

Thought for the Week

By Olly Knight
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HOW do we cope when we go through rough months and difficult years?

How do we react when we have family crises and things go wrong with the house?

My natural tendency is to let the situation consume my thoughts and sap me of my happiness in life.

I find it really crazy that a New Testament writer James (who was Jesus' brother) said that when we go through trials and tough times we should "consider it pure joy".

Is James just being weird here or out right insensitive?

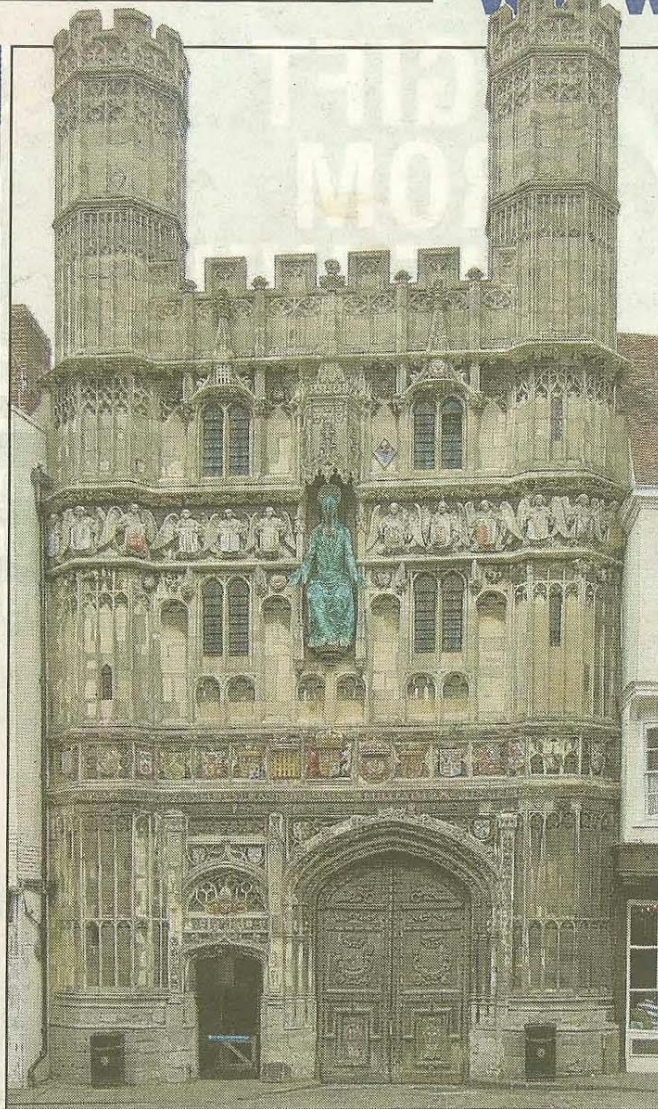
James isn't saying: "Just put on a brave face, a fake smile and everything will be OK."

James knew what persecution and pain was like.

Pain is real and affects us. James is actually saying here that although life might be hard at times there is someone to trust in and lean on when times get tough.

That person is Jesus. Trusting in Jesus gives comfort in the moment but also a hope because the believer knows that one day the pains and worries he is suffering in the present will come to an end when they get to spend eternity with Christ.

So, joy through trials for James wasn't about a fake smile, it was about a deep-rooted joy knowing Jesus and knowing a future with him without pain.



TOURIST FAVOURITE: The Christ Church gate at Canterbury Cathedral

Make a closer inspection of gate carvings

Way We Were



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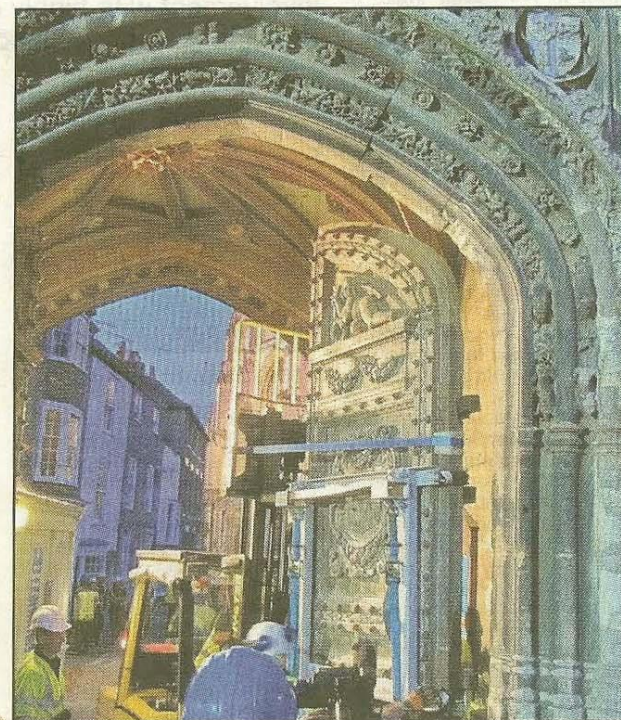
THE remarkable Christ Church gate, already surely the most photographed feature in the city, will be on the receiving end of yet more attention today (Thursday), when Justin Welby is enthroned as the 105th Archbishop of Canterbury.

The magnificent array of coats of arms and angels across the south face of the gate already gets due regard in the main guide books, and is described in some detail in the CHAS website.

So, today we'll pick out a few features that the new Archbishop may not have had time to spot.

Puzzled bystanders on October 11, 2011 were privileged to witness a very rare spectacle when each massive wooden door, weighing around a ton, was gently lifted off its hinges and taken away for restoration work.

According to Treasurer's Books in the cathedral archives, wooden panels for the original doors were made in London and



RESTORATION: The heavy doors to the gate were taken away to be worked on in October 2011

INTRICATE: Left, a lozenge containing three flying bees is

Plant for

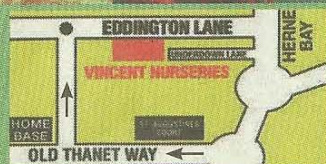
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Books in the cathedral archives, wooden panels for the original doors were made in London and brought by hoy (a coastal sailing boat) to Faversham.

The completed doors were originally erected in 1681 to celebrate an earlier enthronement – that of Archbishop William Juxon, the 77th Archbishop, and they bear his coat of arms.

These include a puzzle in that they show four African heads, known in heraldic terms as moors.



RESTORATION: The heavy doors to the gate were taken away to be worked on in October 2011

INTRICATE: Left, a lozenge containing three flying bees is carved on the stonework

Obvious suggestions have been explored, including connection to the family name Moore, or connections with trade to the West Indies, but historians and heraldic experts are still uncertain why these were chosen for his arms. High on the stonework to the right of the Welcoming Christ statue

look for three flying red bees set in a lozenge (diamond) surround.

These are the arms of the Stancomb family. They appear on the Christ Church gate because a descendant of this family, Dame Janet Stancomb-Wills (1854-1932) was one of two sisters who funded major restoration work on the gate in the 1930s.

She was heiress to the Wills tobacco family, and served as the first woman mayor of Ramsgate 1923-24.

The oddest detail in the stone carving of the gate is the small figure, immediately above the gate arch, part man and part woman, lying back in a pose of what appears to be relaxed abandon.

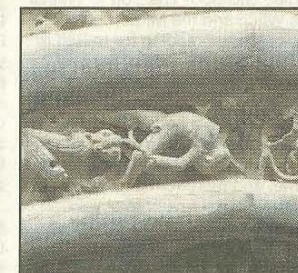
Such oddities are normally explained as the unauthorised revenge of an aggrieved stonemason who felt he had been underpaid or unfairly fired.

We have no evidence for this in this case, so he (or she?) remains a mystery.

■ For more information, visit the CHAS website, at www.canterbury-archaeology.org.uk



MOORISH MYSTERY: The coat of arms of Archbishop William Juxon, the 77th Archbishop



ODDITY: A stone carving of a half-man half-woman in the gate