealing with debt. Personal debt in the UK is expected to break the £1.1 trillion barrier in June. The guide, priced £3, can be ordered by calling 01522 699777.

■ RIDING Lights Theatre Company is touring around 20 prisons with its new production *Hope's Kitchen*. The York-

based Christian company is also visiting churches. For more information call 0845 961 3000.

■ A STAGE version of C. S. Lewis's *The Screwtape Letters* is to be taken on tour by the Saltmine Theatre Company. The production will also be staged at the Edinburgh International Festival Fringe where it was enthusiastically received last year. For more information call 01384 454807.

■ ARCHBISHOP Desmond Tutu, who played a major role in the struggle to overthrow apartheid in South Africa, is to present a TV programme about Christianity in a forthcoming Five series, *Big Ideas that Changed the World*. Other programmes in the series will include politician Tony Benn talking about democracy and author Germaine Greer exploring feminism.

HONEYBALL AVENUE



WHEN looking for biblical authority to support their involvement in politics, Christian politicians the world over pick two passages. The first is Romans 13 where Paul tells Christians to submit to the authorities, pay taxes and so on. This gives the general sense that political authority is ordained by God to order his society.

Some people say that if authority is set up by God, then our sole role in life is to submit to it and to follow the orders of any authority. Therefore, neither rebellion nor involvement with the authorities is appropriate. This interpretation does not appear to be in accordance with the God of the Bible because the authority that is given to those who rule over us is authority to act righteously.

God expected, for example, the leaders of the children of Israel to rule justly. When they stopped doing so, God was swift in his punishment of those who wielded authority.

So the command is not just to be involved in government but to be involved in righteous government. The sense that it is right to overturn unrighteous government is a biblical one and very strong. In modern times it was this which fuelled the downfall of the communist regimes in Eastern Europe in the late 1980s and the apartheid system in South Africa.

The second inspiration for Christian MPs is where Jesus speaks of rendering unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's. Challenged by the Pharisees, Jesus gave the impression that there are two spheres of influence: the political and the spiritual. He gave legitimacy to political influence.

These two biblical insights have challenged many Christians to consider their responsibility to be involved in the political process. It is right for Christians to engage in politics. The day when the Church spoke only about personal salvation and left wider society to one side are gone. If people of faith do not try in a variety of ways to make society a better place, who will we be leaving the task to?

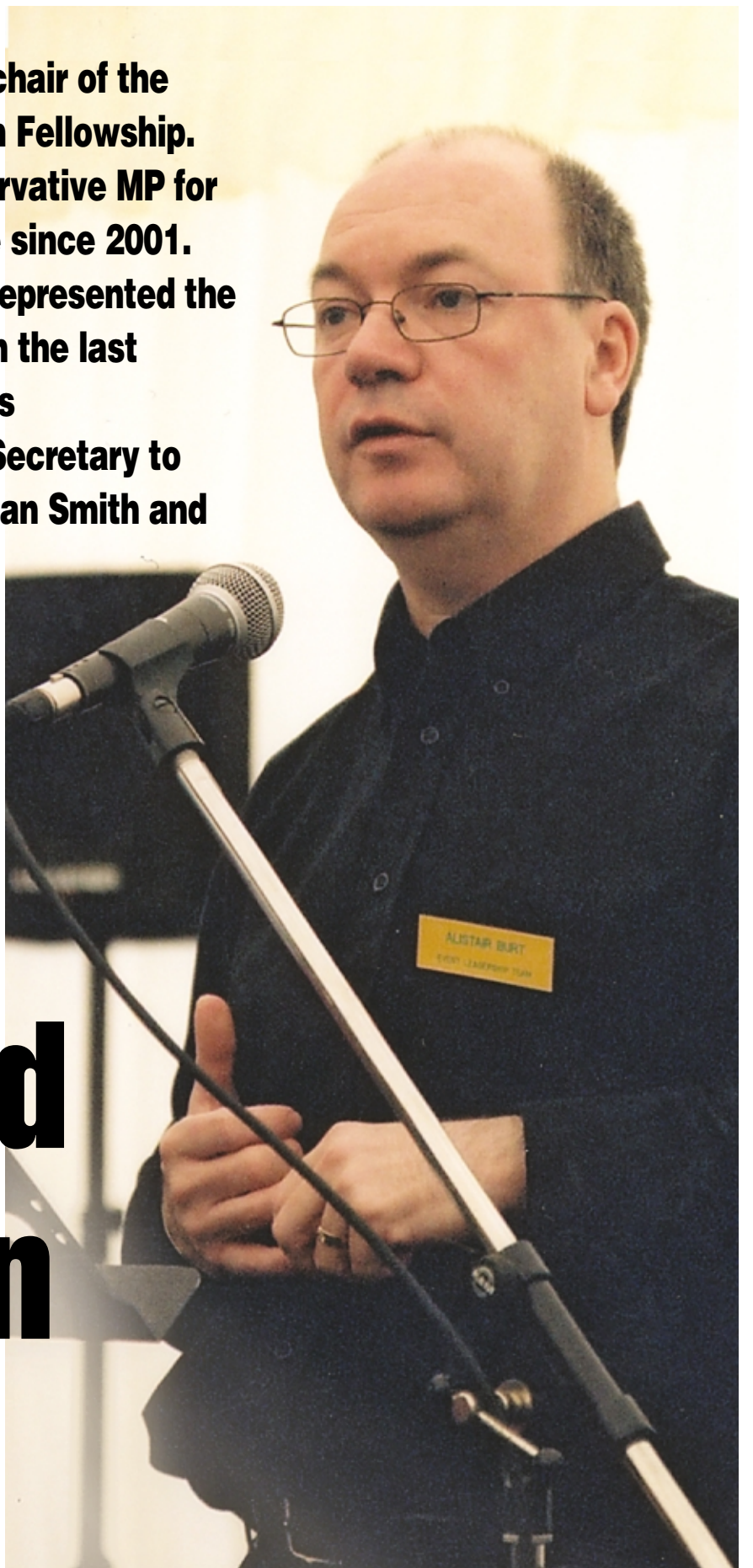
If we don't do politics, we will be guilty of ignoring the world Jesus came to save.

Sometimes people ask how a Christian can be a member of a particular political party. It's the wrong question. Politics cannot be reduced to a single issue. Nowhere in the Bible does it say that one's relationship with God depends upon belonging, or not belonging, to a particular political party. A person's faith position is not dependent on their opinion as to how best the country's economy, schools or health service should be run.

Being a Christian MP, just like being a Christian in any job, means you try to think and behave as Christ would. We live in a fallen world, so to expect any government or individual to behave righteously is a big ask – but there are people who try.

CHRISTIAN MPs constantly strive as best they can to be righteous before God. We know that as individuals we fail.

ALISTAIR BURT is the chair of the Parliamentary Christian Fellowship. He has been the Conservative MP for Northeast Bedfordshire since 2001. From 1983 to 1997 he represented the people of Bury North. In the last Parliament he served as Parliamentary Private Secretary to party leaders Iain Duncan Smith and Michael Howard. With such a background, he is well placed to consider how faith and politics intertwine



Picture: NIGEL BOVEY

God is interested in election result

We know we sin. Governments operate in the same way, because politicians are human.

Some people wonder whether there is place for a 'Christian' party, to which all Christian MPs would belong and which would have the backing of the Church. I am much more comfortable with a political system, as we have at present, where there are Christian

MPs in different parties, seeking to influence them. I don't like the idea of an institutionalised Christian force telling us, against our judg-

‘If Christians don't do politics, we will be guilty of ignoring the world Jesus came to save’

ment, what we should be thinking and doing. Because we are individuals, we have different insights and convictions. These are best handled by having a range of parties through which we can express our vision for the country.

It is, however, entirely appropriate for the Church to speak out, especially on moral issues such as abortion, euthanasia, embryo experimentation and capital punishment. These are tough issues, where MPs traditionally vote according to conscience as opposed to a party line.

It is equally right for the Church to express a view and to seek to influence MPs, who will be making a decision on that issue.

If people are thinking of voting for a candidate because that candidate has strong views on a particular moral issue, they should be aware of

where this issue stands among the wider electorate.

I could, for instance, judge the importance of abortion from my postbag. The number of letters on pro-life issues I get in a week when there is no media coverage is very, very low. When there is a story in the papers, I get letters from Christians but correspondence from other sources is almost nil. This suggests that abortion is not generally seen as an important issue.

THE tragedy, in fact, is that abortion is a hidden issue – a forgotten issue. Rightly or wrongly, people would rather choose politicians for their views on tax or the health service than their view on abortion.

Many of these moral issues are of great importance to our national life, and people should feel free to raise them with candidates of all parties during the election campaign.

■ Alistair Burt was speaking at Spring Harvest in Minehead

QUICK QUIZ

1. What is the highest rank in the British Army?
2. Name the actresses who played Kiki and Gwen Harrison in the film *America's Sweethearts*.
3. On a clothing label what does a circle with a cross through it mean?
4. Which mountain overlooks Cape Town?
5. What is Jasper Carrott's real name?
6. What is the name given to the smallest size of grand piano?

Answers on page 2

Want to know more?

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 I could contact

Name

Address

To: The War Cry, 101 Newington Causeway, London SE1 6BN



RAISED by his Chinese grandfather in Canton, Tony Anthony was taught the family traditions of Buddhism and kung fu. His gruelling education enabled him to become kung fu world champion three times. It did not, however, prepare him to cope with the death of his fiancée or a brutal three-year stretch in Nicosia Central Prison, Cyprus.

While serving time for robbery, the previously violent Tony became a Christian and, in time, led ten other inmates to faith in Christ.

Released on 11 November 1992, he flew to England where he was met by a Christian couple – John and Carolyn – who welcomed him into their home. The following Sunday they went to church together, and he told the congregation his story. Over lunch he met a woman called Sarah. Two and a bit years later they married.

Tony got a job as a youth worker at church. Sarah was expecting their first child, Ethan. One Monday night in March 2000, rather than cook, Tony decided to pick up a Chinese takeaway.

‘I made the biggest mistake of my life that night,’ says the former bodyguard. ‘I thought that when God saved me, he had completed his work on me.’

‘I had just finished counselling a boy from my youth group who had been bullied at school and was having girlfriend problems. I didn’t feel like

cooking, and I knew Sarah wouldn’t want to either, so as I drove back from dropping this lad home I called in for a takeaway. We were living in Berkshire, where at that time of year deer were often wandering across the roads.

‘It was drizzling, and I saw a Stop sign too late. I slammed on the brakes. The wheels locked. The car kept on going. I hit something. I thought it was an animal. There were no lights.’

‘I got out of my car, which had stopped on the other side of the road, and looked around. This convinced me I’d hit a deer which had run off. Apart from a broken number plate and headlamp on my car there was nothing to show for the incident.’

‘I really should have stayed that night. I really should have stayed.’

THE following Saturday the church youth group were round our house. They started to joke about my broken number plate, saying the police were looking for a

car with a broken number plate because there had been a hit-and-run incident.

‘It started to dawn on me. The day and time they were talking about – that was the night I went for the Chinese. I couldn’t get the kids out of the house quick enough. We checked the paper. A woman had been knocked off her bike into the hedge and died.’

‘I felt sick. I wanted to die. All I could think was that if the police were looking for me, I’d be going to prison. It was the most awful feeling.’

‘I should have gone to the police station. But I panicked. I thought what good would come of me going to prison?’

‘A few days later I took the car to the garage to be fixed. I told the mechanics it had been damaged in a car park. At the school where Sarah taught I met a policeman. He asked me what had happened to my car, as they were looking for one like mine. I told him it was being serviced. I don’t know why, I just lied through my teeth.’

Early one morning the police

called. Tony and Sarah were taken to the station and charged.

‘I wish I could have taken it back,’ he says. ‘That lie got me eight months for perverting the course of justice. I messed up. I handled it all wrong. The evidence pointed to the fact that it was an unfortunate accident but I made it worse by not coming clean.’

Tony was sentenced to a total of 15 months and was taken to HMP Bullingdon.

IFELT a failed Christian,’ he confesses. ‘I would never stop believing in God for as long as I live, but at that point in my life I stopped believing that God would ever want to use me again. I felt so unqualified to speak about him. I was ashamed. I just wanted to be dead. I decided not to let people in prison know I was a Christian.’

‘One day I was in my cell reading my Bible when another prisoner, Darren, walked in. I quickly shoved the Bible under my pillow. He asked me how I was bearing up and what I was reading.’

‘I told him it was a Bible. He asked if I was religious. I said I was a Christian, but not much of one. He kept asking questions, and I just wanted to get rid of him.’

‘Darren was a heroin addict who was in for GBH. He asked me if the Bible was interesting. “I don’t want to talk about it,” I said. I realised I was being moody, so I told him I was reading my favourite verse John 8:36 – “If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” I was rude to him and Darren left.’

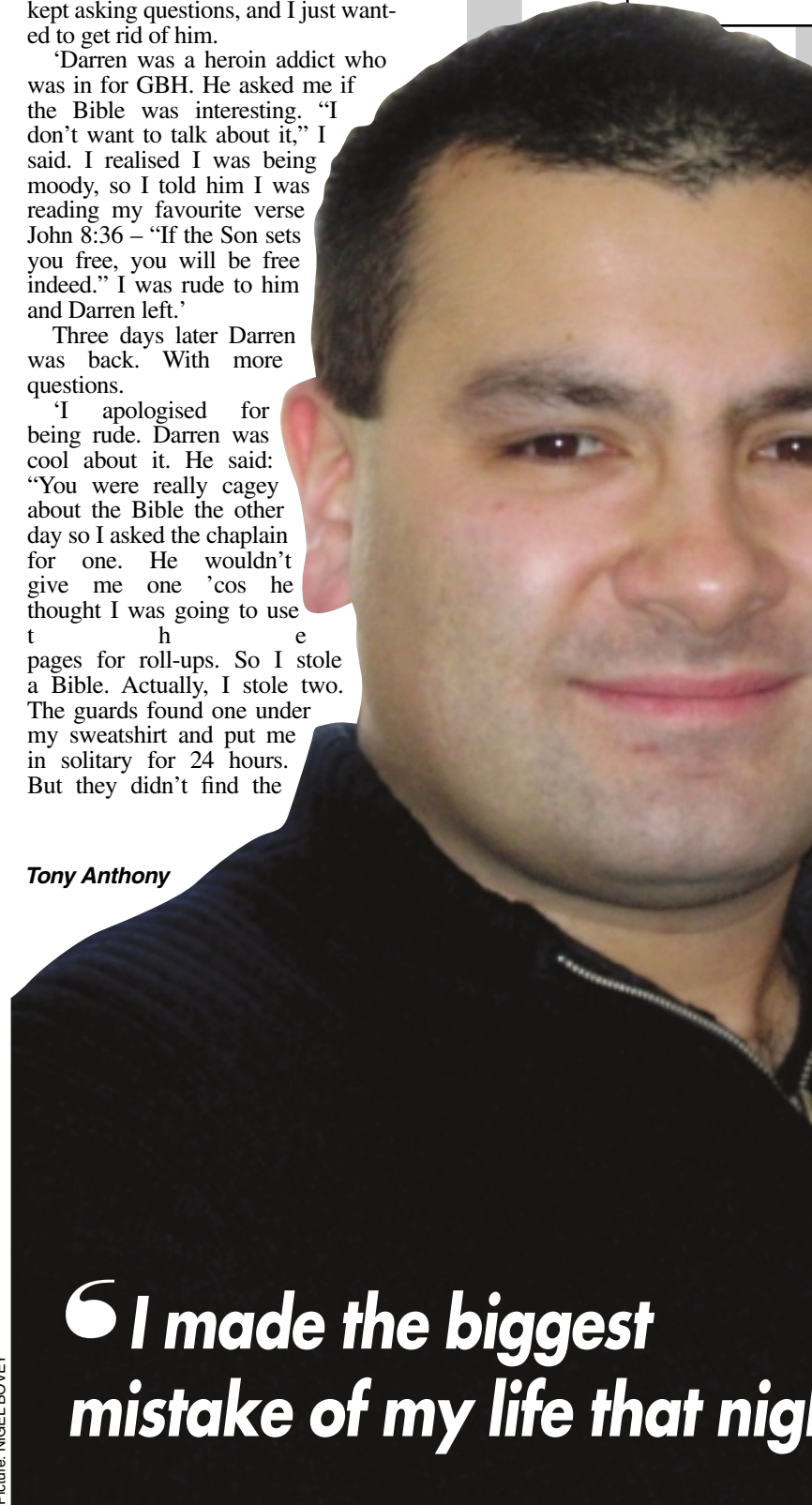
Three days later Darren was back. With more questions.

‘I apologised for being rude. Darren was cool about it. He said: “You were really cagey about the Bible the other day so I asked the chaplain for one. He wouldn’t give me one ‘cos he thought I was going to use t h e pages for roll-ups. So I stole a Bible. Actually, I stole two. The guards found one under my sweatshirt and put me in solitary for 24 hours. But they didn’t find the

pop

In the second three-times TONY ANTHONY about his bo

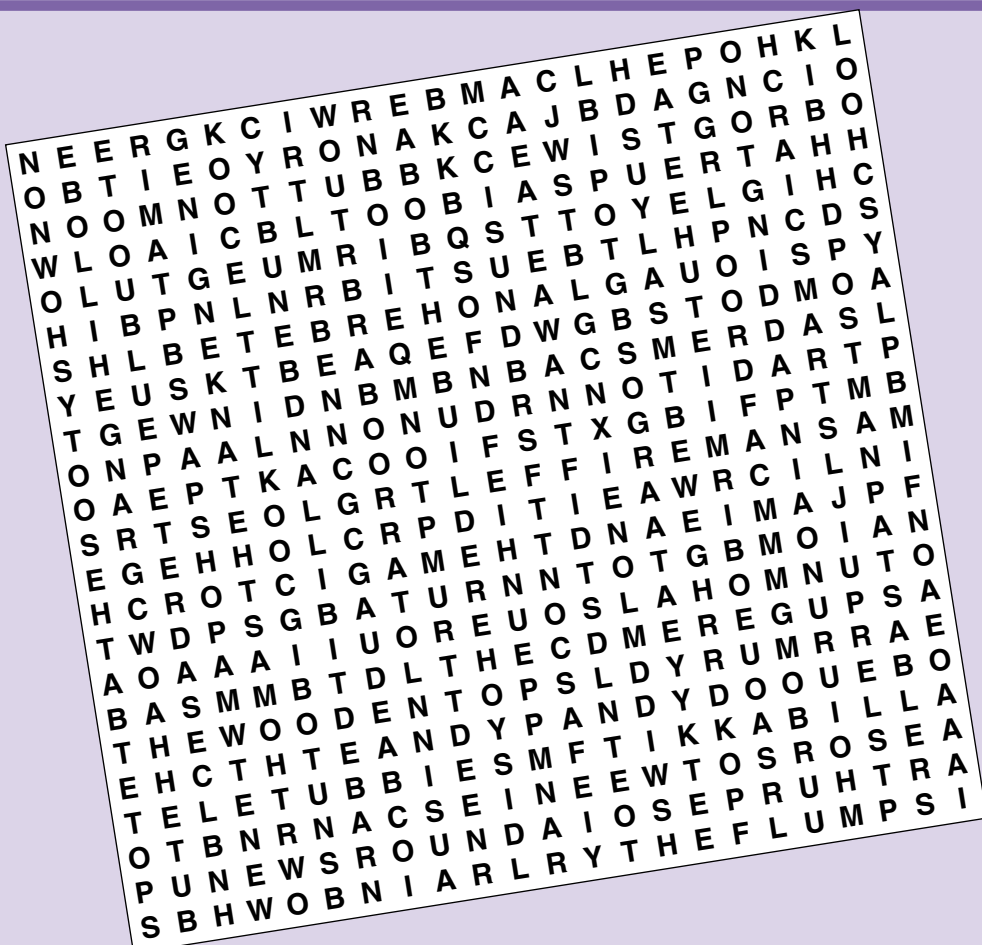
Tony tells his full story published by Authentic information visit a



Tony Anthony

‘I made the biggest mistake of my life that night

Picture: NIGEL BOVEY



KIDS' TV SEARCH

Look up, down, forwards, backwards and diagonally on the grid to find these children's programmes

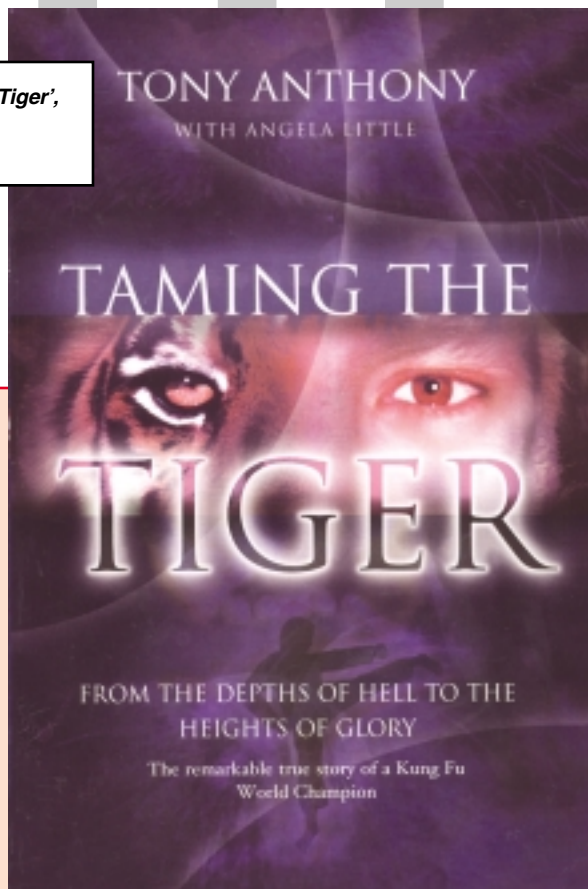
- ANDY PANDY
- ANIMAL MAGIC
- ART ATTACK
- ARTHUR
- BAGPUSS
- BALAMORY
- BIG COOK LITTLE COOK
- BILL AND BEN
- BLUE PETER
- BOB THE BUILDER
- BOD
- BOO
- BRUM
- BUTTON MOON
- CAMBERWICK GREEN
- CHIGLEY
- COME OUTSIDE
- DANGERMUSE
- FIMBLES
- FIREMAN SAM
- FRAGGLE ROCK
- GRANGE HILL
- JACKANORY
- JAMIE AND THE MAGIC TORCH
- LITTLE ROBOTS
- MR BENN
- MUFFIN THE MULE
- NEWSROUND
- NODDY
- PADDINGTON
- PINGU
- PLAY SCHOOL
- POSTMAN PAT
- RAINBOW
- ROOBARB
- ROOBARB
- SPOT
- SMART
- SWAP SHOP
- TELETUBBIES
- THE FLUMPS
- THE MAGIC ROUNDABOUT
- THE SOOTY SHOW
- THE WOODENTOPS
- THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE
- THUNDERBIRDS
- TIKKABILLA
- TRUMPTON
- TWEENIES

My trip ends in

Cambridge

and of two articles
kung fu world champion
TONY tells Nigel Bovey
struggle to forgive himself

story in 'Taming the Tiger',
entic. For further
vantiministries.com



Win 'Taming the Tiger'

THE War Cry has copies of *Taming the Tiger* to give away to five readers who can answer the following question:

What is Tony's favourite Bible verse?

Send your answer on a postcard, along with your name and address, to *Taming the Tiger* Competition, *The War Cry*, 101 Newington Causeway, London SE1 6BN. Entries must be received by Monday 25 April. The first five correct entries drawn on 26 April will receive a copy of the book. The Editor's decision is final.

one I shoved in my pants!

"So there I was in this empty cell with this Bible. I remembered you said John something, so I looked in John, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, James. I couldn't find your favourite verse anywhere. So I banged on the wall, and asked the guy in the next cell if he knew anything about the Bible. He said he did because he was a Christian. And that blew me away.

"I started reading John's Gospel from the beginning. I found the verse you were talking about and some other really good ones. Jesus was a good bloke, Tony, wasn't he?"

"I said yes. Darren said: "Tony, last night I prayed to Jesus and said sorry for being in prison. I said sorry for doing all the bad stuff in my life. I asked God to forgive me, and I want to go to Heaven one day."

"I'd been very rude to Darren. Obstructive. I'd done everything I could to stand in the way of him hearing about God. Yet God was saying to me, "I am willing to use you even though you are a mess." That's when it hit me: God is a God of second chances."

That realisation, says Tony, has also helped him to forgive himself.

"I had to learn that when God forgives, he forgives us the sins of yesterday, today and tomorrow, though that doesn't excuse us to go off and do what we like."

It also helped Tony to revise his softly-softly approach to his faith while inside.

"In any prison there are dope dealers. I got nicknamed the hope dealer. One day a really big guy came up to me and asked if I was a Christian. I said I was and got ready to take a hammering. He said his wife had died and asked if I would pray for her. I said I would and that I'd also pray for him, because he was the one left behind."

The word spread. More prisoners found Tony with their requests for prayer.

"There must have been around 30 men who were reached with the gospel in that prison. All sorts of guys – drug dealers, thieves and murderers."

"Prison in England is a doddle compared with the dungeon in Cyprus. But Bullingdon was worse, not because of what was going on around me, but because of what was happening inside me. During the second sentence God was teaching me humility, breaking me, teaching me to trust him completely and not to rely on myself. Through my stupidity I'd brought shame on my wife and her family. I'd let them down. I'd also brought shame on Christians and I'd killed someone."

I ALSO learnt that prison can take many guises. Prison can be looking in the mirror and seeing something you are not pleased with. It could be an obsession with weight. A relationship. A health worry. Something we've been living with since childhood. Problems we try to sweep under the carpet. But the liberating truth is that when we ask him, Jesus sets us free."

Today Tony takes that message to as many people as he can. He is invited to speak at prisons, schools, churches and dinner parties. His organisation, Avanti Ministries, is involved with 50 other churches in the Love Southend project, which aims

to show the gospel to the town's residents through such practical ways as litter-clearing, gardening and repainting playgrounds.

As a disciple of kung fu, Tony was taught to harness the chi – or life force – within.

"Kung fu gave me a lot of confidence. I could walk down any dark alley in any city and not be afraid. I was totally confident I could handle anything or anyone that came my way. But it was all self-confidence."

"I gave up kung fu. It is incompatible with Christianity. It demands complete obedience to a human master. It breeds self-confidence. Many of the positions are Buddhist prayer positions and the meditation can open the mind to evil spiritual influences."

"As a follower of Jesus, my confidence is in God. I can now walk down the valley of the shadow of death and fear no evil because God is with me."



Passion – The Worship Leaders
 Charlie Hall, the David Crowder Band and Chris Tomlin
 EMI Christian Music Group



IN recent years the Passion movement, which aims to unite Christian students so they can live out their faith more effectively within their educational establishments, has been gathering momentum. In conjunction with these aims, the movement has released a box set of three albums from up-and-coming worship leaders.

In *Porch and Altar* Charlie Hall invites the listener, in typical upbeat fashion, to enter into a time of personal worship. Catchy from start to finish, the disc presents some of the latest music which is being sung in churches all over the country, including the increasingly popular 'Salvation' and 'Once for All', which is a prayer asking God to help his followers 'boldly proclaim the cross'.

The mood changes completely with the David Crowder Band and *Can You Hear Us?*

This 11-track album features songs mainly accompanied by acoustic guitar. A sense of meditation and prayer comes from this music, most of which is written by lead singer David Crowder. A very short but powerful song, 'I Need Words', opens

the programme with meditations on the primary importance of having God in one's life. Words of praise, detailing the goodness of God, are to be found in 'You're Everything' and 'Wonderful King'. Two cover versions are also included: 'Obsession' written by Martin Smith of Delirious? and the Sinead O'Connor hit 'Thank You For Hearing Me'.

Again everything changes with *The Noise We Make* – the edgy rock album from Chris Tomlin, featuring his popular hymn 'Forever', which speaks of God always being there for his people.

The timeless classic 'When I Survey the Wondrous Cross' has been given the Tomlin treatment with a new chorus which adds to this upbeat version. The album draws to a close with another song from Martin Smith, 'The Happy Song'. Sung in a country and western style, it speaks of the power of God in one's life. Finally, after ten inspiring tracks, *The Noise We Make* finishes with the proclamation 'This is Our God.'



JUST A THOUGHT...

with Cliff Kent

Violet still knows the score!

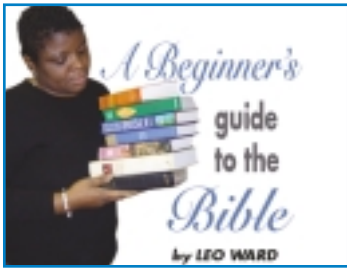
She can give anyone a good game of Scrabble



GC

David brings in golden age

Second Book of SAMUEL



'THE King is dead! Long live the King!'
 Quite so; but who?

Long ago Samuel secretly anointed David, but Samuel is now dead. So the stage is set for a struggle over who will succeed Saul.

The southern tribe of Judah readily accepts David, but among the northern tribes an attempt is made to put Saul's son Ishbosheth on the throne.

Seven years of intrigue and conflict follow, until Abner, Saul's former

military commander, transfers allegiance to David. Ishbosheth is murdered and David at last is King of a united Israel.

So begins an era of prosperity and expansion.

David's military achievements are impressive. A number of surrounding states are brought within his control, including that of the troublesome Philistines. But more important is the capture of the hill fortress of Jerusalem, which becomes David's capital. It also becomes the nation's religious centre when the Ark of the Covenant, symbol of God's presence, is taken into the city with much pomp and ceremony.

Here we are reminded of David's personal faith in God, as reflected in the many songs and prayers he wrote, which brought, and still bring, comfort, consolation and faith to believers everywhere. They appear in a later book of the Bible, called the Psalms.

Bible writers are open and frank about their heroes, making no attempt to gloss over their failures. So we read of David's tragic love affair with Bathsheba, which calls forth the sternest condemnation from his prophet-adviser, Nathan.

Sorrows cloud David's later years, especially the rebellion of his favourite son, Absalom. Troops loyal to David quell the revolt, but Absalom is killed, in spite of an appeal from David.

David's personal faith provides the solid foundation on which his life is built. A strange incident in the final chapter brings the book to a close.

David holds a census of the people. He is told by a prophet that he has done wrong, and must offer sacrifice. Nearby, a wealthy farmer is willing to give David all he needs, including oxen.

David's reply is worthy of careful thought: 'No, I will pay ... I will not offer to the Lord my God sacrifices that have cost me nothing' (24:24 *Good News Bible*).

NINETY-FOUR not out! No, my mind is not on the early-season cricket, rather I've been thinking about the age of a woman whom my wife and I visit. Violet is a bit special.

She is mentally alert, keeps up with news and current affairs, and can give anyone a good game of Scrabble. She is not short on wit, and has a way with words.

When asked recently about how she was, she answered: 'I'm perfect at the top.' As for the rest of her – like most of us – she'd admit that everything's not as it was.

It's not surprising really. Most nonagenarians are probably aware of the ravages of time. In fact, even younger people do not get away unscathed. We are all affected by burnout and body fatigue.

One doctor has advised: 'Get plenty of exercise. Stay away from alcohol and cigarettes. And pray that you've picked the right ancestors!' Helpful advice, if you have the right genes!

Whatever the state of our body, though, we all need to be renewed from within. Inward resources can help our physical wellbeing.

An Old Testament prophet knew where to turn to find them. 'The Lord is the everlasting God ... He never grows tired or weary,' he said. 'He strengthens those who are weak and tired. Even those who are young grow weak; young people can fall exhausted. But those who trust in the Lord for help will find their strength renewed' (Isaiah 40:28–31 *Good News Bible*).

Whether you feel perfect at the top or not, why not turn to God for inner renewal. Coupled with some appropriate rest and sleep, he will give us the additional help that we need.

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**S
C
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E**

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. There may be more than one solution to this puzzle

Solution on page 2

	1	8	5	2		
	2		4		8	9
9	7		2	6	1	5
0		9	1		6	
1	4		6	2	7	0
2	5	7			9	4
4		2	9	6		
	6	2	4	1	8	9
	9	6		4		1



Need a Listening Ear?

IF you have a problem, you may like to know about *The War Cry's* Listening Ear column. Our qualified counsellors will listen to any questions and reply in complete confidence. Write to LISTENING EAR, *The War Cry*, 101 Newington Causeway, London SE1 6BN, marking your envelope 'Confidential'. Or email listeningear@salvationarmy.org.uk

Patios pave the way for summer fun



Awnings can provide shelter

MANY people have a patio area from which to enjoy their garden, but few make the most of it. Spring is a good time to end the neglect of the patio, and create a space which can be enjoyed all summer long.

First, decide what you want to use your patio for. Do you want a space where you can escape the rest of the world, or an area where you can entertain family and friends?

Once you have decided on its purpose you can turn your attention to design. Think of your patio as an outdoor room and design it in the way you would any interior.

Plants – especially potted ones – are the best way to introduce natural colour to the area. To create a soothing effect, use fragrant plants such as lavender or a scented-leaved geranium. If you want more of a party atmosphere, make a statement with dahlias, red-hot pokers, gladioli and peonies.

Once you have designed your patio, make the most of your garden.

The way light enters a room in your house can make a drastic difference to your overall design, and the garden is no different.

Start by checking which direction your garden is facing. South-facing is best for catching the sun, but remember that you'll need to create shaded areas to escape the midday heat.

Awnings are a fashionable way to create shade. Innovations in fabric design and colours mean they can be used to draw together your overall scheme.

Take time over your finishing touches, and consider what you want. For instance, if you want to attract butterflies, choose plants such as nasturtiums, impatiens and petunias.

When buying patio furniture, look for pieces that are adaptable, such as extendable tables and reclining chairs.

CLASSIC car owners who keep mileage down to minimise depreciation risk losing more money than they save.

John Glynn of Glass's motoring information services says: 'Condition, not mileage, remains the primary factor in determining the worth of many popular classic cars, and deterioration in condition resulting from lack of use can often be costly.'

'When in excellent condition, many if not most of today's true

Not much mileage in staying parked

classics are appreciating assets. Assuming that their excellent condition is kept up, the value of the best examples with average mileage should continue to rise year on year, even if only gently.

'Though some owners might feel they are increasing the value of their classic by using it less and keeping

the mileage down, it's worth remembering that any rises in value as a result of lower mileage are likely to be modest and must be offset against the lack of reward in not using and enjoying the car.'

As regular use starts to dry up, so too do bearings, bushes and other mechanical parts. Brake calipers, handbrake mechanisms and clutches

begin to seize. Oil drains from extremities, causing increased wear. Condensation can collect in other fluids, damaging seals and rusting wheel cylinders and so on.

The overall effect is a worsening of mechanical condition and worth, and increased costs in keeping the car up to scratch.

Mr Glynn adds: 'Based on current evidence, any future monetary rewards for keeping mileage down are unlikely to compensate owners for the lack of driving pleasure. The message to enthusiasts is clear: get out more.'

The only exception to this rule is cars in the £15,000-£30,000 price range, where lower mileage increasingly offers an appreciable advantage.



STICK insects come from tropical or semi-tropical environments, but the Indian stick insect is happy at normal home temperatures, making it a common pet.

If you decide to keep an Indian stick insect as a pet, you should consider the following points.

Indian stick insects need a large, well-ventilated home that is kept indoors in a warm temperature but out of direct sunlight. Heating is best achieved by maintaining the whole room at the desired temperature. The

insects' home should be three times as high as the adult length of the stick insects to be kept in it.

All stick insects need water, so it is a good idea to mist the inside of the cage, including all the food, each evening.

Stick insects need a diet of fresh leaves. Most are easily fed on leaves of bramble and privet, but Indian stick insects can also eat hawthorn and rose. Feed them at regular times of day, and make sure they always have plenty of fresh food.

Great care should be taken in handling stick insects at all times. Very few are dangerous, but the

Australian or giant spiny stick insect, the jungle nymph and the thorn-legged stick insect will pinch and bite if they are not used to being handled. The American walking stick and pink wings have a defensive chemical spray, so are best avoided.

Before deciding to get a stick insect for the first time, talk to other stick insect keepers and professionals – such as a vet – for advice.

Inspect this insect advice before getting your pet



Stick insects need a diet of fresh leaves

Guides steer holidaying motorists in right direction

THOMAS COOK has produced a new series of driving guides. The *Drive Around* books cover 17 different regions and countries, including the British Isles, six areas of France as well as selected regions in Italy, Spain and North America.

Each guide suggests touring routes, walks, sights, accommodation and places to eat.

Apple and citrus cobbler

THIS recipe is made up of scones baked on top of apples – an essentially British dessert.

Ingredients:

Knob of butter
900g apples, peeled, cored and cut into thick slices
50g caster sugar
50g raisins
For the scones
225g self-raising flour
Pinch of salt
100g butter, diced
50g caster sugar
Grated zest of two lemons
Grated zest of 1 orange
1 egg
Milk
Granulated sugar

Method:

Preheat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas Mark 6. Melt butter in a pan. Add apples and sugar, and cook for 1-2 minutes. Remove from heat, add raisins, and spoon into buttered pudding dish.

For scones, sift flour into bowl with salt. Rub in butter until it resembles breadcrumbs. Then add sugar, lemon and orange zest.

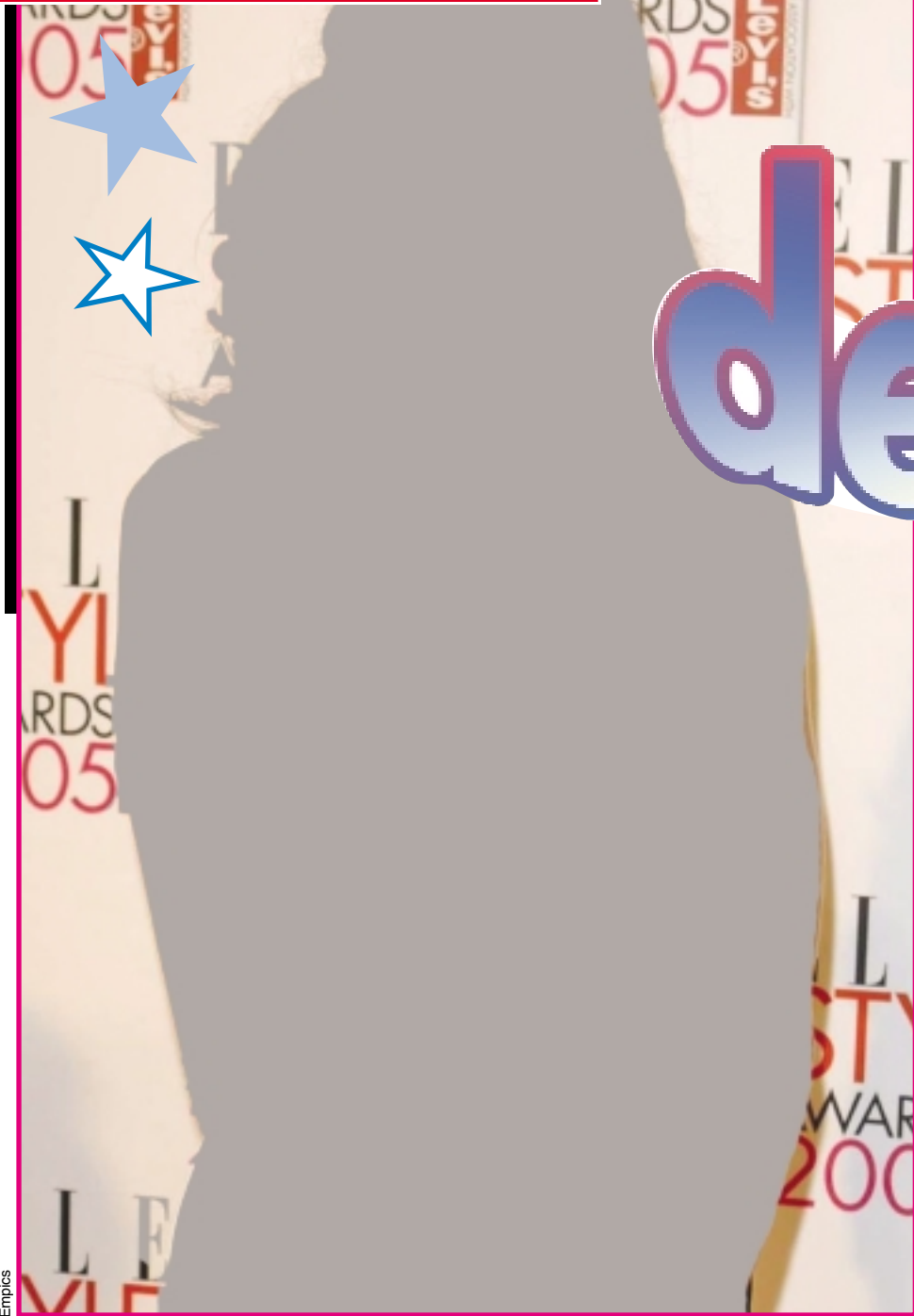
Mix egg with 4-5 tbsps of milk, and gradually add to flour mixture to make a dough.

Roll out until approximately 1cm thick, and cut into rounds.

Put on top of apples, tightly overlapping. Brush with milk and sprinkle with granulated sugar.

Bake for 25-30 minutes until golden brown on top.

Serves 4-6



Empics

ESPECIALLY FOR YOU: Kylie is revisiting some old hits

Kylie

delighted

SHE'S spinning around again. Pop fans across Europe have been heading for arenas in their thousands to hear Kylie Minogue, the undisputed princess of pop, on her biggest tour. The Showgirl tour has arrived!

Tonight (Saturday 23 April) Kylie's fans in the North West will be making their way to Manchester's *Evening News* Arena to see the pint-sized Aussie singer launch a five-day celebration of her 18 years in the music industry.

Kylie is the epitome of a certain kind of glamour. Previous tours could easily be described as camper than a row of tents! Each one has included flashing pyrotechnics, fantastic costumes and feisty enthusiasm. Showgirl

Pop princess thanks fans for bringing her happiness

notes **BEN BAILEY**

is no different.

Arriving on the stage in typical fashion, Kylie shimmers in diamond-encrusted costume and feather head-dress. Fans expecting their favourite hits are not going to be disappointed either with a set containing the very best of Kylie – from 'Step Back In Time', 'Locomotion' and 'What Do I Have to Do' to more recent offerings such as 'Can't Get You Out of My Head' and 'Giving You Up'.

For Kylie this tour is extra special. 'Showgirl is not only a celebration of pop songs and my career, but is also my way to say thank you and to share some of the most

important moments of my journey so far – a trip down memory lane,' she says.

Looking back over our lives can be a good exercise. When we do, we often relive happier moments. Experiences that brought us much joy and satisfaction. But what about the times when things weren't so great? We'd all like to forget past hurts; times when we said or did something which we now regret.

Maybe we'd like to step back in time and change things. The fact is we can't.

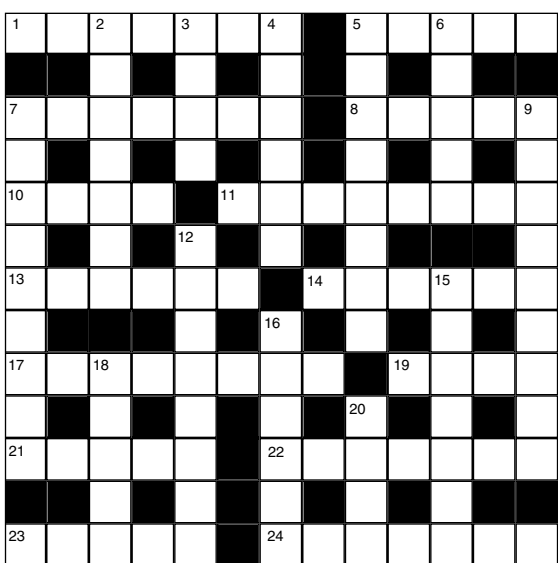
But we can ask Jesus to deal with our past. He knows what life is like – how easy it is for us to say the wrong thing, fail, be hurt and rejected.

The Bible reminds us that Jesus is not out of touch with our reality. 'He's been through weakness and testing, experienced it all – all but the sin. So let's walk right up to him and get what he is so ready to give' (Hebrews 4:15, 16 *The Message*).

But what is Jesus ready to give us? Forgiveness for our past, and help and guidance for our future, for a start. He values us and wants to be a constant part of our lives – whoever we are and whatever we've done.

Now that's cause for a celebration!

QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. Set free (7)
5. Remuneration (5)
7. Frenzied (7)
8. Uplift (5)
10. Kill (4)
11. Choke (8)
13. Unbroken (8)
14. Powerful (6)
17. Insinuation (8)
19. Haze (4)
21. Strive (5)
22. Irregular (7)
23. Wicked person (5)
24. Weekday (7)

DOWN

2. Handbill (7)
3. Against (4)
4. Rouse (6)
5. Guarantee (8)
6. Leaving (5)
7. Exact copy (9)
9. Vigorous (9)
12. Said yes (8)
15. Excluded (7)
16. Pre-Christmas period (6)
18. Female relative (5)
20. French cheese (4)

Answers on page 2

THE ADDRESS OF YOUR LOCAL SALVATION ARMY CENTRE IS:

