

The United Benefice of St. Faith Great Crosby and St. Mary the Virgin Waterloo Park

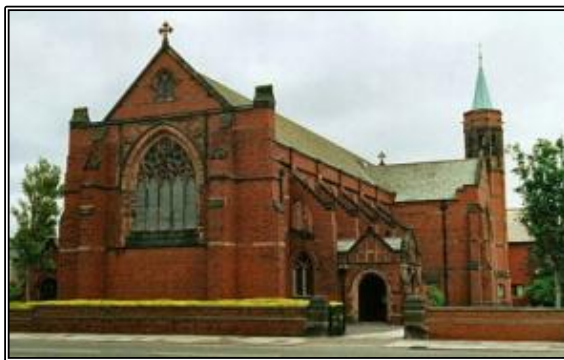
Diocese of Liverpool



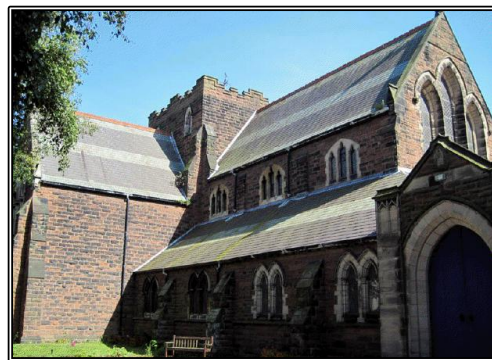
. Two Buildings, One Church .

Parish Profile

Great Crosby and Waterloo are residential suburbs on the coast seven miles north of Liverpool and fourteen miles south of the seaside town of Southport. Crosby is on the direct rail line between Southport and Liverpool and the nearest railway station is just a ten minute walk from both churches. There are several bus routes through Waterloo and Crosby, providing easy access to the city and all parts of Merseyside.



St Faith's



St Mary's

Crosby has perhaps become most recently famous with the installation of Anthony Gormley's 'In Another Place' on Crosby beach. There is a local park across the road from St. Faith's Church and another two within walking distance. Also within walking distance is a good, long sandy beach and coastal walk. Sporting and leisure activities are well catered for, with a marine lake, leisure centre and sailing club, links golf courses, a rugby club, many tennis clubs, a newly-built swimming pool with leisure centre and two local libraries, all available nearby. The churches of St. Faith and St. Mary are approximately 10 minutes walk or 3 to 4 minutes' drive apart.

Waterloo Primary School is the only school within St. Mary's Parish and Merchant Taylors' Boys' Independent School is situated near to St. Faith's Church within its parish boundary; both schools are on the A565. Merchant Taylors' School and two local comprehensive schools, St. Michael's Church of England and Chesterfield High, have had links with the churches for a number of years, holding school services and concerts at St Faith's.

Since 1974 the parishes have been part of Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council, whose headquarters are situated in Bootle, but there is a local Town Hall in nearby Waterloo. Crosby has a population in excess of 57,000. A breakdown of the 57,000 shows a slightly higher percentage of the population represents the 55+ age range. The total population within the two parishes is approximately 8,000, with a split of 5,000 for St. Faith's and 3,000 for St. Mary's.

Service to the Local Community

Both parishes of the United Benefice are residential communities with variations in household income and in the housing styles of the properties which surround the church. The social mix covers the broad spectrum of working class, middle class, professionals and retired people and this is reflected in the congregation, many of whom live outside the parishes. There is very little variation in racial mix in these communities. The area covered by the churches consists largely of owner occupiers interspersed with housing association and privately rented properties. In common with

the rest of the country, some areas are suffering from the economic downturn, but people are very friendly and are concerned for one another.



In 2011 there were 11 baptisms at St Faith's and 11 at St Mary's; 4 weddings at St Faith's and 8 at St Mary's; and 16 funerals at St Faith's, with 6 at St Mary's. There are currently 105 on the Electoral roll at St Faith's and 46 on the Electoral roll of St. Mary's.

Each church has a number of baptism visitors, who make initial contact with families enquiring about

baptisms. The visit is followed up by a baptism preparation session in church. This is an opportunity for the families to meet together for discussion and teaching about Christian initiation and discipleship.

The idea of welcoming children into first communion was introduced three years ago. After approximately six weeks of preparation, the children are presented for first communion on a Sunday in Advent which coincides with the annual Toy Service and the opening of the annual Christmas Tree Festival.

A simple service with hymns is held on a monthly basis in a local residential nursing home. Ordained and Reader members of the Ministry team conduct these services, which are attended by a small number of people from both congregations.

A support group for personnel serving in the Armed Forces and their families, and for service chaplains, was set up by members of St. Faith's congregation in 2009 and it is through this connection that the British Legion has established a relationship with the Church: its retired standard is held in one of the chapels, adjacent to the Book of Remembrance. In recent years a well-attended Carol Service in aid of service charities, and led by a military band, has been held during the Christmas Tree Festival. The support group meets monthly for worship and fellowship.



St Faith's interior: panoramic view, Christmas

The churches have strong links with two overseas charities: the Waterloo Partnership, a community charity, linking with Waterloo, Sierra Leone and Medic Malawi, supporting Mntumthama, Malawi. Both these charities have active representatives in St. Faith's congregation, who organise several fund-raising events throughout the year. St. Faith's and St. Mary's are Fair Trade churches, and contribute regularly to Christian Aid collections and appeals.

St. Faith's church hall is regularly used by Rainbows, Beavers, Brownies, Cub Scouts and Scouts. There are weekly bookings from a Mother and Baby Group, Alcoholics Anonymous, indoor bowls players and a Health and Fitness Dance Group. There are also monthly Table Sales on Saturday mornings, which have proved to be very profitable and have generated income which has been put towards hall refurbishment.



Children's Holiday Club at St Mary's

St. Mary's hall is used by its Uniformed Organisations: Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Senior Section, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Senior Section, as well as the Youth Group, Badminton, Tai Chi and Zumba classes and other occasional lettings. The hall is well used.

The Churches – Buildings

St. Faith's Church was founded by Douglas Horsfall, consecrated in 1900 and dedicated 'to the glory of God as a thank offering for the revival of Catholic Faith and Doctrine in the sixty years reign of Her most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria.'



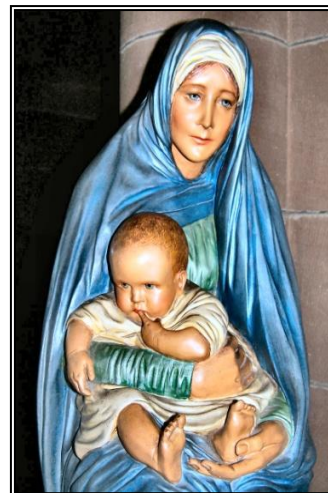
So reads the inscription on the north chancel wall of St. Faith's. These words are carved into the sandstone as a witness to the intentions of its founder, a permanent reminder of the special, sometimes controversial place this church has held in Crosby and its continued and evolving churchmanship in the liberal Catholic tradition.

The structure of the large building is a combination of sandstone and red brick. Above the nave is a hammer beam roof, fashioned in the same style as the roof of Westminster Hall. The Choir and Sanctuary are covered by a magnificent barrel-vaulted roof. The pulpit is of carved sandstone and the woodworking skills of O. E. Griffiths of Liverpool are to be found in the carved Spanish sedilia, the choir stalls and organ casing. The rood screen is also of outstanding quality and the Salviati reredos truly magnificent. The original church layout, focussed on the high altar, has been enhanced by the addition of the nave altar, which is used for most Sunday celebrations

St Faith's High Altar and Salviati reredos

apart from some major festivals. The lower arched windows are of good stained glass, including one commissioned for the centenary, which pictures fond memories of our most famous ordinand Robert Runcie, who worshipped at St. Faith's in his youth. Lord Runcie is but one of the considerable number of men and women who have found their vocation to the priesthood at St Faith's over the years, three of whom were ordained this year.

There are two side chapels, the Chapel of the Cross to the north of the nave altar and the Lady Chapel to the south, in both of which weekday services are held.



The Madonna statue at St Faith's

The church is entered from the south porch, which is protected by substantial wrought iron gates. The church grounds encompass the hall buildings, a Garden of Remembrance, lawns, shrubs and a substantial parking area. In 2011 railings and three attractive entrance gateways were fitted around the perimeter of the site, thus providing secure protection to the church, hall and grounds. The Premises Committee works in monitoring general maintenance. No major problems were identified in either church in the 2010 Quinquennial Inspections.

Adjacent to St Faith's church is the hall, which has newly-refurbished toilets and which has been fitted with a new kitchen equipped to cater for outside activities.

St. Mary's church was dedicated in December 1877 and originally served under the Parish of St. John, Waterloo. The foundation stone of the permanent church was laid in July 1882, but the church was not consecrated until February 1886. The gradual development of the church can be seen in the variation of colours in stone and brickwork as building progressed. In 1901 St. Mary's became a parish in its own right, with an incumbent, a vicarage, a parish hall and the installation of electric lighting.

Following the purchase of land south of the hall in 1934, the new Annexe was opened in order to house a growing Sunday school, which at its peak numbered some 232 children. Each ground floor window of the church displays a design in stained glass and a magnificent 20 feet high 3-panelled window radiates colour above the high altar. In 1936 a reredos and 'Mousey Thompson' altar were presented to the church by the Rollo family in memory of their parents. The scenic location and attractive interior of St. Mary's has brought it to the attention of the media in more recent years and the church has been used by variously different film and TV directors: a venture which has generated valuable income.



The Annexe contains the Parish Office, the Sunday School room and a newly-refurbished Conference Room, which again is used by a variety of organisations and lettings. The upstairs rooms are let to the Sefton Talking Newspaper (NMAB) and Waterloo Operatic Society. Three other rooms are mainly used for storage.

Christingle Service at St Mary's

The Churches – People

Services (average attendance numbers in brackets)

Sunday

9.30 am	Parish Eucharist and Sunday School - St. Mary's (40)
10.30 am	Morning Prayer (said) - St. Faith's
11.00 am	Solemn Mass and Children's Church - St. Faith's (75)
1.00 pm	Holy Baptism (2nd Sunday) - St. Faith's; 3rd Sunday - St. Mary's
6.00 pm	Evening Service & Benediction (1st Sunday and as announced) - St. Faith's (12)



Statue of Saint Faith

Weekdays

Monday:	10.30 am	Morning Prayer - St. Faith's (7)
Tuesday	9.30 am	Holy Eucharist - St. Faith's (6)
Wednesday	10.30 am	Holy Eucharist - St. Mary's (BCP) (10)
Friday	6.30 pm	Evening Prayer - St. Faith's (7)
Saturday	10.30 am	Holy Eucharist - St. Faith's (10)

The weekday services have been curtailed to this programme during the current interregnum; before this there was usually a daily celebration of the Eucharist, as well as the daily reading of the Offices.

The United Benefice Churches, whilst keeping their own autonomy and traditions, have an understanding of each other's needs and work well both together and independently. It is the desire of both churches to preserve aspects of church life representative of their distinctive characters. St. Mary's is of a broader churchmanship than that of St. Faith's.

A Ministry Team for the United Benefice meets regularly to discuss all aspects of pastoral and spiritual work. During the interregnum the churches are fortunate to have the continued support of a licensed self-supporting priest and two retired priests. In addition there are four licensed Readers, one of whom has been granted an extension of licence following retirement during the interregnum.



Wedding at St Mary's

St. Faith's and St. Mary's have strong serving teams, St. Faith's led by a Sacristan and deputy Sacristan, and both churches have a considerable number of Eucharistic Ministers. The Reserved Sacrament is always kept in the Lady Chapels of both churches. Vestments are worn at all services and incense is used at St. Faith's. The laity are closely involved with the presentation of services in both churches: as eucharistic ministers, intercessors and lesson readers.

There are two Wardens and two Deputy Wardens in each church and both churches have reliable and supportive sidespersons' teams. Recently some Eucharistic Ministers have taken the opportunity to bring the reserved sacrament to the sick and the housebound.

Both churches have links with the Scout and Guide Associations, covering the whole age range from Rainbows and Beavers to Sea Scouts and Senior section. Under excellent and dedicated leadership, all these groups have become increasingly involved with the churches, their worship and activities.



Services Support Group military band concert during St Faith's Christmas Tree Festival

The introduction of a regular 'all age' Sunday eucharist at both churches has brought in young people and their parents and has been helpful for those attending St. Faith's who are not familiar with the Anglo-Catholic tradition. The young people often take part in readings, prayers and a presentation as an alternative to the sermon. There are eight of these Family and Parade Services in each church during the year skilfully steered and planned by a dedicated planning group.

Both churches run a Sunday School, with a regular team of leaders. Sunday School parties take place each Christmas and in the summer. Activity workshops are organised for pre-secondary school children during Advent and in Holy Week. St. Mary's operates a Children's Holiday Club, running for a week during the school summer holiday.

At the other end of the age spectrum, an annual Over-65s Holiday Club is organised by a team from both churches. This has proved to be a very successful venture and is well supported by parishioners from both churches. A joint Senior Citizens' lunch also takes place each year after Christmas. This is planned and prepared by the very competent 'in house' catering teams, as are several other ventures throughout the year. A Reflection Group, growing out of the Mission-Shaped Ministry Course, meets regularly at St. Mary's Church and seasonal Deanery-organised courses are attended by both churches.

Every alternate year a pilgrimage to Walsingham takes place and in the recent past there have also been United Benefice Pilgrimages to Conques, Compostella and to Rome.

A relatively recent innovation for the United Benefice has been the institution of a 'Liturgy and Lunch' in each month in which a 5th Sunday falls. On these occasions a joint service is held on an alternating basis between the two churches. Each person attending contributes an item towards a shared lunch following the service and is encouraged to bring guests in the interest of mission and outreach. A Service of Remembrance, to which the



'Last Night of the Proms' concert at St Mary's

recently bereaved are invited, is held in both churches every November.

Both St. Faith's and St. Mary's have a very good musical tradition; St. Faith's enjoys the expertise of a four-part choir under a Director of Music and has the good fortune to have an excellent organ to uphold the standard of choral accompaniment to which the services aspire.

These strong musical traditions have been supplemented since 1998 by a regular and successful series of free Saturday recitals in St. Faith's, which are held between April and August each year, with music provided by instrumental and choral groups and individuals. An excellent catering team provides refreshments and light lunches at each of these recitals. The musical reputation of St. Faith's has ensured that the church has become a desirable venue for several other choral groups and orchestras.

The churches enjoy a busy and active social calendar, together with many fund-raising events, which include parish lunches, quiz nights, open gardens and spring and autumn fairs.



Christmas Tree Festival at St Faith's

For the past three years St. Faith's has held a Christmas Tree Festival, where local businesses, schools and supporters of charities are invited to decorate a tree on behalf of their chosen cause. The church is open to the community for a week of celebration, services, hospitality and reflection. School groups, local parishioners and a wider public from across Merseyside have produced an increasing number of visitors as news of this festival has spread. The preparation and staffing for this week is a joint effort by the congregation and the wider community and has raised thousands of pounds for charities and church funds.

The Wider Context

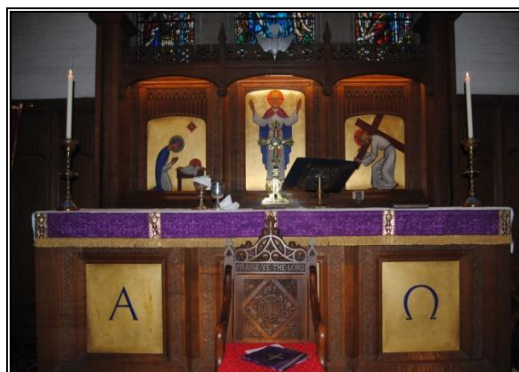
Reports

The PCCs are split into various committees: Standing, Finance, Mission, Premises and Catering. There is also a Men's Fellowship with members drawn from the United Benefice. The latter's members meet not only socially, but also as a working party for maintenance of both churches; also St. Mary's Fellowship has members from the United Benefice, other local churches and local residents.

The Church and Community reports in the APCM Reports for 2011 can be accessed via the churches' websites and provide an informative picture of the day-to-day life of our churches.

The PCCs of both churches organise an annual 'Away Day' at which consolidation and review of the preceding year is undertaken and priorities for the forthcoming year are set.

The High Altar at St Mary's



Finances

Both parishes have experienced Treasurers and Gift Aid Officers and St. Faith's parish currently meets all its financial obligations, although the parish share of St. Mary's is not fully paid to date. The Diocesan guidelines for clergy expenses and work practices are fully supported and the need for a recognised 'day off' is honoured.

A very successful Stewardship Campaign was mounted between January and Lent 2012, in which the majority of members of the PCCs took part, resulting in a 46% increase in standing orders, a 5% increase via the weekly envelope scheme and a 9% increase in 'gift aiding' across the congregations. Full accounts for both parishes are available from their respective websites; those for St Faith's are also posted on the Charity Commissioners' website.

The Deanery

The United Benefice is in the Bootle Deanery and part of a cluster known as 'Churches Together in Waterloo and Crosby'. Several collaborative services are held, involving choirs and clergy from amongst the cluster and there is an ecumenical Walk of Witness on Good Friday. The cluster includes two other Anglican Churches, Waterloo United Free Church, a Methodist Chapel and two Roman Catholic Churches.

At the last 'Away Day' conference the PCCs agreed to explore the implications of a possible move from the status of United Benefice to that of a Unified Parish.

A Statement from the Bootle Deanery

"For some time the Bootle Deanery has been engaged as twelve congregations to draw together a Deanery Mission Plan or, put in other words, we have been working and talking together to establish what are our mission priorities as parishes, so that we can give mutual support as a Deanery. We have used the framework of the 'Five Marks of Mission' to help focus on our call to mission together. With absolute honesty, encouraging discussion on 'mission' at PCC and Deanery Synod level has not always been easy. It is not that we have not been engaged in 'mission', but that people have sometimes struggled to articulate why things are being done in church and who and what for. Although difficult, it has been a good and healthy exercise to ask why we are putting time and effort into some things and not others and actually facing a challenge of what might be missed out.

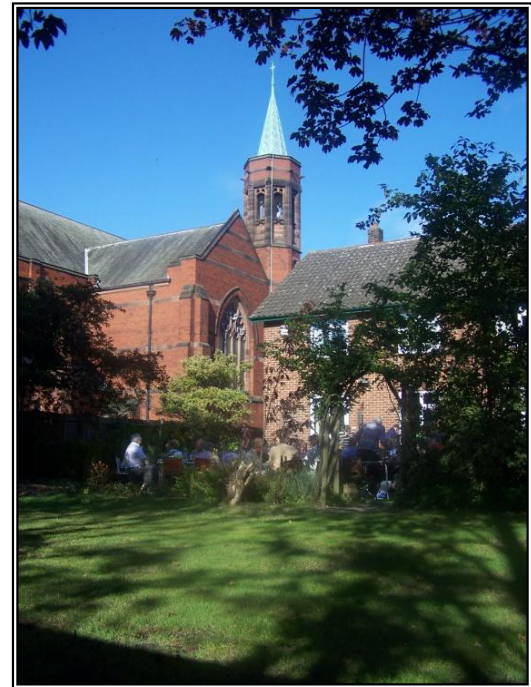
We know in part that the engagement we have with our parishes gives us credibility and respect and there is a continued commitment to increase some of that mission activity. We also know there are limited resources, not everything can be achieved and that there is a need to prioritise. Most of all, although very challenging within the desire to see development and growth of our wider mission activity, we must not neglect the call to invite people to become disciples, to become part of the worshipping church in our area. It is known this particular mission activity is hard and with relatively small congregations a big challenge.

Deanery Chapter meets regularly and support is also provided from adjacent parishes within the area of the deanery."

The Vicarage

The Vicarage of the United Benefice is within the grounds of St. Faith's Church. Built in 1964, this is a pleasant and spacious house with a large lawned garden edged with flower beds, shrubs and trees. The ground floor of the house has a large entertaining room, dining room, study, cloakroom with toilet, large square fitted kitchen and utility room. The upper floor has a bathroom, four bedrooms and a box room, all in a good state of repair and pleasantly decorated. Features include a new double-glazed porch, garage and a short driveway.

The Vicarage



Communications and Administration

A Parish Office Manager is employed five mornings a week in the well-resourced Parish Office on the St. Mary's site. Each church employs a Director of Music.

Both churches produce a magazine which can be accessed online; that of St. Faith's, 'Newslink', is produced monthly, whereas St. Mary's magazine is published every two months.

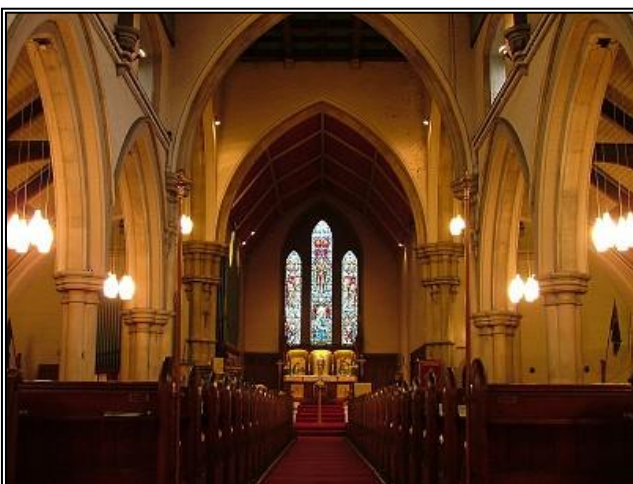
Service liturgy sheets are designed, produced and printed for every Sunday service and for Holy Days services. There is also a weekly notice sheet provided for the congregations on Sundays and published online. These publications are put together entirely on a voluntary basis by well-practised members of St. Faith's congregation.

Both churches have full and regularly-updated websites reporting on all aspects of church life and from which extra information and news may be gathered: these are to be found at www.stfaithsgreatcrosby.org.uk and www.stmaryswaterloopark.co.uk

The Mission Challenge for the Future

The following aims have been agreed by successive congregational Away Days and the United Benefice Ministry Team.

1. To improve outreach by involving those as yet reluctant to take part fully in the active life of the church.



2. To develop work with children, young people and families.

3. To develop the ministry of baptism, by making the fellowship, worship and teaching of the church more accessible to baptism families.

4. To support the Bishop's Initiatives and Growth Agenda.

St Mary's interior

New Incumbent Profile

Someone: with wide experience and the ability to manage more than one parish.

who is an excellent communicator and listener, with an engaging personality, good sense of humour.

who will appreciate and maintain the strong musical, liturgical and eucharist-based traditions of both churches.

who will develop work with children and young families.

who will be visible and active within the local community.

who is an innovative and thought-provoking preacher.

With proven leadership skills, but who is flexible and sensitive to the needs of all members of the community.

Who is able to work as part of a team and who is firmly committed to collaborative ministry.



St Faith's Night Patronal Festival High Mass



The Lady Chapel Altar at St Mary's

Both PCCs have voted not to debate any resolutions under the Priests (Ordination of Women) Measure 1993



'Duo aedificia sed unum ecclesia'



Location Map

Crosby Road North is the A565, leading north to Formby and Southport and south to Bootle and Liverpool, with access to the M58, M57 and M6 Motorways.

