



Newslink

The online journal of St Faith's Church, Great Crosby

January – February 2020

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Following the excellent work of Chris Price it is hoped to be able to publish a bi-monthly edition of Newslink on a regular basis. This will be a memorial to our dear friend, remembering him and keeping in touch with each other. Chris always welcomed contributions of every kind at any time and we hope that this will continue as it is only with such contributions that publication can continue. Articles, jokes, cartoons, reports or memories would be greatly appreciated. Contributions can be directed to newslink@stfaithsgreatcrosby.org.uk. Input from contributors is eagerly anticipated.

The articles in this Magazine express the opinions of those who wrote them and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Parochial Church Council of St. Faith's Great Crosby or the clergy of the parish. [\(Added at the request of the vicar\)](#)

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Christingle 2019 – Denise McDougall

St Faith’s traditional Christingle service is an event not to be missed and the 2019 service was special because of the presence of Seamus the donkey. In the previous edition of Newslink there are photos of Seamus as well as the Christingle factory; words below and the photos are supplied by the Rev. Denise McDougall.

It was lovely to see Church so full for our Christingle service on Christmas Eve. It is a very special time when children (and adults!) are able to focus on the true meaning of Christmas and raise much needed money for the Children’s Society.

This year the star attraction was Seamus, a donkey from The Alwood Donkey Sanctuary on the Wirral. All donkeys love attention and Seamus certainly got plenty and was so well behaved. The nativity scene was set when Seamus was ridden down the aisle by Mary, (Sophia Cooney,) Joseph, (Myles Butler) and The Inn Keeper, (Tommy Collins,) whilst the congregation all sang Little Donkey. After the service there was plenty of opportunity for the children and adults to stroke Seamus and have photographs taken with him.





Review and Comment by Denis Griffiths: BBC 2 Programme – “Exposed: The Church`s Darkest Secret”

I was flicking through the TV channels and came across part 2 of this programme which I found very disturbing. So disturbing that I sought out part 1 on iPlayer and watched both parts. I would urge those who did not see the original broadcast to watch both parts on BBC iPlayer. Basically the programmes covered the distasteful long term incident of Bishop Peter Ball and I do not intend describe the programmes here. The part of the programme which I found particularly distressing (and worrying) was the fact that the hierarchy of the Church of England did its utmost to protect Ball. That protection even went so far as trying to blame his victims for their own abuse. Not a new concept if you remember how some sections of the establishment and the media tried to blame the Hillsborough victims for their own deaths. The glaring fact to come out of these programmes was the way in which the C of E did everything it could to hide the truth about Ball and others in the cabal; Ball was not alone and the cover-up went right to the top of the tree at Lambeth Palace. It seems that the C of E even deliberately hid records from the police and at enquiries developed a form of selective amnesia.

The people at St Faith`s know only too well about a C of E cover-up. Remember the investigation into our problems with a priest and how we were told not to speak to anyone about the incident and the report. That allowed the C of E to leak matters to the media and put the blame squarely on the victims. The same had happened with Peter Ball, and no doubt at other incidents. It seems that the C of E hierarchy wants to control everything, including the truth. But it is not just the C of E, the Roman Catholic church has its problems with errant priests all over the world. The film *Spotlight* (available for hire from Crosby library on DVD) illustrates how the RC church covered up child abuse in Boston, USA. The Ball affair and its cover-up is not a rarity, it seems all too common.

The BBC programme had interviews with a number of people who had investigated child abuse and been involved in the safeguarding regime which the C of E had established. A former abused man, now a member of the clergy, not in England as he was effectively barred from ordination here, makes the comment on the case, “It shows how rotten and corrupt, and even evil, the pervading culture of the leadership of the Church of England is”. A solicitor involved in the case against Ball stated “The people at the top are really powerful people and the Peter Ball case is the tip of an iceberg.” Comments from other people about the church included “a cold institution of powerful men”, “closing ranks” and “establishment cover-up”

So nothing new there. But how did it get like this; maybe it always was and we just didn`t know. The good investigative journalist can find things out to enlighten us but quite often all you get is a hack reporter

standing outside of a building, quoting the words provided by those who had planted the story and stating “...nobody from ??? was available for comment”. The conclusion is, therefore, if nobody was available for comment then the story must be true. Some organisations know how to manipulate

Just sticking to the C of E and events like the Ball abuse, it seems that there is a culture in this organisation of “defend your own, no matter what they have done”. This is an “Us and Them” situation and we are not all equal, no matter what they might preach. Does the C of E train its clergy this way or does it select only like minded people who will blindly defend the party line? Naturally there are good, honest and trustworthy priests around but those who aim to climb the ladder to reached the “pointy hat” stage must be, to quote a former Prime Minister, “One of Us”. If you are to make progress up that ladder you must follow the party line. Before I go any further I must state that I am not running down Christianity, far from it; my complaint is against those who misuse Christianity for their own ends. The official motto of the USA is “In God We Trust”. So do I; I trust Christ, Christianity and my friends.

It is all a matter of Trust. If you cannot trust the church leaders they should not be church leaders, at any level whether “pointy head” or not. You only have to look at the decline in church congregations to see that trust has been lost and that is the fault of the church leaders not those who would have sat in the pews. The C of E does not really represent anyone but itself and, then, the “itself” bit is only the few at the top, it is certainly not the abused children as the BBC programme showed. Should the C of E survive? Will it survive? That is doubtful when you look at falling membership and congregations. The “pointy heads” will argue that things are changing, but they are not really. So long as they can dress up and take their seats in the House of Lords they will be content and can pretend that all is well with the world. “Boots” on the ground, talking to real people in the street and living amongst them is what Christianity is about, not lauding it over them. Humility is Christ like, not hiding the truth. There are still Peter Ball figures out there and they are still being defended. Let`s get real before the church dies.

St Faith`s Now and Then; A Photographic Record



**St Faiths in 1920s from an old postcard;
cobble road and tramlines**



St Faiths in 2020



St Faiths in 1905



St Faiths in about 1910

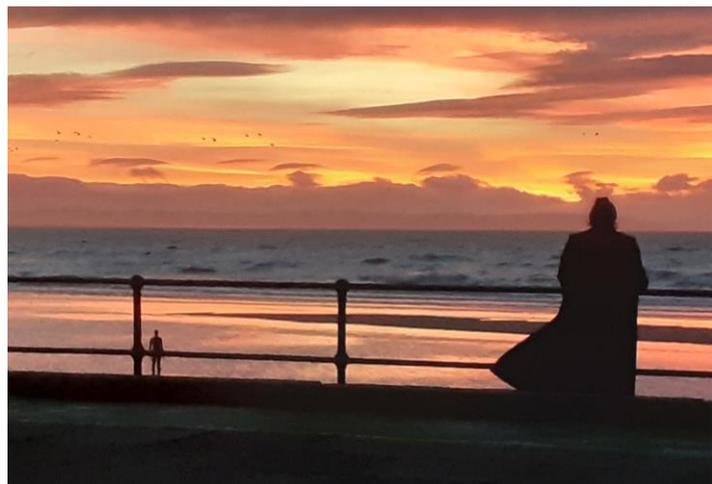
SIX LITTLE STORIES WITH LOTS OF MEANINGS - supplied by Fiona Whalley

- (1). Once all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. **That is faith.**
- (2). When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. **That is trust.**
- (3). Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still we set the alarms to wake up. **That is hope.**
- (4). We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. **That is confidence.**
- (5). We see the world suffering, but still, we get married and have children. **That is love.**
- (6). On an old man's shirt was written a sentence 'I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience.' **That is attitude.**

Have a happy day and live your life like these six stories. Remember - Good friends are the rare jewels of life, difficult to find and impossible to replace

Sunset at Burbo Bank, Crosby – Sarah Ryan

Winter in Crosby is not always gloom as these photographs show.



Corinne`s Win

The Daily Mirror newspaper has a weekly funny caption competition which was recently won by Corinne Hedgecock,, a member of the congregation at St Faith`s.

Well done Corinne.

Global Warming - It's Not Just the Carbon

I was recently discussing climate change with a group of friends and was surprised how many either did not believe that there was any such thing or that there was nothing they could do about it. Admittedly “big business” will not do anything to curb carbon emissions if it affects their profits, they must be forced to change. The airline industry, fuel suppliers, the power industry and assorted transport industries make big profits from carbon emissions and so will not voluntarily change their ways. The only way of making them change lies with assorted world governments but they are often in the pockets of big business and will not force the issue. When the Australian prime minister denies that climate change has any influence on the fires which are ravaging his country you get the impression that his agenda lies elsewhere; maybe the large Australian coal industry has had some say. But then, he is not the only one with such wayward views; just look around at world leaders. If you don't want something to be true you only have to deny that it exists. Below I shall try to explain things as simply as possible but it will get a bit “Techy”.

Before we start I should state that earth's atmosphere is composed of about 78% nitrogen (N₂) and about 21% oxygen (O₂). These are molecules which are composed of atoms; the N₂ means that a molecule of nitrogen has two atoms of nitrogen and a molecule of oxygen has two atoms of oxygen, hence the N₂. The molecule thing is important and the bonds which connect the atoms absorb and release energy (heat). Nitrogen and oxygen account for 99% of the atmosphere and the remaining 1% is made up of an assortment of gases but human effect is changing the amount and composition of that remainder.

Carbon (actually carbon dioxide – CO₂) gets all of the blame for the rise in the earth's temperature but there are many other gases which contribute to climate change, however, CO₂ is an easy target as the burning of fossil fuels like coal and oil are things that we all can see. Methane (CH₄), water vapour (H₂O) and nitrous oxide (N₂O) also contribute to global warming as all are, so called, Greenhouse gases.

CO₂ is the greenhouse gas most commonly produced by human activities and it is responsible for 64% of man-made global warming. Its concentration in the atmosphere is currently 40% higher than it was when industrialisation began. The other greenhouse gases are emitted in smaller quantities, but they trap heat far more effectively than CO₂, and in some cases are many times stronger. Methane (CH₄) is responsible for 17% of man-made global warming and nitrous oxide for 6%. Internal combustion engines and boilers burn fuel and emit CO₂ (from the combustion of carbon), H₂O (from the combustion of hydrogen) and N₂O (from the reaction between, normally inert, Nitrogen and Oxygen at high combustion temperatures).

This is the basic science bit but, I am afraid, the science gets a bit more involved and it is that which people find difficult to comprehend. It is easy to say “That is rubbish” when you don't understand. The science is complicated as it involves the bonds between the atoms which make up the molecules. A carbon dioxide (CO₂) molecule has a single carbon atom and two oxygen atoms; a methane molecule has a single carbon atom and four hydrogen atoms. You will be able to work out the atomic structure of H₂O and N₂O yourself.

There are a number of different bonds which hold atoms together to form the molecules but this can be very complex and so we can ignore it. The important thing is that the atomic bonds of the greenhouse gases can absorb heat and release this heat at a later time. Sunlight and sun heat pass through the atmosphere and some of the heat is absorbed by the greenhouse gas molecules, the remainder passes to the surface of the earth thus heating it up. Later, say at night, the greenhouse gas molecules release their trapped heat in all directions, some of it directed to earth. At the same time the earth releases its heat, in the form of radiant heat, and some of this is absorbed by the greenhouse gas molecules to be later released. Effectively the greenhouse gas molecules reflect heat back to the earth. Now, in some respects, this is no bad thing as it helps keep the earth warm enough for human and other life forms. We actually need some greenhouse gases to maintain a good temperature for survival. Just think about the moon, which has no atmosphere and so has no greenhouse gases. The side facing the sun gets extremely hot but the side facing away from the sun cools down dramatically and becomes extremely cold because the heat from the sun which has been absorbed by the lunar surface is radiated (reflected) back into space. I have no personal proof of this myself but lunar astronauts and the instruments they left, gathered sufficient information to show that this is the case.

You can see for yourself that different molecules absorb different forms of radiation if you consider the microwave oven. Microwave ovens use radio waves, generated in a Magnetron tube set at a specific frequency to agitate water (H₂O) molecules which are contained in the food being heated. As these water molecules are agitated by the radio waves (radiation) they vibrate at the atomic level and generate heat. Effectively the molecular vibration is stored in the molecules and becomes heat. If you put an empty glass bowl into the microwave and run the microwave for a short period of time, neither the bowl nor the air in the microwave will get hot as the frequency of the radio waves generated by the Magnetron tube is set for water molecules and not air (N₂ and O₂) or glass molecules. You may remember the controversy a few years ago about the effects of mobile phone radiation on human brains, particularly developing human brains of the young. That was not a problem because the wavelength of the mobile phone radiation did not excite the molecules in the human brain; the contents of the phone calls may have done that. However, it illustrates that some people were aware of the effects of radiation on molecules and that is what I have tried to explain above.

The above should show that radiation (heat) from the sun, and heat reflected back from earth, will be absorbed by the greenhouse gas molecules and released later. Some of this heat released by the greenhouse gas molecules is directed back to the earth. Thus some heat from the earth cannot escape into space and so the earth's atmosphere will heat up. This is global warming and a hotter atmosphere leads to climate change.

This is the science. I am not making it up. It is for real. There may be dispute about the individual effects of particular molecules but if we don't want to become the food in the microwave dish we must do something about our atmosphere pretty quickly. There are many other greenhouse gases but those mentioned earlier are the main culprits and we can have a positive influence on their atmospheric effect if we reduce the burning of fossil fuel. These gases are transparent and their presence is difficult to notice. However, on a clear cold morning look into the sky and the aircraft vapour trails will show their presence. The water vapour (H₂O) can be clearly seen and this also indicates the presence of CO₂; aviation fuel is a hydrocarbon and so contains hydrogen and carbon.

Reducing the use of fossil fuel will help but basically there are too many people on the planet, all travelling, eating and breathing out CO₂. It will take many generations to reduce the planet's population to a sustainable level and we probably don't have that time available. You probably already know that methane is released from the rear end of grass eating ruminants; a sheep can produce about 30 litres of methane each day and a dairy cow up to about 200 litres.

It is at this point that those who still deny global warming/climate change will fall back on the fact that records show that it has happened before. Certainly, bubbles of air trapped in Antarctic ice show that the levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere have previously been as high as they are now. This is a fact and global temperatures have also previously been very high. Climate change is cyclical, the ice ages prove that. Sun activity varies and that has an influence on the earth's climate, but we cannot control the sun.

The problem is that levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere have risen faster in the past 100 years than they have ever risen. And the rate is increasing. There are now some 8 billion people on the planet and the numbers increase daily. The effect of humans has never been so great and if the sun decides to act up it will make matters worse.

I am sorry if the science makes things difficult to follow but the facts are clear and the science shows how the atmospheric temperature rises. It is our fault and only we can stop the coming catastrophe.



Jet Aircraft Vapour Trails over Crosby on a Clear Winter Morning

St Faith's Christmas Tree Festival 2019

What are the easiest and hardest parts of running a Christmas Tree Festival? Keep reading for the answers.

It all started a year ago as we were packing up the lights and tinsel from the record breaking 2018 Festival and I asked “What went wrong this year and what should we change for next year?”

Apart from the obvious problem with access to trees in the chancel and the bad weather, we all agreed that 2019 should follow a broadly similar pattern.

A few months later while cruising along the River Danube, we started to think seriously about when we should start the planning in detail and who could we ask to help. This brought us to early September and the first of two open meetings when the answer to the both questions were answered – the hardest part is to start thinking of Christmas in the middle of summer, and the great support from the congregation was the easiest bit!

New ideas for stalls and entertainment were proposed, discussed and then enthusiastically adopted, (apart from 3 ft of artificial snow and a pair of reindeer!), menus were considered, a list of tree sponsors was drawn up, trees were put on order with Mr Almond, a certain red coated Gentleman was to be asked to join us and within a couple of hours most of the pre-Christmas planning was complete.

Lists were followed by more lists, small groups started to make things - tree decorations, jars and jars of jam, bobble hats, chutney, cakes, woolly Christmas puddings, and marmalade, lucky dip parcels were wrapped, musicians booked, and charities contacted. Donations for the raffle began to appear and items for the “Previously Loved” stall were piling up!

By the time of the second meeting in October the juggernaut that was to be the 11th St Faith's Christmas Tree Festival was rolling and gathering speed.

Then rotas started to appear on the boards. Usually they are the dread of event organisers but in true St Faith's style the empty chessboards soon began to fill and extra names were added in the margins as eager volunteers claimed their places. The PCC had taken the brave decision to repair the leaking roof and to renew failed lighting just in time for the charities to arrive on Saturday afternoon and turn the rather sinister looking shrouded trees into a bright and colourful forest of 32 glorious examples of the Christmas Tree decorators art. Down both sides of the church, over the nave platform and all through the chancel was a

mass of sparkling and flashing trees ready for the festival to start the flowing day.

The Festival began with the Annual Toy Service and the nave altar platform covered in gifts for less fortunate children, with the youngsters from our Scouts and Guides taking the lead in the readings and prayers. As the afternoon arrived, the Christmas Star was hauled to the top of the church spire, and, exactly on time, was lit by Mayoral command.

Then followed a hectic week of celebration as wave after wave of visitors came to see what we had on offer. Some came for the spectacle itself, some for the superb food, others for the produce of the stalls, and many more for the various services and entertainments that took place. Father Christmas visited us not once but twice. One of the most memorable concerts was the annual visit of the Military Band who gave us a Carol Concert that put a packed church well into the Christmas mood. With a concert featuring local solo singers and ukuleles, and a final superb performance by a community choir from St Nicholas Blundellsands, the week drew to a close with a family Eucharist.

Most of the trees were collecting for their sponsoring charity, and as the week wore on their collecting boxes bore testament to the generosity of our visitors.

The raffle and the stalls for cake, jam and crafts, along with the catering and the “Previously Loved”, provided much needed income for St Faith's but in time honoured tradition, a tithe (10%) of that money was given to the various tree sponsors as recognition of their own hard work.

With all the money safely counted and banked it is heartwarming to be able to say that the various charities have raised over £1500, and that St Faith's have benefitted by nearly £4,000.

In addition to this of course, a huge amount of goodwill has been generated, many, many people have visited St Faith's for the first time, and about 50 volunteers have played their part in helping to celebrate the Christmas Season.

Well done and thank you everyone

Rosie and Rick Walker

Yesterday and Today; A Photographic Record of Merseyside

Finding copy for any magazine is difficult and it is hoped that this item will encourage readers to submit photographs (together with details of the photographs) of areas around Merseyside, particularly the Waterloo and Crosby area. Dates would be particularly useful and it should be possible to obtain a photograph of the location as it is today for comparison. To get the ball rolling below are a number of photographs that I took many years ago and more recent photographs for comparison purposes. As will be seen the photographs are all of a maritime nature indicating my interest in ships from a very early age. Photos from the 1950s and 1960s were taken on an old box camera and I did my own film processing. The more recent photographs are all taken with digital cameras which make photography much easier and cheaper. I remember my first trips to sea and did take a camera and a limited supply of film, however, I missed taking photographs of some iconic locations, such as the Panama Canal and Sydney Harbour bridge because I did not want to “waste” film in case much better shots became available later in the voyage. Film was relatively expensive and could not be bought on board the ship. Today you can fit hundreds of photographs on a small SD card; what a luxury that would have been during my time at sea.



Liverpool Landing Stage

The landing stage of the 1950s is shown to the left with the Cunard liner Scythia alongside. The north end of the landing stage provided facilities for the passenger ships and the south end was used by the Mersey ferries. This photograph must have been taken in 1957 or before as the Scythia was scrapped that year.



The stage could accommodate two liners (Devonia and Aureol) shown in the picture) and raised access gangways were provided for passengers. The floating roadway allowed vehicular traffic for baggage and stores. Riverside station could take main-line trains with passengers having easy access to the ships.



When not being used by liners the landing stage provided convenient berths for tugs. Isle of Man ships also used the landing stage with these boats generally berthing at the middle portion of the stage.

The surface of the landing stage was covered with wooden blocks which must have been satisfactory for the limited traffic.



The current landing stage has separate sections for cruise ships and the Mersey ferries. The cruise ship section is basically a floating pontoon with access ramps from the quayside. In the picture on the left the white marquee structure is the cruise terminal (2019) and all of the old structures have gone, including Riverside station.



Passenger Liners

The heyday of the Liverpool passenger liner has gone but cruise ships make visits.

The last large liner to make its maiden voyage from Liverpool was Canadian Pacific's Empress of Canada in 1961. Scaffolding for a film/TV crew can be seen in the picture on the left prior to the maiden voyage.



The modern scene looks much the same except that the ships are much bigger and the landing stage is rather bare. As can be seen the Liver Building has been cleaned.

Clarence Dock Power Station

The three chimneys (the Three Sisters) of Clarence Dock Power Station were a landmark on the Liverpool skyline for many years. I remember a visit to the coal powered station whilst still at school and although it was impressively large it was dark, noisy and dirty. When returning from a voyage the three chimneys were the first thing that you noticed on the Liverpool skyline. Pictures show Empress of Canada passing the chimneys (1961), swordfish aircraft at Battle of the Atlantic celebrations and the Tall Ships event in 1984. The chimneys were demolished in 1987. At the bottom right is an aerial view of the site today.



Artificial Intelligence (AI), God and Meddlesome Priests by Griff Charles



The 22 December 2019 Telegraph Business and Money supplement contained an article entitled "AI is a threat to God, Church investors fear" and this article stated, "*The Church of England is reviewing its investments in big tech amid concerns that artificial intelligence undermines the very idea of God*". A bold belief indeed but Christian churches do not have a good record as far as science is concerned; remember what happened to Galileo when he upset Pope Urban VIII. The article reports that the Church has launched a year long review of the "increasingly controversial" (AI) area which will call upon prominent investors, ethics specialists and theologians to help determine whether its £12bn investment fund should back the likes of Amazon, Facebook and Google. The immediate thing that strikes me is not the review but that the C of E has £12bn of investment money available; with that amount of spare cash available why is it not spending the money on its churches like investment in solar panels on church roofs. With its alleged "green" aims this would allow the C of E to generate "free" electricity to help with church funds and also provide a good return on investment. Many churches, like St Faith's, are oriented in an East-West direction and so have a large, optimally angled roof facing south. Many solar panels could be installed and electricity generated to heat the church and sell to the power companies. Obviously, robed clerics would insist that any such scheme should comply with the arcane Faculty notion, thus hindering progress.

An article in The Guardian a couple of years ago stated that the Church Commissioners, had an investment return of inflation plus five percentage points, and that this good return had been partly aided in 2016 by sterling's weakness after the Brexit vote. The fall in the value of the pound accounting for about half the gains made on its equity portfolio. So it would seem that the Church Commissioners do not object to making money through speculation against our currency but is against any notion of advancing humankind through technology. The Telegraph article includes the sentence "*A source close to the Church's review said some are worried that the technology is akin to playing God*" and added "*If all of your philosophical framework assumes the primacy of the person, and the primacy of God's revelation... and a piece of tech emerges that enables one to rethink the role of the mind, what's at stake is your whole ethical foundation, theological foundation and the very idea of God*". Fine, but vague, words indeed and maybe these people would do well to think that if the C of E had a more secure ethical foundation itself, in the way that it treats its parishioners and the victims of wayward priests, it would be on more secure ground.

I would admit that some technology is dangerous, the automobile internal combustion engine and the jet aircraft engine are two examples. They provide convenient and fast transportation and make vast sums of money for investors, but they are killing the planet. However, they are not the work of the devil and they do not lead one to the belief that God does not exist. It is the actions of humankind which does that. Technology and science should not be dammed, they should be praised. The human mind will not be replaced by AI; it may be distorted by the technology but the brain will always go its own way. René Descartes words (translated into English) "*I think, therefore I am*" provide the benchmark. Humankind will always think; sometimes the thoughts are very wrong and sometimes they are mockingly funny, but they are thoughts of the individual brain. Ideas from the human brain can be amazingly surreal at times but a sense of humour is part of being human and something that the AI machine cannot replicate, no matter how clever

the algorithms are. I recall two examples of Scouse humour from the 1960s/1970s which illustrate how the human mind can see the funny side of things and which no AI computer could be programmed to reproduce.

A poster outside of a church read “What Would You Do If Jesus Came To Liverpool? One local wag had scrawled underneath “Move St John to Inside Left”. A bit of explanation is required here for the younger generation; Ian St John was the Liverpool centre forward at the time; the position Inside Right was between the centre forward and the outside right.

Another poster outside another church read in large letters “JESUS SAVES”. The graffiti artist had added the words, “But Keegan scores from the rebound”.

AI can be switched off; you don't have to spend the whole day on Facebook or Instagramming you friends (real or virtual). AI is not real, it is artificial, the clue is in the name. The recent General Election has shown most people how technology can be used to mislead them, but it was people who used the technology, not the other way around. The technology (Facebook and others) was used to target specific people with misleading adverts but people set the wheels in motions, the computers did not make the first move; the computers could have been switched off but the evil people set them to work. You may recall the situation in the film “2001- A Space Odyssey” where the HAL computer in the spacecraft basically went berserk and tried to kill both astronauts. The problem was not the computer it was the instructions which had been loaded into the computer, and humankind did that. If we let the technology control us then we only have ourselves to blame. Computers, iPads, phones and other pieces of kit have an OFF button; we should all learn to use it.

The fact that the source close to the Church's review effectively said that a piece of technology could result in an individual doubting the very idea of God is rather far fetched and denigrates the human mind. Brain washing by cults has a greater influence on the human mind than any number of hours on Facebook, Twitter or Snapchat. Deliberately trying to change an individual's opinion or belief is the evil, not the technology. If AI is the “dark side” because it can be used by bad people, the same must also apply to printing and radio/TV broadcasts, all of which have been used by the Church over the years to spread its “messages”.

I would be more inclined to take notice of the attitude of the Church Commissioners if they published a list of all of their investments so that the general public could see where they actually invest money provided by hard working parishioners. I wonder how much of that money goes to companies with workers on Zero-Hours contracts or to minimum wage workers; how much also goes to companies with a poor environmental record? Surely, these should be areas of investment concern for an organisation which professes to be on the side of the downtrodden and oppressed, but with an investment pot of £12bn you don't always have to practice what you preach.

Griff Charles - January 2020
