



It's Just Not Cricket!

February 2006

All mystical experience is coincidence; and vice versa, of course.
~Tom Stoppard, *Jumpers*

Prayer

Dear Lord, so far today I've done ok. I've kept my mouth shut, I haven't been untidy, lazy, greedy, grumpy or nasty. I hope you'll be glad about that. I am. But in a few minutes, Lord, I'll have to get out of bed, and from then on, I'll probably need a lot more help. Amen.

A Bite Out of English Culture

Vocab (US word = UK word):

- pop/soda = fizzy drink
- baked potato = jacket potato
- saran wrap/ plastic wrap = cling film
- toilet paper = toilet roll
- paper towel = kitchen roll

UK currency lesson: first went decimal in the 1970s. Our cents are their pence (p) and our dollars are their pounds (£). Coins come in 1p, 2p, 5p, 10p, 20p, 50p, £1 and £2. Notes are £5, £10, £20 and £50. As the value of the note gets bigger, the width and length increases. By comparison, US bills are longer and narrower.

Missing Books:

The Case of the Missing Books by Ian Sansom tells the story of Israel, a displaced Londoner. The Jewish vegetarian has arrived in North Antrim, Northern Ireland to take up his first post as a librarian. However, in addition to not being to get a 'proper cappuccino and a decent newspaper' and experiencing some major culture shock, there's a slight problem: all 15,000 books are missing and he has to find them.

Well Done!

"Well done" is the two phrase most often used in Jackie's class by the tutors whenever the students do or answer something right, whether it's identifying the image of a bowl in pictorial recipe or hitting the right buttons on the calculator. Other praises include "that's lovely," "good" and "fantastic." Usually these are in combination with "well done" (which I recently noticed has crept into my vocabulary). The main aim of the course is not for the students to get a catering certificate for employment purposes, but to help them develop some basic life and social skills, such as which side of a knife blade cuts, how to make up a grocery list, how to find things in a shop or ask for help if they can't find them, etc.

One of the objectives of YAGM year is that its participants learn a variety of leadership and intercultural skills and about themselves during their service. I try to share a little of this in some form each month, but this month I'm going to share some of the less obvious things I've learned in the past six months:

- ✍ The correct way to stock your fridge is as follows: Milk, cheese and eggs should be kept on the door, trifle (some fancy-ish but I don't think very good dessert) and yogurt on the top shelf, cooked meats on the middle shelf, raw meats and fish on the bottom shelf, and vegetables in the drawers .
- ✍ Cool your food completely before placing in the fridge to avoid raising the temperature in the fridge which in turns raises the temperature of your foods and thus fosters the growth of bacteria.
- ✍ The safest way to defrost meat is freezer to fridge in a covered dish. [Obviously I'm not going to be making direct use of some information.]
- ✍ It is possible to rake a lawn with a pitchfork-like gardening tool.
- ✍ Service in the US is, in my opinion at this time, better than in the UK. I miss going to the post office and not having a glass barrier with only a 1" high and 6" wide space through which to pass money, stamps and voices through between me and the clerk. This is also found in banks and at ticket retailers (for theatre, attractions, etc). I find it isolating and off-putting.
- ✍ You don't need a university degree to be an engineer. You can leave college at sixteen and get a job in the business. I'm still trying to figure out the basics of their education system.
- ✍ It really is helpful sometimes to repeat what someone says to you as a question in order to understand what they want. I read a child psychology book this fall where the author was always repeating what the child said to her as a question. It drove me nuts! And now I find myself doing the same thing.
- ✍ Life without a cat simply isn't life. It's only a little pathetic to go to the pet shop for the express purpose of staring at the kittens.

Meet Karoline Schneider!



Karoline (pronounced something along the lines of care-o-lean-a) is the first person I met and to welcome me at St. Anne's. She comes from the former East Germany and is doing her final year of study for her BA in American Studies at Kings College London. Her post-graduation plans are still up in the air (as are many her position), but she would like to do graduate work in international/intercultural studies or related field. That would certainly put her language skills to

use; in addition to German and English she speaks French, Czech, Ojibwe and Japanese at various proficiency levels.

Coming from a strong Lutheran family, Karoline is partly responsible for the young adult discussion group starting this fall, she helps run the youth group and is often seen ushering on Sunday mornings. She's also active with a Christian group at her university and some underground ministries- Glorious Undead in London and the Jesus Freaks in Germany.

Native North Americans sweet corn and potato are in several foods- sweet corn goes in egg rolls and tops pizza; potatoes are used for waffles. From the Ration Book Cookery I bring you potato scones.

Potato Scones

½ lb mashed potato
½ lb flour
pinch of salt
½ tsp baking powder
milk
1 tbls dripping [fat/oil]

Mix the potato, flour, salt and baking powder with milk to make a stiff paste. Roll out to about ¼ in thick. Fry the first in a bit of dripping; the others will do without. Serve hot in a pile with butter.



Alison Lapper Pregnant

First sculpture to appear on previously empty pillar in Trafalgar Square (unveiled fall 2005).

The US of A in England

How did the Australians get a hold of previously unreleased photos of Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse? That was my first thought when I first heard the "up next on ..." watching the news at work. Obviously the US policy in Iraq isn't popular. Neither is the British involvement. I have frequently seen Blair next to Bush for his part "crimes against humanity" and "war crimes." One poster simply states "Stop Bush Stop Blair No More War."



Just Married

Outside Hackney Town Hall an old Route Master, an icon of London Transport's past, receives wedding guests.

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The Young Adults in Global Mission is a program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America which provides adults between the ages of 19 and 30 a year of volunteer service. The program offers leadership development, spiritual growth, global awareness and understanding.

To find out more about outreach of the church, please visit <http://www.elca.org/globalservice/youngadults/>