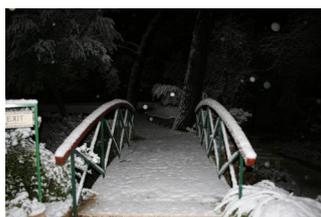


Winter in Jerusalem gives us days with many variations. It can be cold and we even experienced some snow. Another day can be quite warm and nice. Today, there has been a gale, basically a sandstorm, with everything covered in fine brown sand – and for those residents who left their apartment windows open, sand everywhere.

Over the past three months, we have bade farewell to Richard and Rosalind Meryon, to Esther Van Der Linden, and to Logan Bentley, and welcomed our new Director and his wife, Richard and



Margareta Mayhew.

It has been a quiet few months, however, with visitor numbers continuing to be about 20% lower than what would be expected at this time of year. However, these quieter times create new opportunities for staff and volunteers to spend more time with our visitors.

So, what's new at the Garden? You may not be surprised to read that

some things never change. For example, the work on Nablus Road outside the Garden, which had been creating a heavy cloud of dust daily had supposedly been completed. Unsurprisingly, though, it is being dug up again, and we are again under a heavy cloud of dust, and again parking our cars elsewhere.

But dust and car access aside, it is a great privilege for staff and volunteers to be able to welcome visitors from seemingly every corner of the world. The Garden Tomb is a unique ministry in the heart of Jerusalem where our prayer is that all our visitors are able to receive a greater revelation



of what Jesus meant when he said 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live'. We hope this newsletter gives you a taste of the Garden during these past few months.

Cesar Fleitas shares a snow-day memory...

It was a cold, snowy, winter afternoon here at the Garden. It was the Eastern Orthodox Christmas Day and we were one of the few tourist sites open to the public in Jerusalem. Public Transportation had ceased running because of the weather. We were not expecting to see many groups of visitors that afternoon. We were sitting around, thinking to ourselves, "Why are we open on a day like this?" But God in His sovereignty always has something for us to do. Not long after we opened the gate for the afternoon shift, a vehicle drove up our alley and two Arab gentlemen came out of the car and helped an older lady come out of the vehicle. The two men found the lady in the old city, wandering around on her own not knowing where she was going. They brought her into the Garden and into our reception of-

vice. After she was brought in, the two men said they needed to "park" the vehicle somewhere else, but left and never returned. We tried to communicate with her in order to help her, but she only spoke Romanian. One of us used a smartphone to translate what she was saying. After a while we realized that we were going nowhere with that method. We ended up calling the Romanian Embassy in Tel Aviv and after many tries the Ambassador's secretary picked up the phone and she interpreted for us. Through the interpreter we learned that she was 80 years old and that she came to Israel by herself to visit the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. She was staying at the Greek Orthodox Church not far away from us. After about two and a half hours, we were able to figure out who she was and how we could help



her. As we were trying to get a hold of the people in charge of the Greek Orthodox Church, one of our guides brought her some coffee and cookies. She was overwhelmed by the kindness she was shown at the Garden. She asked repeatedly where she was and what kind of place this was (or at least that's what we understood from Google Translate). At one point, she quoted a verse from Matthew saying, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me." To me that was a sobering quote. By helping this lady, we were serving our Saviour. I will never forget that day and that lady. She helped us

Focus for Prayer & Thanksgiving:

- FOR THE LORD'S CONTINUING PROVISION FOR THE GARDEN, INCLUDING VISITORS, VOLUNTEERS, STAFF, AND FINANCES
- FOR SUSTAINABLE NUMBERS OF VISITORS DURING THIS QUIET SEASON
- FOR OUR VARIOUS EASTERN SERVICES, FOR SIMON PONSONBY OUR SPEAKER AT THE ENGLISH SERVICES
- FOR GUIDANCE AND WISDOM FOR FUTURE DECISIONS AND PLANS
- FOR SAFETY FOR OUR VISITORS, AND FOR OUR STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

gain perspective on what it means to serve the Lord. Even though we did not see many groups or individuals at the Garden Tomb that day, we were serving the Lord by serving her.

Garden Tomb Newsletter

More than just work...



Staff and volunteers do not work *all the time*. During one lunch break Matilda taught some of us how to make makkclubah. The special thing with this dish is that you turn it upside down and it is exciting to see if it will stand nicely or collapse. This was perfect and tasted wonderful. Thank you, Matilda!

It can also happen that we go for a hike when we all are free on Sundays. From the flower carpets of the Judean hills to the awe inspiring starkness of the Judean desert—we can enjoy the richness the Creator has provided.



Tribute to Michael Tupper, written for the Old Monktonian Magazine, by Ian Sinclair

Rev. Michael Tupper served for two years as a Master & Chaplain at Monkton Combe School, leaving in 1948 to serve at Shrewsbury School where he was employed for the whole of his teaching and professional career. On retiring from Shrewsbury School, he served as a clergyman at two parishes near Shrewsbury; at Christ Church, Bayston Hill and Holy Trinity, Meole Brace.

To even more thousands, his witness and influence was enormous in his roles as Chaplain, Chief Guide and Sunday Preacher at The Garden Tomb in Jerusalem where he served for over 15 years. Michael was a gracious, measured, disciplined Christian of great wisdom and humanity. A man who walked with the Lord Jesus as a friend and who was able to act as a link and pointer to his Saviour, and who communicated his living faith in the vitality and clarity of his preaching. His last sermon at the Garden Tomb was preached on the Easter Sunday on a date near his 80th birthday, and in front of the Empty Tomb – a sermon of power and conviction to the reality of the Risen Lord Jesus.

Michael was born in 1920 in East Sheen, Surrey, where his father, Edward Tupper, was the vicar. His mother, Dorothy

(unusually for her generation) had an Oxford degree. Both parents were progressive on the social issues of their time and their strong Christian faith meant that Michael and his sisters grew up in an active Christian environment. Michael's father died when Michael was aged only 11; bring a major change for all the family. However Michael obtained a bursary for sons of the clergy and so was able to attend Marlborough School. He then went to St Edmund Hall, Oxford to study theology. From Oxford, he went to Ridley Hall, Cambridge, to train for the Anglican ministry.

Michael died peacefully in his sleep on 10th December 2014 aged 94 years. The Service in loving memory and celebration of his life was held at Holy Trinity Anglican Parish Church, Meole Brace, Shrewsbury, on Tuesday 23 December 2014. It was a joyful tribute to a remarkable man and was attended by a congregation of nearly 100 people. There were many representatives of his spheres of influence including his times at Shrewsbury School, mission work in Kenya, and parishioners from the parishes in Shrewsbury where he served, as well as at the

Garden Tomb. Also attending was a group of Christian volunteers who had served with Michael (and his wife Jane) at the Garden Tomb, including Ian Sinclair, who had also been a boy at Monkton Combe School. Many others (including the immediate past and present Directors) who have served at the Garden Tomb have close connections with Monkton Combe School.

Michael's influence as a Christian schoolmaster was considerable and far-reaching. One of his former pupils, who gave the final tribute in Michael's memory, is Rt Revd. Mark Rylands, Bishop of Shrewsbury, who spoke very movingly on how the way Michael dealt with him when he got into trouble at school (as teenagers often do) had a profound effect on him—if it hadn't been handled so wisely, Mark would not have been a bishop!

Michael walked closely and consistently with the Lord Jesus and, at this service, many who attended were able to give thanks and rejoice that he has now entered into the Joy of his Lord & Saviour. (IC Sinclair 24.12.14 - Item for the Old Monktonian magazine)

THE GARDEN TOMB
WAS REPRESENTED
BY DAVE AND
ALTHEA HOWELL,
DOUG AND JOY
WOOD, SHARON
MCLEAN AND IAN
AND JANET SINCLAIR
AT MICHAEL TUPPER'S
MEMORIAL SERVICE

Garden Tomb Newsletter

Meet the Volunteers...

The Lord had prepared us to serve Him in the Garden Tomb. Having prayed for the Lord's direction as to where we could serve Him in January 2014, we were amazed that He wanted us to go to Jerusalem (Acts 1:8). Not long after that we were delighted to hear that we could come to the Garden Tomb as volunteers. We felt very honoured and humbled by that rare privilege. To serve God in such a wonderful setting- a beautiful garden, with all its tranquility in the midst of a busy area is something we

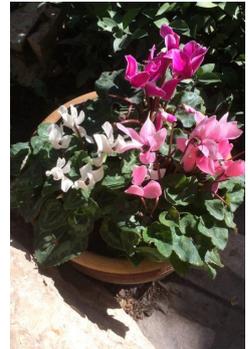
looked forward to. We also treasured the many precious opportunities to share the gospel to visitors. By doing so our spiritual life has been nourished, as we read our Bibles with fresh insight. Our prayer is that we continue to be good ambassadors for Christ.



Liang Fong & Sok Ching

The staff and volunteers of the Garden Tomb are very loving and helpful. We thoroughly enjoy the fellowship; rejoicing in the fact that though we are from different backgrounds, we are one in the bond of Christ. We are very excited and feel very blessed to be given the opportunity to serve Him in the Garden Tomb. We wait every day for more lives to be touched by His presence here as we share of His love and redeeming salvation.

Please do pray for our volunteers, those who are here, those who have just left, those who are about to come here. We are truly blessed to have such a supportive group of volunteers, the backbone of the ministry here in Jerusalem. If you know of anyone who may like to consider becoming a volunteer, please do guide them our way.



We are hoping to send out the newsletter every quarter, the next one being in June, so do look out for it. We would love to hear from you if you have any GT Fellowship news which would be good to circulate more widely. Our editors cannot guarantee to include everything sent to us, but we will try.

A reminder of our email address: mail@gardentomb.com