

CABE Network 11 February 2009

Sally Muggeridge, Chief Executive of the Industry and Parliament Trust, spoke about her uncle's (Malcolm Muggeridge) spiritual pilgrimage, from agnosticism, through communism to "discovering" Mother Teresa of Calcutta and eventually joining the Roman Catholic church.

Sally has spent her whole career in business, working at Director level in BT, Cable and Wireless and Pearson prior to taking up her current role in 2003. She is the niece of the journalist, writer, broadcaster and Christian apologist Malcolm Muggeridge (1903-1990) and International President of the Malcolm Muggeridge Society. She is also a Trustee of the Foundation for Church Leadership and the Tutu Foundation UK. The Industry and Parliament Trust is a registered charity dedicated to fostering better mutual understanding between the worlds of Parliament and Industry. It operates as an independent, non-partisan, non-lobbying, not-for-profit organisation that runs courses in Westminster and Brussels for senior executives from business and also facilitates educational exchange Fellowships for MPs, MEPs, Peers and Officers of both Houses. The Fellowships take place with a wide range of participating companies from most sectors of business and industry, and may also embrace universities, hospitals, charities and other organisations, depending where the participant's interest lies.

Below are some notes from Sally's talk...

Sally spoke about her uncle Malcolm Muggeridge who "engendered a sort-of discipleship" as people found God through his books, including "*Jesus Rediscovered*" and "*Something Beautiful for God*" which is about to be reissued in March 2009. He was moved by his experiences as a journalist in the Middle East and could not be dispassionate in his writings and broadcasts of what he saw. He wanted his light to shine "even if only fitfully" being so conscious of the darkness in the world. 'Saint Mugg', a 20th century pilgrim had "valiant for truth" on his tombstone – a quote from Pilgrim's Progress. Malcolm Muggeridge moved from complete vocal agnosticism to a fully developed conviction and even became an early tele-evangelist!

He believed doubt to be an integral part of belief and towards the end of his life looked forward to that other life like a "prisoner awaiting his release". Malcolm's view was that suffering (as portrayed by the cross) is the only thing that teaches us what life is about. It was Mother Teresa who led him to Christ. He was inspired by this "unknown Albanian nun" and her work in the House of the Dying in Kolkata.

Sally's own work experience includes Mars, Mothercare, BT, Mercury, Cable & Wireless and Pearson, before she was headhunted to take over as Chief Executive of the Industry and Parliament Trust, an organisation she had supported from when she herself worked within business. Surprisingly 87% of the House of Commons have no experience of business so the IPT arrange programmes for the parliamentarians to spend time in business/the city, as well as inviting business people be educated about what goes on in Parliament. Desmond Tutu brought Sally to faith when he was curate in her parish church.