

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

# **NEWSLINK**

***June 2016***

# Worship at Saint Faith's



## SUNDAY SERVICES

**11.00 am SUNG EUCHARIST & Children's Church**

Holy Baptism by arrangement

**6.30 pm 1st Sunday: Evensong**

## WEEKDAY SERVICES

### Interregnum arrangements

Until further notice, please consult the weekly service sheet (in church and online) for all information concerning worship and events. There will be no weekday offices or eucharists during July and August

**Website bulletin:** <http://www.stfaithsgreatcrosby.org.uk/bulletin.pdf>

### Around Waterloo: The Eucharist

2nd and 5th Mondays & Feast Days as announced - Liverpool Seafarers' Centre 10am; Wednesdays 10am - St Mary's; Wednesdays 7pm - Christ Church.

See the weekly online bulletin as above for full details of services and any variations.

## 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, the Eucharistic Ministers are happy to undertake this - please call 928 3342 to arrange this, or to arrange a visit to someone in hospital or at home.

## IN A PASTORAL EMERGENCY

Please telephone as for home visits, or a member of the ministry team.



## From the Ministry Team

**June 2016**

I've just returned from holiday in Austria and I reflect that what is always good about holidays is that they give you a fresh outlook. The world looks a little different.

The realisation which I came to was how important are the relationships we have with one another. Not just the people we know, but also with everyone in the world.

Lots of tourists travel to Austria, from all around the world. Each person in search of rest, relaxation and a fresh perspective.

Whilst I was in Austria I met real friendliness, in a Japanese couple on the ship across Wolfgangsee and in a group of young South Korean people, as we travelled in the funicular railway, 1780 km down Schafberg mountain.

As the local people in Strobl always gently greet you 'Gruß Gott'

There was a real interest from the people I met in how we in the UK would vote in the EU referendum.

I also had the opportunity of visiting so many beautiful churches and wayside chaplets, reflecting on so many things in God's creation.

As I said, I realised whilst away how important relationships are - between one another and with God. God is with us all, bringing us together, reminding us we are all God's people, that we are part of the human family, all vulnerable and how much we need one another and how much we need God.

Let us aim to be gentle with one another and truly say in our hearts to all we meet 'Gruß Gott' (May God greet you)

**Paula**

## Have you been Down to the Woods Today?

Well, in a few months time you won't have to visit the local forests to meet a whole family of bears!

You may have seen the first bear proudly sitting on a windowsill in church by the Titanic plaque. His name is Joseph and he has been named and dressed by the Men's Group who originally came up with the idea.

Over the next few weeks I will be giving an identical bear to several groups and asking them to dress him or her appropriately to demonstrate the link between that group and St Faith's. Once dressed, the bear must be named and found a home somewhere in church, along with a small plaque explaining why that particular bear should be part of the St Faith's family. I've a list of over a dozen groups already, and if I've not spoken to you and your team soon then come and ask. I've lots of bears looking for a home!

Fr Denis has agreed that the whole family of bears will be welcomed at our Patronal Festival in October.

Once the Bear family are suitably installed, we will create a "Teddy Bear Trail" for visitors to follow and discover what the wider family of St Faith's get up to!

*Rick Walker*

**The Vicarage**



By the time you read this note, we may have a new resident in the vicarage. No, **not** our new vicar, but a priest visiting the diocese for a few months from abroad and looking for somewhere to live.

We welcome Rev. Linda Bisig to Waterloo and hope that she and her family have an enjoyable and rewarding time here.

*Brenda and Rick*



## Christian Aid Week 2016

As this is my final year as Christian Aid Week organiser, I thought I would take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been involved in any way with its success and particularly this year, when our total of £1267 was a record achievement. This would not be possible without the willingness of our volunteers to cover all the streets allocated to us, over twenty in all, and be prepared to knock on door after door, not knowing what reception we will be given. The fierce dog barking, the swish of the net curtain, the shadow flitting past the glass door, may or may not result in a meeting with the owner. All too often there is no bell or knocker in any case, and an increasing number of NO COLD CALLER signs. It is a sad sign of our society, though understandable, that fear of the stranger leads some to barricade themselves in their houses.

Always in contrast to the flat refusals, the lack of interest, and downright hostility, we should remember the smiling face at the door with full envelope at the ready, the sympathetic welcome indoors when the collector is drenched, and the goodwill shown towards those less fortunate than ourselves. No street lacks these generous givers, however few, and this means that our pilgrimage was not in vain: we can imagine the long term good that the donations will mean for those who are so needy. For the women of Bangladesh, it is a step towards dignity in society and a better future for their children.

The future of our parish street collection is uncertain. Recent events show the risk that even the quietest of village streets can hold for those who are engaged in the humanitarian task of changing the world for good. What is certain is that the gap between rich and poor is daily growing and that we shall be working for the eradication of poverty for years to come. Christian Aid is rightly one of our primary church charities. We pray for the strength and the will to continue supporting it.

**Once again a big thank you to all who helped us to raise our magnificent total.**

*Kathleen Zimak*

## From the Registers

Still with his archivist's nose in the massive tome recording our past, the editor sees that masses are offered in honour of SS Ambrose and Leo soon after Easter 1951. Then we turn to Sunday April 22<sup>nd</sup>, designated as Dedication Festival in the morning and First Evensong of St George in the evening. The latter worthy has a Te Deum, and a week later the Litany sung in procession on the occasion of his Octave Feast. Then comes

Ascension Day, with a total of 107 early birds at three celebrations before breakfast

As this writer writes, it is the Feast of Corpus Christi, and it is raining gently. On that same feast day in 1951, there was a ‘Very Heavy Storm’. Soon Saints Boniface, Columba and Alban make their mark, together with the ‘Translation of St Edward. No idea what he was translated from or into, but someone will know;’

George Houldin signs in as taking a July Evensong. By now the registers are somewhat monotonous for the archivist, since he has no abiding interest in the faithfully logged collections and instances of sick communion. The full and dedicated procession of worship continues, with Fathers Hassall and Milne filling page after page. There are few visiting signatories – D.V.Welsh and C.S.Jones around the Patronal time being exceptions. It is not until early November that the pattern is broken.

On Saturday 10th the 8 am low mass is scored out and ‘see next page’ appended. And lo! another striking full page records THE MISSION –‘The Key to Happiness’ Conductor Father S.M.GBBARD, S.S.J.E. This stands for Society of St John the Evangelist, a male Anglican monastic order, known as the Cowley Fathers, after their Oxford base.

From 10<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> there are three daily weekday services, two early masses and an evening Instruction. Fr Hassall announces at the end ‘Total number at the Early Masses 529.’

Things return to normal in the run-up to Christmas, with one informative footnote on December 23<sup>rd</sup>: ‘Blessing of the new Bible for the Lectern at Evensong. In memory of Mr George Turner.

Then it is boldly proclaimed that CHRISTMASS – 1951 is here, with a goodly 324 communicants at the Midnight. Soon after, the year ends with full totals recorded. There were 7,189 communicants in total for the year, £957.2.11 collected and £55.12.3 in the Gift Boxes. I don’t know how reliable Google tables are, but one equivalence calculator says that £957 in 1951 equates to just under £30,000 today.

1952 has little out of the ordinary (apart from the solemnities of St Prisca, that is) until King George VI dies, marked by three weekday requiems and a Sunday Vespers of the Dead, then on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February his funeral is marked by a 1.45 pm Service of Commemoration. Life goes on for everyone else, and a few days later there is a New Purple Frontal for the High Altar. In the next few weeks two Archdeacons appear: one or Stoke-on-Trent and H.S.Wilkinson from down the road.

A nice personal touch in late February records that ‘A new Gong for use at the High Altar has been given by Mrs Martindale in memory of her husband... We shall often remember ‘Tim’ at the Altar which he served so faithfully when he lived here.’

A few more visiting signatures appear, including Bishop Gresford Jones, and concentration of Canons (Urwin, Ewart, Buckmaster and Barsley, to name but a few – and two more Archidiaconal appearances (Carpenter of Salop and White of Warrington.) Then in the lead-up to Easter two more Canons sign in: Phythian-Adams and Bezzant.

Holy Week is of course fully serviced, graced once with the presence of the Vicar of Upholland, before Easter dawns. It is prefaced with the red-letter proclamation, on Holy Saturday, of Solemn Evensong with Procession and Blessing of the New Fire and Paschal Candle. Easter Day saw a total of 394 communicants, including 231 at 8 am.

The Octave Dedication Festival (April 27<sup>th</sup>) features a 3 pm Children's Service with Procession and Parade of Scouts, Guides, Cubs and Brownies. Spring moves into summer, with little of note in the big book, other than the return of W.L. Mark Way for a week in mid-July, and an indecipherable bishop in early August.

Unheralded, L.M seems to have departed for pastures new after his initials on 4<sup>th</sup> August; thereafter W.H sustains the full pattern of daily worship alone. An appearance by Reginald Parker (Nigeria C.M.S.) relieves the pattern for several weeks, until H.J.Graham signs in as curate on 2nd September, and regularly takes services thenceforth. Charles S. Nye preaches at Harvest Evensong, and on the next page, somewhat unusually, a pasted-in magazine article records the vicar's pleasure at the raising of an impressive £670 'clear profit' at the two-day Bazaar, when 'more than 600 people came to the Hall over the two days.' Google says that this would be £16,999 today, which seems excessive. The cutting also records the efforts of many in the year leading up to the event.

Soon Mark Way becomes a bishop – tune in again next month.



**Chris Price**

## Word from the Wardens

Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, saw us celebrating the Queen's birthday: a huge thank you for a lot of hard work from so many people which made it such a great success. What a joy to see a good congregation and all those colourful flags from our young people in uniform. The Lord Lieutenant's deputy was impressed with our beautiful church and with the service and was sorry she couldn't stay for the picnic.

We went to East Ham to see Rev Sue in her new parish when she was licensed, which means we really are in an interregnum now. Our four churches have now all prepared their parish profiles and we will be attending a meeting on Monday 20th June with the standing committee when hopefully they will be approved and things will move on a bit further.

Our Summer Saturday concerts are running well and if you haven't managed to get to one yet have a look at the programme. There is something for everyone and delicious refreshments to go with it.

We are having a spate of good weather at the moment and let us hope it lasts as many of us will be going on holiday and there will be things to enjoy at our church; these to be announced, so keep listening.

**Brenda & Rick**



## Remembering St Faith's

Each year, about 5,000 people leave a gift in their will to a Church of England parish. In total, parishes receive over £50 million each year – money to finance mission projects, maintain beautiful church buildings or enable some other aspect of church life. The Visitation of the Sick in the 1662 Book of Common Prayer urges the preparation of a will and dealing with financial matters both for the comfort of the soul and the peace of executors!

Here at St Faith's, we have been very fortunate over the years to have received some very generous legacies which have, amongst other things, paid for a complete new heating system and on-going repairs to the church fabric. These have made a lasting difference to the future of St Faith's and the wider community.

It is worth noting that the general running costs and administration of the Diocese do not come out of the Parish Share. There has often been a misconception that our payment of the Parish Share goes into some mythical Diocesan treasure-chest. Not so!

These gifts make a real difference to the future work of the church as regular giving is often consumed maintaining the existing mission and ministry.

The PCC has approved a Legacies Policy:

*The policy of the PCC is to use legacies to help fund significant development projects in the parish, whether buildings, equipment or staff. As circumstances change over the years, it may not be possible to fulfil specific donor requests, so church members are encouraged to leave gifts in their wills for the general purposes of the parish. The PCC will discuss with executors the most appropriate use of the gift in the light of current projects and the donor's known areas of interest in the church (e.g. young people, music, buildings).*

Many church members may like to know how they can leave a gift to St Faith's Church, although they may be reluctant to ask. Legacy giving should be seen as a natural part of

Christian stewardship – which simply means how we manage the resources, wealth and possessions that have been entrusted to us. We should be positive, noting “that legacy gifts are driven by life and only activated by death”.

There is a very useful website, [www.churchlegacy.org.uk](http://www.churchlegacy.org.uk), that is aimed at individuals and seeks to guide them through the process of making a will and considering whether to leave a gift to the church. It also offers helpful information for solicitors. You can, of course, contact me, Fr Dennis or Revd Denise for a confidential discussion if you wish.

Thank you.

**David Jones**

**Parish Treasurer**

*Email: treasurer@stfaithsgreatcrosby.org.uk*



## A Visit to Eyam

On a recent visit to Derbyshire we visited St Lawrence's Church in Eyam, which stands on a site which has been a place of worship since the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The church is at the heart of the sad story of this historic village. The brave, selfless people of Eyam in 1665, under the guidance and leadership of the Rev. Mompesson, took the decision to isolate their village from the outside world to prevent the spread of the plague. The church plays a large part in telling this tragic story – with information boards and a wonderful stained glass window as well as the beautiful register displaying the names of all the people who died during the fourteen months of the plague. This was copied from the parish register of the time by Rev. Joseph Hunt, the original being held at Sheffield University. In all 260 people died out of a population of about 350.

One story the church does not make much of is that of the above-named one time rector, Joseph Hunt. A stone in the corner of the vestry reputedly records the death of the rector, who was not as heroic as his predecessors. He was buried in 1709, together with his wife who died six years earlier. She was Ann, the daughter of the innkeeper at the Miners' Arms in the village. Apparently, one day, whilst under the influence of alcohol, the rector and a young lady took part in an illegal and drunken mock wedding ceremony. However, the Bishop of the Diocese found out and insisted upon their marrying legally, which they did. This caused uproar ,as Joseph was already engaged to another woman who promptly sued him for breach of promise. Some years passed in litigation, which drained his purse and he had to take shelter in the vestry (which it is believed was built for the purpose) where he lived in poverty for the rest of his life so as to keep the lawyers at bay.

Despite the odd beginning to their marriage, Ann and Rev. Hunt seem to have had a  
8

happy life and raised six children. He is said to have been very sociable and had plenty of visits from the men of the village. We think his wonderful legacy is the lovely Register of plague victims on view in the church.

## ***Barbara and Bill Dagnall***

## **Crumbly Clergy Crisis**



First it was the crisis of emptying pews, now the Church of England is facing an even more immediate threat from empty pulpits as thousands of ageing clergy prepare to retire.

New figures published by the Church show that a quarter of its current full-time paid clergy were over the age of 60 last year, meaning they are likely to retire within four years. In some areas, including the Archbishop of Canterbury's own diocese, the proportion is as high as four in every 10. The figures also show that only 1.3 per cent of current incumbents are black. It follows a warning from the Bishop of Chelmsford, the Rt Rev Stephen Cottrell, of a 'shocking' lack of diversity in the Church's leadership. The figures also show that while the overall number of female clergy rose in 2015, the year in which the first women bishops were consecrated, they are still little over a quarter of all paid priests.

The Venerable Julian Hubbard, the Church of England's Director of Ministry, said: 'While the number of stipendiary ordinations showed a welcome increase between 2012 and 2015, this is not sufficient to redress the gathering effect of clergy retirements.'

'With 25 per cent of stipendiary clergy aged 60 or over, at present rates of ordination this trend will have a material and growing impact on the number of those available to serve in ordained roles,' he added.

'The statistics on the age and ethnicity of clergy show that we still have some way to go to ensure that the whole cohort fully reflects the demographics of the wider community.'

## **St. Faith's Mission and Justice Group**

### ***Notes from a recent meeting of the group***

#### **Christian Aid Week 2016.**

The total raised was £1267.96, with over £400 gift aided. Thanks to all who had helped, especially to Rosie for the Souper Soup lunch.

Kathy, for the second year running, had led a number of Christian Aid assemblies at St. Michael's CE High School: the school had given a donation of £67. It was also hosting a Chrsitian Aid exhibition of children's art from Gaza during July this year.

Kathy confirmed that she was standing down as Christian Aid Week organiser for St. Faith's but would continue as Christian Aid rep. for the church, and with her educational and campaigning activities. We thanked Kathy most warmly for leading the Christian Aid Week activities at St. Faith's during the past ten or so years.

The group felt that holding the house to house collection should be reviewed every year, but that it was worth continuing for the time being as a valuable expression of witness and outreach from our Parish Church.

### **Letters from Palestine**

After Easter cards had been sent from St. Faith's, Kathy had received letters of thanks from the Dean of St. George's Cathedral Jerusalem and from the parish church of Ramallah. (See details on page 16)

### **Presentation by Jackie Parry on 'local outreach' at St Faith's**

Jackie began by drawing our attention to some unusual demographic features of our neighbouring population. They included a relatively high prevalence of individuals living alone, and of mental illness. She then outlined a number of suggestions for local outreach, emphasising that we should 'begin small'. They included:

**Making** the church more available to casual callers when it was open, including improving the signage.

**Improving** catering facilities at the back of church. Eventually re-ordering the back of church to provide facilities for meetings, a parish office etc.

**Considering** the introduction of a form of worship that would be accessible to 'enquirers', this would be additional to, and separate from, the Sunday morning Eucharist.

**Exploring** opportunities for outreach to small groups e.g. a 'café church' or book club.

**Exploring** open-air activities such as picnics

**Holding** open meetings, with speakers, to discuss social issues, e.g. benefits, housing, jobs, use of food banks, Europe, migration etc.

We agreed that all these ideas had to be placed in the context of the forthcoming Team Ministry among the four Anglican churches in Waterloo.

Jackie's presentation was very much appreciated, and we thanked her for the extensive research that she had carried out during its preparation. We agreed that Fred and Jackie would approach the church wardens and ask if Jackie could present her ideas to an open meeting of the PCC later in the year.



## Pillow Prayer

Dear Lord  
So far today, I'm doing all right.  
I have not gossiped, lost my temper,  
Been greedy, nasty, selfish or self-indulgent.  
I have not whined, complained, cursed  
Or eaten any chocolate.  
I have charged nothing on my credit card.  
But I will be getting out of bed in a minute,  
And I think I will really need your help then. Amen



*With thanks to the magazine of St Peter's Formby for this gem!*

## Christmas is coming!

Sorry to wish the summer away, but thoughts are turning to planning the 2016 Christmas Tree Festival at St Faith's – and it's never too early to get things started.

Last year's Festival went much better than had been feared, after a period of uncertainty and a late start in getting to grips with the long list of things to plan, to do and to check up on. Brenda and Gareth did a fantastic job against the odds, and we managed to keep the tradition going, but we did suffer something of a drop in attendance and, in particular, in income for the charities, and the motto for 2016 is 'Must Do (even) Better!'

First things first. In the time-honoured tradition of Anglican Masochists, Gareth and Brenda have picked up the baton again and are girding their loins for the race. We have agreed the dates: it will kick off on Sunday, November 27th. It sounds early, but it is Advent Sunday and the date for the Toy Service Parade, and it means that when we close on December 3<sup>rd</sup> it will give everyone an extra week to recover and get ready for Christmas itself.

It is possible that some charities may opt not to sponsor a tree this year, so there will probably be spaces to fill. Please pass the word around anyone who might be interested. The basic pattern of the week will doubtless remain, maybe with fewer trees and some new attractions, but the tried and tested formula of free entry, top quality refreshments, stalls, visiting choirs and bands will definitely remain. All ideas and offers of help are very welcome.

Keep an eye open for updates after the summer, but be assured that the aim is to continue to build on the success of the past, with its warmth, friendliness and glitter, offering our parish and wider community a very special experience and, God willing, sustaining a major part of our mission to the people whom we exist to serve.

# That's the Way to Do it!



Down south and here up north, the Queen's Official Birthday weekend was most definitely one to be remembered.

This writer is a sucker for pageantry and colourful events anyway, but even his appetite for flamboyant display was fully fed between the Friday and the Sunday.

On the national stage, it started with a moving service of thanksgiving from St Paul's Cathedral – and it was good to see that wondrous edifice in such splendid use. It showed once again, with its powerful and dignified mixture of procession, music, prayer, pomp and circumstance just how very good the much-maligned C of E is at such things. If the established church ever becomes disestablished, we shall lose much that feeds our national soul and focuses our prayers and aspirations on such great occasions.

The next day saw the Trooping of the Colour. Just as you don't have to be a monarchist to appreciate the big royal occasions, so even a pacifist would have marvelled at the precision and pride of the pageantry on display. The faultless blend of almost balletic movement and stirring music will linger long in the memory. And the weather stayed dry.

Which of course it didn't, at least for a lot of the time, in London in general and the Mall in particular, on the Sunday afternoon. Because of a certain local happening, of which more in a moment, we relied on highlights to show us later the throng of picnickers lining the processional way. It was so quintessentially British: soggy sandwiches and plastic ponchos as the faithful awaited the mass royal walkabouts. As ever, it was all smiles and flags and cheering – and maybe it wouldn't have been half as moving and impressive if the sun had been cracking the flags.

Meanwhile, back in Crosby, St Faith's hosted its own unique occasion. The photos in this issue and on the website show how splendidly the whole day went. About 200 of the faithful from the four Waterloo Anglican Churches worshipped together under the benevolent presidency of Fr Gregor Cuff, who looked to be enjoying the chance to dress up and sniff the incense. The Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside represented Her Majesty, but was temporarily outranked, at least in two dimensions, by the unexpected arrival of the Cardboard Queen and the Cardboard Corgi. They didn't have those in London, I'll be bound.

After the service it was picnic time. For while it looked as if, in the classic phrase, it would be a case of 'If Wet, in the Hall'. But Greg petitioned the gods of the weather and the dampness drew back, at least for the next hour. Pies were partaken of, sarnies swallowed and, just in time, celebratory goodies arrived. Cub cakes (no, that's not a typo) were ferried around, and glasses of bubbly followed. There was just time for a



## Expedition to East Ham

Kathy Zimak's pictures of the happenings of 25<sup>th</sup> May in London.

Her new church (above)  
Herself on the run (left)  
Her new bishop (below)

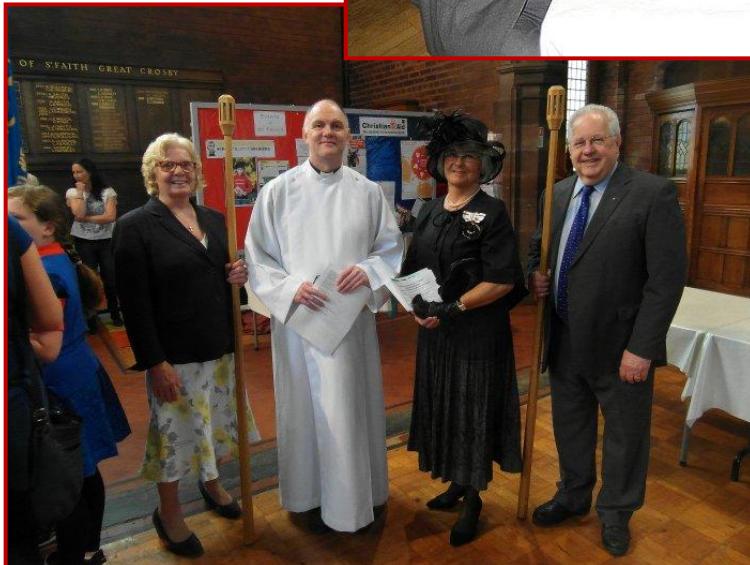
Gareth writes about it all on page 14





## East Ham Sandwiches?

Sue attacks a celebratory cake and Rick, Gareth and Brenda tuck in to the post-induction feast at St Bartholomew's



## A Right Royal Occasion

On 12<sup>th</sup> July, Fr Greg Cuff presided at a joint eucharist to mark a very special anniversary. Deputy Lord Lieutenant Mrs Pamela Brown stood in for the Queen (but see opposite...!)



## Cut Out for the Job

A Cardboard Queen and a Cardboard Corgi put in two-dimensional appearances during the service.



## Royal Garden Party

Young people from the uniformed organisations of St Faith's and St Mary's picnicked on the grass, while the bubbly was being made ready



## 'Cub Cakes' all round

(A few were a bit squashed!)

Tastefully decorated royal cup cake were ferried round by the Cubs, before glasses were raised to 'The Queen, the Duke of Lancaster'



## 'If Wet, Under the Hedge!'

The rain held off until the loyal toast had been quaffed, and it was dry under the vicarage hedge anyway

loyal toast, using the hallowed Lancashire words: ‘The Queen, the Duke of Lancaster!’ They won’t have had that in the Mall either, I’ll be bound.

With exquisite timing, the rain then ensued and we all ran for cover and the warmth of home fires. It has been an entirely excellent occasion, thanks to the efforts of many good folk and true. It was both a fine St Faith’s occasion, and a pointer to how well the forthcoming Waterloo Group Ministry can bring us together. Let’s hope it won’t be another 90 years until we do something like it again.

Praise be to God – and here’s a health unto her Majesty!

**Chris Price**



## "Through Young Eyes"

**A Christian Aid Exhibition of Art by young people at The Culture and Free Thought Association in Khan Younis, Gaza, will be touring the NW during June and early July .**

They will be at our local Church Secondary School on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> July

Triangle Methodist, Bolton, Church 21 -23rd June + speaker meeting with Dr Lesley Dawson on 8th July

Alsager, St Mary's C of E 23 - 25th June Opening event 7-8.30pm on Saturday 23rd Wigan URC 26th June

27th Vacant

The Heatons URC, Manchester, 28-30th June. Evening event on 28th linking with the end of an Arts Trail.

UpHolland, St Theresa's RC Church, 1 - 3rd July possible film and FT stall

Blackburn Cathedral, 4-7th July

Liverpool Quaker Meeting House central Liverpool, 8th July - Speaker event with Dr Lesley Dawson

Hale URC, Altrincham, 9-10th July

**St Michael's High School, Crosby, Liverpool 11-12th July**

Desmond Tutu Peace Centre, Hope University, 13-14th July Professional Conference with Exhibition in the open foyer of the building.

Great Sankey, Warrington, St Mary's C of E, 15-17th July

# Congratulations Corner

## 'Manna-House' to 'Buck House'!

Many of you will remember the Service Family Support Group meeting when the guest speakers were Doreen and Terry English, old Army friends of mine. Terry is a Street Paster/Baptist Minister and Doreen runs the charity "Manna House" in Hanley, Staffordshire.

Hanley is a town which is sadly past its best, with many less fortunate living there, some are homeless living and sleeping on the street. Some of these are ex-Servicemen. "Manna House" charity was set up to help all of these people and does fabulous work caring for all who come to it for help and none are turned away.

Because of their unstinting work they were proposed for and have received The Queen's Award for Volunteering, the equivalent to an MBE, which is absolutely wonderful and very well deserved. Terry and Doreen are a great joy to know, living true Christianity in every way, the work they do is amazing. Huge congratulations to both of them and all who work with them.

Web site;- [mannahouse-hanley.co.uk](http://mannahouse-hanley.co.uk)

**Eunice Little**

## 'For He's a Jolly Good Fellow!'



Our warmest congratulations go to Mike Foy, one-time organist at St Faith's, and founder of the St Nicholas Singers. Following a practical examination recently he has been awarded a prestigious Fellowship of the Royal Victoria College of Music in London. His father-in-law (!) and his extended family are rightly proud of Michael Gerard Foy, F.V.C.M. (Hons). We hope it will not be too long before we hear him doing his stuff on our humble instrument at St Faith's.

## Expedition to the East End or: 'It's grim down south!'

Thirty years ago , no it's more like forty or forty five even . Do you ever do that ? It can't be that long ago , but it is . Anyway that long ago I knew Eastham and surrounding area quite well The pubs, dance halls and the cheap restaurants where I could show

some lucky girls a good time. So you can imagine how pleased I was to return to the area for Sue Lucas's licensing. Rick, Brenda and were booked into the Beckton Premier Inn. We travelled there from central London on the Dockland Light Railway. It was rather unnerving to see that was no driver on the train but the journey was without incident. What next - driverless buses? (*yes! Ed.*) The DLR offers great views of the old Royal docks; of course the ships and cranes are all gone and there is an airport there now and you can watch the planes taking off from the train. In 1959 I went on a school trip to the Royal Docks - 500 screaming kids running about an elderly paddle steamer. I often wondered if any of them fell overboard because I'm sure nobody would have noticed . Health and safety hadn't been invented then I suppose in those days as long as the teachers brought most of the kids back nobody minded much .

After a short rest at the Inn three of us hurried off to St. Bartholomew's on Barking Rd. East Ham. Barking Rd is a busy cosmopolitan street with a very fine Edwardian era town hall that I had forgotten about. The church looks less like a church and more like a small factory, but inside is very comfortable with a cafe, offices, toilets and of course the church itself. For my taste it is a bit austere, but looks easy to clean and maintain with no white powder on the walls. Sue welcomed us at the door, we seated ourselves and were joined by Kathleen and Alex. The church filled with contingents from Sue's four churches and lots of clergy and two bishops: Stephen Lowe (we waved to him but he seemed not to notice the Saint Faith's group and we didn't get a chance to speak to him after the service) and the Bishop of Chelmsford. He was definitely a class act , more like a witty barrow boy than a clergyman. His speech was humorous and well received. Representatives of local faith communities came forward to greet Sue and wish her well, though there were no representatives from any of the nearby mosques.

The service was warm and emotional and seemed to be enjoyed by all and wasn't too long. Once it was over we got on with the real business of the evening, enjoying the excellent buffet and plentiful supply of wine at the back of church. At an entirely respectable hour we said goodbye to Sue and returned to the inn. The next day Rick left for home and we went to Sue's first mass, that of Corpus Christi, at midday. The service was attended by about ten people and was rather low key compared to Saint Faith's. After agreeing to go and have a look at Sue's new vicarage that evening we left for Grays Thurrock, a town not far from East Ham. I had lived there with my parents in my teens and it was more than 20 years since I had seen it and Brenda was keen to see it. Grays sits on the northern bank of the Thames near the M25 crossing. It has appeared in the film 'Four Weddings and a Funeral ' - the funeral takes place in church near Grays. Never a pretty town, it seemed to have got uglier and smaller and I was sorry to find that two of my favourite 'watering holes' had closed . We did not linger and returned to East Ham and a cup of coffee and a tour round the vicarage. And so to bed in the Inn. Next morning after a leisurely breakfast and traversing the scrum at Euston we were very happy to make our way back up North.

**Gareth Griffiths**

15

**St. Bartholomew's  
Parish of East Ham  
Church of England**



Sung Eucharist - Sunday at 10.00am  
Lunchtime Communion - Thursday at 12.30pm

Parish Office open Monday to Friday  
10.00am to 3.30pm for all enquiries  
Tel. 020 8470 0011 Email: [easthamparish@gmail.com](mailto:easthamparish@gmail.com)

The St. Barts Cafe is open Monday to Friday  
10.00am to 3.30pm for breakfast, lunch, snacks and tea/coffee

[www.easthamparish.org.uk](http://www.easthamparish.org.uk) [twitter@easthamteam](mailto:twitter@easthamteam)

## **Links with Anglican Parishes in the Middle East**

In last month's Newslink I reported on the response to our Easter cards to the Anglican parishes in the Holy Land and published the very gracious letter from the Dean of St George's Anglican Cathedral in Jerusalem. He delivered our cards personally to the parishes.

Since then I have received a letter of thanks from the parish priest of St Andrew's Church in Ramallah in the Occupied West Bank, Father Fadi Diab.

*Dear Kathleen Zimak,*

*Greetings and peace in the name of our Lord; I pray that this finds you well. Thank you for your Easter Card and letter arrived yesterday June 1, 2016. We did receive other cards from your group last week but did not know the senders. Your letter made things clear to us. Many thanks.*

*These gestures of brotherly love and care remind us that there are brothers and sisters who care about the Christian community in Ramallah and that we are not alone in our crisis.*

*Please convey our love and gratitude to each and every one who sent a card and for all the beautiful words on these cards. May the Risen Lord bless you and your community richly. In Christ,*

***Fr. Fadi Diab***



Ramallah is about 10 km north of Jerusalem in the Occupied West Bank and like Bethlehem is surrounded by the high dividing wall, restricting movement of its residents and preventing many from attending the Christian festivals in Jerusalem, without the necessary passes to get through the checkpoints.

We have also established a connection with the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and we shall be receiving their newsletters from now on. Based in Connecticut, they support schools and hospitals in the West Bank, Gaza, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria. all areas served by the Episcopal Diocese. They give a wonderful picture of the work done by the Diocese in the most dire circumstances. The first of these newsletters has arrived and will soon be available on our Kairos notice board at the back of church together with the Sabeel Wave of Prayer. This is used at the weekly ecumenical Eucharist held in Jerusalem that is open to the community. The prayers include local and global issues.

*The relevant websites are*

[www.j-diocese.org](http://www.j-diocese.org) (*Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem*)

[www.afedj.org](http://www.afedj.org) (*American Friends of Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem*)

<https://www.youtube.com> (Ramallah)    [www.sabeel.org](http://www.sabeel.org)

## **From the Sabeel Wave of Prayer June 16th**

This week our Muslim brothers and sisters in Palestine, Israel and around the world started observing the holy month of Ramadan. In Bethlehem, at the Hospice of our Lady the Virgin Mary, we find a model of social cooperation and solidarity where a group of volunteers, Christians and Muslims collect foodstuffs donated by Palestinians, and prepare 3,000 meals per day for the needy and those with special needs.

**God of love and mercy, let your mercy and compassion be among all people of this land so that they may live in peaceful harmony, share sorrows and joys, away from ways that lead to violence and conflict. AMEN**

*Kathleen Zimak*

## **A Scottish Excursion**

At the request of the Editor I find myself reflecting on a recent holiday made in early May, as I was reliably informed that the dreaded midges would not yet have surfaced to play havoc with the exposed skin of unsuspecting tourists!



My travelling companion and I arrived in Moffat on the Saturday afternoon of April 20<sup>th</sup> to enjoy a three night stay at the very reasonably priced and attractive Balmoral Hotel. For any reader who's never been to this lovely little town, about forty miles drive north of Carlisle, the main street boasts of several small hotels, pubs and cafes and a number of well-stocked shops.

Church on Sunday morning for the 11.15 service was a five minute walk. St Andrew's Church of Scotland has a celebration of Holy Communion just four times a year and the previous Sunday should have been one of the four occasions. As it happened the Minister had been away that particular week and so the celebration of Communion was arranged for the service at which we were in attendance. The usual non-conformist style of small individual wine cups were brought to us by Elders as we remained in our pews, after the consecrated breads had been distributed first. The sight of long white table cloths draped across the tops of all the pews alerted us on entry to the church that today would be one of the four special Sundays. About seventy or eighty attended and, over coffee and traditional fruit cake in the parish hall, we enjoyed interesting conversation with a most charming retired Bank Manager who made us feel most welcome.

Of the fourteen days we were away, we had only two of rain, the others were of glorious sunshine. This Sunday was that first of the two rainy ones and so for the rest of the day we adjourned to various eating establishments to attempt crosswords and peruse books.

Leaving for a drive mid-morning Bank Holiday Monday we enjoyed a most beautiful scenic journey, arriving for lunch in Selkirk and, later, for afternoon tea in Peebles. A round trip of about a hundred miles, brought us back to Moffat for our last night's stay.

Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, saw us head north, driving alongside, for many miles, the length of Loch Lomond. We arrived at Dalmally to spend three lovely days at Craig Lodge Family House of Retreat and Prayer, the home and workplace of my travelling companion Jill's nephew, who for several years has lived as a member of the community and been employed as Estate Manager. This fascinating country residence, once a hotel, is the home for a group of Christians who live as a fellowship sharing the worship, life and work of the Lodge in much the same way as would any traditional religious order. Some of the young British and overseas members commit for one year to being with the community and others live there permanently. Guests and retreatants who wish to join in the life of Craig Lodge can spend anything from a few days to a few weeks or months living alongside the community, sharing in the daily services of Divine Office, Eucharistic Adoration, Rosary and Praise and worship.

Whilst staying in this most beautiful and tranquil of places, Jill and I enjoyed trips to Inverary and Oban and deeply appreciated the warmth and friendship of this vibrant Christian group! Based at Craig Lodge is the International Food Charity known as Mary's Meals. This amazing organisation began in a lop-sided little shed in 1992 when its founder, Magnus McFallane-Barrow asked, his father, if he could borrow his garden shed to store some donations for a Bosnia charity appeal. The support was overwhelming and the rest is history. The shed still serves as the Charity's global headquarters today. Anyone wishing to read all about the miraculous circumstances and little acts of love which make up the extraordinary story of Mary's Meals can do so by buying the founder's bestselling book "The Shed that Fed a Million Children." The chief aim of the charity is to provide the world's poorest children with a daily meal in their place of education and this laudable work is supported by amazing community volunteers – including more than 65,000 in Malawi alone. Wherever possible, the daily meal served to children receiving Mary's Meals is made using ingredients produced by small-holder farmers, thereby supporting the local economy.

Leaving the spiritual oasis of Craig Lodge we travelled north west to arrive at Fort William on a baking hot Friday afternoon. After a most productive visit to the Tourist Information Office we arrived at the Alexandra Hotel, beautifully situated a few hundred yards from Loch Linnhe, at the foot of Ben Nevis. The views from our fourth floor rooms afforded us magnificent vistas of the Loch and mountains beyond.

A railway journey the following day to Mallaig gave us about three hours to explore this lovely little seaside port on the Road to the Isles – now a bustling and thriving place attracting large numbers of tourists with its famous steam engine railway line.

Just as the Church of Scotland building in Moffat had been only five minutes' walk from our hotel, so the Scottish Episcopalian Church in Fort William was, likewise, five minutes from where we were staying. The sung mass at St Andrew's had a tiny congregation but full catholic ritual. The musical mass setting of Merbeck very much reminded me of the St. Faith's of the 1960s and it was a joy to worship there. Again, coffee followed in the hall and interesting conversation ensued with parishioners.

Late Sunday afternoon in lovely sunshine we drove to Glenfinnan, a village for the Lochaber area of the Highlands. Many readers will know that in 1745 the Jacobite Rising began here when Prince Charles Edward Stuart ("Bonnie Prince Charlie") raised his standard on the shore of Loch Shiel. Seventy years later, the sixty foot Genfinnan Monument, at the head of

the loch, was erected to commemorate the historic event. Another big attraction to this area is, of course, Sir Robert McAlpine's viaduct, constructed between 1897 and 1898 of concrete. Seen in the Harry Potter films, tourists flock here all the year round.

Monday afternoon gave us the opportunity of a most enjoyable boat trip on Loch Linne. With the sun shining, a lovely breeze to freshen us and the sight of magnificent Ben Nevis as a back drop, there was little more one could have asked for.

Leaving Fort William on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May we drove the long and very beautiful scenic journey eastwards to St. Andrews where, again with the help of the Tourist Information Centre, we had booked three nights at a very comfortable, five star bed and breakfast establishment. The area surrounding St. Andrews reminded us very much of the lovely rolling countryside of the Cotswolds and was equally delightful to explore and enjoy. This small university town has an endearing charm and exudes the history and learning for which it is famous.

Whilst staying at St Andrews we drove the few miles to Anstruther, along the stretch of Fife known as the East Neuk. Anstruther is the largest in a string of pretty old-fashioned fishing villages, where our former priest in charge, Sue Lucas's mother, Joyce has lived for the past twenty eight years. It was a great joy to chat to Joyce in her lovely home and, after mid morning coffee, Jill and I set off for a light lunch at one of the nearby National Trust castles.

On Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> May we left "Bonny Scotland" and drove south to Sedbergh, on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales, where in the evening enjoyed a moist unusual variation on a meal of bubble and squeak at 'The Dalesman', and were fortunate enough to negotiate the only remaining Bed and Breakfast in the village.

Arriving home the next day we'd driven just over a thousand miles in the fortnight away and now have many wonderful memories and snapshots of a most enjoyable Scottish holiday.

**Fr Dennis**

## A Date for your Diary

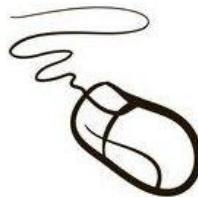


The parish retreat at Mirfield next year has been booked for the weekend of 28th to 30th April 2017, and will be led by a member of the community.

Further details later.

**Fred Nye**

# Wafers and Wine Online?



## Faith leaders consider providing sacraments to 'Virtual' congregations online

For centuries the Christian sacraments of baptism and communion have symbolised people coming together in one place. But under radical plans being considered by the Church of Scotland, the rites could be administered online via services such as Skype in a move that redefines the idea of a congregation in the internet age.

The proposal, to be debated by members of the Kirk's decision-making General Assembly which meets in Edinburgh, stems from initiatives such as streaming services to enable housebound parishioners to join in despite being unable to attend in person.

A paper presented to members of the General Assembly, drafted by the Church's legal questions committee, suggests re-examining issues such as voting rights at congregational meetings for people joining remotely.

It also argues it is time to create what amount to virtual congregations, by allowing "access to the sacraments" for people who are not "physically present in the congregation".

In Presbyterian teaching, the -term "sacraments" refers only to the rites of baptism and communion. "Wider questions about membership and belonging are being asked by congregations whose services, through the internet, are being carried well beyond their parish boundaries," the paper says.

"The old rules are fast becoming redundant and, as a result, the [committee] believes it is time for the Church to undertake a wide-ranging review of practice and procedure which is impacted by the use of new technology in church life."

It says the idea of being a member of a congregation is becoming "blurred" as people move around yet keep strong links through new technology. "As fewer people join up in the traditional sense and as they make choices which include ever greater interaction with the Church through online access and social media, questions arise about online membership and even about access to the sacraments while not being physically present in the congregation," the paper states.

"In a world where the fastest growing communities are being fostered online, the committee believes now is the time to open up a wide-ranging discussion on these developments." Norman Smith, vice-convenor of the Mission and Discipleship Council, said there would be a "grown-up discussion" about the theological and practical arguments before any proposals would be put to the General Assembly.

"The question of the relationship with the Church when someone is online is being driven by a growing reality on the ground," he said. "We have an increasing number of churches with an online component and they are asking questions about what it means to belong to the Church."



## Evangelicals call for C of E rethink over gay 'sin'

Two leading bishops from the evangelical wing of the Church of England are urging their fellow clerics to rethink traditional "interpretations" of the Bible which condemn homosexuality as a sin.

The Rt Rev Paul Bayes, Bishop of Liverpool, said it was time for a "reconsideration" of the traditional view of marriage and insisted his mind was "open" on how passages about homosexuality should be read today.

The Rt Rev Colin Fletcher, Bishop of Dorchester, said church teaching on sexuality should not be treated as a core doctrine like the Trinity, from which anyone who disagrees is a "heretic".

They are among a number of prominent evangelical clerics who have contributed to a book of essays calling for the Church to move to "affirming" people in same-sex relationships.

Neither bishop calls for traditional teaching on the family to be abandoned. But they say that those who do not accept traditional teaching should not be excluded. Their intervention will anger traditionalists and risks further inflaming tensions with Anglican leaders in Africa and elsewhere. Bishop Bayes said he had been "profoundly changed" by encounters with lesbian and gay Christians in recent years, including within his own family.

"I have come to believe that we need to change the church," he writes. "As the tradition of celibacy indicates, the command to multiply is not the primary calling for the Christian Church," he writes. "My views on the few explicit biblical texts on 'homosexual practice' (an anomalous term for biblical times) are open not closed."

In a foreword, Bishop Fletcher adds: "I do want to challenge the assertion that places [questions of humanity and sexuality] on an equal footing with the great credal truths of the Trinity or the humanity and divinity of Christ."

# Odds and Ends



## ***Happy-clappy sermons kept locals awake***

The head of a "happy clappy" church has been fined for regularly holding "unbearably" loud sermons with drumming until 4am. Akinseye lyun, pastor of the evangelical Celestial Church of Christ in Grays, Essex, kept neighbours up into the early hours up to four times a week. He was fined £230 with a £23 victim surcharge by Basildon magistrates and Thurrock council was awarded full costs of £988.50, totalling £1,241.50.

Not a problem likely to crop up at Anglican Churches, indeed including St Faith's. There would, of course, no longer be a problem of people nodding off during sermons...

## ***School whistle banned as 'too aggressive'***

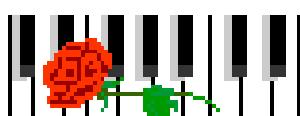
A school has banned the blowing of a whistle to mark the end of playtime because it is "too aggressive" and could cause alarm to the children. Staff at the primary school must instead raise a hand in the air to mark the end of playground breaks and wait for the 120 pupils to notice the signal.

The ban at St Monica's Catholic Primary in Milton Keynes, Bucks, was revealed in a letter to Country Life magazine by teaching assistant Pamela Cunningham. Ms Cunningham, who has been at the school for 26 years, said staff feared that in an emergency children might not see their raised hands. She said she keeps a back-up whistle just in case...

# Concerts Coming Up

**... the rest of the Summer Saturday Season. Please support them if you can. As always: church open 11.00 am – 1.00 pm. Free music at noon. Light lunches on sale.**

2nd July	Liverpool Festival Choir
9th July	Woodwind students of Shaun Lock
16th July	Vive la France – celebration of French music and poetry
23rd July	Aintree NHS choir
30th July	Ian Dunning (baritone)
6th August	Rebekah Pritchard (mezzo soprano)
13th August	David Stokes (organ)
20th August	Students of Ranee Seneviratne
27th August	Come and sing Faure's Requiem!



# The Parish Directory and Church Organisations



## VICAR

Vacancy

For all enquiries ring 928 3342

Parish Administrative Assistant email [dunngeoff@talk21.com](mailto:dunngeoff@talk21.com)

## ASSISTANT PRIESTS

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

Revd Denise McDougall, 58 Hartley Crescent, Birkdale, Southport PR8 4SQ  
01704 550590; 078888 97564

## READERS

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

Miss Paula O'Shaughnessy, 30 Curzon Rd, L22 0NL. 286 2764 / 075823 19440

## READER EMERITUS

Dr Fred Nye, 23 Bonnington Ave, Crosby L23 7YJ Tel 924 2813

## CHURCHWARDENS

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

Mr Rick Walker, 17 Mayfair Avenue, Crosby. L23 2TL. 924 6267

## ASSISTANT CHURCH WARDENS

Mr Bill Dagnall, 14 Duddingston Ave, Crosby. L23 0SH. 928 4997

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

## TREASURER

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

## PCC SECRETARY

Mrs Lillie Wilmot, Flat 7, 3 Bramhall Rd, Waterloo L23 3XA. 920 5563

## DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Mr Robert Woods, [robertwoods1986@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:robertwoods1986@hotmail.co.uk). 07847 251315

## GIFT AID SECRETARY

Mr Rick Walker, 17 Mayfair Avenue, Crosby. L23 2TL. 924 6267

## VULNERABLE ADULTS OFFICER

Mr Gareth Griffiths, 6 Lawton Road, Waterloo. L22 9QL. 928 4275

## CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER

Ms Helen Kibbey, 17 Oxford Road, Waterloo. L22 3XB. 293 3416

## BAPTISM BOOKINGS

Mrs Jackie Parry. 928 0726

Mrs Brenda Cottarel. 928 4275

## MEN'S GROUP

Monthly as announced. Geoff Moss 928 1273

**BEAVER SCOUTS**

Thursday 5.00 – 6.15 pm Mike Carr. 293 3416

**CUB SCOUTS**

Thursday 6.30 – 8.00 pm. Mike Carr. 293 3416

**SCOUTS**

Thursday 8.00 - 9.30 pm. Mike Carr. 293 3416

**RAINBOWS**

Monday 4.45 - 5.45 pm. Geraldine Forshaw. 928 5204

**BROWNIE GUIDES**

Monday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Mary McFadyen. 284 0104

**CHOIR PRACTICE**

Friday 7.30 pm - 8.45 pm.

**MAGAZINE EDITOR and WEBSITE MANAGER**

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

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**Church website:** [www.stfaithsgreatcrosby.org.uk](http://www.stfaithsgreatcrosby.org.uk)

**Online edition:** [www.stfaithsgreatcrosby.org.uk/magazine.pdf](http://www.stfaithsgreatcrosby.org.uk/magazine.pdf)

**Friends of St Faith's Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/23599022440/>

**email:** [cdavidprice@gmail.com](mailto:cdavidprice@gmail.com)

## Next Newslink?

We aim to resume regular dates by the autumn! The next issue will be a joint July and August edition, probably emerging towards the end of July...



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