

# Letters

## Leaked memo is all part of dumbing down Christianity

AM I alone in thinking that had the leaked memo about the Pope been about a visit by the world's most important Muslim cleric, the person responsible would have been dismissed on the spot and declared the subject of a Fatwa?

As a practising Roman Catholic, I was disgusted to read what had been suggested. To have it then written off as a joke makes the situation worse.

It is all part of the dumbing down of Christianity in Britain.

**Paul Stuart,**  
*Hemsworth, W Yorks*

## Catastrophic consequence of all-comers' immigration

YOUR front page headline demonstrates the catastrophic consequence of Labour's all-comers' immigration policy, ("Fury over 1m illegal immigrants", April 26).

Even more frightening is the fact that a vote for the incredibly naive Liberal Democrats could allow disastrous Gordon Brown to cling to office by default.

Your excellent columnist Leo McKinstry argues in detail why it would be complete folly to vote for Nick Clegg ("Flirtation with the Lib Dems must be brought to an end", April 26).

In this final full week of electioneering, it is essential that the Daily Express continues to give prominence to the stories that other newspapers find too uncomfortable to print.

**Andrew Thomas,**  
*Birmingham*

## Amnesty to illegals would put us in a deeper mess

WE are on the road to becoming sidelined in our own country while immigrants, illegal or otherwise, are being prioritised.

The proposal by ludicrous Lib Dem leader Nick Clegg to grant amnesties to those here illegally flies in the face of common sense.

No political spin and posturing can suggest there is a positive side to the issue, as the cost alone in welfare benefits would soar off the graph, adding to the mess we are already in.

This must stop. I do not believe anyone in their right mind would want this situation, so on May 6 let us show Clegg and Gordon Brown we have had enough.

**Tim Smith,**  
*Aylesbury, Bucks*

## Lightweight Clegg has no place on the world stage

THERE is nothing remotely statesmanlike about Nick Clegg, which at the moment may be part of his attraction.

Pause for a moment and consider the prospect of him representing what remains of our sovereign interests on the world stage.

The likes of Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel and France's President Nicolas Sarkozy would eat him for breakfast.

**Stephanie Swaby,**  
*Doncaster, S Yorks*

## Action needs to be taken to beat multiple sclerosis

AS people affected by multiple sclerosis (MS) or as individuals close to someone living with the condition, we write to you to draw your attention to national MS Week, which runs until Sunday.

MS affects the central nervous system and can lead to a variety of symptoms. Some are obvious, like loss of balance and inability to

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## Letter of the day

# Offence to Pope leaves British looking pathetic



**MOCKED: Will Pope Benedict go ahead with visit?**

I WAS disgusted by the mocking Foreign Office document suggesting that on his UK visit, Pope Benedict XVI should open an abortion clinic, launch a range of condoms and duet with the Queen ("Pope visit in jeopardy as Vatican denounces Britain's 'dark forces'", April 26).

I am not remotely religious but would never do or say anything that would upset a guest to my home. I am not that childish, churlish or stupid and in this case sincerely hope the powers-that-be deal severely with the idiot who drew up the offensive 'ideas'.

When something like this happens, it makes the British look, quite frankly, pathetic in the eyes of the world. We already have a deplorable record for binge-drinking and yobbish behaviour so this is the last thing we need, especially when it involves international figures.

It couldn't have happened in any other country in the world: only Britain. Can anybody doubt that?

**Philip Norman,**  
*By e-mail*

stand or walk. Others are less well-known, such as blurred vision, fatigue, incontinence, numbness and depression.

The MS Society has released a manifesto outlining 10 healthcare priorities that the Government needs to act on in order to provide people with a full life.

They include encouraging the quick and efficient provision of wheelchairs and other enabling equipment, increased support for carers, access to drugs, treatments and specialist healthcare and support in helping people in and out of work.

Action needs to be taken now to beat MS.

**Lorraine Kelly, Laurence and Jackie Llewelyn-Bowen, Dave Myers and Si King (The Hair Bikers), and Oritse Williams (singer, JLS)**

## WOULD JOB CUTS BE A DISASTER FOR NHS?

**Yes** ONCE again Gordon Brown and his shoddy government have been misleading us ("NHS disaster as tens of thousands of jobs face axe", April 26).

We now learn that they are secretly planning to cut tens of thousands of frontline NHS jobs, leaving the sick and elderly vulnerable. During this election campaign, ministers have staked all on denouncing the Tories for pledging cuts in public spending but behind the scenes they are more than willing to put lives at risk with a scheme that is both savage and irresponsible.

**David Jackson,**  
*Southampton*

## Ten things you never knew about... Beethoven

WILLIAM HARTSTON

*Two hundred years ago today, on April 27, 1810, Beethoven composed his piano piece Für Elise.*

1. In 2006, an RSPCA rescue centre in Somerset reported that stressed dogs are calmed by the music of Mozart and Beethoven.
2. When drinking coffee, Beethoven insisted that every cup was made from exactly 60 coffee beans.
3. The US publisher Malcolm Forbes owns a hot-air balloon in the shape of a bust of Beethoven.
4. In 1996, the completion of a building project in Berlin was celebrated by 19 construction cranes swaying back and forth in time to a tape recording of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.

**5. Beethoven was 5ft 5in tall and had thick black hairs on the backs of his hands.**

**6. Beethoven's maternal grandfather was head chef at the court of the Archbishop of Trier in Germany.**

**7. When Beethoven gave a public performance at the age of seven, his father claimed he was six.**

**8. Around 20,000 Viennese people lined the streets for Beethoven's funeral in 1827.**

**9. Beethoven used to immerse his head in cold water in order to stay awake.**

**10. Beethoven's last words are said to have been, "Pity, pity, too late" when he took delivery of a crate of wine from his publisher.**

## BEACHCOMBER



## 93 YEARS OLD AND STILL GOING SWIMMINGLY...

EVER since I first read, many years ago, about the effects of alcohol on memory in goldfish, I have had a great deal of respect for the piscine world. My latest fishy experience, however, turned out to be a misunderstanding and I do not know how to extricate myself from it.

It all began, I suppose, when I was reading last week's issue of the scientific journal Nature, which included a review of a new book entitled Do Fish Feel Pain? (OUP, £14.99) by the biologist Victoria Braithwaite.

The question, of course, has deep philosophical implications that raise the fundamental question of whether fish are conscious. Now you may think that a fish in a bowl does little more than swim, eat and sing "round, round, get around, I get around", but there is far more to them than that. The Nature reviewer refers to an experiment that led Braithwaite towards the conclusion that fish feel pain, which appears to support the view that fish are capable of conscious reasoning.

The mental skill involved in the experiment was something called transitive inference. If you tell a human that A is greater than B, and B is greater than C, the human will deduce that A is greater than C, but can a fish do the same thing? Experiments at a university in California seem to show that they can.

The subjects were aggressive male cichlid fish, which often pick fights with others of their species. When involved in a three-way rumble, a cichlid is known to attack the weaker of its two opponents first and that idea led to the development of the reasoning task. A fish was permitted to watch fights between other fish. After seeing fish A defeat fish B, and then fish B defeat fish C, it was placed in a glass container between fishes A and C. If it is capable of transitive inference, the researchers argued, it would reason that C is weaker than A, so would attack C first. And that is exactly what happened.

But does that mean that cyclids are conscious? Might it not simply have seen the bruises on fish C and thought, "I can take that wimp," and gone for him in preference to the Lonsdale-belt-wearing fish A? Or perhaps fish A was just looking confident after his victory, while fish C was downcast.

I suppose it was just unlucky that I had been reading the article only a few minutes before the phone rang with an invitation to learn about battered fish. I should, I now realise, have been alerted by the fact that the event to which I was being invited was taking place at Bentley's Oyster Bar and Grill in London's Piccadilly but on hearing the word 'battered' my mind went back to poor old fish C, who after being battered by fish B, now found itself assaulted by another fish.

So I went along hoping to find out more about whether fish consciously detect signs of battering on other fish and found myself treated to a series of fascinating talks about the 150th anniversary of fish and chips and the best beers with which to make batter. I'd better tell you about it tomorrow, or they'll never invite me back.

**Peter Caulfield,**  
*Halstead, Essex*

mind-boggling but maybe not surprising. It's time the Government encouraged officers to use discretion instead of forcing them to meet targets by making unnecessary arrests.

**Peter Caulfield,**  
*Halstead, Essex*

## Skip the penknife holders and target border control

THIS government has little control over our borders, ensuring instead that police officers target really serious crimes, such as a motorist keeping a penknife in the glove compartment of his car.

The first thing all governments do when they lose control is to penalise the law-abiding. After all, they are much easier targets. However, I do wish the courts would recognise this fact and treat the prosecutions with the disdain they deserve.

**A Jackson,**  
*Welling, Kent*

## I remember deep joy of a deep-fried jam sandwich

I READ with interest and nostalgia your item on actor Sir Ian McKellen tucking into a deep-fried jam sandwich at London's Cadogan Hotel ("Spotted...", April 26).

This delicacy was available to serving conscripts in the more humble surroundings of the NAAFI clubs in Valetta and Tripoli in 1947-48. I'm sure there are a number of ex-squaddies like myself who remember this delight.

**Ron Hunter,**  
*Greenhithe, Kent*

# yourhealth

Picture: STUART MASON/PENDLEMEDIA.COM

# Magic bullet was music to my ears

## Here Carol Jarvis explains to DEBBI MARCO how she became one of the first patients in the country to undergo a revolutionary new treatment for cancer



**IN TUNE: Carol has reacted well to radical treatment**

BEING held in isolation in a lead-lined cell may sound more like a form of torture dreamed up by a James Bond villain rather than a high-tech medical treatment but 32-year-old Carol Jarvis is hoping her eight-day stretch in solitary confinement might just save her life.

Carol, a professional musician from Milton Keynes, was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma in 2004 at the age of 26. While most patients with the disease, which originates from white blood cells called lymphocytes, can be cured by chemotherapy and radiotherapy treatments, Carol was one of the unlucky ones.

"I had a course of chemotherapy for one day every two weeks over six months followed by intensive chemotherapy for three months," she explains. "I had a third course of chemotherapy using a mini-beam which destroyed my immune system completely."

Carol went on to have a stem cell transplant and radiotherapy every day for three weeks but the tumours in her neck, spleen and between her lungs remained.

She also took part in the first clinical trial of an antibody drug which kept her tumours stable and slow-growing but after three years they started to grow at pace again.

By December last year Carol's doctors felt they were running out of options. Professor John Radford, her consultant at Christie's hospital in Manchester, put her forward for a new targeted treatment which had just completed a phase one trial.

The technique works by targeting the cancer cells with an antibody, rather like a homing missile or magic bullet.

A radioactive substance containing Iodine-131 is injected into the bloodstream. It has a radioactive molecule tagged to it along with an antibody designed to attack a specific protein called CD25, found on the surface of the cancer cells in the patient's body.

Not every Hodgkin's Lymphoma sufferer has the CD25 protein, however a biopsy established it was present in Carol, making her a suitable patient for the treatment.

Carol travelled to the Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead, north London, where a cannula was fed

into her arm and the radioactive mixture injected directly into her veins for 30 minutes. Exposure to high levels of radiation can cause skin burns, damage to organ tissue, radiation sickness, tumours and even death. Because of the potency of the substance involved Carol's doctors stood behind a lead screen while it was administered. She was then kept in isolation in a lead-lined room for eight days.

Carol herself was not in direct danger as the radioactivity was localised to the tumours and she drank an iodine-based liquid three times a day to protect her other organs from the radiation.

Every day Carol's levels of radiation were monitored to

determine when it would be safe enough for her to come into contact with others. The average adult typically measures 0.04 on a Geiger counter, a gadget which detects radiation levels. On the first day of her treatment Carol registered 65, although by the end of the week this had dropped to 20.

For weeks Carol was warned to stay away from babies and avoid spending too much time in close proximity to others. Even sitting on a sofa watching TV with someone was out. "It wasn't easy but I knew why I was doing it, which helped keep me focused," she says.

Dr Christopher McNamara, consultant haematologist at The Royal Free Hospital who treated

## NEW TRIALS GIVE CANCER PATIENTS GROUNDS FOR OPTIMISM

*Leading UK oncologist and Daily Express writer JUSTIN STEBBING explains how armed antibodies will play a vital role in the fight against many types of cancer*

with antibodies is quite often they don't work well by themselves. Instead, they need chemotherapy to generate a combined killing effect on the cancer cell. A problem with this is it has considerable side effects.

Now scientists have linked chemotherapy to antibodies so the chemotherapy is delivered precisely where it is needed. This means you have all the advantages of chemotherapy and none of the disadvantages.

These proteins are called armed antibodies and work like a smart bomb using the antibody to take the chemotherapy to the cancer cell avoiding normal

tissues. They have not been easy to make and formulate but scientists have finally got to grips with this issue. In theory, a huge new range of drugs can be made by combining different antibodies with different chemotherapies.

Even new chemotherapy agents can be used and one of the tricks is to link the chemotherapy drug successfully to the antibody molecule.

The data in human trials looks very impressive and patients with very resistant and progressive cancers now have new hope.

This is just one way patients with cancer have more options to help make them better.

Carol, says: "Non-targeted cancer treatments can often damage healthy cells and organs along with the tumour, causing sickness, hair loss and diarrhoea. Carol didn't experience any of these symptoms because the treatment targeted only the cancer cells."

CURRENTLY, two-thirds of patients respond to the treatment and doctors are still finding out the correct dose to administer. So far 14 patients have been treated in the phase one trial and between 35 and 40 patients on a compassionate basis. Cancer Research UK is funding phase two.

"I believe this targeted style of treatment will be very important in future cancer treatment," adds Dr McNamara.

In March this year Carol received her scan results which showed the tumour in her spleen has disappeared completely and the one in her neck virtually gone, although the tumour between her lungs was showing signs of growth.

"I need another scan to see how fast it's growing," she says. "While the results aren't perfect I'm pleased it's had a good effect on the other tumours. Now I'm waiting to hear of other trials I can be placed on for this final stubborn tumour. I'm staying positive and hopeful."

Carol has just released a solo CD to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. It is available from her website [caroljarvis.com](http://caroljarvis.com)