

Saint Faith's Patronal Festival Celebrations 2010

"So let us celebrate the Feast!"

Tuesday 5th October – The Eve of Saint Faith, Virgin & Martyr

8.00pm Procession and Solemn High Mass

Music: "A little Jazz Mass" – Bob Chilcott (with piano, drums and bass)
Preacher: The Very Reverend Peter Atkinson, Dean of Worcester
followed by buffet supper in the Parish Hall



Wednesday 6th October – Saint Faith's Day

11.00am Church open for light refreshments and lunches

12noon Midday Recital of popular organ classics – Fr. Neil

7.00 – 9.00pm 'Open House' cocktail party in the Vicarage
(please come and go as you are able)

9.15pm Night Prayer and concluding devotions to Saint Faith

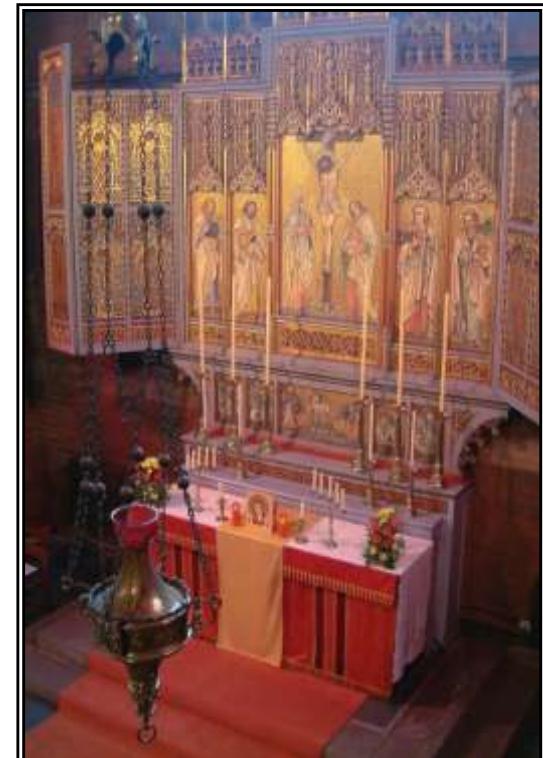


NEWSLINK

**The Parish Church
of Saint Faith
Great Crosby**

**PARISH
MAGAZINE**

October 2010



WORSHIP AT SAINT FAITH'S



- **SUNDAYS**

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 10.30am | Morning Prayer |
| 11.00am | Solemn Mass and Children's Church |
| 1.00pm | Holy Baptism (2nd Sunday) |
| 7.00pm | Compline and Benediction (1st Sunday) |

- **WEEKDAY MASSES**

Monday 10.30am, Tuesday 9.30am, Wednesday 10.30am (1662 Book of Common Prayer in S. Mary's), Thursday 9.00am (Holy Days only), Friday 6.30pm, Saturday 12.00noon (or Midday Prayer – please check notices)

- **THE DIVINE OFFICE (The Prayer of the Church)**

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

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

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

- **SACRAMENT OF PENANCE AND RECONCILIATION**

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

- **ANOINTING OF THE SICK AND DYING**

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

- **HOME VISITS to the sick and housebound
and those in hospital**

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



FROM THE MINISTRY TEAM OCTOBER 2010

Dear friends,

"Celebrating the Saints"

October is always a special month for us at S. Faith's as it sees the celebration of our Patron, S. Faith. We welcome the Dean of Worcester as our preacher and as a slight departure from the normal musical menu the celebration will include Bob Chilcott's "**A Little Jazz Mass**" with piano, bass and drums. That kicks the month of October off in an exciting way and then, at the end of the month, on Sunday 31st we will celebrate the Feast of All Saints (transferred from November 1st). This All Saints' celebration will take place within the context of our next Liturgy and Lunch at S. Mary's.

At this next Liturgy and Lunch gathering the young people from our two Sunday Schools will make a significant contribution to the liturgy both in a dramatic presentation (in place of the sermon/discussion) and prayers. In the weeks leading up to this Revd Denise will work with our young people on their contribution to the service. Elsewhere in this magazine you will read different accounts of the last Liturgy and Lunch so be sure not to miss the next one, not least to encourage the contribution of our young people. Liturgy and Lunch isn't just for the grown-ups!

Saints, and most especially martyrs, remind us of the cost of following Jesus. They remind us that Christian living does require sacrifice – not always getting our own way! We are fortunate here in S. Faith's, and at S. Mary's, to have no shortage of people who give sacrificially to the church in many different ways. Without that generosity of spirit our life together wouldn't be so rich and enjoyable.

At All Saints-tide the Church gives thanks for that "great cloud of witnesses" which surrounds us, encourages us, and prays for us, as we walk our journey of faith. Saints show us what is possible if we put our mind to it. It *is* possible to put God first. It *is* possible to resist temptation. It *is* possible to journey through this life with a heart set on the next.

One of my favourite phrases (oft quoted, I know) is that of the late Cardinal Hume: "Saints have a past; sinners have a future". This favourite phrase is one of great encouragement to me. It is a phrase which should be taken seriously by all of us.

It is so easy for us to see saints as people completely divorced from our own experience of life. Any saint will have begun their earthly lives as ordinary human beings, like you and me, tempted into sin and tempted to turn away from God. They will have struggled and at times, like you and me, will have clung on by a thin thread in their journey of faith. They are no different to you and me at all.

The saints weren't people who had an academic relationship with God, they had a living relationship with Him. There is a difference between knowing about Jesus, and knowing Jesus. We can come very close to the story; we can know it off by heart; we can have all the pictures in our minds; we can even say our prayers. But unless we know Him, then we are not connecting to Him.

Let the saints inspire and encourage us on our earthly pilgrimage with God.

With my love and prayers,

Jr. neil

Rejoice in God's saints, today and all days!
A world without saints forgets how to praise.
in loving, in living, they prove it is true:
The way of self-giving, Lord, leads us to you.

HARVEST FESTIVAL 2010

Sunday 3rd October



11.00 am Family Mass and Parade Service

6.00 pm Harvest "Songs of Praise" in St. Mary's,
followed by Harvest Buffet Supper

"All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above..."

DATE FOR THE DIARY

There will be a Thanksgiving Mass in S. Faith's in memory of **Fr. Peter Roberts**, RIP, on Monday 4th October 2010 at 2pm. Further details on the weekly sheets.



“ENCORE!”

Another excellent series of Saturday Recitals ended on the 28 August 2010 with performances from Melanie Harvey (violin), Gregor Cuff ('cello) and our own Neil Kelley (piano). Twenty-one weeks of fine music, often showcasing new, young talent.

This year has been the best ever in terms of income and attendance too. The figures are:

Total income (net): £3,030 (2009: £2,892; 2008: £2,787)

Total attendances: 1,712 (2009: 1,639; 2008: 1,645)

Interestingly, the average weekly income and attendances are identical to 2009 (£144 and 81). We note again the importance of the recitals for the outreach effect on the wider community.

We circulated a feedback form on the last Saturday, seeking people's views on their favourite/least favourite recital and if they had any ideas for future recitals. The results will inform our planning for the 2011 series. The form can be downloaded from our website if you missed it and wish to comment.

The series had been organized by our former Parish Administrator, Liz Mooney, and our new Parish Office Manager, Geoff Dunn, took over responsibility in July. We thank them both for their support. We have again enjoyed good coverage in various media outlets, including regular features in the Diocesan e-Bulletin.

A very big “THANK YOU” goes to the army of helpers, organizers and caterers who work so hard week by week to ensure that everyone receives a welcome and that everything is ready on Saturday morning. We very much appreciate the amazing support of all our performers without whom the recitals simply could not happen!

Next year, because Easter is so late, the 2011 series will not start until Saturday, 30 April. We are considering extending the recitals into September so the final recital would be Saturday, 25 September – which nicely leads into our Patronal Festival! We are also looking at one or two winter dates so please watch our website for details.

Again, very many thanks for all your support and we look forward to seeing you next time!

David Jones
Treasurer

(See page 11 for more details of more concerts coming up soon... and see below for a few of the comments received on our feedback sheets)



THE NEW ALPHABET

A is for apple, and B is for boat,
That used to be right, but now it won't float!
Age before beauty is what we once said,
But let's be a bit more realistic instead.

A's for arthritis; B's the bad back,
C's for the chest pains, perhaps car-d-iac?

D is for dental decay and decline,
E is for eyesight, can't read that top line!



F is for fissures and fluid retention,
G is for gas which I'd rather not mention.

H high blood pressure – I'd rather it low;
I for incisions with scars you can show.

J is for joints, out of socket, won't mend,
K is for knees that crack when they bend.

L's for libido, what happened to sex?
M is for memory, I forget what comes next.

N is neuralgia, in nerves way down low;
O is for osteo, bones that don't grow!

P for prescriptions, I have quite a few,
... just give me a pill and I'll be good as new!

Q is for queasy, is it fatal or flu?
R is for reflux, one meal turns to two.

S is for sleepless nights, counting my fears,
T is for Tinnitus; bells in my ears!

U is for urinary; troubles with flow;

V for vertigo, that's 'dizzy', you know.
W for worry, now what's going round?

X is for X ray, and what might be found.
Y for another year I'm left here behind,
Z is for zest I still have... in my mind!

I've survived all the symptoms, my body's deployed,
And I'm keeping twenty-six doctors fully employed!

(Contributed by *Liz Mackert*)



LITURGY AND LUNCH – VIEWS FROM THE PEWS

(or in this case, the chairs!)

Having attended the Liturgy and Lunch at St Mary's recently, which I thought was absolutely lovely and extremely successful, I was very much looking forward to one at St Faith's. It certainly did not disappoint. The hall was transformed by the atmosphere and I left feeling uplifted and very much part of the family of St Faith and St Mary's

churches. I personally felt this was something we should have more often although I appreciate there are many who would not feel moved to attend a Sunday service if these were held in the Church Hall. (I could not help thinking of the money that could be saved on heating church in the wintertime if Liturgy and Lunch services were more frequent!). It was also wonderful to hear that volume in our singing – our voices are so often lost in St Faith's on a Sunday morning, but I actually felt we put more into it this Sunday.

I also appreciated a different atmosphere especially when Fr Neil read out our prayers – we *felt* so much closer (which of course we were). Microphones in a Church do not bring in the distance from altar or choir stalls to congregation in the same way. ... and just when I thought the Peace had been left out of the service booklet accidentally, it finished off the service nicely. I actually think it is a better place for it, but that is my personal feeling. It was nice to linger afterwards, long past the meal was finished – and what a meal! So – thank you to those who thought this one up and I for one look forward to the next.

Fiona Whalley

New tricks! How many of us feel like the old dog when presented with something different, either regarding it with a suspicious, defensive snarl or with an indifferent roll over into apathy? As an educator I have a fairly unusual perspective on the subject. Not only do I have to adjust annually to fresh faces and new ideas, but I have a heightened awareness that our response to change is not directly related to age, but to mindset – a fourteen-year-old can be very rigid in his attitude to the new, while someone forty years his senior can embrace it wholeheartedly.

The idea of the Liturgy and Lunch did cause some darkly pessimistic mutterings, but then fear of change always does. I've now tried it out at both our churches and will definitely be coming again. I find the sharing of a meal a totally logical reflection of the Eucharist, even though personal commitments mean that I will rarely be able to attend the lunch; the exhortation to bring others along to enjoy the occasion is indeed a frightening challenge, but only reminds us of Christ's command to go out of our comfortable bubbles and witness to others. It's a grass roots experience which I value. However, this is not the only reason I was exhilarated as I left St. Faith's church hall a few weeks ago.

Firstly, my job makes it difficult for me to become fully involved in the life of the church and it is wonderful to socialise other than over a snatched cup of coffee (not that the coffee is unwelcome after singing a service!) I also really like the question and answer sessions. Who doesn't enjoy befuddling the vicar occasionally, or, on a more serious level, relish discussing with our friends our feelings about our faith? It is hard to pinpoint the fears – or rejection, of imposing on others – which stop us inviting others into the church community (this was one of the issues presented to us this time), but it is very important to share them.

Then there is the fun. One of my main peeves, as a chorister processing down the aisle at the end of a service, is seeing such solemn faces – visiting God’s house is supposed to be uplifting! At the lunch there was a wealth of smiles and laughter. Also, personally speaking, I dislike the way that our ‘uniform’ and seating arrangements divide the choir and the congregation, so I revel in the occasional opportunity to discard those trappings and show others that we don’t bite! And, speaking of biting, that home-made bread is delicious.

I am deeply grateful to all those who made this experience possible for me; it is a breath of fresh air which complements our everyday worship and which I thoroughly recommend. I have a nicely challenging question prepared for our next Q and A and, all being well, will be there to sing different music and acquire new perspectives. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Stephanie Dunning

Call me an old sceptic if you like, but I wasn’t sure how the “Liturgy and Lunch” on Sunday, 29 August would work at S. Faith’s. I had been to the previous one at S. Mary’s on the 30 May but had been unable to stay for lunch so missed the full experience.

How would I react, as a server, to the same format being applied at S. Faith’s? I need not have worried!

The church hall was packed and set out informally. Servers were not required (so no need to robe!) as Fr Neil presided, assisted by the Revd Denise. Although the service was structured, it was relatively informal – certainly for S. Faith’s! – and the sermon was replaced by a questions and discussion session. This worked very well.

The atmosphere was really good and everyone mixed well together (as Chris Price’s photos on the website prove). The lunch that followed was a great opportunity for people to mix and chat over an excellent meal.

So, if you missed it this time, there’s no excuse for the next one!!

David Jones

100+ CLUB WINNERS September 2010

1	53	T. Cleary	2	46	Mona Turner
3	136	Sarah Evison	4	103	Paul Jones
8					



MAGNIFICAT

'Scattered, put down, and sent away' *A sermon by Fred Nye*



Holy Mary, Mother of God. Theotokos, the God-bearer. Ever-virgin, immaculate ark of the New Covenant. Queen of Heaven. The second Eve, the mystic rose. Stella Maris, star of the sea. Our Lady: Our Lady of sorrows, Our Lady of victories.

Just a few titles that Christians over the centuries have given to the mother of Our Lord. They bear witness to the devotion and piety of countless worshippers: so many prayers offered to her and through her, so many miracles attributed to her intervention, so many representations of her humility and purity - in art and sculpture and music. Which of them, I wonder might *you* be most comfortable with – which of them would you find most helpful on your spiritual journey? The church's tradition about Mary is rich and complex and sometimes rather strange and so we need to reflect on it a little if it is to help us on our Christian pilgrimage.

Catholic doctrine and tradition contains a number of characteristic pictures of Mary, drawn from slightly different viewpoints. Perhaps most important of all is her sanctity, her holiness, emphasized by the Roman Catholic church in the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception. For many, the iconic view of Mary as the epitome of virtue is very powerful indeed. In the Catholic church it is expressed in one of her titles, Mary ever virgin. It contributed to the medieval concept of Mary as the perfect woman - chaste, pure, humble and constant – an ideal which perhaps did something to elevate the otherwise lowly status of women at that time. It also got thoroughly mixed up with the idea of chivalry and courtly love – knights in shining armour and all that! Then there is the emphasis on Mary's closeness and intimacy with Our Lord, that biological mother-child bond which is as strong physically and emotionally as any relationship gets. And from this closeness to Jesus comes the idea of Mary forming a bridge, a channel of communication, with the Godhead – 'Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners....' It is also bound up with the tradition of what the Western church calls the Assumption, and the Orthodox calls the 'falling asleep', of the Blessed Virgin. This is the doctrine that Mary was taken up – 'assumed' - body and soul into heaven, to remain close to her beloved son for ever. And finally, and perhaps most profoundly, there is the picture of Our Lady of sorrows, weeping at the foot of the cross, sharing hammer blow by hammer blow in Jesus's Passion, and thereby sharing in the work of redemption.

The church rightly emphasises Mary's holiness, her moral example and her unique relationship with Our Lord. But some of the medieval ideas about her just don't seem terribly relevant any more. And I wonder if like me you feel that there is still something missing, something of Mary which might speak even more powerfully to us today, early in the twenty first century?

Happily there is another image of Mary that I haven't yet mentioned, and which I hope will help. It is the picture of the Blessed Virgin Mary as Our Lord's first and most devoted disciple, the picture of her therefore as 'Mother of the Church', and as potentially our closest and most valued companion on the Way. And if we do look upon Mary as our most important fellow-traveller, then we should perhaps be interested in what she said about the Kingdom of Heaven and how to get there. And by a miracle of Providence there has come down to us a record of *exactly* what she said, and it's called the Song of Mary, or the Magnificat. It is a wonderful proclamation of the gospel, expressed in just a few verses.

'He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts'. Mary sings about the new order in her son's Kingdom, in which men and women will no longer be governed by their own self-will and destructive self interest, but by the law of love. And as always in bringing in his Kingdom, Our Lord has to begin with us. We, like Mary have to put ourselves under His rule, like her we have to say 'yes' to God's will for us, and allow ourselves to be overshadowed by the power of the Most High. Only then will the dictator of this world be overthrown and its people be healed and set free.

'He has put down the mighty from their seat, and has exalted the humble and meek'. In the Kingdom of Heaven there is no room for the human conventions of position, status or privilege. Mary, the poor peasant girl from Palestine, has herself become Theotokos, the God-bearer. If the citizens of the Kingdom are to grow and flourish nothing must be allowed to hold them back, certainly not any distinctions of creed or class or colour. And as always in bringing in his Kingdom, Our Lord has to begin with us. Unless Christian society reflects God's new order, what hope for the world?

'He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty'. Mary rejoices in God's bias to the poor, his concern to overturn injustice and oppression. In her weakness and vulnerability as a woman, Mary places herself alongside countless women, and their children, who throughout human history have been the first and the worst victims of famine, war, oppression and natural calamities. She rejoices that in her Son, God has sent a champion to take the part of *all* in our world who are neglected and underprivileged, all who are powerless, despised and excluded.

The church invites us to join every day of our lives, if we want to, in saying or singing the Magnificat as part of the daily office. Maybe we shouldn't worry too much about Mary's many titles, or about the richness and complexity of the traditions about her. Perhaps we should just sing with her the song of Mary. Let us rejoice in her inspiration and companionship, as we strive to make real in our lives the Kingdom of her Son's love.

STEVE HOLT WRITES...

I can hardly believe that the first year of my training is now behind me and that I am only days away from entering my final year at Mirfield. What a year that has been with so many highlights, too numerous to mention. I must however say that my introduction to you in the United Benefice of St Mary's and St Faith's has been particularly special and I am delighted that I have been able to return over the summer and I hope to be able to continue to visit through the next year and I hope that our special friendship will continue beyond my ordination next year.

Regarding my ordination, I am now able to tell you that I have agreed my Title Parish. I will serve at St James, Grimsby, which has just been afforded Minster status and so now is The Grimsby Minster (it is still within my home Diocese of Lincoln). I have been able to spend some time in the parish recently and been to the Minster. It is a truly fantastic opportunity and I am very much looking forward to it.

Father Neil will keep you posted on the exact details of my ordination and any who feel able to make the journey to Grimsby will be most welcome.

I look forward to seeing you all again very soon,

God bless,

Steve



MORE ABOUT MUSIC...

Not a few people expressed a desire (through the returned evaluation sheets) to see lunchtime recitals continuing throughout the winter months, possibly monthly. With this in mind there are two planned, one on S. Faith's Day (a Red-Letter day for our parish) and one close to the Feast of S. Cecilia (Patron of Musicians).

At these concerts hot soup and rolls will be available in addition to other refreshments. On both days the normal recital day pattern of the Church being open from 11am is followed by the concert at 12noon.

Wednesday 6th October at 12 noon

Recital of popular organ classics – Fr. Neil



Saturday 20th November at 12 noon

Saint Cecilia's-tide Recital

Melanie Hill – Violin

Gregor Cuff – 'cello

Neil Kelley – Piano

Programme to include
Dvorak's "**Dumky**" *Trio*

FRANK SHARPLES R.I.P.

Our dear brother in Christ, Frank, was anointed in hospital on the evening of Monday 2nd August and died, peacefully, the following afternoon, just two months short of his 95th birthday.

Until recent poor health had confined him to his room in Tithebarn, over the previous ten years Frank had greatly enjoyed being a regular worshipper at the Sunday Eucharist. Thanks to the thoughtful and caring support of Gordon and Ada Slater and, in recent years, Viv Shillitoe, problems of mobility were overcome and Frank was able to take delight not only in being present in church on a Sunday but also in attending and sharing in the Saturday summer lunchtime recitals.

Over the years, to go and see Frank in Tithebarn was always a joy and a privilege. He much appreciated and was grateful for visits and was invariably warm and welcoming. A most endearing and affable gentleman, he was by nature gregarious and took great delight in conversation and discussion of current affairs. His lifetime's love of sport meant that there was often something of topical mutual interest that could be shared when visiting and, despite his blindness and increasing frailty, his sense of humour and joie de vivre remained undiminished until near the end.

Born in Pendlebury, most of Frank's married life with Gladys was spent in Wigan. It was there that he joined the Borough Police Force and worked his way up to the rank of Detective Inspector. It was there too that his long association with the Antiquity Masonic Lodge began, culminating in March of this year with the celebration at Tithebarn of his Diamond membership.

On Tuesday, 10th August, Frank's funeral service took place at All Saints Wigan, the church which for him and his family was "home". Among the large congregation a



After the Eucharist, it was time for food, drink and fellowship – and to drink a toast to St Mary's stalwarts Bert and Dora Whitehead,, celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary



AUGUST ACTIVITY

The combined prayer-power of the priests and people of the United Benefice prevailed again as the annual barbecue was blessed with sunshine and warmth. Bangers and burgers fed the folk, with plenty of 'BYO' drink to wash them down.





The food clearly went down well – though consumed with various degrees of elegance. The church looked on approvingly...



LITURGY & LUNCH

...was staged at the end of the month in the Hall. Our two congregations joined to celebrate the Sunday eucharist, sitting at tables to worship together before enjoying food, drink and laughter



few of us from St. Faith's were present to wish him farewell and speed him on his way. We shall long treasure the lovely memory of this delightful and charming old gentleman and give thanks for his friendship during the time he was with us. May he rest in God's peace and be raised in His Glory.

Fr. Dennis



BUILDING BRIDGES ...with Waterloo, Sierra Leone (continued)

The last edition of Newslink contained an article on the Waterloo Partnership's projects in Waterloo, Sierra Leone, which many readers of this magazine already support. This time I would like to tell you a little more – mostly about the work of the Partnership in the fields of education and health, which may be rather less well known.

Before the civil war in Sierra Leone the country enjoyed relatively high standards of education: Fourah Bay university, the first to be established in West Africa, had a particularly good reputation. The thirteen years of war totally demolished the education infrastructure at all levels: schools were ransacked by the rebels, books destroyed, and school desks burnt for firewood. Many school teachers, often the leaders of their communities, fled or were killed. Even now, nine years after the conflict ended, many schoolchildren are taught in buildings lacking roofs, desks and chairs, and with teaching resources limited to a blackboard and chalk. Even paper and pencils are luxuries. Teachers, often untrained, struggle to maintain standards.

Paradoxically, and providentially, while teachers in SL tried to cope without basic teaching materials, here in Sefton we had a surplus of school furniture, books and other resources from closing schools. Between 2005 and 2009 our charity shipped approximately 60 tonnes of these materials to Waterloo SL, where they have been distributed by our partner committee to dozens of local schools. We have also been privileged to work alongside other UK groups with similar objectives. In July 2008, working with Laurie Read from Worcester, who many years ago was the headmaster of the Adventist grammar school in Waterloo SL, we packed and dispatched the redundant contents of a whole science lab. Now children at the Peninsula Secondary School, the only school in the town able to offer West African Board exams, can sit the equivalent of GCSE Science. For the first time they can use real hands-on apparatus, instead of having to rely on pictures drawn on the blackboard! And last year when St. Joan of Arc primary school closed, we helped them ship out a container crammed with teaching equipment, generously funded by the efforts of English Martyrs school.

Rather than us sending whole containers ourselves, we now arrange for smaller quantities of high-value goods (such as a solar-powered vaccine fridge) to be shipped to Sierra Leone by a London-based non-profit making business called Greenworks. Although we no longer dispatch teaching materials in bulk, another organization called Build on Books (BOB) is currently sending thousands of books to schools in SL, and many of our parishioners contributed to their recent collection in St. Mary's church. BOB is an offshoot of CODEP, the Waterloo Partnership's 'daughter' charity, which is currently building a library and resource centre in Waterloo SL.

Of course, more than books and libraries are needed to restore Sierra Leone's educational system. The training and development of teachers is also critical, and we are trying to help here too, by organizing school links and educational exchanges. Over the past three and a half years we have helped to arrange several visits of Sefton school teachers to Waterloo SL, and vice versa, taking advantage of financial support from DFID and the British Council. The SL teachers gain ideas and encouragement from the British educational system; while our local schools' curriculum is greatly enriched by contact with the partner schools in SL. This spring alone 18 teachers from local schools have visited SL, including staff from St. John's Church of England Primary School and Merchant Taylor's School for Girls.

In the aftermath of the civil war, health care has suffered as badly as education. Women in childbirth, newborns, and young children are most at risk from death and serious disease, and health care provision remains quite inadequate for their needs. The statistics speak for themselves: one in five children dies before they're five and one in eight women dies from pregnancy-related complications. In response to these needs we have done our best to support the local Community Health Centre and maternity unit, which is desperately short of basic equipment and supplies. There is no doctor for the population of approximately 30,000 and the clinic is run by a Community Health Officer, who receives training equivalent to that of a specialist nurse in the UK. We have supplied the clinic with new beds, waterproof mattresses and bedding, diagnostic instruments including stethoscopes, and a limited amount of disposable goods such as gloves, aprons, surgical masks, dressings, syringes and needles. We have also been able to send a number of obstetric textbooks and two 'teaching pelvises' for midwifery training. One of our local GP practices donated a generous quantity of basic surgical instruments.

As well as supporting the clinic, the Partnership continues to provide medical treatment for some of the 40 vulnerable children whom we maintain at school. We would like to do a lot more to improve health care in the community, but are to some extent frustrated by red tape. Exemption from customs duties cannot be obtained without applying for international non-governmental organization (INGO) status, which is a long and expensive process. New regulations mean that we now need an import licence for even humble items like surgical gloves.

I hope that these two short articles have given you a flavour of the Waterloo Partnership's activities and aspirations. St. Faith's has played a major part in supporting the charity from its beginnings in 2005 (and even before!). Several individual members of St. Faith's congregation have played key roles in the development of the charity. In the early days Kathy Zimak was our Hon. Treasurer and a trustee, and more recently Kari Dodson came on a Partnership visit to SL to advise us on our role in child care. Currently Linda Nye is responsible for logistics and I am a member of the Board of Trustees, which also includes David Lloyd, Chris Price and Rick Walker. All of us are greatly privileged to contribute to the work of the Partnership, and we are immensely grateful for the support and encouragement of all our church members.

Please continue to pray for the work of the Waterloo Partnership, and for the courageous, resourceful and warm-hearted people of Waterloo, Sierra Leone.

Fred Nye

Trustee, The Waterloo Partnership UK



A BAD HABIT...?

A cabbie picks up a nun one night. She gets into the cab, and notices that the handsome cab driver won't stop staring at her. She asks him why he is staring. He replies, 'I have a question to ask but I don't want to offend you.'

She answers, 'My son, you cannot offend me. When you're as old as I am and have been a nun as long as I have, you get to see and hear just about everything. I'm sure that there's nothing you could say or ask that I would find offensive.'

'Well, I've always had a fantasy to have a nun kiss me.' To his amazement she responds, 'Well, let's see what we can do about that. There are just two things: you have to be single and you must be Catholic.'

The cab driver is very excited and says, 'Yes, I'm single **and** Catholic!' 'Very good,' the nun says. 'Pull into the next alley.' The nun fulfills his fantasy, with a long and passionate kiss. But when they get back on the road, the cab driver starts crying. 'My dear child,' says the nun, 'why are you crying?'

'Forgive me, but I've sinned. I lied and I must confess: I'm married and I'm Jewish.'

'That's OK', says the nun. 'My name is Kevin and I'm going to a fancy dress party.'

ST FAITH'S PATRONAL FESTIVAL 2010

Please see the back cover for the programme of events
on October 5th and 6th.

Saturday 9th October at 7.30pm

“Festival Concert”

Ian Gallagher (bass baritone)
and Neil Kelley (piano)

Tickets: £5

*Including wine and nibbles served during
the interval, with Grand Raffle*



Born on Long Island, New York, Ian Gallagher's interest in singing came to the forefront in high school, parallel to playing the bassoon. He has a Bachelor of Music from the Oberlin Conservatory, North America's oldest music college. He continued his studies as a master's and doctoral fellow in performance practice at Duke University.

His passion for German Lieder was honed with Hans Hotter, Elly Ameling and Robert Tear at the Franz-Schubert-Institut in Baden, Austria. Ian has been an active recitalist, performing concerts on both sides of the Atlantic. Since emigrating to Germany in 1997, his repertoire has expanded to include chanson, jazz and cabaret, and in Berlin Ian has been frontman of a quartet, the Ian Gallagher Group, based in Berlin and active throughout Germany.

Since 2008 he has been the curate in the Walton-on-the-Hill Team.

Sunday 10th October DEDICATION FESTIVAL

11am High Mass

followed by lunch in the Parish Hall (in aid of the Waterloo Partnership)

6pm Festal Evensong



FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS

A while ago now our PCC decided to ask the Bishop of Liverpool for his permission to admit children to Holy Communion prior to Confirmation. This move was widely debated in our Diocese, along with many others, and the Diocesan Synod gave its overwhelming approval. We were delighted that the Bishop of Liverpool said yes and a number of children were admitted to Holy Communion on Easter Day last year and so we joined the large majority of parishes throughout the Diocese who have moved in this direction. (If you are interested, you can read more about the subject on the Diocesan website (www.liverpool.anglican.org)

Classes will start in October for any children wishing to make their First Communion later this year. Children will make their First Communion at the Family Eucharist & Toy Service in Advent so that they are admitted in time to receive Holy Communion at Christmas. Further details will be available in the coming weeks for any interested families or please speak to Fr. Neil about it. The only requirement for children to begin the programme is that they are **regular attenders** (of Sunday School and/or Church) and that their parents or guardians give written permission.

Also, I would be glad to hear from any adults who would like to be prepared for Confirmation (which may also include adults who have been confirmed but would like to use this as a “refresher” course).

FROM THE SUBLIME... TO THE RIDICULOUS

More gleanings from the Politically Correct Society and Other Absurdities

Police officers have been criticised for wearing inappropriate underwear, including thongs and garish boxer shorts. They have been ordered to wear garments of an ‘appropriate colour’ and to ensure they are ‘inconspicuous’ under their uniforms. One female constable, who, understandably, did not want to be named, said: I feel like I’m in a no-win situation. If I wear a pink thong I’ll be in trouble for exposing myself, but if I wear a nice sensible pair of knickers I’m going to get hauled up for showing a VPL (visible panty line!). I’d be better off going commando and not wearing any knickers at all.’

The guidance also suggest that officers should wear their helmets at all times in public – even when rushing out of a patrol car to chase down a suspect.

Their pronouncements on the acceptable curvature of cucumbers and bananas have already proved unpalatable. Now the infamous bureaucrats of Brussels have made another baffling food judgment, ruling that a swede can be called a turnip when it’s in fact a Cornish pasty.

They have decreed that only minced or diced beef, sliced potato, onion and swede can fill the pasties. However, the Cornish are unique in referring to Swedes as turnips, despite the distinct differences. Because of this linguistic quirk, the regulations have been amended to allow either term to go on the label, even though only swede is allowed. It means that Cornish pasties can be advertised as containing turnip, but will break the rules if they actually contain it.

A motorist rang her council to ask if its car park was haunted, because her vehicle seemed to have moved to another space while she was away shopping. Other bizarre inquiries to town halls included a man who asked if he could roll up a zebra crossing, and another who wanted to know if he could register the death of someone who was still alive.

A grandfather who bought a birthday card for a two year-old was stunned to find the label: 'not suitable for children under three years old.'

**Sunday 31st October - ALL SAINTS SUNDAY
10.30am in S. Mary's Hall**

Your PCC and Ministry Team invite you to the next

“LITURGY AND LUNCH”

*Theme: Celebrating the Saints
with our young people helping to lead our worship*

Tickets available soon (which are free - but suggest what food to bring with you for the shared meal afterwards)

Please note there is no 11am Mass in S. Faith's this day

SERVICES FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP BULLETIN

It is just a year since the seed of an idea was sown to form a group that would give support to the family members of service personnel who are living in this area, and I am delighted to say that the seed has strong roots with healthy growth!

Since the first well-attended meeting in March this year there have been meetings each month, with a steady growth in the numbers of those joining with us to give their support and prayers to both the families and to those serving in Afghanistan. For the first couple of meetings there were approximately 20 people, then 25 and at the last one 35! So word is spreading!

In August a BBQ was held in the vicarage garden, with Father Neil and his lovely assistant Craig (Irene Taylor's son in law) doing a wonderful job as the chefs of the day; the burgers and sausages were accompanied by a variety of salads and followed by ice cream. The weather couldn't have been more glorious with wall to wall sunshine and this was only bettered by the service families that joined with us to make it a really great day. The children had a great time and all enjoyed the treasure hunt for the chocolate bars that had been hidden in the garden. They had all arrived clean and tidy and left dirty and tired, a sure sign of having had a good time! A raffle was held and together with the collection box and sale of merchandise in aid of Support Our Soldiers, over £100 was generously raised for this charity.

I would like to thank all those who have helped me with this worthwhile group, from the printing that is done, all the ladies that do the baking for the refreshments at a meeting, to those who come along to give their support and to Father Neil for the use of the church and his garden: without any of this help this wouldn't be happening.

Lastly I would like to ask if you will remember in your prayers Emma (Support Our Soldiers) and Pam and their families as they face the difficult time ahead with both having loved ones deployed in Afghanistan.

The next meeting is on **Wednesday, 15th October at 7.30pm**. For any further information ring 0151 474 9708.

Eunice Little



WATERLOO PARTNERSHIP LUNCH DATE

As a change from their usual Strawberry Tea, Rosie and Rick are hosting a Sunday Lunch to raise much needed funds for the Waterloo Partnership. This will take place **after mass on Sunday 10th October in the church hall when a three course meal and** coffee and mints will be served at a cost of just £10 per head which will include a glass of wine. To help with the catering numbers, tickets are on sale from Rosie, but must be bought in advance.

Please help us to fund some of the projects that the Partnership is sponsoring in Sierra Leone - wells, bridges, schooling, seeds - the people there are able and willing to improve their village, but need our help in providing the raw materials and expertise.

"Calling all 10-14 year olds..."

... to S. Mary's Church Hall!



**Games, Sports, Movies, Hot Dogs, Tuck Shop, Crafts,
Table-Tennis, Pool, Face-painting**

**7pm - 9pm - drop in and out as you please
It's freebring your friends along**

**For Boys and Girls aged 10 - 14.
Enquiries to Lynne Connolly on 07795 807715
Monday 13th September & each Monday following
Come along and bring your friends!**

TALKING TALENTS

Not surprisingly, over the summer months the Talents Scheme has slumbered somewhat. The current running total, including reclaimed Gift Aid on appropriate donations, has nevertheless reached just over £4,300, which is still very encouraging. Our thanks are due to all who have contributed in any way to the continuing success of the scheme.

With the onset of the autumn season, it is time to push for the £5,000 target – or of course beyond it! The Jam Factory is taking advantage of the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness and is in full production. It has raised well over £800 by its efforts since the scheme began, and is naturally now aiming for the £1,000 mark. Please support it on the Sundays when the stall is open. And of course many of the original Talents Scheme goods and services are still available... go to the website front page and click to find what is on offer.

Before we have time to draw breath, the second Christmas Tree Festival will be upon us. Last year this proved a profitable source of income through the sales of preserves and various craft products. If we can repeat this, then the chances of beating our targets are good....

Chris Price



MAGAZINE MATTERS

To mark the Patronal Festival, this month's magazine is in glorious technicolor. It is worth repeating that the usual (and far cheaper!) black and white photos we print month by month can always be seen in full colour (and sometimes with extra scenes) in the online version of the magazine.

Over the past months, as a result of readers – both in church and on our ‘postal’ readership – agreeing to forego their ‘hard copy’ magazine and access the website version, we have managed to reduce the print run from some 360 copies to the current 320 – a small saving of the planet’s natural resources! The editor is always happy to hear from other readers willing to make the change – but is glad to reassure others that there are no plans to stop printing the magazine in the good old time-honoured way.

MARRIAGES

28th August 2010 at St. Charles' church, Gosforth, Newcastle-upon-Tyne
Dr. Tom Nye to Dr. Gemma Jones.

THANK YOU FROM MARGARET TAYLOR

To all friends at St Faith's – a big Thank You for all the cards, flowers and good wishes I received after my recent fall.

I am so grateful to know that your thoughts and prayers aided my recovery. Once again thank you and God bless you all.

Patronal Postscript.... So WHO WAS SAINT FAITH...?



“Little is in fact known of our patron, and no-one seems sure why Douglas Horsfall, our founder and benefactor, named his new church, consecrated in 1900, after a young French virgin and martyr. It is believed that Faith lived in the 3rd and 4th centuries at the time of the Roman Emperor Maximilian (286-305 AD) and died in Agen in the Garonne Valley in French Aquitaine. According to Jean-Claude Fau’s ‘Visiting Conques’, ‘a young Christian girl named Foy’ (from the Latin ‘Fides’) refused to make a sacrifice to pagan gods and was put to death by the occupying Roman authorities on the orders of the Governor Dacian, who had her roasted on a brazen bed and then beheaded. Other versions of the story record a miraculous shower of rain extinguishing the fire and necessitating the subsequent beheading. Faith was just twelve years old at the time.’ Her body, secretly buried, was transferred two centuries later to the basilica constructed on the actual place of her martyrdom. ‘It is quite certain’, Fau says, ‘that the various accounts of her Passion related well after her death, evoke more the feeling of ‘The Golden Legend of the Lives of the Saints’ than any historical reality.’

Five centuries later, it appears that romantic legend became closer to reality when ‘the names of Sainte Foy and Conques became associated for ever.’ Towards the end of the 8th century, a hermit called Dadon settled to a life of contemplation in that remote valley, and a community of monks joined him, following the Benedictine rules. Following a grant of land from the Emperor Louis the Pious (son of Charlemagne), the community began to flourish. At a time when the worship and valuing of holy relics was growing – and the possession of relics were coming to be seen as conferring great prestige - the Conques community set about obtaining some. ‘After several fruitless attempts’, Fau recounts, ‘they set their heart on obtaining the precious remains of Sainte Foy at Agen. The theft, obliquely referred to as the ‘discreet transfer’(!) took place in the year 866 AD.’

Other accounts tell the entertaining story of the Conques monk who apparently attached himself to the Agen community, won their confidence and was entrusted with the task of guarding the relics. Once alone, he took to the hills with Saint Faith, evaded his righteous pursuers and found sanctuary in Conques, on January 14th, 866, where our saint’s remains (if that is what they actually are) remain to this day. The abbey was rededicated to Sainte Foy and, discreetly glossing over its highly questionable acquisition, grew and prospered. Crusaders and pilgrims going to the shrine of St James at Compostella invoked her intercession and heaped treasures and gold on the community. The celebrated reliquary jewel-encrusted statue of the saint dates from this time and has long been revered as a memento of her life and death.”

As a centre of pilgrimage, the romantically-sited Abbey at Conques has been visited on more than occasion by pilgrims from St Faith’s Crosby outpost. The church website has archived pages of these visits, as well as further material on what we know about St Faith – and lists (and some stories) of the churches and other establishments named in her honour.

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CHILDREN'S CHURCH

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

CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER

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

CHURCH CENTRE

1, Warren Court, Warren Road, Blundellsands

CUB SCOUTS

Tuesday 6.30 - 7.45 pm. Adam Jones 07841 125589

Thursday 6.30 - 7.45 pm. Mike Carr 293 3416

SCOUTS

Tuesday 8.00 - 9.30 pm. George McInnes 924 3624

RAINBOWS

Monday 4.45 - 5.45 pm. Geraldine Forshaw 928 5204

BROWNIE GUIDES

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

CHOIR PRACTICE

Friday 7.15 pm - 8.30 pm. Sam Austin 07921 840616

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**THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**



Diocese of Liverpool