St Faith's Church, Great Crosby

NEWSLINK

May 2013

Worship at St Faith's

SUNDAY SERVICES

11.00am SOLEMN MASS
and Children's Church
1.00pm Holy Baptism (2nd Sunday)
6.00pm Evening Service (1st Sunday)

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Morning Prayer
Monday to Friday at 9.30am
Evening Prayer
Friday at 6pm
Holy Eucharist
Monday, Tuesday and Saturday at 10am
Wednesday 10.30am at St Mary's
Friday 6.30pm

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE AND RECONCILIATION

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

HOME VISITS to the sick and housebound and those in hospital

If you, or someone you know, are unable to get to church and would like to receive Holy Communion at home the Eucharistic Ministers are happy to undertake this - please call 928 3342 to arrange this. Likewise, to arrange a visit to someone in hospital or at home, please call 928 3342 to arrange this.

IN A PASTORAL EMERGENCY

Please contact the vicarage (928 3342) or a member of the ministry team.

From the Ministry Team - May 2013

A very holy man was once asked a question – the sort of question perhaps many of us would like to put to an exceptionally good person. “How did you become holy?” And he answered – “By being very hard on myself and very kind to other people.”

Other people are the one permanent ingredient of our lives. And how we treat them is the master key to whether we are good or bad people. That is the test. That is the answer. Our Lord spent a lot of time talking not about us, but about other people, how to treat them, how to talk to them, and how to see them. Our eyes often see people quite differently from the way they are. Our picture of them is distorted, blurred, prejudiced. The truly accurate picture of other people, clear glass, is rare, very rare.

But the truly accurate picture of ourselves is equally rare. In fact the two go together. The same eyes look at both. And so Our Lord talks a lot about the eyes, meaning these two things, the picture of ourselves and the picture we have of other people. And he assigned a lot of our trouble, our failure to improve to that myopia, that blurred photograph distorting every feature of the other person. We have a splendid professional portrait of ourselves beautifully tinted. The other person gets a passport photograph. Christ was a carpenter and he put it differently. He said that we all notice the splinter in the other person’s eye, and take no notice of the beam of wood in our own.

The upshot is we can go through life never seeing things as they are, like a person wearing a pair of badly focused sun-glasses. This blurred picture is fatal to improvement, fatal to happiness. We miss the real goodness in other people. We condemn. We dislike. And we are filled with negative, destructive emotions which make us sour and cynical and friendless. It can bring on a tremendous loneliness.

Why should this happen? There is a fierce pull in ourselves towards what is called these days the “ego” – me. And there is a sort of internal conversation for ever going on inside of us, defending, canonising our actions and always criticising, condemning other people’s. This internal chatter is weakening, fearfully negative. And it all stems from that false picture, that blurred vision which sees someone, someone possibly quite near to us, wife or husband, brother or sister, friend or colleague in a disastrously unfavourable light. We see clearly enough the splinter in their eye. But

we don't see that our negative, hostile attitude is the result of a blockage in our own. So we distort, we dislike and finally dissolve all our love into bitterness.

Our Lord sums up the position very vividly. "The eye", he says, "is the light of the body, so that if the eye is clear the whole of the body will be lit up; if the eye is diseased the whole of the body will be in darkness." It is as simple as that, difficult perhaps, but how enlightening.

With every blessing,

Fr. Dennis

Looking Back on Lent and Easter

Throughout the church, the observance of Lent, climaxing in the great events of Holy Week and Easter, has always been the occasion of very special devotion and celebration. Here at St Faith's we have emerged from the observance of this most sacred season with memories once again of memorable and moving liturgy and sermons, from Ash Wednesday through to the joy of Easter Day. The various galleries of photos on the church website, together with the sermon archive pages, tell a fuller story of what has happened: some of the pictorial highlights are on the centre pages of this issue (in colour and with extra pages online). Below are two accounts of special and distinctive happenings, featuring television watching and soup supping!

A Lenten journey—or a Lenten observance?

Following Paul across Asia Minor might well seem a daunting Lenten observance to undertake - a discipline even! But with David Suchet as guide it proved to be a fascinating experience. Well, an afternoon in front of the telly - who wouldn't give it a try? A pleasant enough experience, surely? And so indeed it proved to be, though we did have some serious thinking to do as well. Here was a chance to discover Paul the Man and to learn more of the dangers he had to face.

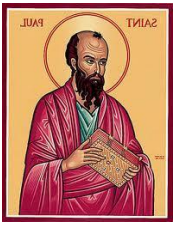
I surely cannot be alone in having thought Paul a somewhat daunting, humourless, off-putting apostle - a misogynist, as he is so often thought to be - certainly controversial. Yet, as we travelled with him, and saw him through Suchet's eyes, we came to admire him for his sheer courage, his tenacity of purpose and his sense of urgency (he was convinced that the end of the world was imminent; therefore all must be converted without delay.)

This young, well-educated Pharisee, so zealous in persecution of non-believers, became equally, if not more zealous for conversion to Christianity. Hence his desire to

travel, to preach the gospel to ALL, irrespective of gender or race. Affection, for the Christians he gathered, replaced hatred. Suchet made it plain that the Damascus experience cancelled out and revitalised everything that Paul had experienced hitherto.

So now came the questions. How do WE attempt to spread the Gospel in our time? Do we try to enforce 'the fruits of the Spirit'? How do we find and convey to others the same sense of urgency, Paul's rock-solid certainty of faith in the Resurrection? Are we, like Paul, 'captured' by Christ? How do we, like him, identify with our Lord? How do we speak and act in a world where there seems to be such apathy, such emphasis on the material, or interest in quite different kinds of spiritualism? Clearly, in our discussions we can only have barely skimmed the surface in our all-too brief study of Paul. But, as David Suchet put it so dramatically and forcefully at the end of his programme: 'Like him, or dislike him, you cannot ignore him'. Yes, indeed.

Margaret Davies



The Sunday Soup Suppers

On Sunday evenings this Lent assorted ordinands young and old from the College of the Resurrection, Mirfield – with which we have had a long and fruitful connection at St Faith's – gave us inspiring addresses on a variety of Lenten subjects before the service of Benediction.

As the services came to an end, two figures could be seen slipping away to the Hall kitchen, to emerge in due course with a steaming pan of soup and a basket of crunchy bread, making their way over to the vicarage. Some of the evening congregation were already gathered there and, after mugs of soup and chunks of bread were handed round and consumed, the ordinand of the night (or sometimes the vicar) led a lively discussion on the subject of the address. Further entertainment was provided by Poppy the dog, who contributed appropriate noises at appropriate points. On one or two evenings, the discussion closed with the singing of a hymn, to the accompaniment of Fr Simon on the vicarage organ (every vicarage should have one).

They were good and interesting sessions, relaxed enough for even the most hesitant to speak, and we learnt a lot. Many thanks to Fr Simon and the Mirfield folk, and to Rosie for the soup. Evensong suppers are going to be held henceforth on a monthly basis, so the soup ladies look like being busy again!

Angie Price

The Resurrection

I was the one who waited in the garden
Doubting the morning and the early light.
I watched the mist lift off its own soft burden,
Permitting not believing my own sight.
If there were sudden noises I dismissed
Them as a trick of sound, a sleight of hand.
Not by a natural joy could I be blessed
Or trust a thing I could not understand.
Maybe I was a shadow thrown by one
Who, weeping, came to lift away the stone.
Or was I but the path on which the sun,
Too heavy for itself, was loosed and thrown?
I heard the voices and the recognition
And love like kisses heard behind thin walls.
Were they my tears which fell, a real contrition?
Or simply April with its waterfalls?
It was by negatives I learned my place.
The garden went on growing and I sensed
A sudden breeze that blew across my face.
Despair returned, but now it danced, it danced.

Elizabeth Jennings

Doing the Smog

I was speaking with one of the young women in the Easter Day Baptism party, asking what she'd thought of it. She said: "I was very surprised. I didn't know that this church did the smog"

Joyce Green

La Serenissima

One might be forgiven for thinking that the title of this article refers to its author rather than its subject: the city of Venice. There are similarities; both of us sinking, crumbling and in need of constant restoration but it is, however, my recent visit to the city about which the Editor asked me to write a few words. *('A few'? Ed.)*

I am fortunate to have a couple of friends who are great travellers and who love researching, planning and booking. When I'm invited to join in all I have to do is pay and turn up! This latest trip to Venice came about because one of these friends, Jane, will have a significant birthday next year and has long harboured the idea of spending three or four weeks around the time of her birthday in an apartment in a European city and having different groups of friends visit with her for two or three days at a time. (If some readers are now reminded of Sally Vickers' 'Miss Garnet', you've got it: that's where the idea originated)

When Jane came across an apartment advertised on the internet which could accommodate up to eight people and which was situated in the Dorsoduro area of Venice, she contacted the owner who suggested that it may be a bit of a risk to take the apartment for a month without checking its suitability. Subsequently he offered a discounted rate for a few days so she could give it a trial run.

Accordingly, six of us set out at an unseemly early time on 9th of March to catch Easy Jet's first flight of the day to Venice. That week we had been promised another onslaught of snow and freezing temperatures by the Met. Office so it was fantastic to step off the plane at Marco Polo airport at 11am to be met by what seemed almost tropical temperatures of 15 degrees!

I had been instructed to brush up my Italian to be the trip interpreter so my first task was to get us sorted with the choices offered by the ticket machine to ensure we bought the right return airport/city bus tickets. A twenty minute journey to Piazzale Roma's bus station gets you to the limit beyond which bus and car cannot travel. I think this must be the initial 'Wow' factor for the first time traveller to Venice: to see yourself surrounded by the waters of the canals and only able to rely on foot power and water transport! Individual tickets for the vaporetto (Venetian equivalent of the bus) are pretty expensive so it's essential to buy a timed ticket before leaving Piazzale Roma; these give you 48, 72 hours etc worth of unlimited journeys.

Twenty minutes of walking, including a couple of wrong turns (!) brought us to Ca' San Sebastiano in Corte dello Zucchero; our home for the next few days. It later became clear that the distance from the bus station was actually only ten minutes – WHEN you know where you're going and are not wheeling your little trolley suitcase!

The apartment was truly impressive and had been refurbished in suitably Venetian style. The kitchen was very well equipped (we later discovered that the owner is an ex-restaurateur). This proved most satisfactory to Marge, one of our party who is always the trip Chef. There was also a fantastic selection of books, CDs and DVDs in the sitting room; most of them with Venetian connections or significance. A really exciting discovery was the existence of the nearby bottega di vino which offered fantastic quality wines at 2 Euros 20 cents for one and a half litres AND, when you took your bottles back to be refilled, the price went down to 2 Euro. As you may

imagine, nearly everyone who had made a previous entry in the apartment's visitors' book had referred to this in order to alert fellow travellers in their footsteps – how kind people can be!

There are six 'sestieri' or geographical areas which make up Venice and the Dorsoduro was the last of these to be inhabited. It includes the highest land areas of the city and one explanation for its name derives from that fact because in Italian, 'dorso' means 'spine' or 'ridge' and 'duro' means 'hard'. The main landmarks of the Dorsoduro are Basilica Sante Maria della Salute and the Zattere quay. The Accademia was set up in the Dorsoduro in the 19th Century and the Ponte dell'Accademia links Dorsoduro to San Marco.

That first Saturday afternoon we spent in exploring our way towards San Marco, investigating the landmarks en route and checking out the shopping facilities for provisions required for our evening meal, breakfasts and general sustenance.

After hours of walking, some rest time in bars and cafes, our first trip on the vaparetto and that vital visit to the aforementioned bottega we returned to the apartment and relaxed over our meal and plans for the next day. The evening and, as it proved, the whole night to follow was punctuated at regular intervals by the pre programmed electro-mechanical bells of San Sebastian and Angelo San Raffaele ringing out the hours and half hours. At least it saved you from checking your watch or alarm clock at those wakeful intervals in the night and we were securely alerted to the break of day at 7am by an automatic chiming of Ave Maria….

On Sunday morning a couple of us called in to Mass at the church of Angelo San Raffaele which was only five minutes walk from the apartment. This is the church featured in Sally Vickers' novel and it is one of only two free-standing churches in Venice. Most of Venice's buildings are firmly inserted into the city's tightly woven urban fabric so it is most unusual to be able to walk all around the outside of this church. (The other free standing church is San Zulian or 'Giuliano' and we found out later that Mass is said in English at 11am on Sundays there, so that will be on the list for next year!)

Angelo San Raffaele is one of the oldest churches in Venice, founded in the 5th Century, the current church building being constructed between 1618 – 1639 and the façade rebuilt in 1735. Above the interior doors are friezes which depict the story of Tobias and the Archangel Raphael from the Apocrypha. Outside above the central door can be seen the distinctive grouping of the Archangel and the boy, Tobias, with the dog and the fish. This is certainly not the most artistically prized nor dramatic church in Venice but it found a place in my heart.

We spent the remainder of Sunday taking the vaparetto to Giudecca, going to the top of the Campanile of San Giorgio Maggiore (cheaper than the Campanile in San Marco and with better views), using our vaparetto tickets for the 50 minute sail up and around the Grand Canal to the Rialto Bridge and then meandering across the Rialto

for a slow stroll back through squares and across bridges back to home. That evening I volunteered to do the dishes while the others went back out to check out the much quieter atmosphere of the normally busy tourist spots transformed by night.

Staying in to do the dishes proved to have been a wise choice as they came back soaked to the skin by the rain which fell most conveniently between 10pm and dawn, giving us another sunny and relatively warm day on the morrow.

People had different plans on the next day so we took a 3 way split. Marge wanted to go to the Peggy Guggenheim Gallery; Antony and Sharon to Murano and then to do some general shopping and Jane, Sally and I opted for the sail to Torcello via Burano.

Apparantly Torcello was the first of the lagoon islands to be populated after the fall of the Roman Empire. In the 10th Century it had a population of 10,000 and was more powerful than Venice due to its saline marshes providing the valuable export of salt. Gradually the lagoon around the island became a swamp infested by malaria carrying mosquitos and the population declined and eventually left. There are now only about twenty people who live there permanently.

Torcello's cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta which was founded in 639 boasts a 12th Century Byzantine mosaic which has been fantastically preserved. Its subject is The Last Judgement and it's one of those marvellous works which depict the 'Damned' as looking just ever so slightly uncomfortable and the 'Saved' as such smug and complacent characters that you think you'd never like to bump into any of them in a month of Sundays! Another of Torcello's claims to fame is its temporary resident in the 1940s, Ernest Hemingway.

Returning from Torcello we got off the boat to spend a couple of hours on Burano which is famed for lace making. This is a gorgeous little place; a mini-Venice with multi-coloured houses and shops and miniature bridges crossing miniature canals. Well worth a visit and providing a complete contrast with the grandiose majesty of Venice's more famous buildings.

Reconvening with the others, we enjoyed some pre-dinner drinks in a lively bar (sitting outside even!) in Campo Santa Margarita, 'our' local square…. After we'd eaten that night we strolled back out to San Marco to see the complete contrast of the tranquillity of this vast space at night-time as opposed to its teeming crowds and constant noise during almost every day of the year.

Tuesday was our last day.That considerate rain had fallen again in the night, refreshed the pavements and skies and had cleared away to allow for more relaxed strolling. After a final trip to the nearby supermarket on the Zattere to buy a few goodies to take home (sign of the passing years: my girls who always used to ask for sweets and chocolate had requested prosciutto and parmesan!) we each went our separate ways for a couple of hours.

I had to go back for another visit to Archangelo San Raffaele and then was delighted to chance upon a Venetian charity shop which was evidently very popular with the locals. This is also on the list for a re-visit next year – the place where elegant Venetians discard last year's models! I wandered on towards the Rialto and the popular moorings for the Gondolieri (80 Euro for half an hour!!) but the hustle and bustle was too much of a contrast to the quieter seclusion of the Dorsoduro so I retreated fairly quickly.

After a final lunch together and a quick tidy up in the apartment it was time to walk back to Piazzale Roma and transport with wheels to take us to transport with wings

This had been my fourth visit to Venice, the previous one having been 20 years ago. It was wonderful to think that, this time it was only 'Arrivederci' until next Spring.
Che bella fortuna!

Maureen Madden

Mugs!

There are still some St Faith's and St Mary's coffee mugs available at the ridiculous price of £5.00 each. They have many uses, including flower pots or vases, holders of rubber bands or pens and pencils, jelly moulds, places to put things that don't go anywhere else or even serving tea.

They make ideal presents too!
See **Rosie Walker** with your order for as many as you wish.

Christian Aid

On Sunday 28th April we will be welcoming Linda Tiongco from Christian Aid. She will be telling us about the work of their aid programme, and how our help with the collection envelopes makes a difference to their work.

As you can imagine, we are always looking for envelope distributors so please add your name to the list on the noticeboard if you can spare a little time to help in the worth while project.

Kathleen Zimak and Rosie Walker

Culture Club Theatre trip

After a few years' rest, the Culture Club is once again planning a visit to the theatre – this time the Liverpool Empire.

We have reserved tickets for the musical CATS which is on Wednesday 27th November at 2.30.

I know that this seems a long way off, but I have negotiated reduced rates for an early booking, and I am looking for commitments before early June. The seats are in an ideal position in the middle of the stalls downstairs and will cost just £20 each. Travel plans will be made nearer the time, but can you please look for the list at the back of church and write in your details?

Rosie Walker

Father Gordon's Prayer

Be gentle when you touch bread.
Let it not lie uncared for, unwanted.
So often bread is taken for granted.
There is so much beauty in bread;
Beauty of rain and toil,
Beauty of sun and soil.
The winds and the air caressed it.
Christ often blessed it.
Be gentle when you touch bread.

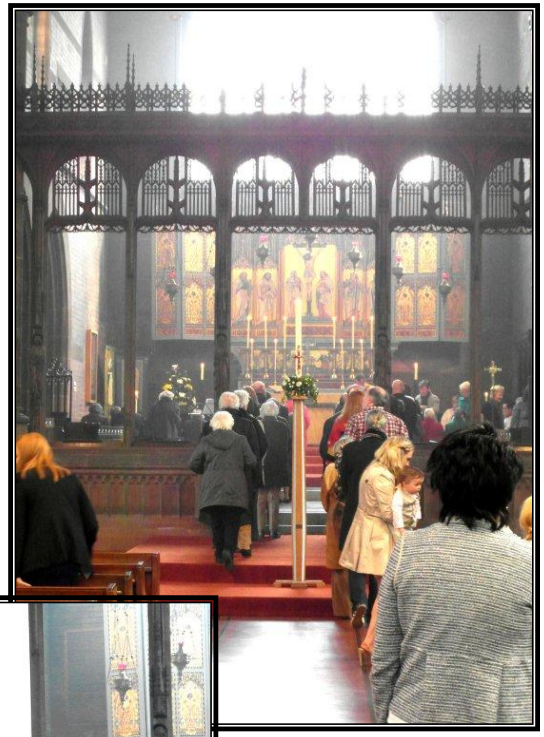
Be loving when you drink wine
So freely received and joyfully shared
In the spirit of him who cared.
Clear as a flowing river,
Shining and bright as the sun;
Deep as the soil of human toil.
The winds and the air caressed it,
Christ often blessed it.
Be loving when you drink wine

Easter Day

Full house for the resurrection!

A large baptism party helped to swell the congregation for the climax of this holiest of seasons.

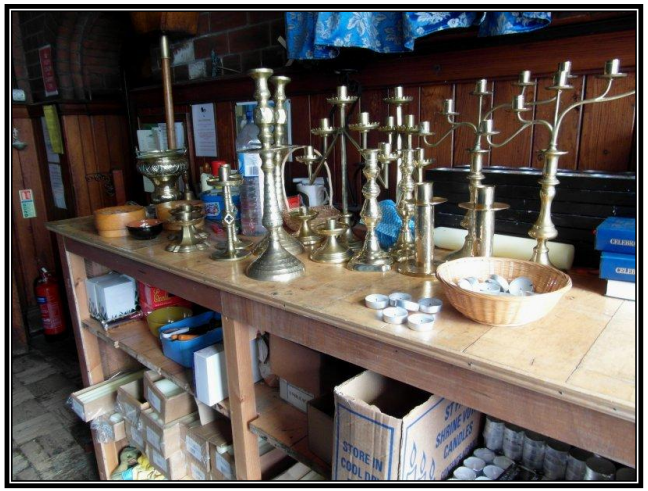
The high altar and the splendour of the reredos, was the focus of the celebrations



Palm Sunday

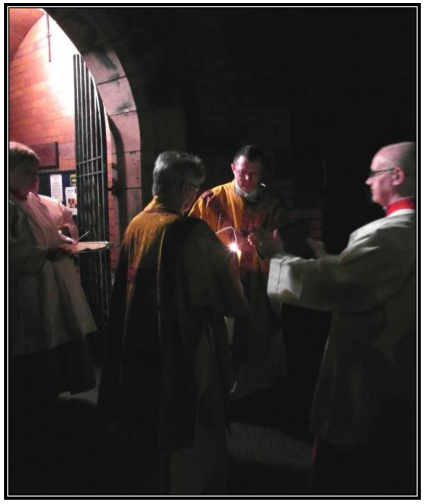
The Wintry Walk

This year we experimented with a new walk – down Milton Road and back up Kingsway. It was very cold but we made it!



Maundy Thursday to Easter Eve

We gathered round the nave altar for the mass of the Lord's Supper, then processed to the resplendent Lady Chapel altar. Good Friday saw the veneration of the great crucifix, positioned in the choir. With the brass duly polished, all w as ready for Easter Eve, the lighting of the new fire, the procession in from darkness to light, and the tinkling of the odd triangle.



Online Gallery Extras

Maundy Thursday devotions at the Lady Chapel...the Good Friday witness at the Civic Hall...the Easter Garden beneath the pulpit ...the Choir outside church before the Easter Vigil. Baptism on Easter morning... the Easter Day entry procession

The Waterloo Partnership: comings and goings

One of the joys of working with the Waterloo Partnership has been to see the gradually burgeoning network of communication with our namesake community in West Africa. The use and reliability of mobile phones and emails have steadily increased, but even more important has been the number of Merseyside visitors to Waterloo, Sierra Leone and vice versa. By my present count, no fewer than 19 schools have sent teachers out to Sierra Leone and many have welcomed SL teachers here. What an amazing number! These reciprocal visits have established some lasting relationships between individuals and groups in both countries – one of the original and important objectives of the charity.

February half term saw a party of no less than thirty local teachers and pupils travel to Waterloo SL. In all, six local primary and secondary schools were represented including a group of twelve year 11 pupils from Maricourt High School taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. Others were funded by the British Council Global Classrooms project. This aims to increase global learning by participating schools in both countries, focussing on sustainable living, human rights, and conflict resolution. In the case of Sierra Leone, the project has been much strengthened by the establishment of long-term links between UK and SL schools, facilitated by the Waterloo Partnership.

The teachers themselves have recently taken over the organisation of these exchanges, with the Waterloo Partnership now playing a supportive and advisory role. Many WP members and friends are teachers in local SL-linked schools, and two current Trustees, John Power (MTGS) and Ian Price (ex St. John's school) were among the UK visitors this year.

The Waterloo Partnership obtained a very generous ring-fenced donation to build a new library and resource centre in Waterloo SL. This sum was eventually transferred to 'CODEP', an engineering organisation established for the purpose as an independent 'daughter' charity. The library, known as the Equiano Centre, was officially opened on 20th February, during the latest teachers' visit: and we were delighted that Ian Price was there to represent us, speaking on our behalf at the very typically celebratory opening ceremony.

As I write, three WP members are on their way out to Waterloo SL for an annual audit visit. This year our representatives are old friends of St. Faith's David and Carol Lloyd, and Jane Roberts (ex Stanfield school). They have a tough assignment: to visit and assess all our projects, old and new, and to look at possible new areas for development. The latter include improving accommodation at the Health Centre, and the expansion of local crafts for sale in the emerging tourist industry – you may remember the fabulous textile 'huts' which Carol created to decorate the WP Christmas tree.

After they return David, Carol and Jane will give a short talk on their experiences, and on the progress of the WP projects, at an open meeting. Entitled 'Getting the Picture' this will be held at 7.0 pm on Tuesday 21st May in St. John's Primary School, Waterloo. All are welcome, so do come along! (Incidentally we are very grateful to St. John's church and school for all the support they give to the Partnership).

Visitors returning from SL paint an increasingly optimistic picture: there is a real determination to put aside the horrors and divisions of the civil war, and to concentrate on building a new future. There has been peace in the country for the past eleven years, and three democratic elections have been held with little or no civil unrest. But the country is still extremely poor, with a level of poverty which is unimaginable here, and needs international friends as much as ever. It is heart-warming to feel that in some small way the church and school communities of Crosby and Waterloo have fostered that friendship, and that it is built to last.

Fred Nye

Off to Malawi!

August 2013 will see Emily Skinner embarking on an experience of a lifetime. She will be travelling to Malawi as part of the "Original Volunteers" organisation. Emily will be spending 2/3 weeks working in a project located in Domasi, Zomba, Malawi.

The main goal of this project is to promote welfare and empowerment of local communities and improve the lives of poor children and orphans through education.

Some of Emily's duties will include teaching the children in school basic English alongside other teachers, also teaching the children through the mediums of song, dance, artwork, games and chalkboard work.

She will also be visiting orphans who are currently placed with families within the local community. There isn't an orphanage within the community at present, however, this is something they hope to change in the near future. Emily wlll visit the adult

carers and also spend time playing with the children in their care. She will be taking her own donations when visiting these families, a simple £1 donation can feed an orphan for 2 days, as well as donations of clothes and food.

The day to day running of the project will be part of Emily's role, cleaning, cooking, washing etc.

Her accommodation will probably be a bit of an eye opener for her! She will be staying in the volunteer house alongside other volunteers, which is pretty basic, no electricity, kitchen facilities or indoor plumbing! A local family will be supporting her with her meals etc whilst on site.

I am hoping the family of St Faith's Church will be able to support Emily in this venture, raising funds for the air travel and donations for her to take with her. We would also be grateful for donations of bric a brac for Emily's table at the forthcoming table sales. We have also organised a Quiz Night in late June, where ALL funds raised will go to supporting Emily in this venture. (Tickets will be on sale soon!)

I am sure we will be doing various other fundraising activities such as cake sales, raffles etc, so thank you all in anticipation of your valued support.

If you would like any further information about the project, just let us know and we can email you with details.

http://www.originalvolunteers.co.uk/destinations/malawi.html

Judith Moizer

Pulling the Stops Out

Another record of the first days at St Faith's: as printed in the Liverpool Mercury of August 24th, 1900 – with thanks to John Woodley.

ST. FAITH'S, WATERLOO.

OPENING OF A NEW ORGAN.

In celebration of the installation of a new organ, a special service was last evening held at St. Faith's, Waterloo. The instrument, part of the splendid gift of Mr. H. Douglas Horsfall, is a fine one, constructed by Messrs. J. W. Walker and Sons, of London. It contains a great organ, CC to C (61 notes), with the following stops: –

Open diapason, large scale 8ft., open diapason small scale 8ft., dulciama, wald flute principal 4ft., suabe flute 4ft., fifteenth 2ft. The swell organ contains – Open diapason 8ft., stopped diapason 8ft., echo gamba 8ft., voix celeste 8ft., principal principal 4ft., horn 8ft., oboe 8ft., flute 8ft. The whole of the interior construction is of the most improved and modern character, and the total cost is about £800, without the case, which has not yet been erected.

The Rev. C. C. Elcum, M.A., vicar of St. Agnes', Sefton Park, preached the sermon; and the Rev. T. H. Baxter also officiated, Psalm 150 being sung to a special setting by Mr. I. H. Stammers, organist and choirmaster of St. Agnes' Sefton Park, who dedicated it to Mr. George E. Lewis, organist at St. Faith's. The Rev. C. C. Elcum preached on the work "Selah," which, he said, had occasioned difference of opinion. It pointed, in the general opinion, to a climax at which human language failed. Such should be the spirit of the service that evening.

At the close of the service Mr. I. H. Stammers played the following selections on the new organ:– Overture, "Athalia" (Handel); andante from the symphony "La Reine de France" (Haydn); sonata No. 2, Allegro Moderato Andante Finale and Fugue (Fink); Chorus of Angels (Sootson Clark); prelude and fugue in A minor (J. S. Bach); finale (Lemmens).

The Liverpool Mercury, Friday August 24 1900

Reconciliation

A sermon preached on the Wednesday of Holy Week

Fr Dennis

Of all the great services held in Westminster Abbey over the years, one of the most significant was the one held to welcome South Africa back into the Commonwealth, from which she had been forced to withdraw in 1961. The Abbey was packed to the doors. The 51 Commonwealth flags had been carried in procession up to the high altar by representatives each in their national dress and placed in grouped stands, leaving one empty space.

At a certain point a young South African naval cadet arrived at the west door with the new flag, which he carried up the nave, to be met at the quire entrance by Vice-President Mbeki, who took the flag to the altar steps where the Commonwealth Secretary General, Chief Anyouku, placed it in the empty stand.

The entire congregation erupted into spontaneous and lengthy applause; a group from Soweto led the congregation in the new national anthem; Bishop Trevor Hudddleston led the prayers, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu began his sermon with what, to those present, seemed the only appropriate word: "WOW!" – and afterwards danced for joy on the steps of the Abbey. The Archbishop danced because what had been witnessed was a most striking example of what St Paul calls "the mystery of the gospel". For that purpose is, in a word, "reconciliation".

Our reconciliation with God through Jesus Christ; and in turn, our reconciliation with each other. Both stem from a readiness to forgive and to be forgiven: to forgive and be forgiven the wrongs of the past and the present.

And it is a "hidden" gospel because it's in such stark contrast to our natural instinct, which is to retaliate when we are attacked or hurt or treated unjustly, to store up anger in our heart, to claim "an eye for an eye, a life for a life". And it is "hidden", "a mystery", therefore, because without a change of heart, we are blind to it.

It wasn't just Nelson Mandela who brought about a radical change in his nation by adopting the powerful way of forgiveness and reconciliation. It was Mr de Klerk who, a month after he had expressed deep apology in Cape Town for the evils of apartheid, gave the Nobel Laureate lecture in the royal Albert Hall. When he had finished, he was asked by a questioner whether apartheid had been brought to an end by international sanctions? "No", de Klerk replied, "it was not the sanctions, it was deep self-analysis on our knees before God!"

For what such deep analysis on our knees can reveal, is a way of acting that is radically at odds with the way of the world. What's been hidden to us is now revealed, for we begin to see with new eyes, and with a new awareness of what the gospel is actually about. For there's a weak and impotent gospel, which sees Christianity in terms of a series of moral injunctions and Jesus as our example, but there's a powerful gospel, which has its centre the Cross and Passion of Christ, and which speaks of forgiveness and dying, of resurrection and new life. It speaks of a God made known in human terms, who says: "Accept that you are loved. Accept that you are forgiven and reconciled, then live in the light of this knowledge, and treat others as I have treated you."

We don't have to be so naive as to think that such a liberating truth can be easily translated into the way nations behave to other nations; or indeed that justice can be achieved and conflicts resolved without great cost. For it's justice that we're talking about. That's the ground-rule for all proper human relationships. Yet people's conflicting interests and desires can rarely be reconciled with absolute justice for all. Almost always there has to be compromise, and that inevitably means some sacrifice. All parties have to relinquish something which strict justice might have awarded them; and that, however modest, is an act of generosity – if you like, a small act of love.

It's also clear that past hurts and offences carry a powerful poisonous toxin that will frustrate every attempt to neutralise it unless and until there's a deep desire to pursue the costly way of reconciliation. You only have to think of Northern Ireland or of a long-standing family row. There has to be a facing of painful and bitter memories, and an attempt to look back and understand what happened, for it's only by understanding what's led to such a state of bitter hurt and anger that there can be any hope of mutual penitence and mutual forgiveness. You cannot forget, but you can forgive. Only then can the healing of those memories take place. In the words of T. S. Eliot: "Only by accepting the past can we alter its meaning." But that requires grace and courage of a high order.

I've spoken of large matters: of the prejudice, the past injustices, the conflicting desires, that divide nations and societies. But you'll understand that I've therefore also been speaking of those destructive forces we all harbour within our own divided hearts. I began with South Africa and what two men achieved by following the alternative way of forgiveness and reconciliation. And I end with another man's visit some years earlier to that same land, and his very personal attempt to apply the powerful, hidden gospel of Jesus.

Roger Schutz, then Prior of the ecumenical community of Taize in Burgundy, was in Cape Town during the years when Nelson Mandela was still imprisoned on Robben Island. He visited a black neighbourhood and wrote that night in his diary: "I thought we should be meeting a few friends, but found a whole crowed gathered for prayer. African priests and pastors of all denominations welcomed me on a platform and handed me a microphone. I spoke some words to them … but I said to myself that my words were so inadequate so instead … I tried to express all that was in my heart with a gesture. I said: 'I would like to ask you forgiveness, not in the name of the whites – I could not do that – but because you are suffering for the Gospel and you go before us into the Kingdom of God. I would like to pass from one to another of you so that each of you can make the sign of the cross on the palm of my hand – the sign of Christ's forgiveness.' This gesture was understood immediately. As I moved among them, each one made the sign of the cross on the palm of my hand. It seemed to take an eternity. And then, spontaneously, they burst into songs of resurrection."

Fr Simon's sermons preached on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Eve ('The Great Triduum') are online and will be available soon in printed form. Ed.

In the Beginning…

The foundation stone of St Faith's was laid on May 24th, 1898, and the church consecrated on April 21st, 1900. Towards the end of the building period, the Liverpool Mercury carried an entertaining account of a meeting at which the vicar-designate spoke of his plans and hopes for the church of which he would become priest-in-charge some four months later.

St Faith's Church Waterloo

Views and intentions of the vicar-designate

Liverpool Mercury, Wednesday, 6th December, 1899

In connection with this place of worship, now in course of erection in Crosby Road, Waterloo, a meeting was held in the concert hall of the Waterloo Constitutional Hall, South-road, last evening for the purpose of introducing the vicar-designate, the Rev. T.H. Baxter, B.A., and to afford him an early opportunity of informing those who may be interested in the subject of his views and intentions as regard the conduct of Divine service, and the work generally in connection with St. Faith's Church. The Rev. C. de B. Winslow, M.A., Rural Dean, presided over a large attendance, among those present being the Rev. Canon Armour, D.D. The Rev. Canon Jones, M.A., The Rev. T. H. Baxter, The Rev. S. J. Sykes, Mr H. Douglas Horsfall, Mr. J. Eshelby, Mr S. Freeman, and Mr T. B. Neale.

The Chairman, at the outset of the meeting, read a letter from the Bishop of Liverpool, to the following effect: - "Mr Horsfall's new church is built in the very situation which I suggested three years ago. Every wealthy Liverpool layman who builds a fine church "Suo Sumptu" deserves praise and sets a good example. I wish endowment was more common. I have seen St. Faith's, and hope to see it again." The Chairman, continuing, said that they must all feel a deep sense of gratitude to Mr H. Douglas Horsfall for building such a magnificent church in Waterloo. (Hear, hear). He was sure that the Rev. T. H. Baxter would find warm hearts and willing hands ready to support him in the good work which he had come to inaugurate. (Applause).

Mr H. Douglas Horsfall, who was accorded a hearty reception, said that the site of the new church was chosen by the Lord Bishop himself, who had for many years who had longed for one to be erected as near the corner of College-road and Crosby-road as possible. He considered that in the course of a couple of months the church would be completed. After a few further remarks, the speaker introduced the Rev. Mr Baxter to the meeting. In doing so he said that he felt assured that the benefactor's wish would be realised and that the church would be a great spiritual centre of real work in the best sense of the word, and would long remain a sphere of usefulness to the honour and glory of almighty God. (Hear, hear.)

The Rev. T. H. Baxter, in the course of his address, referred to the large parish in London, where he was now engaged, and the work that was carried on. He next stated that there were three things he would like to see the key notes of the services at St. Faith's. The first thing, of course, was reverence; then they must make their services bright and hearty; and thirdly he would like the services to be thoroughly English, and a dignified simplicity of worship. He was a High Churchman, and had very decided views of his own. He was of opinion that one could not make much headway in this world unless they had, and the people of Waterloo, he was sure had, decided views of

their own. He thoroughly believed in their dear old English Church, and he strongly objected to English Churchman, such as he was, trying to introduce teachings and customs which were certainly not authorised their English Prayer Book, and which were repulsive to their English character. England did not want slovenly services, and they would not have them at St. Faith's. He was also certain that there should be a dignity of simplicity about the ritual of the services. They did not like a great deal of fuss. There was a great deal of ritual that marked the services on the Continent which would not be tolerated in England. He had no intention whatever of being in any way disloyal to the position of their English Church. (Hear, hear.) Of course there would be celebrations of Holy Communion every Sunday, and in that service he would feel bound to take what was commonly known as the eastward position and use altar lights. He had always been used to these things, and believed in them, and he should feel conscientiously bound to introduce them at St. Faith's. He hoped, however, that if he did anything they did not like they would tell him. (Hear, hear).

The Rev. Canon Armour moved an address of welcome to the vicar designate. This was seconded by the Rev. Canon Jones, and carried. The usual vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the proceedings.

A few notes in explanation and commentary

- Waterloo Constitutional Hall no longer exists as such, although the building survives.
- Canon Sykes was for over forty years vicar of our sister church, St Mary's, Waterloo Park
- Canon Armour was headmaster of Merchant Taylors' School, a High Churchman and regular preacher at St Faith's.
- The bishop was John Ryle, but despite his wish he probably didn't visit St Faith's again as he died the following year.
- 'Suo sumptu' is Latin for 'own expense': the bishop, despite his distinctly 'low church' origins, was clearly ready to welcome generous benefactors, whatever their churchmanship.

Mr Baxter's convoluted prose, as reported, makes clear his churchmanship (alien to the area until St Faith's arrived) his dislike of 'Continental' (presumably Roman Catholic!) trappings of worship and his determination to introduced regular eucharistic worship and the use of 'altar lights'. The Houldin history relates how the candles in our pulpit set fire to a visiting bishop, and that this was regarded locally as a judgment on St Faith's for embracing such popish practices.

Mr Baxter promises to listen to anyone who did not like what he was doing. He managed to steer a peaceful course for 15 years, but when his successor started introducing the ceremonial and accoutrements we take for granted a century later, it was very much a different story...

The Parish Directory and Church Organisations

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Parish Office Manager: Geoff Dunn; email: sfsmparishoffice@btinternet.com
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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 Ho, Maple Close, Seaforth, L21 4LY. 286 8155
Miss Paula O'Shaughnessy, 30 Curzon Rd, Waterloo. L22 0NL. 286 2764/075823 19440
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
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, 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
BEAVER SCOUTS
Thursday 5.00 – 6.15 pm Mike Carr 293 3416
CUB SCOUTS
Thursday 6.30 – 8.00 pm. Mike Carr 293 3416
SCOUTS
Thursday 8.00 - 9.30 pm. Mike Carr 293 3416
RAINBOWS
Monday 4.45 - 5.45 pm. Geraldine Forshaw 928 5204
BROWNIE GUIDES
Monday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Sue Walsh 920 0318; Mary McFadyen 284 0104
CHOIR PRACTICE
Friday 7.15 pm - 8.30 pm.
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THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Diocese of Liverpool