



# **Newslink**

**St Faith's Church, Great Crosby  
Parish Magazine  
MAY 2012**

# Worship at Saint Faith's

*Please consult the weekly sheets or website for any variation in service times*

## SUNDAYS

### 11.00am SOLEMN MASS and Children's Church

1.00pm Holy Baptism (2nd Sunday)

6.00pm Evening Service and Benediction (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday)

## WEEKDAY MASSES

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

## THE DIVINE OFFICE (The Prayer of the Church)

**Morning Prayer:** 9am daily (except Thursday & Friday)

**Evening Prayer:** 6pm daily (except Wednesday & Thursday)

## 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 regularly make home or hospital visits to the sick and housebound so please call to arrange this.





**From the Ministry Team**

**May 2012**

Dear Friends,

The celebrations of Easter Day are past for another year, and what wonders we do celebrate. Newcomers to our Christian faith may think of Easter as a season when we are required to believe three impossible things before breakfast but seasoned Christians know that with God, all things are possible. We are incredibly fortunate in that hundreds of saints have gone before us and left indications of their experience and learning in books, art, music and buildings. In the early days after the Resurrection Jesus' followers had no such resource but then they were blessed to walk with Our Lord in person. With faith, we can feel God walk with us, and we must always invite him: into his hands we commend ourselves each day.

One helpful rule we can practise, like the followers of St. Ignatius, is to review and resolve, not only on a daily basis, but also through the seasons. As we look back on the Easter preparations we made in Lent, we can recall what particular Lenten discipline we have used this year. Did we give something up, or take on something new? What has been our experience of living through this on a daily basis? Have we learned anything new? Has it strengthened our Christian faith? Will it all fade away when we pick up the threads of normal life again? Or will we successfully resolve to incorporate that discipline into our lives to make us stronger and more effective Christians?

It is good that the Church has a regular cycle of seasons. Hopefully Lent and Easter bring to us a deeper understanding of Christ's mysteries each year. Now that the good news is received, and the festivities only memories, what next? We need a period of reflection to assimilate our new understanding, to re-draw the map of our faith: to extend it and place ourselves firmly in a new place, at the hub of our vision: to make our new learnings a part of us. This can take considerable time, but thanks be to God he does not expect perfection - rather, that deepening understanding comes every year as we grow through the seasons.

Living a Christian life requires patience. Spiritual growth is not the end of the line, but part of a regular spiral which leads us, through prayer and contemplation, into greater gratitude and love for Father, Son and Holy Spirit - which results in us a desire to give service. To complete our cycle of faith we then need to commit ourselves to action in the name of the Lord, we must be prepared to share our faith with all the world and show, by our own actions to each other, the true nature of God... a tall order! Fortunately Jesus assures us he will send the Comforter ( literally ‘ with strength ‘) to support us, and thus we look forward to reaching the season of Pentecost, always drawn into further experience of faith by continuing to follow our Lord Jesus Christ.

May the Lord continue to bless us all,  
With love and prayers,

*Cynthia*



**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May: 9.30am-1.30pm**

**Joint PCCs' Away Day – Seafarer's Centre, Waterloo**

**Theme: "Going for Growth, Part Two"**

*Last year we looked at the areas of numerical growth, spiritual growth, financial growth and the ways in which these areas overlap and work together. This year, we will review our progress, agree what needs to be kept going and what more we need to concentrate on for 2012/13.*

**The day is open to all who wish to attend – not just PCC members - all those who love their Lord and their Church are welcome!**

The Bishop's  
**Growth**  
Agenda

## **From the Organ Loft**

***We asked Daniel Rathbone to introduce himself...***



I was probably about six when my interest in organ music was sparked. Saturday afternoons were spent listening to Ian Wells and Ian Tracey rehearsing at Liverpool Cathedral. There was no turning back when Ian Tracey presented me with some recordings and a book about the cathedral organ.

Soon after this I auditioned for and joined the Metropolitan Cathedral Choir as a chorister. This opened the door to a wealth of new experiences. I began to understand the discipline of music and the great rewards that came with it.

After leaving the Cathedral Choir, I had more time to work for my Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. I became more involved in voluntary work and outdoor activities including kayaking and trekking. No doubt the highlight, on completion was attending St James's Palace and meeting the Duke of Edinburgh.

At the University of Huddersfield, I studied organ specialising in composition for a Masters degree. During my time in West Yorkshire I played in many parishes and for over two years I was Organ Scholar at Leeds Cathedral. I was pleased to be asked to compose for the reopening of the cathedral following restoration work.

I sing with the Metropolitan Cathedral Cantata Choir. I also direct and accompany them. I help to promote liturgical music in my local Deanery and volunteer part-time in a school for children with physical disabilities. I also have several piano pupils. I believe music encourages people to work together and enriches their lives in a unique way. I already feel very much at home in St. Faith's and am delighted to join your community.



## Faith and Saints

*Lucy Davis (Nye!), to be ordained in St. Alban's cathedral on July 1st, and to serve her curacy at St. Mary's Church, Redbourne, is the latest in what is now quite a long line of women from St Faith's to join the ranks of the ordained ministry. She writes...*

Churches have long memories; that is both their gift and their challenge. I wonder whether in the memory of St Faith's there is still an image of the Sunday when a small blonde acolyte fainted at the altar and was rescued in a flurry of vestments by a dashing Father Dennis? Or the disembodied voice of the same blonde child, singing "Once in Royal" from the back of a darkened church at Christingle? Or, a little later, the young bride, so very happy and excited, surrounded by the people of St Faith's as she married her tall dark husband? Maybe not, because these are my memories; these stories are not mere postcards from the past, but form part of who I am and what I am about to become.

I will be ordained Deacon in St Albans Abbey on 1<sup>st</sup> July, a fact that still causes me some surprise despite three years of theological training and having a letter from the Bishop to prove it. Maybe to St Faith's it is not such a surprise; after all, you have a long and distinguished history of producing ordinands, even an Archbishop of

Canterbury! But to me it still seems pretty unlikely. To be a Nye growing up was to be part of Church. Worship and community became part of our DNA. But like many teenagers, I more or less rejected the faith of my parents during my time at college. Mum and Dad were always very understanding, and since they never pushed the matter, I would come to church during the vacations out of respect for them. During term time my link to God came through music. I am very lucky to have inherited Mum's voice, and sang in the choir in Keble College Chapel despite not believing in very much. The foundation, both theological and musical, that came from singing in St Faith's choir gave me the vocabulary and means of remaining open to God even though I barely knew that was the case. It is said that we learn more theology through our hymns than through sermons, and I firmly believe that to be true.

And when in my twenties I began to drift back to faith, it was St Faith's I used as a yardstick against which to measure other churches. Did they have weekly communion? Was there dignified liturgy? Was there a choir? However, my faith did not really begin to grow and mature until those tidy, comfortable habits of faith were turned upside down. I became friends with other new mums and was invited to a women's bible study group. Oh, boy was that something different: extempore prayer, literal interpretation of the bible, recordings of 45 minute sermons. My instinct to run away was tempered by the fellowship and support the group gave me, and I was forced into trying to work out what I really thought and believed. It was at much the same time that I, somewhat inconveniently, began to feel a niggle, which I recognise in retrospect as the beginning of a vocation, God calling me to the priesthood. It was a niggle I successfully ignored for a decade while the calls to motherhood and marriage shouted louder, until eventually He got through.

Training for ordination on the Eastern Region Ministry Course, an ecumenical institution based in Cambridge, has exposed me to theology and practice from across the spectrum of church tradition. The worship has been challenging at times: I have led a 'worship band' from a microphone, constructed Powerpoints to be projected, taken part in liturgical dance (yes really!). But those things that entered my spiritual DNA in the 1980s at St Faith's remain at the heart of the ministry to which I am being called: the centrality of the Eucharist, a balanced approach to biblical authority and a view of Church which has permeable edges, not dictating who is 'in' or 'out'. Moreover, as I enter St Albans Abbey this summer the Saints who have walked with me will continue to accompany me: Richard Capper, John Stone, George Goodwin, Angela Price and of course Fred and Linda Nye. To those Saints and all at St Faith's I owe my thanks and prayers.

*Lucy Davis*



## Smile, please...

The bishop was visiting a small town parish to preach at the Sunday morning service. The next day in the street a non-churchgoer asked one of the faithful whether his visit had made an impact.

‘Well’, came the reply, ‘I’d put it this way. At the end of his sermon there was a great awakening in the congregation.’

*Thanks to the magazine of St Peter, Formby*



## May Devotions to the Blessed Virgin Mary

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May at 6pm

### Choral Evensong, Procession and Te Deum

Preacher: The Revd Dr Ben Gordon-Taylor (Lecturer, College of the Resurrection, Mirfield and Director of the Mirfield Liturgical Institute)

*... followed by a glass of wine! This will be an opportunity for us to thank students from the College of the Resurrection for their link with St. Faith's during Fr. Neil's incumbency.*

## Fair Enough!

The May 5<sup>th</sup> Spring Fair is coming up over the horizon, and plans are well advanced. The day will start, for music-lovers and patrons of our regular Summer Saturday recitals, with the recital in church at 12 noon. The musicians are the Merchant Taylors' woodwind ensemble, directed by Shaun Lock (who will also be giving a clarinet recital in the Saturday season later in the season). The Spring Fair itself will open its doors at 12.30, and run until 4.30 pm. Three Sixth Formers from the Merchants' ensemble will wander round the suite, busking as they go, on and off through the afternoon, and the full group will sit down and entertain customers at the Victorian Tea in due course.

We now have a new set of stocks (pillories, to be accurate), in which Fr Neil has heroically agreed to sit and be caressed with wet sponges – for money, of course, at some stage during the afternoon. Mike Carr has nobly built the instrument of torture, and there is a possibility that he may pop in to be pelted himself at some stage.

In the Hall, and outside under cover if the weather so dictates, there will be sideshows, stalls (cakes, Jam Factory products, bric-a-brac and books) three different tombolas and assorted entertainments. We very much hope that there will at some stage be a Police Presence, featuring sniffer dogs, but the details aren't yet finalised. There will definitely be lots of food outlets all day. There will be the usual light refreshments offered to the concert-goers in church before (but not after) the 12 noon recital. There will be hot food and ice cream on sale from the hall kitchen. And in the vicarage garden, from about 2.30 pm, a gathering of elegantly-clad ladies will dispense Victorian Teas while the music plays.

There will be shelter (tents, gazebos, sky sheets) rigged all round the grounds to protect customers from the sun (or even the rain), thanks to the unstinting efforts of our hard-working uniformed organisers and their charges. The whole site will be busy and buzzing, so there will be no car parking available on the day. There will however be plenty of free parking just inside Merchant Taylors' gates, and pedestrian access to the Fair via the church main road gate only. Entry will be a mere 50p, so we hope that, despite the unfortunate coincidence of the F.A. Cup Final featuring one of our local teams, there will be throngs of folk seeking refuge in St Faith's. We may even announce any scores during the late afternoon if we can get hold of a megaphone!

This is a major fundraising event for St Faith's, and we depend greatly on help from the congregation and friends. We have already received a goodly amount of goods and offers of help (to man stalls, stewarding and so on) but we need more. So please see what you can do to make our Spring Fair the success it surely promises to be.

## **PCC Induction/Refresher**

*Fr Neil*



At the forthcoming Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) we will have a newly formed PCC. I'd like to offer an induction for new PCC members which will also be open to existing (and even veteran!) PCC members as a refresher. The induction will probably last for about two hours (including refreshments) and we will run two sessions: one in the evening and one in the morning. The content in each session will be identical so you will only need to attend one:

7-9pm Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May in the coffee lounge at St Mary's  
10am-12noon Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May in St Faith's Church

The sessions will be run jointly by me and Geoff Dunn and will cover the following:

### **Part 1 - What is the PCC?**

**The remit of the PCC** (including Finance, Mission, Outreach, Buildings, Employment, Consultation etc.)

**The membership of the PCC** (categories and how long each member serves for etc.)

**Who is on our PCC** (a run through of the members explaining who does what)

**The Standing Committee** (explanation of the purpose and membership)

## **Part 2 - The PCC Meeting Cycle**

When and where the meetings take place

What is covered at each meeting, including the APCM

Minutes and other information (who creates them, how they are distributed etc.)

Expectation for other events e.g. Quiet Days etc.

## **Part 3 - Skills & Competencies**

What are the skills and competencies PCC Members would ideally have or develop.

Training recommendations.

## **Part 4 - Questions and Answers**

Please let Geoff Dunn know if you would like to attend and which of the two sessions is your preference.

# **What's new, Pussycat?**



A cat dies and goes to heaven. God meets him at the gate and says, 'You have been a good cat all these years. You can have anything you desire, all you have to do is ask.'

'Well,, said the cat, 'I lived all my life on a farm and had to sleep on hardwood floors.' 'Say no more' says God and instantly a fluffy pillow appears.

A few days later, six mice are killed in a tragic accident and they also, of course, go to heaven. God meets them at the gate with the same offer he made to the cat. 'All our life,' the mice say, 'we've had to run. Cats, dogs, women with brooms have chased us. If we had roller skates, we wouldn't have to run any more.' God says he can take care of it and, instantly, each mouse is fitted with a beautiful pair of tiny roller skates.

A week later God checks on the cat, which is asleep on its pillow. God gently nudges him awake and asks, 'How are you doing? Are you happy here?'

'Never been happier,' says the cat, stretching and yawning. 'And those meals on wheels you've been sending over are great!'

*Thanks to Margaret McDonald*

# Visitation Service

*Fr Neil*

For those wardens and sides-people recently elected to office please note that you are required to attend the **Archdeacon's Visitation Service** which is on **Wednesday 9th May at 7.30pm in St. Paul's, Hatton Hill.**



## A Life in the Day

*Following the recent death of Dorothy Wilson, we have resurrected an article from the mid-1990s, when Denis Whalley interviewed her, and reproduce it as a tribute to a great lady, laid to rest on what would have been her 102nd birthday.*

**Octogenarian Dorothy 'Dot' Wilson, the first lady in Litherland to ride pillion wearing breeches, tells DENNIS WHALLEY about her life and a typical day in it.**

I wake at about 7.30, make a cup of tea and go back to bed where I doze and listen to Radio Merseyside for about an hour and a half. Home is a granny flat on the top floor of 22, College Road which is owned by my daughter Carol and her husband Malcolm and which was the former Vicarage for St Faith's.

My formal education came to an abrupt end when I was 15 as I was required to leave school before matriculating in order to look after my sick mother. This duty continued until I was 25 when I was given permission to marry after an unusual courtship which lasted six years. I met Jim in 1929 when I was 19. His mother said she would rather he did not marry until his older brother had completed his apprenticeship. Jim was a very keen athlete and would come home on Saturday evening exhausted; but in any event we could never venture far because my grandfather (whom I was also nursing) required his Ovaltine each evening at 10.30 come hell or high water. Two years after meeting Jim we had a row and I didn't speak to him because he took another young lady for a ride on the back of his motor cycle! He joined a dance band which he played in for the rest of his life.

Despite all of that we eventually found time to marry. After mother said OK we went out and put down £5 deposit on a house and Dad paid the £25 balance of deposit for our wedding present and we lived there for the whole of the 52 years of our married life. Our only child, Carol, was born in 1942. I got my first paid job when I was 50 after gaining my City and Guilds in domestic cookery. A telephone call came out of the blue from Sister Aloysius, Head of St Vincent's School for the Blind, inviting me to teach cookery at her school. I was very apprehensive and prayed long and hard because I had no qualifications either to teach or work with the blind. Although I didn't think I was up to the job, I agreed upon a trial period of six months and ended up

staying 16 years. It was a Roman Catholic boarding school and I went on to teach domestic science also. Actually, we taught independence and not just skills. It was a wonderful time and I miss the kids so much.

In 1972 the BBC asked me to appear on the 'Pebble Mill' programme to give a live demonstration of my teaching. My student was asked to produce egg and bacon (which is a difficult meal for a blind person to cook) and in the rehearsal the egg missed the plate and went on to the table, to the amusement of the cameraman who said that we should repeat the trick during the actual broadcast... but the final product was faultless.

My husband died suddenly in December 1986. He dropped a cup of tea that I'd just handed to him and that was it, he had gone. We scattered his ashes on the River Scar near Thornhill, Dumfriesshire, where in the previous October he had his best salmon catch ever. This was Jim's favourite fishing location and an oil painting of the exact spot hangs on my living-room wall.

In the main, my day is spent in pursuit of my hobbies, rehearsing with the choir of the Townswomen's Guild, gardening, music, embroidery, Bootle Soroptimists, reading, visiting my wide circle of friends and a little TV. The soaps are pathetic but I continue to watch to see if they can ever sort out their continuity. I keep meaning to write in pointing out the mistakes but haven't done it yet. Every three weeks I take the train to Manchester to see an elderly aunt in a nursing home.

I am a great believer that God will help if you ask him in prayer. He certainly helped me last May when my sister-in-law was hit by a speeding car as we were crossing a road together in Morecambe. I was with her in the intensive care unit of Lancaster Infirmary when she died seven hours later. When I was being interviewed by the police immediately after the accident I prayed that I could pull myself together and say the right things. As it happens, the driver was still under the influence of the alcohol he had consumed the previous night and was both speeding and driving recklessly and I have been warned to go to give evidence at his forthcoming trial.

Prior to moving into my flat two years ago, I had worshipped all of my life at St Phillip's, Litherland. Carol asked me what I was going to do as I couldn't get to Litherland and I decided on St Faith's. On my first day I was met at the door by Kath Broadbent and when she learnt I was a newcomer she introduced me to Fr Richard. He and Vivian (*Fr Vivian Enever, Ed.*) went out of their way to welcome me and I am eternally grateful to them both.

Bed-time is around about 11.15. Unfortunately, I don't sleep well and I wake up in the night and read. I think about Jim a lot. Sometimes I get the feeling he's not very far away. A few nights ago I dreamed about him ... we were going on holiday and he was putting suitcases into the car. Occasionally I think about my death. It doesn't frighten me at all. I regard it as a new experience, something I've never done before. When I go I just want to go quickly, like Jim.

# 100+ Club Winners

## March

- 1 59 Audrey Dawson
- 2 38 Chris Price
- 3 19 Peter and Karen Lunt
- 4 96 Ken Bramwell

## April

- 1 43 Richard Woodley
- 2 121 John Knight
- 3 97 Lawrence Cleary
- 4 44 Kari Dodson



## St. Mary's Patronal Festival Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> May at 7.30pm

*(The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth)*

## FESTAL EUCHARIST

*followed by cheese and wine*

**Preacher: Father Colin Oxenforth**

## Here We Go Again

After a quiet few weeks, three examples of choice idiocy – one of them with tragic consequences - appeared in the papers in the same day...

### **Bunting risk safety checks for jubilee party**

A council has ordered a health and safety test be carried out before a town puts up bunting for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Street party organisers in Wivenhoe, Essex, were planning to hang lightweight plastic Union flags around a playing field but were told that officials would need to carry out structural surveys before giving the go-ahead.

### **Sport Relief's rower scuttled by red tape**

It was billed as a week of hell to raise money for the charity Sport Relief. But a feat of endurance from Paris to London has come up against a different kind of misery – French bureaucracy.

Liverpool comedian John Bishop's Week of Hell, in which he rides, rows and runs the 290 miles between the two capitals has been scuppered because French officials have banned the channel crossing.

They are worried that rowing the 21 miles from Calais to Dover is 'unorthodox' and unsafe and fear it will cause disruption in shipping lanes.

### **Firemen refused to go into 3ft-deep lake as man floated face down**

Firemen and police who left a man floating face down in a 3ft-deep lake because they were not trained to enter the water might have saved him had they acted sooner, an inquest heard.

A witness begged the first fireman to arrive but he refused because the water was 'above ankle deep'. A specialist water rescue team arrived half an hour later, but the man was declared dead in hospital. The witness said that one of the police went in to get him out but was told he was not allowed. I said 'You're having a laugh.' He said, 'No, that's health and safety.'

The fire chief said, 'The officers were trained to go into water ankle deep, which is level one, so we waited for level two officers, who can go into chest high.'

### **And an afterthought (not true but worth repeating)**

In a Liverpool church recently the preacher said, 'Anyone with special needs who wants to be prayed over, please come forward to the front by the altar.'

With that, Wayne got in line, and when it was his turn, the preacher asked, "Wayne, what do you want me to pray about for you?"

The lad replied, 'Preacher, I need you to pray for help with my hearing.' The preacher put one finger of one hand in Wayne's ear, placed his other hand on top of his head, and then prayed and prayed and the whole congregation joined in with great enthusiasm.

After a few minutes, the preacher removed his hands, stood back and asked, 'Wayne, how is your hearing now?'

Wayne answered, 'I don't know. It norruntil Thursday.'



**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2012 at 11.00 am**  
**“Diamond Jubilee” High Mass**



**Preacher:**  
**Fr Steve Holt**

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

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

## **The Treasurer's Annual Financial Report**

*This is an extract from the Annual Report that was presented to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on the 23 April:*

It has been another challenging year for fundraising and giving but the outlook is brighter following an energetic Stewardship Renewal Campaign towards the end of the year. The full effect of this will be felt later in the year.

Payment of the Parish Share remains a large commitment for the parish but the PCC took the decision during the year to repay the outstanding debt as quickly as possible, to pay full Parish Share from Easter 2012 and to lead a Stewardship Renewal Campaign. Training was provided for visitors and a full pack of information was provided. The Parish Share to be paid to the Diocese has risen from £3,731 per month in 2011 to £3,787 in 2012. Collections have fallen slightly but this is being addressed. Although there has been a focus on raising additional funds, it is very encouraging to note a reduction in the overall cost of church activities; this is a continuing trend that

has seen a fall of 25% over the past three years. This has been achieved through seeking better value-for-money in our supplies and cutting out unnecessary expenditure.

Gift Aid tax recovered continues to be a very important source of income for the parish, although there has been a drop in 2011. This is due, partly, to an overall reduction in gift aid donations but also to the stopping of the transitional relief (due to the tax changes in the 2008 Budget).

The church continues to be grateful to those who leave legacies for the church in their Will and the PCC approved a new Legacies Policy to clarify the position. Our thanks are extended to those families who give generously in memory of loved ones.

It is pleasing to note that the Saturday Recitals and Christmas Tree Festival again proved to be very successful. Apart from the (welcome) income, it has been encouraging to see so many visitors to the church for these events. Table Sales for the improvement of the hall have been very successful and other fundraising activities have been well supported. Our grateful thanks are recorded to all those who gave their time and talents to raise much-needed funds for the church.

The long-standing issue of the gas supply was finally resolved to our benefit and a contract has been in place with British Gas since July 2011. The renewal of the lease for the sub-station, however, remains unresolved.

The financial position for 2012 is more stable than it has been for some time, due to careful management and an increase in planned giving from the Stewardship Renewal Campaign. The PCC and the Finance Committee continue to manage the charity's financial affairs prudently.

*David Jones, Treasurer*



**Let's give the tools -  
to help people in poverty out of poverty**

**Christian Aid Week: 13–19 May 2012**

Thousands of churches will stand together this Christian Aid Week to speak out for change. Some 100,000 committed volunteers will go out and put their faith into action, raising funds to help some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people. This includes Britain's largest house-to-house collection – an extraordinary act of witness, demonstrating to our communities that we care about poverty and justice.

This year, Christian Aid Week tells the story of remarkable change taking place in a community in rural Sierra Leone. Sierra Leone is one of the hungriest countries in the

world. But helped by Christian Aid partner the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone (MCSL), some people there have found the tools to move beyond hunger and speak out for the changes they want to see.

Christian Aid currently works with 507 partner organisations in 47 countries around the world. From Sierra Leone to Tajikistan, from Kenya to Bolivia, we are helping communities to make their voices heard and look towards a brighter future.

We believe that poverty is a scandal and that it can be ended. Look out for local events and discover how you can get involved by contacting your Christian Aid Week representative, or by visiting [caweek.org](http://caweek.org)

## **Pause for Thought**

*An article in the 'Daily Telegraph' is worth quoting in full*

Last September, in the final weeks of his life, the New Labour strategist Philip Gould gave a moving interview to The Guardian. Dying of throat cancer at the age of 61, Lord Gould had done a lot of thinking about the meaning of life in a short time. The interviewer mentioned, in passing, that his subject had found religion, lost it briefly when he had witnessed terrible pain in intensive care, and then rediscovered his faith.

That was all. They moved on swiftly to politics. I found that article so frustrating. Here was a highly intelligent, worldly man, a superb operator in a party which famously 'didn't do God', who had chosen to become a believer. It was a position I knew Philip Gould would not have arrived at fearfully or lazily, but rather, spiritedly, and maybe even full of hope. For Christ's sake, if one of our leading pollsters had cast his vote for the life to come, then why didn't he get the chance to tell us about his Christianity?

My guess is the interviewer found the subject hideously embarrassing. Too uncool for words. The fact that Gould, a brilliant moderniser of the Left, had chosen to be confirmed into the sad old Church of England! These days, celebrities can confess to pretty much anything - drugs, facelifts, deforestation of the front bottom - but when it comes to religious belief suddenly everyone squirms and studies their shoes. Homosexuality is no longer the love that dare not speak its name, Oscar; now it's Christianity.

For a liberal elite, religion is amusing mumbo-jumbo at best; at worst, it's Catholic priests who are always molesting choirboys (amazing how they find time to run all those missions in dangerous places, isn't it?). As a nation, we have gone from god-fearing to god-jeering faster than you can say the Lord is my shepherd I shall not want.

This was the point made by Baroness Warsi during her visit to the Vatican this week. British society, she warned, is under threat from a rising tide of 'militant secularisation'. Naturally, it took a Muslim to mount a vocal defence of Christianity. Actually, I reckon that Lady Warsi understated the case. Mocked, marginalised and increasingly absent from people's lives, the Church of England is on course to disappear from these isles within three generations, unless there's a miracle. Anyone who doubts this thesis is simply not paying enough attention. At my funeral, still a few decades away, God willing, I expect the congregation will know the prayers and the hymns that have sustained mankind for centuries and are part of the mental furniture of my own life. But at the funerals of my children when they are old or at those of my grandchildren yet to be born? I seriously doubt it. Christianity may yet return to where it began; a faith practised in secret by small, devout sects poring over illuminated iPads.

An English professor at Cambridge tells me that, for the first time, they have put the Bible on the undergraduate reading list. 'We can no longer assume students will be familiar with it,' he says. So Christianity will die of ignorance because, shamefully, so many of our young people haven't been taught the tenets of the great Judeo-Christian tradition which underpins their country's laws, institutions and culture. Christianity will die of materialism, which measures out life in phone upgrades. Finally, Christianity will die out because people like me, who are supposed to believe in it, are too hesitant to nail our colours to the cross. Lord knows, many of us have sighed with Woody Allen, 'If only God would give me some clear sign! Like making a large deposit in my name in a Swiss bank account.'

And what will we have instead of the C of E - Richard Dawkins? God help us. The high priest of atheism - known as The Dork to his students at Oxford, and not affectionately - has been everywhere this week trumpeting a poll by his foundation, The Richard Dawkins Foundation for the Worship of the Supreme Rational Being (Richard Dawkins). A jubilant Dork pointed out that his poll showed that even those of us who say we are Christians don't always believe in its teachings. As a result, he says Christianity should be banished from the public realm; we should evict bishops from the House of Lords, abolish faith schools and get rid of chaplains in NHS hospitals for the crime of bringing comfort to the lonely and the dying.

Dawkins is incapable of understanding why people would go on calling themselves Christians when they don't read the Bible or go to church. Words like ritual and mystery are, well, a mystery to him. When the National Secular Society won its case against Bideford council last week and had prayers banned at the start of council meetings, I could see how certain councillors might object to addressing words they don't understand to a supreme being they don't believe in. Who couldn't? But I still felt the decision was wrong. It was the start of the erosion of something precious which, once lost, we can never get back. Just as we are now desperately trying to pour education back into schools where tradition, respect and even learning itself has drained away.

A week ago, I attended Evensong at Jesus College, Cambridge, where the Small Boy is a chorister. I hadn't been to church in a while and it took me a few seconds, waiting for the faith muscle-memory to kick in. The choir sang. They say the Devil has all the best tunes. Well, they're wrong; Jesus has Hubert Parry and Johann Sebastian Bach. We knelt. We stood, then knelt again. We sang 'Immortal Invisible God Only Wise'. We turned to face the altar. 'We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of Heaven and Earth.' I'm not sure what I believe, but I do know every word of the Creed, and when I say them I feel I am joining myself to generations who spoke those words centuries before I was born, and that custom is deeply consoling. I thought about my friend, stranded in New York by snow when her son was hurt in a car crash. Ann hadn't prayed for years, but she slipped into a church on Fifth Avenue, 'I can't manage it alone,' she emailed, 'I know that sounds strange.' Religion is strange, infinitely mysterious and easy to mock, but all I can say is that its rituals feel full, not hollow, as so much of modern life does. The Dorkists argue that you don't need organised religion to hand down the wisdom of ages or a system of morality. Don't you?

And so we come to the story of hundreds of commuters in Greater Manchester who stepped over 14-year-old Oliver Tiplady as he lay unconscious for 20 minutes after falling and striking his head. The boy was clearly not a drunk; he was in school uniform holding his satchel. Oliver's mother Susan said: 'This walk-on-by society has got to stop and think. How can people justify leaving a child, or anybody for that matter, on the floor like that? They must have lacked any basic humanity and obviously had no compassion.'

Lacking in basic humanity and compassion? Sounds remarkably like the Dork, high priest of atheists. By the way, there's a story telling you not to walk by on the other side when a vulnerable stranger is in trouble.

It's in this rather good book.

*Alison Pearson*

## **Holy Week Retrospective**

*Chris Price*



As has been the case for many years, not least in this century, the climactic events of the Christian year were marked at St Faith's by a sequence of memorable, colourful, moving and prayerful services. The photographs in this edition (which can of course be seen in full colour in the online edition) may capture something of the atmosphere of this pilgrimage to Easter; here are a few edited highlights...

**Palm Sunday** No longer a real donkey or the crossing of the A565 from Merchant Taylors' (too costly to police). Instead, hand-held donkey heads, blessings in the sunshine outside the hall, and the shorter but no less dramatic road walk to the top of Milton Road and past the bus stop. The passion declaimed this year by the cubs.

**Holy Tuesday** A rare performance of a rare classic: Franz Liszt's powerful and moving 'Via Crucis', given by the Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral Cantata Choir, with piano and vocal soloists and with none other than the Revd Ged Callacher on the organ (he will become 'Father' soon, and we wish him every blessing). Most of those present walked the way of the cross behind Fr Neil, with readings and prayers between the musical items. So good to hear a liturgical performance of a classical religious piece... more, please!

**Maundy Thursday** The sombre rituals of the washing of the feet; the ever-moving gathering around the altar for the re-enactment of the Last Supper; the procession in the darkness to the Garden of Gethesemane and the abrupt ending heralding the stripping of the altars and the church's many adornments.

**Good Friday** The week's still centre: the solemn words of the passion; the bearing up and erecting of the Great Crucifix; Fr Neil's lovely recessional spiritual singing.

**Holy Saturday** By day the reawakening of the church with flowers, banners, lights, statues and colours; at night sparks flying perilously for the lighting of the new fire; the chanting and the readings; the noisy acclamations of the Resurrection; the rededication of baptisms – and, with bubbly and biscuits in hand, the spectacle of the Easter fireworks lighting the skies above the vicarage garden.

**Easter Day** A full church to rejoice in the great day: especially the delight of three babies, with full supporting casts, being splashed uncomplainingly in baptism; Fred Nye's birthday celebrations (actually from Good Friday, but not a day to make merry!) and his (official!) retirement as Reader – and the Tudhopes' Ruby Wedding anniversary. What a day!

There was more to savour and to remember. As always, thanks and praise to all who made it possible: adorners, cleaners, declaimers, players, singers (special thanks to the choir and organists for their splendid offerings), preachers, liturgists and all other preparers and performers. Fr Neil, without whom much of this would have been so much the poorer, has left us a firm foundation as we move forward to continue to worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. We are most grateful to him for everything, even as we wonder what will be happening a year from now in Holy Week 2013. To quote again words we have used before at St Faith's: 'For the past, thanks: to the future... yes!'



## ONLINE EXTRAS

### April 15th, 2012: Remembering Joseph Bell

On the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the 'Titanic', an Act of Remembrance (reproduced below) took place at the end of the morning service at St Faith's. It included the first performance of an anthem, 'They that go down to the sea in ships', by our organist, Daniel Rathbone. We are planning to record the anthem before long and create a permanent online to the finished product in performance.

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#### Commemoration to mark the Anniversary of the Sinking of the Titanic

The Lord is my Pilot: I shall not drift.  
He lighteth me across the dark water,  
He steereth me in the dark channels,  
He keepeth my log,  
He guideth me by the Star of Holiness for his name's sake;

**Yea, though I sail amid the thunder and tempests of life,  
I shall dread no danger, for thou art with me;  
Thy love and thy care, they shelter me,  
Though preparest a harbour before me**

In the homeland of Eternity:  
Thou hast anointed the waves with oil,  
My ship rideth calmly,

**Surely sunlight and starlight shall favour me  
In the voyage I take,  
And I will rest in the Port of my God forever.**

**Anthem: They that go down to the sea in ships  
– Daniel Rathbone**

## Act of Commemoration

Let us remember before God and commend to his sure keeping those whose lives were lost in the Titanic disaster, those whose courage and bravery helped to save the lives of others and all who have lived and died to bring peace and hope to others. Especially we remember Joseph Bell, Chief Engineer on the Titanic and a member of this church, whose heroism is commemorated here and for whose example of courage and devotion we give thanks to God.

### *Two minutes' silence follows*

Lord God, creator of all,  
you have made us creatures of this earth  
but have also promised us a share in life eternal:  
receive our thanks and praise this day  
As we recall those whose lives were lost  
with the sinking of the Titanic.  
Through the passion and death of Christ,  
may your children whom we commemorate today,  
share with your saints in the joy of heaven,  
where there is neither sorrow nor pain  
but life everlasting.

**Amen. Alleluia.**

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord  
**And let light perpetual shine upon them.**  
May they rest in peace  
**And rise in glory. Alleluia!**

## From the Service Registers

On the day of the sinking of the 'Titanic', April 15th, 1912, St Faith's service register records 'The "Titanic" sunk. 2.20 am'. On April 24th we read: '6.30 Dead march for those lost on Titanic'

At 8.00 pm on January 6th, 1913, the feast of the Epiphany, at a service recorded as 'Unveiling Tablet', the Bishop of Liverpool presided. The entry reads 'Tablet in Memory of Joseph Bell, late Chief Engineer of the Titanic. Collection, after defraying expenses, for Seamen's Orphanage'.

The collection came to £6.2.0 - estimated as being about £468 in today's money! It is interesting to note that the memorial tablet speaks of 'S.S. Titanic', rather than the usual 'R.M.S.'

Photos of the register entries, together with other material about Joseph Bell and the 'Titanic' may be accessed at

**<http://www.stfaithsgreatcrosby.org.uk/furnishtitanic.html>**

# Easter Parade 2012

The church's Holy Week pilgrimage in pictures from Palm Sunday to Easter morning



**On the first day of Holy Week...**

The nave altar is decked with palm branches awaiting the arrival of the Palm Sunday procession

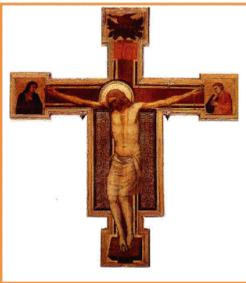
Outside the hall, the choir and an eavesdropping donkey listen to the reading of the gospel... then Leo (censer swinger) and Gareth ('Lift high the Cross') re-enter the grounds after the walk along Milton Road and back past the bus stop, with the choir, sanctuary party and congregation following behind them.





## Tuesday of Holy Week

The Liverpool Roman Catholic Metropolitan Cathedral Cantata Choir singing Franz Liszt's 'Via Crucis' in the choirstalls



At this unique performance, the music (choral, vocal solo, organ and piano) is punctuated by the liturgy of the Stations of the Cross: most of the gathered congregation (audience?) walk round our tapestries to hear readings and prayers by Fr Neil



## **Maundy Thursday**

**The nave altar  
awaits those who  
will have their feet  
washed during the  
Solemn Eucharist  
of the Last Supper**

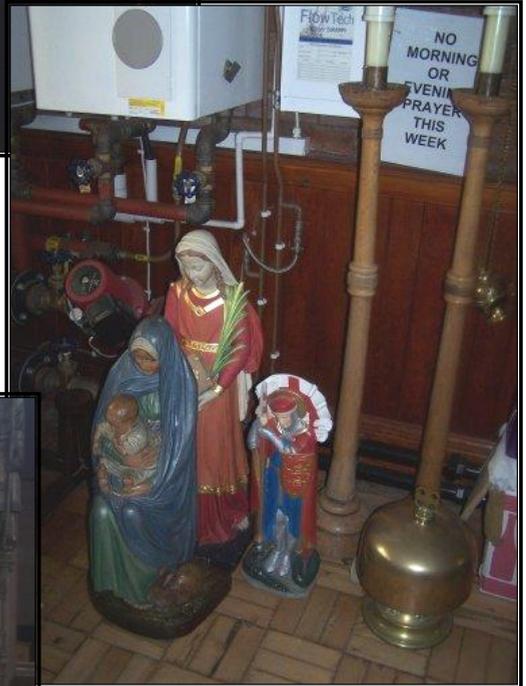


**For this most special  
of celebrations, the  
choir, servers and  
congregation gather  
round the nave altar  
for the consecration.**

**Later we will watch  
and pray in the  
Gethsemane Garden  
in the Lady Chapel**



Candles light up the darkness of the Lady Chapel for the Maundy Thursday watch, following the service and which will continue until midnight.



## Good Friday

In the vestry on Good Friday morning, statues large and small keep warm while awaiting their Easter resurrection.

For a while, the nave altar platform and the high altar are stripped and bare of all adornment.



**Bearing the Cross**

In the course of the Good Friday solemn liturgy, the Great Crucifix, still veiled, is borne up from the font to the choir, to be erected, unveiled, between the choir stalls for the Veneration of the Cross



On the morning of Holy Saturday, the church is at last restored to its full glory with flowers, banners, altar frontals and the re-opened Salviati reredos above the high altar



## The Easter Vigil

At the start of the Vigil of Easter Eve, the Paschal candle is lit from the new fire ready to be borne in to the darkened church

After we have heard the word in darkness, the church lights come on amidst noisy acclamation, and all move to the back of church for the renewal of our baptismal vows



After the service, clutching celebratory drinks and Easter biscuits, we move out into the cold to see the traditional Easter firework display, set off in the vicarage garden.

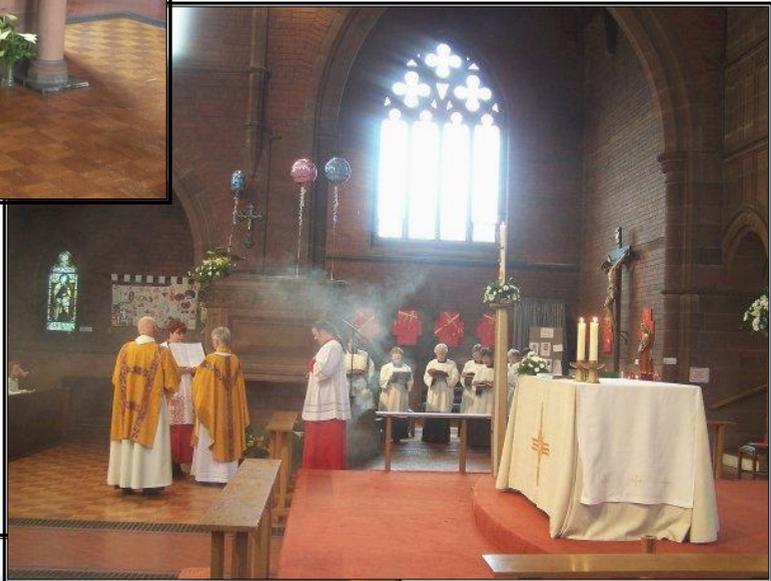




## Easter Sunday

On the morning of Easter Day, the Easter garden, set beneath the pulpit awaits the start of the High Mass.

The procession winds round the packed church and pauses by the pulpit for the garden to be blessed.



Three babies were baptised during the service, and their parents, godparents and supporters gathered round the font. Despite the noisy and colourful rituals, all three infants behaved beautifully!



The children of the Junior Church make their entry in their Easter bonnets, and with a military escort!



We marked long-serving Reader Fred Nye's official retirement with a presentation and much applause. He had reached his landmark birthday on Good Friday, but this was a much better day on which to celebrate.

After the service, it was time for photos of a newly-baptised baby perched atop the font – now safely covered!

# The Parish Directory & Church Organisations



## **VICAR**

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

## **ASSISTANT PRIESTS**

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

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

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

## **READERS**

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

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

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

## **CHURCH WARDENS**

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

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

## **DEPUTY CHURCH WARDENS**

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

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

## **TREASURER**

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

## **PCC SECRETARY**

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

## **PARISH OFFICE MANAGER**

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

Email: sfsmparishoffice@btinternet.com

## **ACTING DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**

Mr Daniel Rathbone. Tel: 07759 695683

## **GIFT AID SECRETARY**

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

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

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

## **BAPTISM BOOKINGS**

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

## **SACRISTANS**

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

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

## **SENIOR SERVER**

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

## **CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

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

## **CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER**

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

## **CHURCH CENTRE**

1, Warren Court, Warren Road, Blundellsands

## **UNITED BENEFICE MEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

James Roderick 474 6162

## **CUB SCOUTS**

Tuesday 6.30 - 7.45 pm. Adam Jones 07841 125589

Thursday 6.30 – 7.45 pm. Mike Carr 293 3416

## **SCOUTS**

Tuesday 8.00 - 9.30 pm. George McInnes 924 3624

## **RAINBOWS**

Monday 4.45 - 5.45 pm. Geraldine Forshaw 928 5204

## **BROWNIE GUIDES**

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

## **BEAVERS**

Thursday 5.00 – 6.15 pm Mike Carr 293 3416

## **CHOIR PRACTICE**

Friday 7.15 pm - 8.30 pm.

## **MAGAZINE EDITOR and WEBSITE MANAGER**

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

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THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND



Diocese of  
Liverpool