



Newslink

**St Faith's Church, Great Crosby
Parish Magazine**

JUNE 2012

Worship at Saint Faith's



SUNDAYS

11.00am SOLEMN MASS and Children's Church

1.00pm Holy Baptism (2nd Sunday)

6.00pm Evening Service and Benediction (1st Sunday)

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Monday	10.30am	Morning Prayer
Tuesday	9.30am	Holy Eucharist
Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Eucharist (in S. Mary's)
Friday	6.30pm	Evening Prayer
Saturday	10.30am	Holy Eucharist

Please consult the church website or weekly sheets for any variation in service times, particularly for weeks where there is a Red Letter Day.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE AND RECONCILIATION

The clergy are available by appointment to hear confessions or to talk about any matter in confidence. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is always available in preparation for Christmas and Easter and at other advertised times.

HOME VISITS to the sick and housebound and those in hospital

If you, or someone you know, are unable to get to church and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, or be visited in hospital or at home, please ring the Vicarage or another member of the Ministry Team. We regularly make home or hospital visits to the sick and housebound so please call to arrange this.



From the Ministry Team June 2012

“In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” Almost every sermon preached in our United Benefice begins like that and something so conventional can easily pass unnoticed. Yet these words and that gesture are momentous. With the Name of the Trinity and the sign of the cross we have a marvellous two-fold affirmation of the God of love and of the love of God.

In the fifth chapter of the Book Revelation, we read of the seven-fold Spirit of God, which burns before the throne of the Father, rests upon the Lamb, standing as though it had been slain. There we have a marvellous image of the Trinity in heaven. The whole significance of Revelation chapters four and five is vision: “A door was opened in heaven.” All our so inadequate language about the Trinity, about God, is like that door opening in heaven, leading us to mystery, leaving us to vision. Vision, adoration, contemplation, these are the vial ingredients of Trinity Sunday.

But in itself that is not enough. And there the encounter between Jesus and Nicodemus which we read about in the first fifteen verses of chapter three of John’s Gospel comes in. Whatever else that conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus is about, for us it is also about baptism. We are baptised in the name of the Trinity, of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. By our baptism we are introduced into the life of the Trinity and we are admitted to that vision. All our prayer, all our faith, all our Christian life is a flowering and a fruiting of that seed of life planted in our baptism.

The doctrine of the Trinity, then, isn’t a mathematical nonsense or a metaphysical muddle. The Trinity isn’t a philosophical theory but the living God, whom we worship. We could even say that the Trinity is not so much a doctrine as a way of life. In David Jenkins’ book, “The Contradiction of Christianity” (p.142f) he writes, “Doctrine” has come to suggest something too intellectualistic, formal and cut and dried ... “The Trinity ” ... is much more of symbol of icon.” Now a symbol can be verified, lived, prayed but not proved logically. “The Trinity” stands, not for a doctrine but for a way of life which is related to God’s life. the discovery that the possibilities of men and women are the possibilities of God. “According to this potent symbol of Trinity, ultimate reality is not a solitary monad, or a mathematical unit, but this inexpressibly rich communion and unity of distinct persons in relationship, an eternal flow and re-flow of love, of persons. Such is ultimate reality, such is the meaning of the universe and such is the secret of human life. For this revelation of

ultimate reality is also a revelation of the possibilities of human life, the discovery that the possibilities of men and women are the possibilities of God.

A Jewish rabbi once said that it is a great grace that man is made in the image of God, but an even greater grace that man knows that he is made in the image of God. That is revelation in the Old Testament, but the Christian can take one step further, for the God in whose image man is made is the God – Trinity. This surely means that the mystery of the Trinity of God is to be reflected in our life together, not only in man's personal life, but also in his social relationships.

In his little book, "The Orthodox Way", Kallistos Ware writes, "In medieval Russia St. Sergius ... dedicated his newly founded monastery to the Holy Trinity, precisely because he intended that his monks should show towards one another day by day the same love as passes between the three divine persons. And such is the vocation not only of monks but of everyone. Each social unit – the family, the school, the workshop, the parish, the Church universal – is to be an icon of the Trinity. Ware goes on to say this: "Because we know that God is three in one, each of us is committed to living sacrificially in and for the other; each is committed irrevocably to a life of practical service, of active compassion. Our faith in the Trinity puts us under an obligation to struggle at every level, from the strictly personal to the highly organized, against all form of oppression, injustice and exploitation. In our combat for social righteousness and "human rights", we are acting specifically in the name of the Holy Trinity." (p.49).

Perhaps that sounds unrealistic and idealistic, unrelated to the brute, and brutal facts of sinful human life. But there is the vision of a perfect society, and our adoration of the Trinity renews the vision and keeps it bright for us.

Above all our celebration of the feast of the Holy Trinity renews our vision of what a church should be and keeps that lively expectancy vivid, for it is in the life of a church above all that this vision cries out to be realised. Every Christian community is called to be a reflection, an image, of that communion of lives, that co-inherence of persons, equal yet distinct, sharing a common life. As the Athanasian Creed puts it: "In the Trinity none is afore or after other." While each person is distinct and unique, there is a radical equality in the life of the Church, reflecting the life of the Trinity. All differences of class, of income, of status, all differences of colour, of race, of dress, of appearance, of taste, of sexuality or whatever – all those differences are pathetically insignificant, though they can loom so large in our attitudes to other people.

We sometimes say of a person that he or she has a good background and we normally refer to that person's social educational advantages. Thank God we all have the best of good backgrounds, the Holy Trinity, in whom we are baptised and in whom we live.

In the Orthodox liturgy the celebrant uses these words before the Creed is said or sung: "let us love one another so that we may with one mind confess the Father, Son

and Holy Spirit, the Trinity, one in essence and undivided". Let us love one another, let us accept one another, let us reverence one another, in all our diversity and uniqueness. We share this common humanity, we reflect the tri-unity of God. Let us love one another. Otherwise, our profession of faith in the Holy Trinity, which we make Sunday after Sunday in the Creed, is indeed a nonsense.

With my love and prayers,

Fr. Dennis

St. Mary's Patronal Festival

Thursday 31st May at 7.30pm

(The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth)



FESTAL EUCCHARIST

followed by cheese and wine

Preacher:

Fr Colin Oxenforth

Chairman's final report to the APCM **St George's Day, 2012**

Since the last APCM finance has occupied much of our discussions and deliberations. Our recent campaign, of which much has been said, was both a necessity and also, in many ways, a success.

For some years now people have been quite vocal in complaining when I have spelt the facts and figures out. Yet, as the recent campaign highlighted, much of what we have said and printed still hasn't reached all congregation members! I hope the personal visits and conversations that happened as a result of the campaign have helped to dispel the myths, although I doubt that the financial facts are easy to swallow!

My grateful thanks must go to all those PCC members who were part of the planning of the campaign and were responsible for putting together, with Chris Price, the various documents that were needed. Thanks, too, to those of you who undertook personal visits.

Having said all that though, this is no time at all to rest on our financial laurels! Before the campaign began, we heard that something like 20-25% of people who call themselves regular members of the church were not pledging any financial support for the church at all. At the end of the campaign, that figure has not altered significantly. Two wrongs don't make a right, we know, and if everyone took that attitude then we would certainly not be here now. But it does concern me that the message has only got through to some, and not others. It is a serious cause for concern. Perhaps my successor will be more successful than I in reversing this trend!

We have finally paid a month's large amount in full to the diocese. Long may that last! But the thing to bear in mind is that we only need to lose one of our 'generous' givers and we will quickly fall into the vulnerable category of not being able to meet our obligations. So whilst I don't want to be a prophet of doom, what we have achieved is making ourselves stable, not flush! But it's the strongest position we have been in for many years.

Despite a period of uncertainty in the music department our musical tradition has been maintained and we are pleased that Daniel Rathbone is now among us as acting Director of Music. He is in fact our permanent director of music though not on the same formal contractual basis as Sam; that said, we have him here for as long as he is able to be with us.

Thanks must go to a whole host of people who do all sorts of jobs, some are obvious and seen, some are behind the scenes and unseen; and the different reports from the various groups who serve the Church and the Community show what a vibrant and busy year it has been. We have managed to rise to every challenge!

We welcomed Helen Coffey on a long placement last summer and have continued to welcome other Mirfield students with us in the past year. Five students came and gave us some memorable Lent addresses for the second year running. I know they all put a great deal of time and effort to come and be with us, and on their one free evening of the week! At the May Devotions service next month there will be a chance to thank them formally for the link we have enjoyed during the past few years.

The Ministry to the sick and housebound continues to be one which is shared amongst us and I am grateful to all who share in this vital ministry.

Although the news that I am to move on to a new post technically belongs to next year's APCM (for it didn't happen before 31st December 2011) nevertheless it would be remiss of me to make no mention of it. It will be with a heavy heart, and most definitely mixed emotions, that I move on from St. Faith's and St. Mary's in June after some 13 years of ministry here.

Life has never been short of its challenges in this United Benefice and there will be some time for me to share my personal thanks and thoughts before I leave. But I do believe that after 13 years God is calling me to a new phase in my priestly ministry. My close friends will tell you that I had no intention of ever leaving the north – having assumed the role of an honorary 'scouser' – but it is an added bonus that my next parish will take me so much nearer to my family in Plymouth and Portsmouth.

As I reflect on my time here I realise there are mistakes I have made, but I hope there have been some achievements too. I hope whoever follows me will be more successful in the area of bringing in young people and families than I have been, for example. An area which most definitely needs developing.

Not only do I believe it is right for me to move after 13 years; but I also believe that it is right for the United Benefice. Being adult about it, there are questions which need to be faced about the future of our United Benefice which will not be explored whilst I am still in post. The time is right for you, as well as me.

I know I've said this many times before but it does concern me that so few see the need to embrace the area of mission. Growth is a long, challenging and often painful process; it won't happen overnight and it won't happen when our energies are channelled in the wrong place! Spiritual growth is not the same as always getting what we want when we come to church. Growth has to start with us as individuals though. As the Methodist minister Neville Ward once said, unless we change, we cannot grow. St. Faith's is blessed, more so than many churches, with so many talented, capable, generous, hard-working and experienced people. All those gifts need to be focussed in a positive way to work together for a bright future – something which we believe is possible under God's guidance. We are not short of challenges in this parish and in this United Benefice, but as an Easter people we must never be short of hope or short of the enthusiasm which God alone can provide.

Back in the 1990s when he was Bishop of London, David Hope received a letter from the parish of All Saints Margaret Street. They were in interregnum and had to describe themselves for the parish profile about to be put together. They said they were...

"Demanding, intelligent, eccentric, crazy, sad, muddled, confused and, sometimes, part of the holy people of God, but never boring!"

Sounds pretty true of this place too! And I thank God that for the last 13 years you have allowed me to be a part of that colourful mix.

Fr Neil

Sunday 3rd June 2012 at 11.00am
“Diamond Jubilee” High Mass



Preacher: Father Steve Holt

God of time and eternity, whose Son reigns as servant, not master; we give you thanks and praise that you have blessed this Nation, the Realms and Territories with Elizabeth our beloved and glorious Queen.

In this year of Jubilee, grant her your gifts of love and joy and peace as she continues in faithful obedience to you, her Lord and God and in devoted service to her lands and peoples, and those of the Commonwealth, now and all the days of her life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Registering the Past

Chris Price

Back in 1975, I published a history of our church, now out of print but available online, with extensive use of the entries in our service registers since Douglas Horsfall's foundation of St Faith's in 1900. With the centenary of the sinking of the Titanic drawing near, interest in those distant years was revived, and Maureen Madden unearthed three references in the first St Faith's service register to the sinking of that great ship and the tragic but heroic death of Joseph Bell, its Chief Engineer and, of course, a member of St Faith's, remembered in the memorial tablet in the south aisle. These I added to the website pages already existing, featuring marine engineer Denis Griffiths's piece about Mr Bell, and other assorted material and links.

Needless to say, as the pages of that first volume turned, I was intrigued by a whole assortment of snippets of church and national history recorded in its pages: some I had used in the 1975 history, others I had not – and I felt a magazine article coming on! Now read on...

St Faith's was consecrated by The Archbishop of York, Dr William Maclagan, on April 21st, 1900: 112 years to the day from my writing these lines. He did so despite a petition asking him not to consecrate 'this Mass house' – the first of many objections to what would today seem the very mild churchmanship about to be practised within our walls. The register, of course, reflects nothing of this, merely recording on May 14th, 1900 'Daily Matins and Evensong commenced' There was in those early times on Sundays an early Holy Communion, and at 11.00 am Matins and Litany (or occasionally Matins and Holy Communion). On May 20th at 11.00 am two verses of the National anthem were sung before the service and after evensong the Te Deum: both to mark the Relief of Mafeking.

There seem to have been only occasional services outside Sunday, and these poorly attended at times ('S. Barnabas. H.C. 8.30 no communicants' for example). The first vicar, the Revd Thomas Howe Baxter, read himself in (an official rite of passage), declaiming his at least nominal acceptance of the 39 Articles in two sessions on a Sunday in August; the week after 'Part of Organ used for first time' – and Rev C.C. Elcum preached at the 'Opening of Organ' service soon after. More of him later.

Matins remained the chief Sunday morning service at this time, even on the first Christmas Day, although it was sandwiched between three Holy Communions, with 107 communicants in all. At Evensong on that Christmas Day there was 'no sermon' - and no recorded collection.

There was a Watch Night Service at 11.15 (presumably p.m.) on New Year's Eve, and the new year saw the regular appearance of a Children's Service at 3.00 pm on Sundays. Sexagesima Sunday 1901 saw writ large across the page 'Notice appeared in the "London Gazette" that an order had been signed by the King in Council assigning a consolidated chapelry to the consecrated Church of St Faith' Soon after, Ash Wednesday featured a Communion Service (you don't see many of them these days!)

There were midweek Lent Services in the build-up to the first Easter. On Good Friday there was the traditional Three Hours from 12 – 3, following which we read: 8.0 'The Crucifixion' – Church well filled. It was still Matins at 11.00 am on Easter Day, and 150 communicants between the three eucharists. In all there were 18 services between Palm Sunday and Easter Monday: in 2012 there were no fewer than 33 between our two churches.

The church's first year ended with 'Anniversary of Consecration of Church' recorded on April 21st. The preacher at Martins was once again 'C.C.Elcum, S Agnes, Sefton Park'. We know it as St. Agnes, Ullet Road, and it was Fr Elcum after whom our

founder, Douglas Horsfall's young son was named, and who laid the foundation stone still to be seen outside the church's north doors. St Agnes was of course, a Horsfall foundation also, and its patron saint is one of the four whose carved figures adorn our chancel screen.

I had only meant to dip in and out of the register, but archives are absorbing stuff, and there is another century and more to go. Watch this space....



“Father’s Farewell Festivities”

Saturday 23rd June at 12noon

Farewell Recital

Melanie Harvey – Violin, Greg Cuff – ‘Cello, Neil Kelley – Piano
Programme: “Ghost” Trio – Beethoven; “Dumky” Trio – Dvorak

Saturday 23rd June at 7.30pm in the Church Hall

Farewell Party

Sunday 24th June: Birthday of St John Baptist

11am in St. Mary’s: Festal Eucharist

with anthems by Stanford, John Rutter and Cesar Franck
followed by a glass of wine



A Fond Farewell

In the summer of 1966, after an interregnum of eight months, from an incumbency in Manchester, at the age of thirty five, the Reverend Charles Alfred Billington, B.A. was inducted as the Vicar of St. Faith’s. Six years later, in the spring of 1972 Fr. Charles left the parish for a Rectorship in the Diocese of St. Alban’s, Hertfordshire.

In the spring of 1999, this time after an interregnum of twenty six months, from a curacy in Kirkby, Liverpool, also at the age of thirty five the Reverend Neil George Kelley, ARCM, was inducted to the United Benefice of St. Faith’s and St. Mary’s and, after thirteen years as Vicar, will also leave for a Rectorship in the Diocese of St. Alban’s, Hertfordshire.

Looking back we are so very grateful to Almighty God for the ministries exercised by both priests in the time they have spent with us, as indeed we are too for the incumbencies of Fathers Peter Goodrich and Richard Capper during the 1980s and 1990s.

We welcomed Fr. Neil in the knowledge of his reputation as an accomplished and talented musician. Throughout his time with us he has showered us with his musical gifts and expertise and the worship and liturgy of our two churches have been immensely enriched by the inspiring and creative innovations we have been fortunate and privileged to experience. The writer of the Book of Proverbs tells us that where there is no vision the people perish. One of the most important aspects of Fr. Neil's ministry in our United Benefice has been to encourage and promote the vision of the church's mission – the constant challenge with which we are faced to try and identify and serve the needs of the communities which make up our two parishes. We should be grateful to Fr. Neil for his unwavering commitment to that vision and thankful for all that he has done towards assisting and equipping us for this most demanding and formidable of tasks.

An abiding memory of the Vicar's time with us will be of the many quite splendid services and special occasions and celebrations in which we've shared. "The beauty of holiness" has long been an essential characteristic of the worship which has drawn people to St. Faith's and, no doubt been part of that process which has helped cradle and nurture so many vocations to the priesthood over past decades. It has been a privilege and delight to have listened to the plethora of visiting preachers – readers, ordinands, deacons, priests and bishops who, at Fr. Neil's invitation, have visited us over the past thirteen years and given us the benefits of their wisdom and insights.

Vicarage hospitality and entertainment and parish hall parties and social events have also been a memorable part of Fr. Neil's incumbency and we shall remain very appreciative of the many happy and fun-filled occasions orchestrated at the Vicar's initiative.

Early September in the mid 1980s, when I was playing cricket for the Liverpool Diocesan Eleven in a Cup Final at Southgate, London, an erstwhile Bishop of Warrington, the Rt. Rev. John Bickersteth, then Bishop of Bath and Wells, discovering that I was a priest from his former Diocese and the parish of St. Faith's, told me that Fr. Charles Billington had something of "the gaiety of the gospel" about him. I believe that epithet to be true also of Fr. Neil, and in wishing him happiness, fulfilment and every blessing in the new and exciting chapter of his priestly ministry which lies ahead in Bushey, it is with profound gratefulness and much love that we bid him a very fond farewell and God speed.

Fr. Dennis

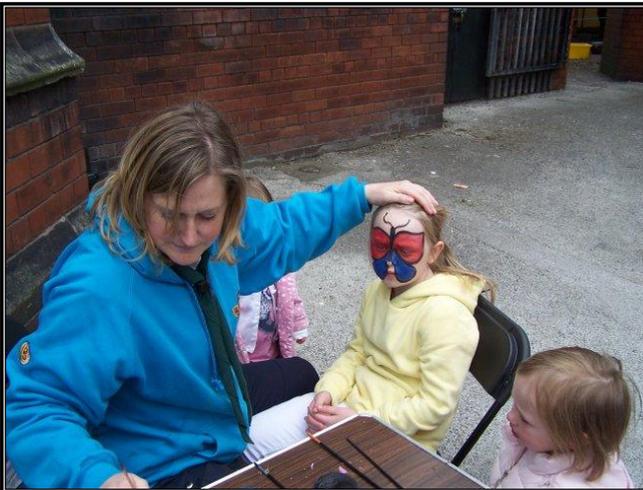


Making a Splash at the Spring Fair!

Fun and games at St Faith's on Saturday, May 5th

Fr Neil shows his appreciation of the watery offerings from eager onlookers

The kitchen ladies serve up endless hot dogs and burgers in a crowded church hall

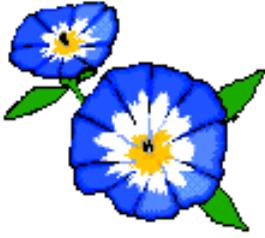


Among the many sideshows provided by leaders and young people of our uniformed organisations, face painting was one of the most popular



In the more sedate surroundings of the vicarage garden, costumed Victorian ladies served afternoon tea in the big tent, while Merchant Taylors' boys serenaded them





Among those lining up to throw wet sponges at the vicar, Revd Denise was clearly enjoying herself.

The police sniffer dog, after showing off his skills, was submerged beneath the crowds hoping to pet him!





Mike and Helen behind their plant stall.

Mike was soon to submit to a turn in the pillory, where the boys and girls of his packs were more than pleased at the end of the afternoon to let off steam and pelt him too!



Supposing him to be the Gardener...

He lists gardening as one of his hobbies, but the green-fingered prowess of the Bishop of St Albans, Dr Alan Smith, so impressed onlookers recently that he was given the chance to turn it into a full-time job. Dr Smith told his diocesan synod last weekend that, while visiting an aunt's house, he decided to sort out her somewhat messy garden.

He spent the morning gardening, and, while he was working, noticed a woman walking past a couple of times and watching his progress. Then, he said, the same woman's head popped up over the wall and said: "Excuse me, but I'm looking for a gardener."

He said: "So I suddenly feel my prospects are looking up, but I said to her, Thank you, it's very kind of you, but actually this isn't my full-time job. I have a full-time job."

"She says: 'Are you sure you can't fit it in?'"

"I said: 'No, no, I'm sorry?' "And she said: 'What do you do?'"

"I looked up, and said: 'Well, I'm the Bishop of St Albans' . "And she looked at me in total disbelief, and said: 'Huh, well, I'm the Queen of Sheba.'"

Thanks to Fred and Linda Nye for this true story



Open Gardens

Saturday 16th June 2012

After the recent very successful Spring Fair, our next chance to get together in the fresh air will be on Saturday 16th June when six couples are throwing open their gardens for us to look around and perhaps learn how to make things grow! We are grateful to

Angie and Chris Price, 17 Queens Road
Audrey and Chris Dawson, 1 Belvidere Park
Val and Mike Broom, 9 College Avenue
David and May Clarke, 24 Dorbett Drive
Fiona and Dennis Whalley, 9 Fairways
and Mary and John Crooke, 12 Park Avenue

... for agreeing to let us into their gardens to aid church funds, and we hope that with the help of some good weather we can have an enjoyable afternoon.

The gardens will all be open from 2.00 until 5.00 pm and you may view them in any order. However, tea and cakes will be served at Mary and John Crooke's house from 4.00 pm when we hope everyone will join us to hear music played by Merchant Taylors' boys.

Tickets will be on sale from Rosie and Rick, Val and Mike at £5.00.

Fair's Fair!

... and it was!

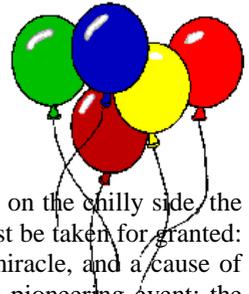
Saturday, May 5th stayed dry all day, and although it was a bit on the chilly side, the sun put in a brief appearance. In a normal May, this could almost be taken for granted: in the gloomy, grey and wet season of 2012 it was almost a miracle, and a cause of heartfelt rejoicing, for it was the day of our long-planned and pioneering event: the Spring Fair.

When Fr Neil appealed for someone to head up a fund-raising event this spring, Lillie Wilmot rashly volunteered to take the plunge, and gathered together a team of the usual suspects to make something happen. Thus was born the idea – and the eventual reality – of a Spring Fair, with stalls, sideshows, food, entertainment and anything else we could make happen.

In the end, it was a spectacular success. The steering group planned and executed a full programme. In the Hall (heated and, in the event, almost too full for comfort) there were Jam Factory products, cakes, crafts, books and bric-a-brac on sale, a cuddly toy tombola and a bottle tombola, and hot food and ice-cream from the kitchen. Outside there were more books and plants for sale, and a whole range of sideshows and entertainments manned by the hard-working boys and girls of our uniformed organisations. You could have your face painted, smash up crockery, play ingenious games like Ping the Pong, Beat the Buzzer and the Human Fruit Machine. Mike Carr and his helpers had erected tents and gazebos against the expected weather, and there was more canvas in the vicarage garden.

Here, amid the sylvan charms of the shrubs and trees, a team of ladies in fine Victorian costume served elegant and much-appreciated afternoon teas. And here, and around the site, boys from Merchant Taylors' entertained the crowds with a variety of instruments and music, much to the delight of certain young female onlookers.

And there was more. Contacts were made, and the police put in an appearance in the grounds during the afternoon, not to complain about the noise, but to show off their lovely dogs and to demonstrate their search and sniffing skills: more admiration and plenty of petting!



And of course there were the stocks, built by Mike Carr for the occasion. Fr Neil rushed back from a wedding at St Mary's to slip into something more suitable and submit to a lucrative session of ordeal by wet sponges. There were volunteers a-plenty (lay and clerical) to pay for the privilege of pelting their incumbent for the last time before he leaves us for the doubtless drier climes of Bushey in the effete south.

And finally, when we had more or less sold out of everything, the cubs and scouts were given a free go at soaking Akela, who had also gallantly volunteered to be the helpless victim in the pillory (that's the correct name, but everybody called them stocks!) We warmed the water on both occasions and used soft sponges, but the victims reported that by the time water from the more skilful had run down their faces, it had gone satisfyingly cold...

At the end of the service next morning, Lillie rightly praised the huge efforts and goodwill that had gone into making the event such a huge success. Mike and Helen and their charges were deservedly singled out. Not only had they cleaned everything up at the end of the afternoon while we Liverpool supporters went home to watch the Cup Final (and probably wished we hadn't) - they had a sleep-over in the hall and were on church parade the next morning: what stars!

But it was a team effort above all else, and just about the most successful and profitable event of its kind that this writer can remember for many a long year. The crowds poured in all afternoon and more or less bought us - and ate us - out of house and home. As a community outreach, it was a spectacular success. And as a fundraiser for the church it raised the splendid sum of almost £2,200, significantly beyond expectation. All in all, a day to remember and to take pride in. The only fly in the ointment - we shall probably have to do it all over again...!

Chris Price

Holy Days in June

9 June - Columba of Iona

Born in Ireland in about the year 521, Columba was trained as a monk by St Finnian and then founded several monasteries himself, including probably that of Kells, before leaving Ireland to settle on Iona, off the coast of Scotland. He was accompanied by twelve companions and the number grew as the monastic life became more established and well-known. Columba seems to have been an austere and, at times, harsh man who reputedly mellowed with age. He was concerned with building up both the monastery and its life and of enabling them to be instruments of mission in a



heathen land. He converted kings and built churches, Iona becoming a starting point for the expansion of Christianity throughout Scotland. In the last four years of his life, when his health had failed, he spent the time transcribing books of the gospels for them to be taken out and used. He died on this day in the year 597.

11 June - Barnabas the Apostle

Though not named among the twelve apostles of the evangelists, Barnabas emerges in the Acts of the Apostles as one of the most significant of their number. He sold his estate and gave the proceeds to the Church, since all things were to be held in common, and clearly became a leader. He is described as a Levite from Cyprus so, like his friend Paul, was from the Greek world rather than that of Palestine, and he introduced Paul to the leaders of the Church in Jerusalem. He was sent to Antioch apparently to guide the Christians there in their relations with non-Jewish converts, promoting the concept of all being one in Christ. He broke with Paul to go to Cyprus and tradition has it that he was martyred there in the year 61.

16 June - Richard of Chichester

Richard de Wych, or of Droitwich as it is now known, was born there in 1197 and worked hard for his yeoman father to restore the family fortunes. Later he studied at Oxford and Paris and then in Bologna as an ecclesiastical lawyer. When he returned to England in 1235, he was made Chancellor of Oxford and eventually Chancellor to the Archbishop of Canterbury, Edmund of Abingdon. When Richard eventually became Bishop of Chichester, he was seen as a model diocesan bishop: progressing around his diocese on foot, visiting and caring for his clergy and people, generally being accessible to all who needed his ministry. He insisted that the sacraments be administered without payment and with a proper dignity. Whilst on a recruitment campaign for the Crusades, he fell ill at Dover and died there on 3 April 1253 and his mortal remains were translated to Chichester on this day in the year 1276.



22 June - Alban, First Martyr of Britain

Alban was a soldier in the Roman city of Verulamium (now St Albans in Hertfordshire) who gave shelter to a Christian priest fleeing from persecution, hiding him in his house for several days. Greatly influenced by his devotion to prayer, Alban received instruction from the priest and was converted. When the priest's hiding-place was discovered, Alban dressed himself in the priest's cloak and was arrested in his place. Tortured by the Roman authorities, Alban refused to renounce his faith. He was beheaded on this day, probably in the year 250, and so became the first British martyr. His shrine stands today as a place of pilgrimage in the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban.

23 June - Etheldreda, Abbess of Ely

Etheldreda, also called Audrey, was born in Suffolk early in the seventh century, a daughter of the king. She desired to commit her life to prayer and chastity and, after two arranged and unconsummated marriages, founded a religious house at Ely for both men and women, over which she ruled as Abbess. At her death on this day in the year 678, she was revered as a woman of austerity, prayer and prophecy.

28 June - Irenæus, Bishop of Lyons

Irenæus was probably a native of Smyrna, born in about 130. As a boy, he had heard Polycarp preach, who had in turn been a disciple of the apostle John. Irenæus is thus one of the important connections between the apostolic Church and the second century. He studied at Rome, and later became a priest at Lyons in Gaul, succeeding as bishop upon the martyrdom of his predecessor in 177. He contended against the mythological, unhistorical beliefs of the Gnostics, giving positive value to the full humanity of the incarnate Christ, and affirmed the public teaching rôle of the episcopate to combat false doctrine. He is honoured as the first great Catholic theologian, one who drew upon the emerging traditions of East and West. Irenæus is believed to have been martyred in about the year 200.



Church and Community Reports

Some of the reports about our activities at St Faith's, as presented to last month's Annual Parochial Church Meeting. You can read Fr Neil's valedictory Chairman's address to that meeting on page 4.

Catering Team *Ruth Winder*

The catering team got off to a busy start in 2011 providing the belated Christmas Lunch, which as is their wont, the team had down to a fine art, and was as usual a great success and enjoyed by those who attended. Our annual celebrations went ahead as usual with the weather not being too unkind for the outdoor events. 2011 also saw the birth of the Big Breakfast, provided for a working party to energise them to carry out much-needed work around the premises.

The hall was dressed up like a fairy tale in August for the George and Maureen Whalley wedding reception. Members of the team helped to give them a typical St Faith's wonderful day to remember.

During Father Neil's time with us we have certainly progressed in our skills and variety. It's often been tiring, never dull, we have had lots of successes and happy times, especially in the early days. It's the end of an era now and we must wait to see what the future holds. We wish Father Neil every happiness and success in the future.

Communications *Chris Price*



The year past has seen the balance continuing to shift away from the conventional world of print towards the electronic age. The church website has continued to develop as a well-used resource, providing not only regular updates but also a wealth of features and reports. If would-be new incumbents researching the parish access www.stfaithsgreatcrosby.org.uk we hope they will be encouraged by what they find. Currently our log of visits registers over 143,000: daily access varies between 25 and 60, and averaged 41 daily visits during the past year.

The advance of the paperless society has been most rapid in the production of *Newslink*. For the first time, and in response to the financial crisis last year, it was decided to make a charge for the magazine and to invite readers, home-grown and further afield, to take out subscriptions at the modest cost of 75p per issue. Our band of distributors made (repeated!) overtures to those on their lists, and postal subscribers were likewise invited (repeatedly!) to take out a subscription. All readers were told that the online edition of the *Price* magazine would continue to be available free of charge.

The results were, to say the least, interesting. About a half of local readers (congregation and local 'fringe') declined to subscribe or failed to answer the door to regular knocking, and no fewer than about three quarters of those on the postal lists likewise chose, either actively or passively, not to stay with us. As a result, I now produce just 140 copies of the magazine – not long ago it was over 360 copies – and it may drop further yet. Quite a few folk have opted to access the magazine online: there are about 45 who, having provided an email address, get a group notification from me when each new edition (always with colour photos and usually with extra material) goes online, and there are probably others who access independently. Nevertheless, it is interesting to wonder how many wasted, probably unread, copies have been printed in past years for readers who didn't really want them and clearly didn't value them.

We hope that those who do value St Faith's and its magazine sufficiently to put their hands a little way into their pockets continue to enjoy what they receive! The bonus side of this operation is of course twofold: significantly less work (and cost) in printing and distributing the magazine for this writer and for our delivery team – and a sum of some £830 in subscriptions and donations gathered in this year from those who have signed on. It will be interesting to see what the future holds.

Weekly printing of liturgy and notice sheets for both churches continues unabated, although this also has been reduced as congregations have fallen off. Tickets, flyers

and Saturday concert programmes continue to be required in sufficient numbers to keep this writer off the streets (or at least out of the garden). The paperless society has yet to take root in the pew...

Flower Team *Mary Crooke*

Another fairly routine year in the flower arranging department has gone by. As with everything else the cost of flowers has risen, and the two retiring Collections we had are down slightly, so 'one off donations' are always welcome. Andy at World of Flowers gives us a generous discount which helps. So we continue, I hope, to decorate the church with pleasure and with flowers. An enormous 'thank you' must go to the faithful band of arrangers, without whose invaluable help, the task would be difficult. New recruits are always welcome.

Junior Church *Angie Price*

As always, I start by thanking our team of teachers and helpers for turning up week by week with interesting things for the children to do. Everyone in the team works gallantly, but I'm sure they won't mind me giving special thanks to Tom and Julie and their children for coming all the way from Ainsdale full of ideas and enthusiasm.

Sadly, when I say 'children', it's sometimes only in the singular, and on occasion not even that, but we soldier on. All praise to the few children who do turn up more or less regularly. I wish we could find a way to achieve growth in numbers and regular attendance – it's not for want of trying! We carry on with our annual parties when (surprise, surprise) attendance suddenly shoots up.

Music in the United Benefice *Fr. Neil*



Parishioners were sorry to hear that Sam Austin left the United Benefice on July 24th to move to Aldenham School, Hertfordshire, as Assistant Director of Music. In the three years that Sam had been with us he did much to develop the musical tradition in our two churches, not just by building on the excellent work of his predecessors but in bravely encouraging us in a few new directions too. The Jazz Mass, even more Graham Kendrick and a latin requiem mass for Remembrance Sunday were just three different strands of Sam's 'truly catholic' musical tastes. Compline by candlelight with orchestral accompaniment and Christmas handbells were also highlights of Sam's time with us. Thanks to the services of a number of very competent organists (Daniel Rathbone and Peter Eyles especially) we have been fortunate to have all services covered during the musical interregnum. The dedication and commitment of the choir continues to be second to none and they have done a sterling job keeping the music on the right lines (or notes!). We are fortunate that on Sunday mornings we continue to enjoy a choir anthem with various parts of the mass sung to a choral setting on Holy Days.

Services Family Support Group *Eunice Little*

It is two years since the Services Family Support Group started and they have been an eventful and encouraging time. The last 12 months saw another very successful Carol Service which managed to raise a substantial amount for our chosen charities, not to mention what was raised with our tree at the Christmas Tree Festival.

Our monthly services are continuing to attract a good following and this year we are hoping to have some guest speakers talking of their experiences while on deployment. We also hope to have some fun events too, so watch for the announcements on the weekly sheets! Many thanks to all have supported us in the last two years, we know that this is much appreciated by the servicemen and women and their families just knowing that such support is there for them.

United Benefice Men's Fellowship *James Roderick*

The Men's Fellowship had two work parties, one in St Faith's and one in St Mary's which involved garden and maintenance work being carried out, also the decorating of the Sunday school room at St Mary's, which took a little longer than one day, a big thank you to the men who came back a week later to finish off the rest of the job, also a big thank you to the ladies of both churches who served us with a full English breakfast at each work party. The men also had a cycle ride to Hightown and another one to Southport we also had a Christmas meal at the Barbacoa.

United Benefice Over 65's Holiday Club *Joan Tudhope*

2011 saw yet another successful week for the Holiday Club. We started the week with a rousing and musical welcome from Ann Dickinson and her friends. In our usual tradition we had a full day out on the Thursday when we visited Blakemere Craft Village, enjoyed a pub lunch there, then on to Chester for an afternoon cruise on the River Dee. We had an afternoon out at Knutsford Bird of Prey Centre, where the staff served us with tea and cakes before we watched a magnificent display by wonderful birds of prey. We were once again enthralled by the magic tricks from magician John Harding, got into the groove with Steve from Rhythmweave, were entertained by children from Waterloo Primary School. We were fortunate enough to have a Beekeeper come and talk to us. We learnt about the amazing life of the bees, both bumble and honey bees from John McCann. As ever the week was rounded off by a Cream Tea on the final afternoon.



Quiz Night

Friday 6th July.... a Quiz Night in aid of Woodlands Hospice at St. Michael's Church Hall, Blundellsands. Entrance (by advance ticket only) £6 to include supper. Tickets may be obtained from members of the Committee or from Doreen Thomas.....phone . 928 6747.

The Parish Directory & Church Organisations



VICAR

Fr. Neil Kelley, The Vicarage, Milton Road, Waterloo. L22 4RE. 928 3342

ASSISTANT PRIESTS

Revd Denise McDougall, 27 Mayfair Avenue, Crosby. L23 2TL. 924 8870

Canon Peter Goodrich, 16 Hillside Avenue, Ormskirk, L39 5TD. 01695 573285

Fr. Dennis Smith, 16 Fir Road, Waterloo. L22 4QL. 928 5065

READERS

Dr Fred Nye, 23 Bonnington Avenue, Crosby. L23 7YJ. 924 2813

Mrs Jacqueline Parry, 21 Grosvenor Avenue, Crosby. L23 0SB. 928 0726

Mrs Cynthia Johnson, 30 Willow House, Maple Close, Seaforth, L21 4LY. 286 8155

CHURCH WARDENS

Mrs Margaret Houghton, 16 Grosvenor Avenue, Crosby. L23 0SB. 928 0548

Mrs Maureen Madden, 37 Abbotsford Gardens, Crosby. L23 3AP. 924 2154

DEPUTY CHURCH WARDENS

Mrs Christine Spence, 52 Molyneux Road, Waterloo. L22 4QZ. 284 9325

Ms Brenda Cottarel, 6 Lawton Road, Waterloo. L22 9QL. 928 4275

TREASURER

Mr David Jones, 65 Dunbar Road, Birkdale, Southport PR8 4RJ. 01704 567782

PCC SECRETARY

Mrs Lillie Wilmot, Flat 7, 3 Bramhall Road, Waterloo. L22 3XA. 920 5563

PARISH OFFICE MANAGER

Mr Geoff Dunn 32 Brooklands Avenue, L22 3XZ . Tel & fax: 0151 928 9913

Email: sfsmparishoffice@btinternet.com

ACTING DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Mr Daniel Rathbone. Tel: 07759 695683

GIFT AID SECRETARY

Mr Rick Walker, 17 Mayfair Avenue, Crosby. L23 3TL. 924 6267

TUESDAY OFFICE HOUR: 6.30 – 7.30 pm (wedding and banns bookings)

Mrs Lynda Dixon, c/o the Vicarage. 928 7330

BAPTISM BOOKINGS

Mrs Joyce Green, 14 Winchester Avenue, Waterloo, L22 2AT. 931 4240

SACRISTANS

Mr Leo Appleton, 23 Newborough Avenue, Crosby. L23 3TU. 07969 513087

Mrs Judith Moizer, 1 Valley Close, Crosby. L23 9TL. 931 5587

SENIOR SERVER

Ms Emily Skinner, 1 Valley Close, Crosby. L23 9TL. 931 5587

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Sunday 11.00 am in the Church Hall. Angie Price 924 1938

CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER

Mrs Linda Nye, 23 Bonnington Avenue, Crosby. L23 7YJ. 924 2813

CHURCH CENTRE

1, Warren Court, Warren Road, Blundellsands

UNITED BENEFICE MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

James Roderick 474 6162

CUB SCOUTS

Tuesday 6.30 - 7.45 pm. Adam Jones 07841 125589

Thursday 6.30 – 7.45 pm. Mike Carr 293 3416

SCOUTS

Tuesday 8.00 - 9.30 pm. George McInnes 924 3624

RAINBOWS

Monday 4.45 - 5.45 pm. Geraldine Forshaw 928 5204

BROWNIE GUIDES

Monday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Sue Walsh 920 0318; Mary McFadyen 284 0104

BEAVERS

Thursday 5.00 – 6.15 pm Mike Carr 293 3416

CHOIR PRACTICE

Friday 7.15 pm - 8.30 pm.

MAGAZINE EDITOR and WEBSITE MANAGER

Chris Price, 17 Queens Road, Crosby. L23 5TP. 924 1938

The **July 'Newslink'** will be distributed on or before **Sunday, June 24th**. Copy by **Sunday, June 10th**, please - but all contributions are welcome at any time.

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Email: cdavidprice@gmail.com

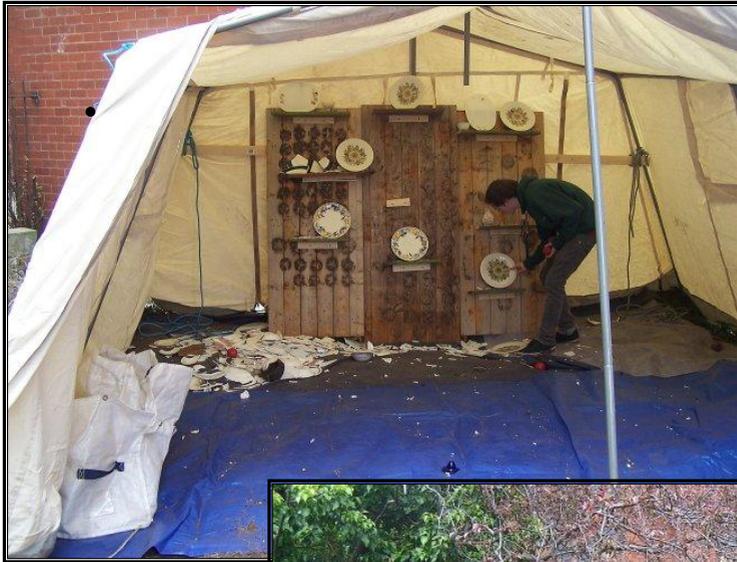


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