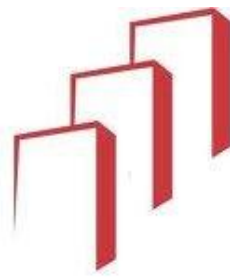


Milestones in a Ministry

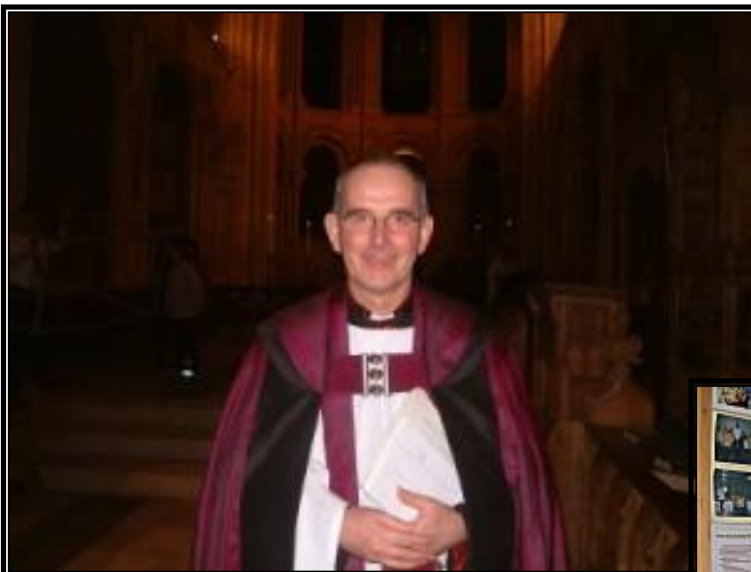


Fr Neil Kelley at St Faith's: 1999-2012

To mark the ending of his 13 years' ministry as Vicar of the United Benefice, we present year-by-year edited highlights, in words and photographs, of each year's events at St Faith's

A.D. 2005

For this year, the mid-point of Fr Neil's incumbency, the emphasis is on some of the many and varied acts of worship that took place in St Faith's, and also some of the activities laid on for young and old of the congregation.



The year's first special occasion was the institution of our previous vicar, Fr Richard Capper, as Canon Pastoral of Norwich Cathedral. Several of us crossed the Pennines in January to see him 'collated' in his new post



Not long after, a ceilidh was held at St Faith's to celebrate the life of John Taylor, a much-missed member of our congregation. As usual, the occasion was marked by a moderate consumption of drink and some restrained dancing.





St Faith's members were actively involved in the founding of the Waterloo Partnership, set up to support the needy people of Waterloo, Sierra Leone. The Walkers hosted a fund-raising Big Breakfast, attended by M.P Claire Curtis- Thomas, its first Chair, seen here in Rick's old Morgan car. Our links with the Partnership remain strong in 2012, with three of our congregation Trustees of the organisation

Ascension Day 2005 saw a full choral service at the unearthly hour of 6.30 a.m., followed by a reviving breakfast in the Vicarage. Fr Dennis is seen helping, as always, to dispose of everything on offer.



Fr Mark Waters had joined the staff of St Faith's and is seen here outside the church following his licensing service



On a sizzling hot summer's day (remember those?) the United Benefice barbecue filled the vicarage garden. The proceeds went to Medic Malawi, another of the causes our church actively supports



Two scenes from the all-age worship services introduced in these years: children were very much involved from the beginning.



The Patronal Festival in October was marked with even more splendour, music and ritual than usual. A record band of servers, choir and of course clergy posed for the camera at the Patronal High Mass



A popular innovation has been the institution of the annual 'Last Night of the Proms' concerts at St Mary's, in whose vestry the performers prepare for an evening of festive and patriotic music in a flag-decked church



Not long before Christmas another new happening: the annual Craft and Activity afternoon, where the children made decorations and cards and regaled themselves with the traditional cakes, jellies and drinks





At the other end of the age spectrum, the recently-introduced Senior Citizens' Christmas lunch saw members of both congregations sitting down to dinner in the church hall, indulging in community singing and wearing silly hats



Finally in 2005, the Christmas party for our two churches' Sunday Schools, held at St Mary's was visited by Father Christmas, who presents a clearly delighted incumbent with a pair of Christmas socks..