

Newslink

The Parish Church of
Saint Faith, Great Crosby

MARCH 2010

Worship at Saint Faith's



SUNDAYS

10.30am	Morning Prayer
11.00am	SOLEMN EUCHARIST and Children's Church
1.00pm	Holy Baptism (2nd Sunday)
7.00pm	Compline and Benediction (1st Sunday; weekly during Lent)

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday 10.30am
Tuesday 9.30am
Wednesday 10.30am (1662 Book of Common Prayer in S. Mary's)
Thursday 9.00am (Holy Days only)
Friday 6.30pm
Saturday 12.00noon (10.30am from Easter)

THE DIVINE OFFICE (The Prayer of the Church)

Morning Prayer: 9am daily (except Thursday & Saturday)
Evening Prayer: 6pm daily (except Thursday)

Please consult the weekly sheets for any variation in times for the Daily Office

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE AND RECONCILIATION

Fr. Neil and Revd. Denise 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.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK AND DYING

Please contact Fr. Neil at any time, day or night, if someone is ill and requires the ministry of a priest.

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 are always happy to make home or hospital visits to the sick and housebound so please call us to arrange this.



From the Ministry Team: March 2010

'The earth is the Lord's, and all that therein is: the compass of the world, and they that dwell therein'. The opening verse of Psalm 24 just about sums up the biblical view of the created world: our planet, all living things and we ourselves belong to God, who is Lord of all. How does this perspective match up with our own view of the creation, and has it anything to say to us about the current climate change debate? There seem to be two strands to the current controversy: the scientific and the political. From the scientific angle there is agreement about a number of key facts: that levels of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide are increasing, that these gases are causing global warming, and that the resulting climate change is likely to cause widespread social and economic disruption. Some of the consequences, such as the melting of the summer polar ice, are incontrovertible. However, there is still some uncertainty about the speed at which all this is happening.

There is a lot of disagreement over the extent to which man-made emissions contribute to these changes, and on whether we can, or should, take steps to limit and contain the pollution they cause. It is at this point that the controversy becomes political. In the green corner, the eco-warriors – environmental charities and organisations that champion (sometimes quite aggressively) the causes of renewable energy, re-cycling, and the preservation of wildlife species and bio-diversity. On the whole, these groups tend to accept the principles of climate change rather uncritically. They are seen by their opponents as largely idealistic, unrealistic, young, and left-wing. And in the blue corner are the forces of capitalism and conservatism: these groups stress the need for the creation of wealth and the continuing expansion of the world's economy; and the role of investment and technology in solving our environmental problems. They tend to play down the role that human activity plays in climate change. They also hold up the inevitable flaws in the scientific data as evidence that the whole climate change idea must be wrong.

Can we as Christians contribute anything to this debate, or would we be wise to keep out of it? My own view is that we have no option but to get involved: if we believe that the earth is the Lord's then we have a responsibility to see that His values prevail. Perhaps above all we must have a high regard for the truth. We must look at the scientific facts objectively: while acknowledging that individual scientists are human and prone to error (and may even occasionally be dishonest), this is no reason for

discrediting the mass of research evidence that has been accumulated. We shouldn't rubbish the evidence on the grounds that the implications are threatening or uncomfortable. And we should not be tempted into viewing the data through politically tinted glasses, whatever their colour might be!

The story of the Creation didn't finish in the Garden of Eden, indeed you could argue that the whole of the bible is the story of God's continuing interaction with the world, and with us, his people. When Adam and Eve were given dominion over the living world, they were also handed the responsibility for it – we have our planet on trust. It seems to me that the climate change debate is less political than moral: do we or do we not feel responsible for the long-term consequences of our actions? Whether or not climate change accelerates, and regardless of whether we can do anything about it, there is no doubt that industry and development can play havoc with God's world. There is also no doubt that our planet's resources cannot sustain an endless expansion of human wealth. It follows that in protecting the environment, and in the global competition for resources, we have a duty as Christians to show restraint rather than greed. We must do our utmost to protect the most vulnerable, whether they be our brothers and sisters in poor countries, or the thousands of endangered species around the world. We cannot proclaim the good news to the poor when our own selfishness is crowding them off the planet. And our care and concern must be driven, not by politics, but by the knowledge that all living things, 'the compass of the world and they that dwell therein', belong to God.

God bless

Fred Nye

LENT 2010

Truly dust we are, and to dust we shall return;
and truly yours we are, and to you we shall return.
Help this to be a time of turning round and beginning again.
Through the forty days of Lent, help us to follow you
and to find you: in the discipline of praying
and in the drudgery of caring –
in whatever we deny ourselves,
and whatever we set ourselves to learn or do.



Help us to discover you
 in our loneliness and in community,
 in our emptiness and our fulfilment,
 in our sadness and our laughter.
 Help us to find you when we ourselves are lost.
 Help us to follow you on the journey to Jerusalem
 to the waving palms of the people's hope,
 to their rejection, to the cross and empty tomb.
 Help us to perceive new growth amid the ashes of the old.
 Help us, carrying your cross, to be signs of your Kingdom.
 Amen

Fridays in Lent in S. Faith's or S. Mary's at 6.30 pm

Stations of the Cross and Holy Eucharist

26 February	S. Faith's
5 March	S. Mary's (*)
12 March	S. Faith's (*)
19 March	S. Mary's
26 March	S. Faith's

(*) these services will take the form of a meditation on the Way of the Cross with poetry, visual imagery and music, both classical and contemporary

Sundays in Lent in S. Faith's at 7.00pm

Devotional Addresses by Fr. Neil and Benediction

Some of you may have visited the exhibition at the National Gallery – The Sacred Made Real. It was described as 'a landmark reappraisal of religious art from the Spanish Golden Age with works created to shock the senses and stir the soul.' It certainly did that as anyone who visited it could tell. One of the most moving things about the exhibition is that everything on display is in fact used liturgically in parishes, religious communities and seminaries in Spain. I think the borrowing of them took quite some bartering! If you didn't see the exhibition you may have read reviews about it or looked at the information on-line. The focus for the addresses on the Sunday evenings of Lent will be different images from that exhibition. In each church there will be a DVD and also a book detailing the works and these may be borrowed (so long as they are returned promptly, please!) by those who may want to do a bit of homework or reflection. If you haven't already done so – do look it up on the website and read the reviews. It might encourage you to come along on a Sunday evening.

Sunday 28 th February	Christ on the Cross
Sunday 7 th March	St Francis in Meditation
Sunday 14 th March	Virgin of Sorrows
Sunday 21 st March	Dead Christ



Holy Week and Easter Services 2010

Please note: this replaces any earlier versions

Holy Week Preacher: Canon Robin Johnson

PALM SUNDAY, 28th March

- 8.00am Morning Prayer (SF)
- 9.30 am Sung Eucharist and blessing of Palms (SM)
- 10.45 am Blessing of Palms at Merchant Taylors' School & Procession
- 11.00 am High Mass and dramatic reading of the Passion (SF)
- 7.00 pm Compline and Benediction (SF)

MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK, 29th March

- 9.00am Morning Prayer (SF)
- 6.00 pm Evening Prayer (SM)
- 7.00pm Stations of the Cross and Eucharist (SF)
- 9.15pm Compline (SF)

TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK, 30th March

- 9.00am Morning Prayer (SF)
- 9.30am Eucharist (SF)
- 6.00 pm Evening Prayer (SM)
- 9.15pm Compline (SF)

WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK, 31st March

- 10.00am Morning Prayer (SM)
- 10.30 am Eucharist (SM)
- 6.00 pm Evening Prayer (SM)
- 7.00 pm Eucharist with hymns and address
(SF: after which Revd Denise will be available for those wishing to make their confession in preparation for Easter)
- 9.15pm Compline (SF)

MAUNDY THURSDAY, 1st April

- 8.00am Morning Prayer (SF)
- 10.30 am Chrism Mass with Blessing of the Oils (Cathedral)
and commitment to Ministry, to which all are welcome
- 7.00 pm Holy Eucharist in commemoration of the Last Supper &
Washing of Feet (SM)
- 8.00 pm Solemn Mass of the last Supper, Washing of Feet, Procession
to the Altar of Repose & Watch of Prayer until midnight (SF)





GOOD FRIDAY, 2nd April

- 9.00am Morning Prayer & Litany (SM)
10 am–12 noon Joint Young People's Easter Workshop (SM)
11.00 am CTW Act of Witness at Crosby Civic Hall
1.30 pm The Solemn Liturgy of the Day (SF)
6.00pm Evening Prayer (SF)

HOLY SATURDAY, 3rd April

- 9.00am Morning Prayer (SM)
2.00 pm Sacrament of Penance (SM: *Fr Neil will be available for those wishing to make their confession in preparation for Easter*)
8.00 pm Joint Easter Vigil, Service of Light and First Mass of Easter (SF - *this will be followed by champagne, Easter biscuits, Easter Carols on hand-bells and firework display!*)

EASTER DAY, 4th April

- 8.00am Morning Prayer (SM)
9.30 am Blessing of the Easter Garden, Sung Eucharist, Holy Baptism, First Holy Communions & children's Easter Egg Hunt (SM)
11.00 am Procession, Blessing of Easter Garden, High Mass, Holy Baptism, First Holy Communions & children's Easter Egg hunt (SF) followed by wine
6.00 pm Festal Evensong, Procession and Solemn Te Deum

EASTER MONDAY

- 12.00 noon Solemn Mass (SF) followed by champagne in the Vicarage

Where Did the Time Go...?

By the time you read this my sabbatical will most definitely seem like a dream (to me at least) and life will have returned to its busy pace, especially gearing up towards Easter. I would like to take this opportunity to place on record my sincere thanks to everyone who undertook extra duties in my absence (that's quite a few of you, I realise!) – it was good that I didn't come back to any disasters awaiting me (apart from what I already knew about the parish finances) and that many good things, some new, had gone on while I was away. The Christmas Tree Festival seems to have been a resounding success. The pictures on the website told me that and, of course, the website kept me up to date with things if I ever felt homesick! It is lovely to be back, although I have benefitted from the time away, as I hope you have too!

There is much to look forward to as we journey through Holy Week and Easter. I am delighted that **Canon Robin Johnson** (who, with his wife Joyce, has worshipped with

us for a while now) is to be our Holy Week preacher. And in addition to having **Phil Saltmarsh** on placement with us, we will welcome **Craig Roters** and **Steve Holt** (from Mirfield) on placement with us during Holy Week. Elsewhere you can read all about them!

I was genuinely touched to receive so many kind cards and good wishes for my birthday, at Christmas, and on my return to the parishes.

With my thanks, my love and prayers

Father Neél

*Remember, O Lord,
what thou hast wrought within us,
and not what we deserve,
and as thou hast called us to thy service,
make us worthy of that calling;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*



Introducing our Holy Week Preacher...

Robin Johnson was born and brought up in Nottingham so long ago that when he watches *Dad's Army* it reminds him of his youth. He met his wife Joyce at school in the sixth form Religious Education class and, discovering she was much better organised than he, has ever since relied upon her. After reading Theology at Cambridge followed by an idyllic two years at a Theological College on the outskirts of Oxford, he was curate of Tyldesley, a feisty industrial town in Lancashire then boasting seven pits and seven cotton mills. He left to become lecturer in Theology at Loughborough College.

A little over five years later he returned to Manchester Diocese, first as a vicar in Rochdale, next as bishop's chaplain and Director of Ordinands and finally to a ten year stint in a Bolton parish. This was followed by nine years as Rector of Dorchester, Dorset, which he describes as a culture shock after the vigour of Lancashire parish life, where the church was so much the centre of things. His next appointment was as an Anglican chaplain in Spain, where he covered six worship centres in an area the size of Cornwall. As the work entailed driving 19,000 miles a year on Spanish roads he finds English driving very unexciting. Having reached the age of retirement he became resident chaplain at St Oswald's Hospital Worcester, almshouses allegedly founded more than a thousand years ago by the saint himself. There was more than enough work for him and Joyce, but they decided after four years to retire finally to Blundellsands within striking distance of part of the family.

Fire at St Andrew's, Orford



Many readers will be aware of the disastrous arson attack last December on the church of St Andrew, Orford, Warrington, where Michael Raynor, who was curate here at St Faith's some years ago, is vicar. His wife Jenny and he tell the story for the benefit of Newslink readers.

It was 3 a.m. and I was downstairs trying to calm a persistent cough when I became aware of a loud banging on the front door. A quick glance at the monitor of our security camera showed a figure on the doorstep, but even we don't rush to open the door at that time of the morning. When the banging persisted, I called "Who is it?" and heard those never to be forgotten words, "It's the police, love, your church is on fire!"

Opening the door, I was aware of the flickering orange light to the right of the church. "Fetch your husband, and wrap up warm, it's bitter cold", said the policeman. I ran upstairs and called Michael, threw on warm clothes and went outside. It was a shock. Flames were shooting out of the tops of the two vestry windows, and sparks were spiralling upwards and lighting the lancet windows above – it was well alight.

Two fire engines arrived within minutes, to be followed by a further two. Blue lights flashed from numerous police cars and portable lamps lit the area. Earlier, Michael had said not to walk on the frosty grass as it damages the lawn. Now it was criss-crossed with a maze of wires and hoses, and trampled by dozens of large boots. There was lots of noise, too, from pumps and generators – and people shouting instructions and dragging equipment. Fans were set up to vent the worst of the smoke. The phrase 'organised chaos' came to mind, yet in spite of the noise and activity, the only locals outside were the two of us. It seemed as if all our neighbours slept through it.

About half past four, a friend who lives opposite the church appeared and threw her arms around me. She had been woken by the lights. "Get the Hall keys and we'll make tea," she said, and that's what we did, keeping an endless stream of fire fighters (they were not all men) supplied for the rest of the night.

At about seven, we stood at a distance as they began to empty the vestries and damp down the contents. "There go the choir robes... and, oh dear, there's Father Christmas's outfit." Buckled pieces of metal were recognised as flower stands and melted metal as the remnant of a scaffolding tower.

Night turned to day. I went indoors to find that Elizabeth and the children had slept soundly through it all, even the two policemen wearing live radios standing at the bottom of the stairs scanning the security video. The children felt a little cheated when they realised what they'd missed.

After that, there was bit of a lull. A solitary policeman was left to secure the site. The

Fire Investigator arrived next, followed by two CID officers and then the Scene of Crime investigator. Michael had been allowed in, but no one else until they'd finished. Mid afternoon, Archdeacon Peter and Pat arrived (with flowers and wine) and I took them in, seeing the devastation for myself for the first time. Everything from floor to ceiling was blackened; the floor was swimming in water topped with soot and ash (though the fire brigade had cleared as much as possible before they left). Above all, there was that acrid smell of smoke which clung to our clothes – and still does each time we go in.

It was at this point that I think there was an upturn from the horror. It began with a stream of people coming to see if we were alright. “What can we do?” was heard at every encounter. But we couldn't hang about. Today was Saturday and tomorrow was the last Sunday in Advent and the Carol Service for which we had practised for the past three months. With lots of help, we hastily set up the Hall and pushed two tables together as an altar, covered with a white sheet.

Sunday was amazing. Michael, in a slightly greyed alb, looked at our people and smiled, “It's just like old times” and so it was, for our Hall was regularly used for worship before the church was built. After the service, we offered everyone a look inside. Some came and some chose not to. There were a fair few tears shed, and an immediate determination to get it sorted.

The Carol Service was wonderful – not least because of a visit from four friends from St Faith's who came to support us, bearing cash gifts from St Faith's people. Since then, we have been overwhelmed by phone calls (not all of which we've managed to answer yet), offers of help and donations large and small.

Of course it has been sad, but we are all in good spirits. There has been endless love and gifts from our people, neighbours, friends and strangers. Hardly a day goes by without some expression of support to encourage us.

We are now setting up the Hall to be a more permanent worship base, because we have been told it will be some time before we can return to church. The vestments and frontals, thankfully, were kept in the sacristy. Despite a closed door, a layer of soot covered everything, even in closely fitting drawers and cupboards. They have all gone to a specialist cleaner and Michael is currently in ‘borrowed plumes’.

A team of builders came in just before Christmas to clear the ash and rubble, filling a couple of skips, and giving the floors and lower surfaces a brief clean. In time, the church will be scaffolded internally and the ceiling washed and repainted, the walls cleaned with a special, recently-invented poultice, the organ stripped, cleaned and rebuilt and the floors cleaned and refurbished. For a relatively localised fire, the extent of the smoke damage is massive.

We are already thinking about a great service to mark the return from exile, followed by a party. There may be other events, too. In four years time, St Andrew's will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary, and after all this, it will still look like new!

Christmas wasn't the same this year.
Churches burn,
and somehow burn more fiercely.
Black ash –
precursor of Lent;
smoke with the bitterness of lost hopes
and destruction of memories and mementoes.

Then came the snow,
small flakes at first, like down from angels' wings.
Then more and more,
till the dark sky,
crowded with rushing white,
made night seem day.

So, in the morning,
a fine blessing of snow had fallen
covering the ugliness
with its lightness,
making sharp corners soft
and stark shapes gentle.



Here was purity,
as pure as a mother
who gave us the child –
and the return of light
from darkness
hope from our despair.

Heaviness may endure for a night
but joy cometh in the morning.

Jenny Raynor

Support for Families of Servicemen and Women

Some six months ago I had the thought that local families and friends of servicemen and women serving in Afghanistan could do with some support. Knowing your loved

ones are in such danger is a very scary thought to live with, but knowing that others are there to give support, a listening ear, a cup of tea, or whatever, could make a difference.

After speaking to various people, including Fr Neil, it started to come together. It is still at the planning stage, but it is nearly there! If you know any service families in the area, have any contacts with the military, any ideas you think could be useful – but most importantly can offer your support... watch this space!

I can be contacted on 0151 474 9708 (there's an answering system) if you would like to know more.

Thank you

Eunice Little



Congratulations...

To three members of our church family reaching very significant landmarks. Dorothy Wilson will be 100 years old on March 13th. Fred Nye and Joyce Green aren't quite as old (!) but have just celebrated the 25th anniversary of becoming Readers. We offer our congratulations to this distinguished trio.

A Sting in the Tale

A true story. An elderly Polish beekeeper who passed out after being stung, woke up inside a coffin. He had been pronounced dead from a heart attack, covered in a white sheet, collected by undertakers and taken to a funeral parlour.

It was then that he woke and shouted for help. 'He was shouting and banging on the coffin – he made enough noise to raise the dead so we couldn't miss him,' said the undertaker. The man was taken to hospital and released after a few days. 'The undertaker saved my life,' he said. 'The first thing I did when I came out of hospital was to take him a pot of honey.'

This column enjoys making excruciating headlines for its borrowings, including the one above, but cannot hope to better the one provided by The Daily Telegraph, where this snippet occurred on January 26th.

Their headline: '*O sting, where is thy death?*'

In Memoriam

We're outside the 'crem' in the morning sun,
And it's like some kind of reunion;
Ghostly figures from distant days,
Names I've forgotten,
Faces I can't quite place.

'Is it Dickie? It's John.' 'Good God, so it is.'
'It must be....' 'When was it?' 'How are things?'
'Such a shame that we have to meet like this.'
'Hadn't seen him for years, you know how it is.'

'He'd had a good innings, he must have been.... what?'
'Nevertheless it still comes as a shock.'
'Well, it comes to us all in the end, as they say.'
'It makes you think, though. We go back a long way.'

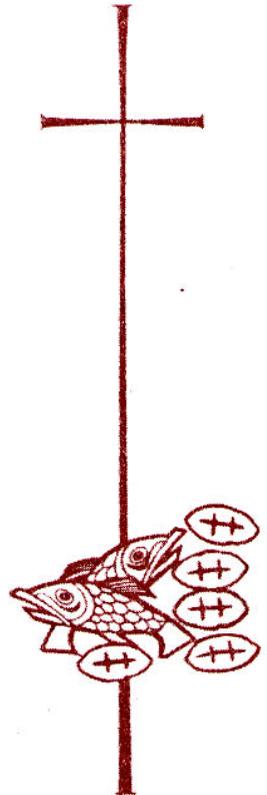
The corpse before ours has been sent on its way
And an usher discreetly beckons us in
Out of the bright morning sunlight
And into the dim organ-hymned place
Where the coffin waits.

The eulogy takes us all back
To the man that he was
In the days that once were;
The occasions we shared
Before time and the tumour
Brought him here.

The service has ended; there's another one due.
Outside, in the sunlight, they wait in a queue.
The conveyor belt moves and the casket,
Silent and slow.
Disappears from our view.

We're out once again in the sun,
One or two lighting cigarettes,
Glad that we came, but relieved that it's done,
Saying farewells – 'keep in touch, don't forget.'

It's been good to meet up with old friends,



Talking over the days that we knew.
We've chatted and laughed, and remembered;
It's what he would want us to do.

'He was one of the best.'

But we're all of the same generation
And we're wondering who will be next.

Peter Johnson

Burley in Wharfedale, Yorkshire

What the Paper Didn't Mean to Say

Two little snippets to treasure, oddly both featuring unlikely physical situations and positions (and one with a fine 'typo'), from the same edition of the Crosby Herald recently.

'The burglar, who appeared to be half Spiderman, half Ninja, displayed nerves of steal (sic) as he calmly filled his swag bag with cigarettes as the alarm rang, and then clambered up over the confectionery stand and out of the hole in the ceiling.'

'Committee vice-chair, Lib Dem councillor Peter Hough, said: "What we shouldn't do is push small traders, who are already on their knees, over the edge.'"

Winter Draws (on again)

The February winners in the St Faith's 100+ Club

1	94	The Price children
2	3	Muriel Harrison
3	108	Neil Foskett
4	162	Joan Tudhope



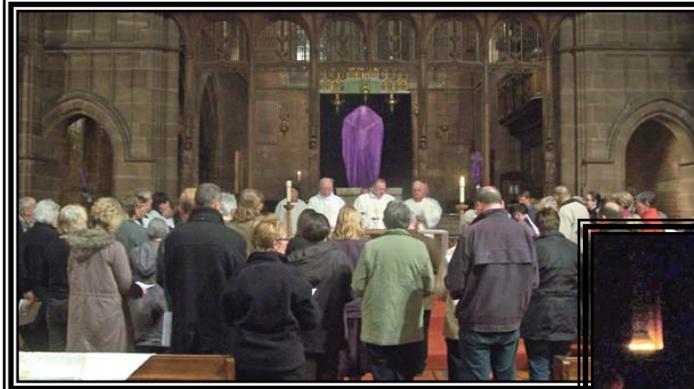
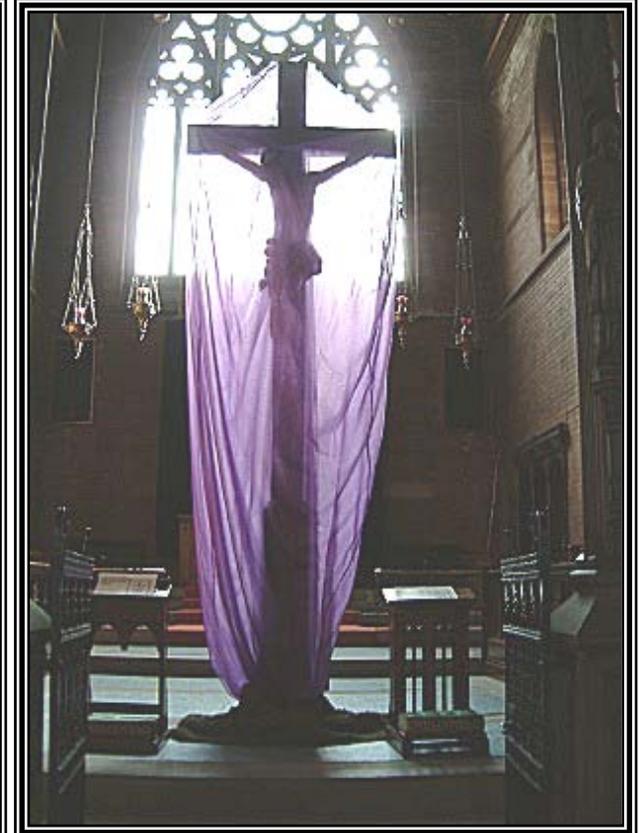
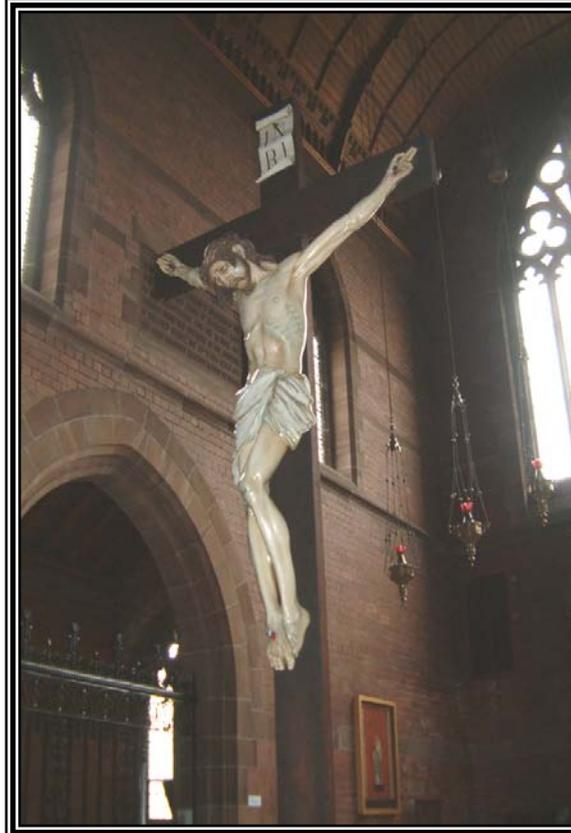
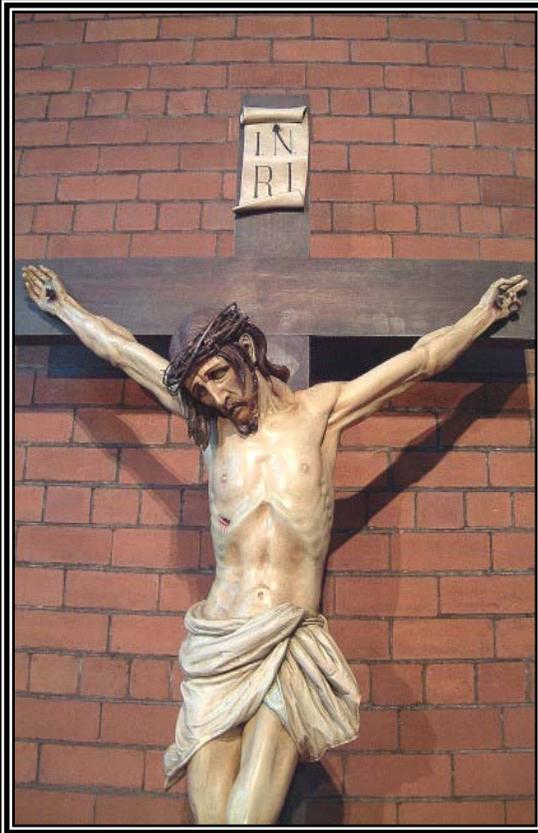
Carry on Trekking

Mari Griffiths, who memorably slogged her way across the Sahara for charity, has unaccountably decided to do something equally foolhardy! Read all about it after the picture pages....

Lenten Array

Images of Lent and Holy Week in earlier years at St Faith's.

The Great Crucifix, situated in the Chapel of the Cross for the rest of the year, is moved to the Chancel during Holy Week, and veiled. The High Altar is once a year seen bare of its hangings, while at the solemn Maundy Thursday service the congregation gather round the Nave Altar and worship by candlelight.



In March this year I shall be trekking to the Himalayas for charity. ALL money raised will be going to Classic fm Music Makers, a charity which provides music therapy for disabled adults and children in the U.K. Music is a powerful instrument in itself. It can reach people when all else has failed as well as enriching lives of those who have lost hope or suffer the trauma of mental illness.

The trek begins with an overnight flight to Delhi, then eventually on to Kathmandu. The following day after a 6 hour drive to Pokhara we walk for 4 hours to Tibetan camp passing through rice fields. In this respect it will be very different to the Sahara, as all the way through the trek, we will be meeting local people in their villages and hopefully learning something about them.

The next day we walk along the Seti river and start to climb past terraced fields and villages to our camp at 1641metres. In the morning we trek through alpine meadows and rhododendron forests. Our steep path takes us eastwards towards Tara Yop, where we are rewarded by a stunning 360 degree view of the Annapurna massif, including the monolithic hulk of Lamjung Himal and the fishtail peak of Machupuchare, while the Himalayan foothills of central Nepal fall away towards the Ganges and the Indian plains. We camp here at 2800 feet.

Camping will be in two-man tents. There will be little water to wash, no toilets, and of course no heating. We will sleep on mats, water will be purified using tablets; we will be accompanied by porters, so I intend to take only necessities and carry as much as I can myself.

The following day we walk again for 7 hours, taking us through more forest with overhanging mosses and wild orchids. Our next destination is the small village of Lamakhet; we have lunch on the river Mardi Khola with breathtaking views of Annapurna II, with its impressive icefall and glacier marking the origin of the river. Our final day's walk takes us to the edge of the Pokhara valley. A steep initial climb along a track leads to a descent before a twisting path takes us to the valley bottom.

I am more than aware of the demands on your pockets this and every year, but if anyone can find a small amount to spare for this very worthwhile charity, I and a lot of people out there would be very grateful. I would like to reiterate that none of your money will be financing me to do this trip, it will all go to the charity. There is a sponsor form at the back of church or you can donate on: [do it for charity.com/give](http://doitforcharity.com/give) and follow the link 'sponsor me'.

Thank you.

Mari Griffiths



The Spirit of Britain

A guide to some of the surprising - or downright bewildering - decisions made by Britain's bureaucrats during 2009.

Edinburgh: The Scottish parliament's website has been translated into Scots dialect, as part of an £800,000 overhaul to make the site available in 14 'languages'. "Walcome tae the Scottish pairlament wabsite," reads the introduction. "The Scottish pairlament is here for tae represent aw Scotlan's folk." Scholars disagree on whether Scots dialect - as opposed to Gaelic - is a language at all, but the Scottish Executive says the translation is necessary to prevent discrimination.

Southport: When Rita Longbottom, a Southport pensioner with dementia, locked herself out of her care-home flat, a live-in manager refused to use a master key to let her in because her shift had ended, and she did not wish to violate the new EU working-time directive, which calls for an 11-hour break between shifts. Instead, a neighbour had to alert a call centre in Bradford, which sent a locksmith from Bolton.

Derby: Fly-fishermen were banned from casting their flies at a Derbyshire reservoir, lest they injure passers-by. Every year, thousands of anglers fish at the Foremark Reservoir, which is run by the local water board. No one has been snared in its 40-year history.

Birmingham: Birmingham City Council announced that all apostrophes were to be banished from street signs. Councillor Martin Mullaney said it was important to have a consistent policy, and that there was no longer any need for a possessive apostrophe in most place names, "since the monarchy no longer owns Kings Heath or Kings Norton".

Oxford: The ladders that for 400 years had allowed students to reach the top shelves at the Bodleian Library in Oxford (right) were removed because of safety fears. But the library said the books would have to remain in their "historic location", out of reach, leaving students to travel as far as the British Library in London to find other copies.

Preston: A GP surgery in Preston, Lancashire, was docked £375 because it hadn't received any complaints. Under the current NHS system, surgeries are rewarded for hitting targets, one of which is to show how they deal with complaints. Since the Preston surgery didn't get any, it lost out. A spokesman for the local NHS trust said it had to follow guidelines.

Sheffield: A new primary school in Sheffield decided to omit the word 'school' from its title because it had 'negative connotations'. Watercliffe Meadow calls itself a 'place for learning'. Meanwhile, 13 secondary schools in Barnsley were also re-branded - as 'advanced learning centres'.

Bedford: Parents were banned from attending their children's sports day after organisers said it would make it impossible to guard against paedophiles. Pupils from four primary schools competed at the East Bedfordshire School Sports Day without spectators. "If we let parents in, they would have been free to roam the grounds," said a spokesman. "All unsupervised adults must be kept away from children."

London: Schools in Waltham Forest and Newham were told to close on three Muslim, Hindu and Sikh holy days this autumn, regardless of the religious mix of their pupils. In Waltham Forest, Hindus form 2% of the population and Sikhs just 0.6%. There are more Jewish people than Sikhs in the borough yet schools were not told to close for any Jewish festivals.

London: Swimmers at an outdoor pool in East London were told they could not go for a dip if the weather was too wet. Customers at the London Fields Lido in Hackney were made to wait outside when it rained, because staff said the shower could cloud the water, making it hard for lifeguards to see into the pool. Hackney council confirmed that this was part of its health-and-safety policy.

Bossy Britain: a few of the year's more fatuous edicts and unnecessary bits of advice...

Children were given a leaflet informing them that good sex was not just a 'right', but also a health benefit. The document, produced by NHS Sheffield, was entitled *Pleasure*, and featured the slogan: 'An orgasm a day keeps the doctor away'. Inside, it read: 'Health experts advocate five portions of fruit and veg a day. What about sex or masturbation twice a week?'

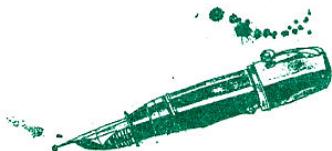
The Government spent £24,765 removing one noun from the name of a Whitehall department. The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) was rebranded as Communities and Local Government (CLG), requiring a new logo and headed paper. A minister told MPs that the rebranding was necessary to 'emphasise the mission of the department'.

Teachers were given a training manual on how to use a full stop. The manual, part of the National Literacy Strategy, contained advice such as: "Verbs are very important. They are the words that tell you what is happening in a sentence."

A report that took two years to compile and cost taxpayers £500,000 concluded that rail passengers were liable to experience "negative" feelings if their train was late and no one told them why.

Farmers were advised to wear earmuffs when feeding pigs, to protect themselves from "dangerously" loud squeals. The Health and Safety Executive said the noise of hungry pigs could be as damaging to hearing as that of a chainsaw or power drill.

With thanks to 'the Week', December 26th, 2009



The Abbey Habit



Chris Price

Just when it seemed that ecumenical relations were thawing, an Anglican bishop has launched a vicious attack on the morals of Roman Catholic monks. Obviously, this statement needs qualifying...

According to a report in *The Times*, the Bishop of Aberdeen and the Orkneys in the Scottish Episcopal Church (that's the Anglican church in the frozen north) has accused the Devon-based Roman Catholic monks of Buckfast Abbey of betraying Christian values.

They are the mass producers of Buckfast fortified wine, 'regarded by some as the scourge of Scotland', according to reporter Melanie Read. Bishop Gillies says: 'What sort of moral double-take is there that these monks can be so closely associated with that product and knowingly aware of the social damage as well as the medical damage it is doing to the kids who take it in such vast volumes? The monks at Buckfast are in a Benedictine monastery founded upon the rule of St Benedict, who urged his monks to live a simple life... I would have thought he would have been very, very unhappy with what his monks are doing nowadays.'

The reason for this sense of outrage? The drink known colloquially as 'Buckie' has featured in 5,000 crimes in the last three years reported by Strathclyde Police, including 114 uses of the bottle as a weapon. Each bottle contains more than 11 units of alcohol, is 15% proof and contains more caffeine than eight cans of cola. The monks sell £37 million worth of the drink a year. Broken 'Buckie' bottles make up 54% of dangerous litter in Scottish housing estates. There are more than 200 Facebook groups dedicated to it. Tellingly, it is known colloquially as Wreck the Hoose Juice, Commotion Lotion, Bottle of Fight the World, Bottle of Beat the Wife, Liquid Speed and Scranjuice.

Not surprisingly, the monks of Buckfast Abbey turned down a request by the BBC to discuss their Special Brew, while a spokesman for the company that distributes the drink absolves them of blame. 'Why should they accept moral responsibility? They're not up there pouring their Buckfast down somebody's throat. They produce a good product. I drink it. Now if I thought there was something wrong with it, would I drink it...?' The company have threatened to sue public figures who criticise the drink.

Here in the temperate south (!) Buckie has possibly yet to take hold, and moderate bishops of the good old C. of E. have yet to pronounce anathema over it. And one can only wonder, now that taking communion in both kinds has restored wine to the sanctuaries of the United Benefice, what might happen if the good monks of Buckfast

brought out a really full-bodied altar wine to liven up our Sunday mornings. It might at least slow down the decline in communicants. This writer seems to recall the original invitation to partake of the communion cup was pleasingly phrased, 'Drink Ye *All Of This*'

Attachments



It is good to be able to give details of the three ordinands who will be joining us in the coming weeks. Phil Saltmarsh is already here for his 16-week stint, and is enjoying the unfamiliar experience of dressing up in a red frock and serving the altar. Craig Roter and Stephen Holt will be joining us from Mirfield for Holy Week. They introduce themselves:

Phil Saltmarsh

Hi, my name is Phil and I am undertaking part time training for non stipendiary ministry on the Southern North West Training Partnership (SNWTP) . This is essentially the old Northern Ordination Course (NOC).

I have been married to Jane for 16 years and have two boys, Christopher aged 13 and Matthew aged 12. We also have a very energetic pet dog called Patch.

I support Liverpool F.C., love music, 'eating' and going for a pint. I enjoy looking at the art and architecture of Liverpool and I am a recent convert to cycling in an attempt to hold back the years and also get fit!

My day job is working as a Team Leader for a group of Hospital Macmillan Nurses at the Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen Hospitals. Working in end- of-life care has greatly informed my call to ministry and I am training for Ministry in Secular Employment, which I hope will better prepare me for supporting patients and families as well as staff to provide improved care for people especially when they are dying from an advanced and incurable illness.

My home church is St Mary's, Grassendale, in South Liverpool and I hope that my placement here at St Faiths and St Marys, will give me an opportunity to learn and understand more about worshipping in a different Anglican tradition and also give me an opportunity to give something back to you.

Craig Roter

I'm Craig, originally from Manchester and now in my final year at Mirfield. Before college I read theology as an undergraduate in Durham, spent a gap-year at St Albans Abbey and trained as a secondary school teacher. All being well (and God willing!)

I'll be made deacon this Petertide and will serve my curacy near Oldham in the Diocese of Manchester. I'm very much looking forward to spending Holy Week at St Faith's and St Mary's. Despite being a Mancunian, I've always enjoyed visiting Liverpool and once spent a summer in the city with a 'Jesus Volunteer Community'. I look forward to celebrating Holy Week and Easter with you, but until then I hope you all have a happy and holy Lent.

Stephen Holt

My name is Stephen Holt, though I prefer to be called Steve at all times. I am 45 years of age and am currently a first year student at the College of the Resurrection in Mirfield, West Yorkshire. I am sponsored by the diocese of Lincoln, as that is where I have lived for the majority of my life. I am due to be Ordained Deacon (hopefully) in July 2011.

Immediately prior to arriving at Mirfield, I worked with the long term unemployed, mostly those released from Prison or Young Offenders institutions. My main work with them was to help them back into work, working with local employers to get students on to work placements and so build confidence and self esteem and to get them back into sustained employment where possible. I suppose that you could say that I was engaged in a form of priestly mission even then, reaching out to people where they were, those who felt forgotten and unwanted by society. I am very much looking forward to the experience of Celebrating Holy Week with you in the Parish and to be able to take part in services in a more involved way and hearing your stories too.

Jesus Wept!

Chris Price



Last month we featured a review, with entertaining and thought-provoking extracts, from Ysenda Maxtone Graham's splendid book 'The Church Hesitant' (Hodder & Stoughton, ISBN 0-340-56906-9: the book is out of print, but I have ordered one second-hand!). To relieve the impending gloom of Lent, I am dipping into just one chapter: 'The Sense of Humour' – and trying to let the extracts speak for themselves.

“Sometimes you can't help wishing that the Apostles had written more down. It would be fascinating to know whether Jesus actually laughed. He does not laugh once in the Bible; he weeps. And if you look in Crudence's 'Concordance' to see if he ever even smiled, you find that the index goes straight from 'Smelling' to 'Smite' No one smiles in the Bible, and most of the laughing is laughing to scorn.”

From this challenging beginning Y.M.G. goes on to explore the roots of laughter and the differing attitudes to Christian humour in the Anglican Church. She believes that 'modern Anglicans' like to talk instead about Jesus's wit, citing the witty illustrations

of the Sermon on the Mount. She wonders if there was laughter in the Garden of Eden. 'I worry that there wasn't. What would there have been to laugh about? Something has to be a bit out of place for there to be any reason for laughter.... And are they all laughing at the heavenly banquet? Laughter is so wonderful that you can scarcely imagine Heaven without it. But what could they be laughing about? Not about us on earth, struggling away with our illnesses and overdrafts: *that* wouldn't be very heavenly behaviour. Nor about the funny food you get at the heavenly banquet: *that* would be a bit ungrateful. Where everything is delicious and perfect, nothing is funny.'

Food for thought there. I seem to remember Alan Bennett (who was in his youth a devout 'high' Anglican) wondering whether, if Jesus didn't smile, he ever *smirked*: an entertaining if irreverent question. Ms Graham maintains that Anglican humour is 'sweet' and harmless: its jokes and cartoons gently affectionate rather than blasphemous or biting. "But, for guffaws," she says, 'the browser at the news-stand would go for *Private Eye*. 'Three billion Archangels axed as recession bites, by our Celestial Staff. On other pages: Never a crossword up here, p.24. Unfunny cartoon by Leonardo, p.94.'"

She continues to hit the target unerringly, with acute observations on the profuse and unfunny Anglican use of multiple exclamation marks, especially in round-Robin photocopied Christmas letters. And she is at her best, as usual, when dissecting differences of churchmanship.

"The Church of England laughs at itself, and this is healthy. It is a truism that Anglo-Catholics laugh at themselves more than evangelicals do, because evangelicals are frightened that making fun of anything to do with Jesus is blasphemy. You will find Anglican catholics having long and hilarious conversations about priceless vestments; you will see them sniffing incense in packets in shops and saying 'Mmmmm!' with sensual breath. The St Stephen's House ordinands were unimpressed that the evangelical Wycliffe Hall ordinands down the road refused to buy raffle tickets for their good cause, because it counted as gambling. 'Oak Hill came here to play soccer,' says the Bursar of Salisbury and Wells Theological College, 'and one of our students censored the touchline and the goal. The Oak Hill chap in the prayers afterwards made it clear that he was not amused.' Anglo-catholics have lots of toys to worship with and they play with them."

There are more insights. "The clergy," she declares, "have to let off steam in the privacy of their own homes and preferably with each other. Parishioners are highly offendable: the gentlest tease can be taken as a terrible insult. The parishioner's strongest weapon is non-attendance at church, and it always hurts. So you see clergy being safely and feebly funny on the high street, keen not to hurt anyone and thus not daring to say anything rude. In private, hilarity breaks out."

To end the chapter, Ms Graham talks about Lord Runcie. "I asked Lord Runcie about the Anglican sense of humour. 'There's no laughter at the innermost recesses of our

faith,' he said. 'Tragedies are dealt with by a cross. But on the outskirts of our faith humour is the best safeguard against fantastical nonsense.' Then he gave a speech to the doctors and nurses at St Luke's Hospital for the Clergy, accepting on their behalf an ophthalmic microscope from the Corporations of the Sons of the Clergy. His eyes sparkled with merriment on either side of the deep furrow down his brow. He was funny about his own retina and the doctors and nurses laughed. His gratitude was steeped in natural wit."

Those of us who fondly recall the late Archbishop of Canterbury, who began his journey at St Faith's all those years ago and visited us whenever he could, will remember his gentle, compassionate but searching wit. Over nearly half a century, this writer has revelled in the laughter to be found in the family of St Faith's, and has shared many a holy, and unholy, joke in these pages and online (where a compendium of jokes is stacked up on the church website). Not all have been found equally funny by everyone, but it is my hope that God, whose divine sense of humour is so clearly manifest in so many of his human creations, is happy that we who try to follow him can see the funny side of it all as well.

Priest Called in to Banish Pitch Demons

Marine bad luck blamed on evil spirits



Food for thought in the banner headline on the front page of our local newspaper recently. Marine F.C., our local team, have been suffering a run of unnaturally bad luck recently, it transpires. They have lost their last five games, been knocked out of two competitions and had their only recent victory 'scrubbed out due to a freak floodlight failure.'

'Coupled with an horrific injury list that has seen THREE players sidelined with broken legs – one of whom faces the agony of his leg being re-broken by doctors,' the club's manager 'is convinced all is not right at the Arriva (stadium)' And he has called in a Roman Catholic priest from down the road in Roby to 'banish demons from the team's stadium' (and possibly to banish the Powers of Darkness and keep the lights working?) The priest duly prayed over the pitch, before 'sprinkling holy water in the goalmouths and across the playing surface.'

Only time will tell how effectively the prayed-for divine intervention will prove, and we of course wish Marine every blessing. The report lists the next home fixture as being against Kendal Town. This writer hopes that they will not have heard about this turn of events, for fear that they might bring along their bishop to pray for their success. Heaven alone knows what would happen.... Meanwhile, should Marine do really well, it might be worth asking the Vicar to sprinkle the church overdraft or pray over the editor's church lottery numbers.



MARCH 6th - An Important Date for your Diary

LEAVE A STAIN ON YOUR TABLE NOT YOUR CONSCIENCE...

With only 10% of tea sold in the UK being Fairtrade, isn't it time all producers got a fair deal? Make every cuppa a Fairtrade cuppa!

Over 20 million people in developing countries rely on the tea industry for their livelihoods. But it is small-scale farmers and workers who benefit the least from it. Many lead extremely hard lives, doing physically demanding work for low pay.

As UK consumers we have the power to tackle this injustice. The UK is the world's third biggest importer of tea – that makes us a powerful player in the global tea trade.

165 million cups of tea are drunk in the UK every day - make them Fairtrade!

Traidcraft is working to make every cup of tea in the UK Fairtrade. It's only with your help that we can encourage the big 5 tea brands to make it fair and go Fairtrade.

The UK's top five brands account for 72% of the UK tea market and directly affect the lives of over one million tea workers worldwide. Within the tea industry many small-scale farmers and workers lead extremely hard lives, doing physically demanding work for low pay.

If the biggest tea brands switched to Fairtrade they would make a real difference to many people's lives.



ACT NOW. Please join us at our BIG BREW EVENT on MARCH 6th in ST FAITH'S from 10 A.M. to 12 NOON ...AND HELP TO MAKE IT HAPPEN.

Enjoy Fairtrade refreshments, visit the Fairtrade stalls, try a tea quiz and join the campaign. Entry £1 to include refreshments and entry to a draw for a Fairtrade hamper.

Notice Board

Two pilgrimages which might be of interest.

PILGRIMAGE TO IONA

BISHOP DAVID HOPE

19th-24th April 2010

Leaves from York

5 days on the island of Iona with addresses and regular eucharists

Half Board

£475

www.ukltg.com



CELTIC SUMMER PILGRIMAGE

Holy Island, Bamburgh, Lastingham, Whitby & Monkwearmouth

2nd-9th August 2010

Based: St Chad's College, Durham

Regular worship in Durham Cathedral

Led by Revd Rob Marshall (Thought for the Day Radio 4)

Mainly Half Board £450

www.ukltg.com

Tel 01482 562455 for full colour brochure or download from www.ukltg.com

Parish Purse Receipts

January/December 2009

<u>No.</u> 3. £255	<u>No.</u> 22. £115	<u>No.</u> 35. £140
5. £260	23. £174	36. £930
7. £480	24. £365	37. £102
8. £520	25. £880	38. £105
9. £183	26. £260	39. £185
10. £101	27. £355	41. £590
11. £45	29. £218	42. £51
14. £60	30. £36	43. £107
16. £255	31. £148	46. £652
18. £165	32. £100	47. £735
19. £260	34. £520	49. £675

Talking Talents (and trivia)

Many thanks to everyone who has kept the Talents income flowing over recent weeks and months. At the time of writing, the total raised, including Gift Aid to be reclaimed on some monies, is just past the excellent and encouraging **£2,500** mark.

When we started the scheme, we were fairly confident of raising £1,000, and set the target at twice that. When the funds were boosted significantly by the Christmas Tree Festival, the bar was raised to £3,000 – and it looks as if it will be necessary to lift it again soon! This income is vital to our fund-raising (see Fr Neil's hint on page 6), so please keep on making and spending money for The Cause.

Thanks again to all who contribute to, or comment (favourably!) upon *Newslink* and the church website (www.stfaithsgreatcrosby.org.uk). All offerings are always welcome – and it is the editor's hope that the occasional preponderance of seemingly flippant items and ancient jokes, together with the continuing preoccupation with caustic comments about the world today, nevertheless help to make for a satisfactory balance, especially during the gloomy months of winter and the solemn days of Lent.

The cartoon below, the work of a local artist, is an example of the sort of thing I mean. It is not specifically aimed at our mature congregation: who are young at heart of not of years...

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The Parish Directory and Church Organisations



VICAR

Fr. Neil Kelley, The Vicarage, Milton Road, Waterloo. L22 4RE
Vicarage telephone (all enquiries) 928 3342; fax 920 2901

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR and CHURCH BOOKINGS

Liz Mooney, Parish Office, 32 Brooklands Avenue
928 9913 (usually Monday to Wednesday 9.30 am – 4.30 pm)
email parishadministrator@btinternet.com

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 Kari Dodson, 51 Stafford Road, Southport. PR8 4LX. 01704 565725
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
Mrs Rosie Walker, 17 Mayfair Avenue, Crosby. L23 3TL. 924 6267

TREASURER

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

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

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Mr Sam Austin, 42 Arch View Crescent, Liverpool, L1 7BA. 07921 840616.
email samOaustin@googlemail.com

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Mr Stephen Hargreaves, 86 Molyneux Road, Waterloo. L22 4QZ. 07939 119220

SACRISTAN

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

ASSISTANT SACRISTAN

Mr Leo Appleton, Flat 6, 45 Crosby Rd N, Seaforth. L21 1EN. 07969 513087

SENIOR SERVER

Mr Ken Bramwell, 93 Rimrose Valley Road, Crosby. L23 9TF. 924 9894

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

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

CHOIR PRACTICE

Friday 7.15 pm - 8.30 pm. Sam Austin 07921 840616

MAGAZINE EDITOR

and WEBSITE MANAGER

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

The **April 2010 'Newslink'** will be distributed on or before **Sunday, March 21st**.
Copy by **Sunday, March 7th**, please - but all contributions are welcome at any time.

Church website: <http://www.stfaithsgreatcrosby.org.uk>
email cdavidprice@gmail.com



