

Christopher D. Price

A HISTORY OF  
SAINT FAITH'S  
CHURCH CROSBY

1900 ~1975



from  
THE BISHOP OF WARRINGTON  
Martinsfield  
Elm Avenue  
Great Crosby  
August 26th 1975

Many congratulations to Saint Faith's on being seventy five years young. I have loved coming to your church, for occasions which have always been well-planned, full of meaning and bursting with joy: a good reflection in fact of what the Catholic Faith is all about.

For we need today to be men and women with clear reasons for our beliefs; purposeful people who are deeply happy, and able to show with humility and gratitude the difference Christ makes to one's life.

Blessings on all your celebrations now and in the quarter century to come.

+ John Warrington

Saint Bartholomew's Day, 1975

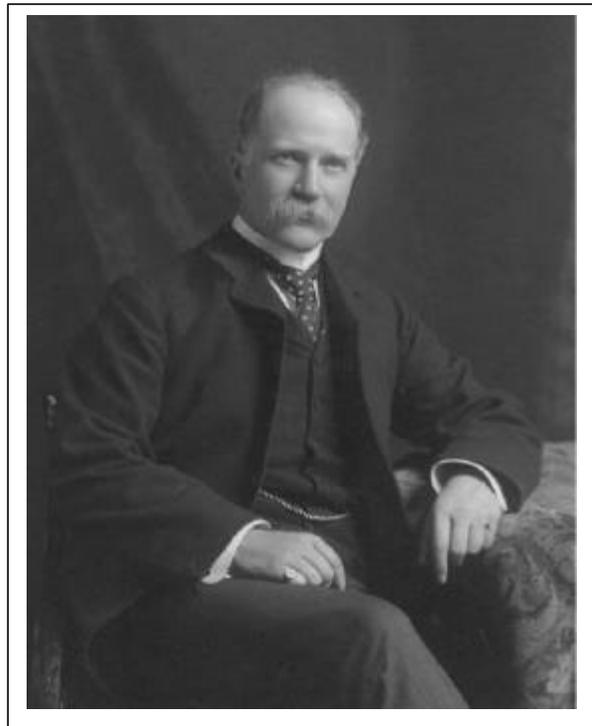
## FOREWORD

This history of S.Faith's Church, Crosby, is an attempt to bring together several things. Through the medium of its Service Registers, fully and faithfully kept through three quarters of a century, it traces the development of the church's worship and presents some statistics of those who attended it. Through its magazines over those years, it attempts to set these facts and figures in the context of the whole life of the church and the views and intentions of successive incumbents. And through occasional newspaper reports and some tentative observations and conclusions of my own, it tries also to impose a pattern on seventy five years of history and to assess the importance and value of some of the landmarks of the past as well as of the present.

In doing this I am inevitably indebted to the writing of my predecessor in this work, Mr. George Houldin, from whose booklet 'Fifty Years', written and published in 1950 for an earlier anniversary, I quote extensively. 'Fifty Years' is, naturally enough, a product of its time, and reflects the attitudes and concerns of twenty five years ago; it is nevertheless a most valuable source written by one to whom most of those first fifty years were a memory and a record of service to S.Faith's. I am grateful also to Mrs. Kay Byth for research done in the magazines of the past, discovering many revealing and, I hope, sometimes entertaining items, and to all those friends who through their memories, their suggestions and their help at various stages with the work have contributed to the final product.

Although I have tried to be objective, the views expressed are of course mine alone, and represent my interpretation of past and present. To those who see things differently, or to whom through sins of omission or commission I have done less than justice, I apologise. It may seem that the pages that follow show an undue preoccupation with statistics, and in particular with the numbering of communicants. In defence I would suggest that there seems no other satisfactory way of measuring the development of a church's worship, and also that a church which has always so valued the centrality of the Eucharist in its life needs no other yardstick.

This publication marks the seventy fifth anniversary of the consecration of Douglas Horsfall's church in Crosby. I hope that it will reveal both to those within and outside the family of Saint Faith's something of our church's story. It is dedicated to all past benefactors, priests and people of Saint Faith's, as well as to those under whom and with whom I serve today.



Douglas Horsfall  
Founder of St Faith's