



Newslink

St Faith's Church, Great Crosby
APRIL 2009

Worship at Saint Faith's



SUNDAYS

10.30am Morning Prayer

11.00am SUNG EUCHARIST and Children's Church

1.00pm Holy Baptism (2nd Sunday)

7.00pm Compline and Benediction (1st Sunday)

WEEKDAYS: HOLY EUCHARIST

10.30am Monday

9.30am Tuesday

10.30am Wednesday (S. Mary's, Waterloo)

9.00am Thursday (Holy Days)

6.30pm Friday

12noon Saturday (10.30 am during concert season)

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE AND RECONCILIATION

Father Neil is 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.

HOLY COMMUNION to the sick and housebound and those in hospital

If you, or someone you know, would like a visit from a member of the Church, please contact the Vicarage to arrange this. The Eucharistic Ministers are always happy to bring Holy Communion to the sick and housebound. If you are unable to get to church and would like to receive Holy Communion at home please contact Joyce Green (931 4240). If you or someone you know would like to be visited in hospital please let Fr Neil know. Fr Neil will normally try to take Thursday as his day off.



From the Ministry Team: April 2009

Dear Friends,

We have spent a lot of time recently working with the word mission and what that might mean to us in our two parishes. As Phil Pawley (the Diocesan Missioner who led our Mission Shaped Introduction Course) rightly said at the first meeting: it is not that we are struggling to survive, but that we are waiting to see what God wants us to do here. I guess that whilst most Christians have no difficulty accepting that in our heads, our hearts can always be gloomy places! Easter reminds us of that ultimate triumph over the powers of darkness and gloom and that we, as Easter people, are to be people of hope. We are an Easter people, said S. Augustine, “alleluia is our song!” Well, it is sometimes, but it is a sometimes half-hearted alleluia.

Yes, we have thought a lot about mission and at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting we will go one step further to try and explore what ‘shape’ our mission might be taking under God’s guidance. In his book entitled “Parish Priests – for the sake of the kingdom” Robin Greenwood interviewed a large number of clergy, priests and bishops, in order to put his material together. I won’t bore you with the detail of the book but one overwhelming factor which came from almost every priest interviewed was a sense of deep disappointment and regret that only relatively few people, perhaps 25% of the congregation seemed to be the average, bothered to get involved with things ‘outside’ the Sunday service. We know at S. Faith’s we have our “Sunday people” and those who come more often. I am not criticising either. However, one abiding thing is clear as we travel through Holy Week (if indeed you will be at the services) and that is that the Way of the Cross is ultimately a Way of Life, not a hobby for spare Sundays!

If the Lord of Life was put to death because those around opted for an easy life rather than the demands of the Gospel, then we shouldn’t be surprised if there are those today who find the demands of Christian living too much. The thing we must focus on after Easter is how we shape the mission we believe to be important.

There are three areas of Church life which will be included on the “Easter Agenda”:

Food and Drink. We have spoken in recent months both about our Eucharistic life (how at times we need to express what we believe to be important in a fresh way, particularly aimed at those with little or no experience of church) and our social life. I believe we separate them at our peril because both are inextricably linked. The way we relate to one another says something about how we relate to God, and vice versa. And our willingness (or not) to engage with our fellow Christians will have some bearing

upon how seriously we want to engage with those who are not yet currently church members. Under the broad heading “Table Fellowship” I believe this is one area which needs our prayer and thought.

Prayer. I wrote recently in the Diocesan Prayer Cycle: “Warning – Prayer can seriously change your life”. At the recent “School of Prayer” in the Cathedral, Bishop Gordon Mursell reminded us that prayer should be a life changing experience. We will soon be travelling through the most important week in the liturgical year. But will it change and challenge us in any way, or do we just go through the motions, waiting until the next festival? People often say how moving and inspirational they find the liturgy at St. Faith’s. Well it might, or might not be. At the end of the day, if it has no impact on our community then we really are simply wasting our time – not to say God’s! He doesn’t want to hear from people who don’t mean what they say!!

A Spring Clean. The arrival of this season often puts a spring in our step. The phrase ‘spring cleaning’ isn’t just one describing the need to clear the clutter in our house but I believe it applies to us and our church life too. Since we have used the slogan ‘changed priorities ahead’ we have had some disagreements about how we see different aspects of church life. If managed wisely those tensions can be a very creative thing. It is good that we hold views, and hold them passionately, but how do we, as a church, come to a mind about what is important? At times, some aspects of church life will be more important than others. “Changed Priorities Ahead” is not about abandoning anything, but asking what needs to be at the top of the list at the present time. But without a commitment to one another at the Lord’s Table, and indeed a firm commitment to prayer, our spring cleaning will only remove surface dust and not tackle the real spiritual grime and dirt that is around.

In his book “The Inner-City of God”, John Pridmore says that ‘people join churches that are worth joining’. May that be true of ours! With my love and prayers at this time of growth and transformation.

J. Neil

Holy Week and Easter Worship



Sunday 5th April PALM SUNDAY

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 9.30 am | Family Eucharist and Parade Service (SM) |
| 10.30 am | Blessing of Palms at Merchant Taylors’ School and Procession |
| 11.00 am | Family Eucharist and Parade Service |
| 7.00 pm | Compline by Candlelight with Passiontide music for choir and chamber orchestra |

Monday 6th MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK

- 10.30 am Eucharist (SF)
- 6.00 pm Evening Prayer (SM)
- 7.30 pm MSI course session 6 of 6 (SM)
- 10.00 pm Compline

Tuesday 7th TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK

- 9.30 am Eucharist (SF)
- 6.00 pm Evening Prayer (SM)
- 8.00 pm Stations of the Cross and Eucharist
- 10.00 pm Compline



Wednesday 8th WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK

- 10.30 am Eucharist (SM)
- 6.00 pm Evening Prayer (SM)
- 8.00 pm Eucharist with hymns and address
(after which the Sacrament of Penance will be available for those wishing to make their confession in preparation for Easter)
- 10.00 pm Compline

Thursday 9th MAUNDY THURSDAY

- 10.30 am Chrism Eucharist with Blessing of the Oils in the Cathedral and commitment to Ministry, to which all are welcome
- 7.00 pm Holy Eucharist in commemoration of the Last Supper & Washing of Feet (SM)
- 8.00 pm Solemn Eucharist of the last Supper, Washing of Feet, Procession to the Altar of Repose and Watch of Prayer until midnight

Friday 10th GOOD FRIDAY

- 10 am–12 noon Joint Young People’s Easter Workshop (SM)
- 11.00 am CTW Act of Witness at Crosby Civic Hall
- 1.30 pm The Solemn Liturgy of the Day

Saturday 11th HOLY SATURDAY

- 2.00 pm Sacrament of Penance (SM)
- 8.00 pm Joint Easter Vigil, Service of Light and First Mass of Easter
Preacher: The Bishop of Warrington, Rt. Revd. David Jennings, followed by champagne, easter biscuits, fireworks!

Sunday 12th EASTER DAY

- 9.30 am Blessing of the Easter Garden, Sung Eucharist, Holy Baptism, First Holy Communions & children’s Easter Egg Hunt (SM)
- 11.00 am Procession, Blessing of Easter Garden, High Mass, Holy Baptism, First Holy Communions & children’s Easter Egg hunt followed by wine
- 6.00 pm Festal Evensong, Procession & Solemn Te Deum (no sermon)

M 13 EASTER MONDAY

- 12.00 noon Solemn Eucharist (SF) followed by champagne in the Vicarage

Evolution, Faith and Religion: Darwin's Conundrum

Last month I was very interested to read Fred Nye's article *Evolution or Revelation?* As the razzmatazz in the media continues, this month by way of contrast, I have written about Darwin's own faith and belief. Did you know that it took Darwin over twenty years to publish *On the Origin of the Species by means of Natural Selection, or the preservation of favoured races in the struggle for life* and that his notes and correspondence highlight his struggle to accept that his work would overturn the established view of God and Nature? Today science and religion keep a polite apartness unlike Galileo and Newton, scientists who found no tension between their scientific advances and religious beliefs. Yet Darwin has become an icon for militant secularists, so what of his own beliefs? Darwin never published a word against religion unlike those who would try to co-opt him on to their side; rather his relationship with religion is more complex than is often believed.

Whilst Darwin's father Robert and his grandfather Erasmus were free thinkers and sceptics, his mother Suzanne was of Unitarian stock that rejected the doctrine of the trinity and the deity of Christ. Adopting a safe course, he was baptised in the Anglican church of St Chad's, thereby enabling him to attend Cambridge in 1828. Having already dropped out of Medical School at Edinburgh, he followed his father's wish and prepared for ordination, seen to be the next best thing. During his lifetime, Darwin was a great correspondent and in exchanging over 15,000 letters, different Darwin's emerge. At this stage, he descended from Richard Hooker's sixteenth century reformation thinking of scripture, reason and tradition as scripture and tradition were not reliable and could be contentious. On the other hand, theology was nature-based with geology and botany demonstrating this. Furthermore, there were clergymen who were pioneering geology. William Paley's classic text on *Natural Theology* (1802) argued for a wise creator based on the analogy of finding a watch during a walk on heathland. Even if it were broken or damaged, the watch would provide evidence of design and its machinery would point to the originating agency of a designer. Consequently, in 1832 he believed in a providential God and could quote scripture as moral authority.

However, this was all to change with his experiences on the Beagle. Seeing the destruction of earthquakes, the actions of barbarous people and the thin dividing line between humans and animals, led him to view nature as being at odds with Paley's benign world. If God put the world there for man, how is an earthquake benign? Therefore, his thinking began – weak organisms do not survive to reproduce. What does this mean for religious beliefs? If the physical form is from an earlier species, so is the mental form. What is morality?

By 1838 as he was considering marriage to his cousin Emma Wedgwood, he had a simple view as to what he should and should not believe. Emma on the other hand was a devout Christian and was deeply concerned that he might not join her in the after life.

Shortly after they married, she wrote all her concerns in a letter to him. After he died, he had written on the letter, that he had kissed and cried over this many times.

The nub of the whole problem was the arbitrary suffering that evolution requires to allow the strongest to survive. By 1849 his faith had weakened and then in 1851 it became extinct as he witnessed the painful death of Annie, his eldest daughter aged just ten. Darwin was devastated; this was concrete proof that suffering was incompatible with faith. Whilst remaining a theist, that is one who believes in God, because of what had happened to Annie he no longer claimed to be a Christian, finding the doctrine of salvation to be damnable. Although accompanying his family to church, he no longer attended but continued to contribute to the church and the poor and was a member of the South American Missionary Society (SAMS). He did not renounce the existence of a creator; rather it was the laws imposed by the creator.

In public, he remained reticent on the matter of religion, believing a man's religion is an essentially private matter. However, in 1879 in a letter to John Fordyce, he stated that even in his most extreme fluctuations he had never been an atheist in the sense of denying the existence of God, rather as he grew older an agnostic would sometimes be a more correct description of his state of mind, though not always.

Darwin has had more impact on Christian belief than any other scientific figure. Christians no longer consider God to be an explanation for the gaps where science fails; rather the challenge is to discern the hand of God in each and every transition. Whilst science can purify religion from error and superstition, religion can purify science from idolatry and false absolutes. Each can draw the other into a wider world, a world in which both can flourish.

For Darwin like many other people it is the problem of suffering that detracts them from a living vibrant faith. Yet, it is in wrestling with these problems that we see in the passion narratives, that in Christ, a God who in becoming human, suffered with us and for us and took that suffering with Him to the Cross. Faith is difficult; it demands that we trust the Word of God as revealed in the Bible, and belief that God continues to use it to speak to us today. The Bible influences the way we think and interpret the world and this was certainly the case for Darwin.

Perhaps if more people had prayed for him rather than condemned him, his faith would have been rekindled. Who knows? So, who is it that you are praying for this Lenten time? Whose life would you like to see God change?

Liz Mooney



100 Club: March Winners

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1 David Clark | 2 Fred Vitty |
| 3 Dorothy Wilson | 4 Fiona Whalley |

Living the Easter Way

For a few years now, a small number of us have gathered on a Saturday evening during Eastertide to celebrate the Stations of the Resurrection. On the following Saturdays during Eastertide at 6pm there will be special services of devotion, some of these will be Stations of the Resurrection, others will be reflection and devotion using scripture, poetry and music. The services will last around 30 minutes and can be an ideal way to prepare for the Sunday Eucharist.

The services will be held as follows:

Saturday 18th April
Saturday 25th April
Saturday 2nd May
Saturday 9th May

Stay with us, Lord.

*Stay with us, Lord,
for the day is far spent
and we have not yet recognized your face
in each of our brothers and sisters.*

*Stay with us, Lord,
for the day is far spent
and we have not yet shared your bread
in grace with our brothers and sisters.*

*Stay with us, Lord,
for the day is far spent
and we have not yet listened to your Word
in the words of our brothers and sisters.*

*Stay with us, Lord,
because our very night becomes day
when you are there.*



You are invited to a Party!



Fr. Neil writes:

On Wednesday 29th April I celebrate the 10th Anniversary of my Induction here. To mark this there will be a special service of Choral Evensong & May Devotions on Sunday 3rd May at 6pm followed by a parish party in the Hall to which all are warmly welcome.

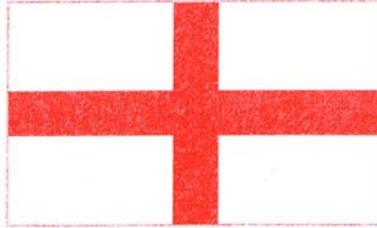
There will be food and entertainment. There will be some drink provided, but please feel free to bring more if you need more!

There is no charge for the party - simply sign the list in church when it appears.



I hope you are able to come!

Thursday 23rd April at 7.30 pm
FEAST OF S GEORGE, PATRON OF ENGLAND



Solemn Mass of S. George

followed by a glass of wine and the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting

[those currently serving on the PCC will know that the PCC away-day is
Saturday 9th May in S. Luke's Formby]

Cathedral School of Prayer

Margaret Davies

“A School of Prayer” and Biblical Teaching, was how it was advertised. On the face of it, not the most inviting prospect for a weekend. Yet another Lenten discipline or observance? An attempt, perhaps, to teach us to do what some of us find at best difficult and at other times near impossible? Ah well... give it a go. The other description after all was more attractive: “Food for the Journey”.

And so it was. The journey may be tough, but this food was tasty indeed: not just spare and meagre rations for the rucksack, but a veritable feast, an unforgettable experience.

It began quietly, very quietly, on Friday evening, when nearly a hundred of us from all over the diocese gathered in the Lady Chapel for Evening Worship, led by Father Neil... not formal Evensong, but silence, quiet music, a reflection on the Gospel reading and meditative prayer. After that, a break for refreshments and an opportunity to meet each other, and then Bishop Gordon gave his first talk, an “appetiser” so to speak, for the feast which was to come.

How long is it since YOU last looked closely at parts of the Old Testament or the Psalms, examined them, really engaged with the text, and looked at them as prayer? You need someone like Bishop Gordon to plunge you into them. Before we knew it we were there with Moses, talking to God and protesting, in the incident of the Burning Bush, we heard the anger of some of the psalms... (Man’s angry shouting at God, not the other way round!) - “Why me?” “How long, how long O Lord?” We looked at defiance, protest, and lament, and often, surprisingly you might think, we laughed out loud at the sometimes outrageous, amusing and personal asides of this brilliant and inspiring speaker. We could have listened all day. We listened intently, for his words were wise and born of experience; and, I believe, we learned.

We learnt that prayer is above all else a relationship with God, a life-giving, challenging relationship, involving the whole of us. It is not merely a “collect” of statements such as He might wish to hear, nor is it a mere chat or conversation. True prayer, we were told, involves questions and answers: it’s “O.K.” too to cry out and vent one’s frustration (“Speak what we feel, not what we ought to say”, as Lear puts it). It requires both structure and spontaneity. Above all else, as in any good relationship, it requires trust, total honesty and love, the knowledge that, come what may, we are loved, always.

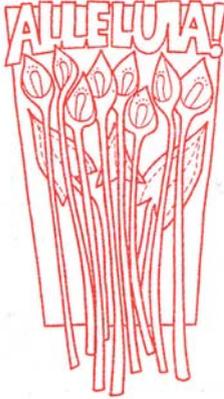
There was time to spend alone or with others (over cups of coffee or avoiding temptation in the Cathedral shop!) Areas of the cathedral were set aside for quiet prayer and reflection, and there was shared worship, culminating in Choral Evensong in the Choir. Most importantly there was silence, and peace.

Our most grateful thanks are due to all those who first conceived the idea of the School, to those who patiently answered our questions and led our worship, and in very great measure to Bishop Gordon. For myself, I cannot believe that anyone present there could come away unmoved, or without a firm resolve to try harder to make our “relationship” work.



Easter (Waiting for the Kingfisher)

Ann Lewin



In the beginning
The Lord God planted a garden
Facing the rising sun.
Adam was the gardener,
And all was very good
Until, worming its way
Into his mind the idea
Came that he could
Do things his way.

And the rest was trouble.

But in another garden,
The risen Son, Adam renewed
Appearing as a gardener
Brought new beginning,
Showed that through God's grace
All can be life.



On Easter Sunday nine young people from our two churches will be receiving Holy Communion for the first time. Please remember them in your prayers as they prepare for this important occasion.

Elizabeth Miers	Harry Morley
Jordanna Caesar	Josie Appleton
Livinya Stafford	Marcie Appleton
Megan Thomas	Sophie Ellis
Victoria Ryan	

Palm Sunday 5th April 2009 at 7pm

COMPLINE BY CANDLELIGHT

with music for Passiontide

music to include:

Grabmusik – W. A. Mozart

Choir, soloists and chamber orchestra conducted by Sam Austin
(Director of Music, St. Faith's)



Refreshments will be served after the Service

Thank You

Fr Mark and Diana would like to say thank you for the gifts we received on our final Sunday at St Faith's and St Mary's, and for the huge amount of best wishes and encouragement we received. We will stay in touch and let you know how things are going, and we are sure that we will see you all from time to time.



Picture Parade
John Chapman celebrates his 90th birthday with young and old admirers. Read Kathy Zimak's article for an explanation of this certificate

Thank you to
St. Faith's, Crosby
 for your kind donation of £50
 to sponsor a place for a young person on
ROCK the BOAT
 2009
 In Memory of
 Mrs Rita Woodley

© Christian Aid 2009



Scenes from the Fairtrade fortnight Coffee Morning
 starring our M.P. two gallant helpers, and two or three others you may recognise... Kathy's other article tells the story.





Oh
Yes
It
Was
!

Images of the
February 2009
United Benefice





**More panto
pictures...**

**The animals
the children ,
the drinkers and
the curtain call**



**For many more
pictures, lots of
video clips and
the cast list ...**

**go to the church
website**



Fairtrade Fortnight 2009

'100 years ago William Cadbury chose beans from Ghana. A year ago the Cadbury Foundation established the Cadbury Cocoa Partnership. And from Autumn 2009 all Cadbury Dairy Milk will be Fairtrade certified.'

This exciting news was the main scoop of Fairtrade Fortnight. The price of cocoa is currently high but Cadbury have committed to paying an extra Fairtrade premium of \$150 per tonne to the farmers' groups on top of the current market price and will continue to honour their commitment even if world prices fall. This premium is for the farmers' organisations to invest in building better, stronger communities - and they choose themselves what these projects should be. Cadbury are following Tate and Lyle in choosing to follow the Fairtrade route, although unlike the sugar company they have yet to make all their products Fairtrade.

The Guardian reported that the UK accounts for one third of Fairtrade sales world wide, but the concept of fair-trade is now spreading beyond Europe and the USA. For the first time a fair-trade movement is growing in India and promoting a fair-trade market which will have a huge impact on the lives of its poorest people

Churches Together in Waterloo had their own success story! They organized a two-hour coffee morning on Saturday Feb 28th and S Faith's and S Mary's held FT trade stalls following the Sunday morning mass, with its theme Trade Justice. The Fairtrade events produced record sales of Fairtrade goods to the value of almost £600 and also raised £200 to be divided equally between Traidcraft Exchange for Fairtrade development work, and Christian Aid Gaza relief appeal. (See 'Your questions answered' below) Photos of the event may be seen on the centre pages of this edition.

A big thank you to all who supported the event and also to the local Sainsbury and Cooperative stores who sponsored the event with goods and with literature. Sainsbury staff were present throughout the morning, demonstrating the range of items they stock in their store. Both stores have excellent Fairtrade credentials: like Waitrose for instance, they stock only Fairtrade bananas, an example yet to be followed by Tesco where it is often not possible to find any at all. Tesco's Value banana pickers are paid less than half a living wage, £3 a day on average.

We were delighted that the event was attended by our local MP. Mrs Claire Curtis-Thomas.

Your questions answered:

Why Traidcraft? Why Christian Aid in Gaza?

Traidcraft and Traidcraft Exchange

Traidcraft was established 30 years ago as a Christian response to poverty. The Fairtrade Foundation certifies a number of companies who are 100% committed to Fairtrade sales, but Traidcraft is unique in that it consists of a trading company and an international development charity, Traidcraft Exchange, specialising in making trade work for poor people. Traidcraft Exchange helps the poorest people to gain the confidence and skills to work their way out of poverty. The profits of the trading company are reinvested to grow the business and benefit the producers. The charitable arm of Traidcraft is dependent on the generosity of donors. At present more than 350,000 people are directly benefiting from the charity's work. Traidcraft aimed this year to raise £30,000 through 600 coffee mornings raising £50 or more. Churches Together in Waterloo organised one of those 600. **TOGETHER WE DID IT!**

Christian Aid in Gaza



Several of the Fairtrade products on sale at the coffee morning, including olive oil, came from Zaytoun in Gaza. The quality of the olive wood carvings, glassware and embroidery were astounding, considering the deprivation of the communities in the Occupied Territories from which they came. Christian Aid has been working with partners in the Gaza strip for many years, and can very quickly ensure that money donated goes directly to the greatest need.

As local organisations, they know the area and the people, so they are in the best place to help the most vulnerable; particularly those who haven't received any other help. One partner, the Near East Council of Churches, has reopened its clinics in Rafah and Gaza City and is receiving more than 100 patients a day. It has opened a temporary clinic in Shija'iyah to replace the one completely destroyed by an Israeli attack.

The Palestinian Medical Relief Services, which helped get people to hospital throughout the attacks, is now running mobile clinics. These clinics are a vital service to those who can't easily reach health centres themselves.

The fighting destroyed more than 400 greenhouses, killed livestock and damaged farm buildings and equipment. Around 40% of the agricultural land is uncultivable. The Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committees are buying fresh produce from farmers – giving them a vital income – and distributing it to families who cannot afford to buy it on the local market. At the same time as helping the poorest to get the nutrition they need, they are helping farmers to get their businesses back on their feet.

The shocking images we've seen on our televisions have been real-life, traumatic experiences for the people of Gaza. Culture and Free Thought Association, another Christian Aid partner, has been providing psychological support for people affected by the violence, especially children. At its centres, it encourages children to play and talk about what they've seen. These are just the first steps in a long term programme of support to help the impact of war on Gaza's people.

Rock the Boat

A Parish Sponsorship in memory of Mrs Rita Woodley

One of the challenges facing Christian Aid is engaging young people and persuading them to join its ranks of supporters. For six chilly days in October 2008, 14 young people (and four not so young) braved the icy waters of the Bridgewater canal, in boats of course! They talked, debated, learned and got creative. And at the end of the week 14 young people went home with a greater awareness of issues of poverty and the work of Christian Aid, and inspired and equipped to tell everyone they know about it.

The Warrington office of Christian Aid is organising a similar venture in October 2009 and have asked parishes for sponsorship to keep costs down for the young people who are still at school. In return the young person will come to inspire others in the church. One of the donations to Christian Aid requested by Rita's family has been given to enable St Faith's church to sponsor one of these places. It was felt that this was very much in tune with Rita's own interests and that she would have been proud to promote Christian Aid's work with young people in making a fairer and better world. A certificate recording the donation made in her memory can be seen at the back of church – and in the centre pages of this issue.



The Saturday Lunchtime Recitals

It doesn't seem six months since our 2008 season of Saturday Recitals ended but, on Saturday, 18 April, we begin the 2009 season. A packed and varied programme lies ahead!

There are 20 concerts this season running up to the 29 August. Thanks to our new Director of Music, Sam Austin, there are several new performers this year and Sam has introduced a period theme throughout the series. We are pleased, too, that several of our favourites are back with us, including the youth ensembles, soloists, choirs and jazz band.

The programme for the first four weeks is:

18 April	Sam Austin: focus on Jehain Alain
25 April	White Sox Brass Quartet
2 May	Sam Austin: focus on William Boyce
9 May	Merchant Taylors' School Students

The church will be open on concert days between 11.00am and 1.00pm, and light refreshments will be on sale. The recitals begin at 12 noon, last about 30-40 minutes and are free – but all donations are gratefully accepted towards expenses and church fabric costs. Please consider becoming a “Friend of St Faith’s” as well.

Occasionally, it is necessary to change the programme at short notice but our website is regularly updated – www.stfaithsgreatcrosby.org.uk – or follow us through our “Friends of St Faith’s” group on Facebook.

We look forward to seeing you again at these popular recitals. Please bring your friends too!

David Jones



Scones on a Saturday!

On the Saturday of Easter week we will once again be starting the season of the Saturday Recitals. The recitals have generated quite a regular following, many coming not only for the music and singing but also for the fellowship and refreshments, so once again we will be selling tea/coffee, scones and filled rolls. To be able to do this we will require a large number of volunteers to work in a team of three, one person to organize the morning plus two helpers. If you have a spare Saturday or two please put your name on to the rota at the back of church. To help the “leader” there is also a list of everything that is required for the morning. Don’t be put off because you never make scones, I’m sure something can be worked out. Which brings me to another point - it can cost up to £14 to provide bought scones (it depends where you buy them from) for the recitals, so if anyone feels they cannot help on a Saturday but can make scones we would appreciate your help. The scones can be frozen and reheated in our super new oven. Scone makers are just as valued as helpers on the day. If you can help, please contact Rosie Walker, Angie Price or me. If you want any more information regarding refreshments again contact Rosie, Angie or me.

Audrey Dawson

Musical Events

Sunday 26th April 2009 at 7.30pm in St Faith's

The Crosby Symphony Orchestra

Walton 'Orb and Sceptre'
Sibelius 'Valse Triste'
Ravel 'Mother Goose' Suite
Borodin Symphony No.2

Conductor Robert Sells.



Tickets available from Pritchard's Bookshop, Crosby & Formby, or pay at the door.
£7 (£5 for students and senior citizens) inclusive of programme.

www.crosbysymphony.org.uk

Saturday 4 April 2009 at 7.30 pm, in St. Nicholas Church, Blundellsands.

The Crosby Capriol Singers

Viva Vivaldi

Accompanied by a ten-piece ensemble, the Crosby Capriol Singers will perform music by Vivaldi, Marcello and Purcell. The soloists are Sarah Hepke, Sarah Campbell and Helen Thomas, and the conductor is Jim Cooke.

Tickets are £8 (concessions £7, accompanied under 19s, free) including refreshments, and are available in advance from Pritchards Books or choir members, or booked by ringing 0151-924-2007, or by e-mailing tickets@crosbycapriolsingers.co.uk.

Oberammergau Pilgrimage 2010

Radio 4 'Thought for the Day' presenter, Revd Rob Marshall, will be leading a special trip to see the Oberammergau Passion play. Departing from London and Hull on the 15th May 2010, the trip includes a two night stay in the village of Oberammergau to see the play before enjoying five nights in Strobl near Salzburg where there is the opportunity to choose some optional walks and excursions in this beautiful area. Included in the price are flights, transfers, seven nights' accommodation, breakfast and dinner and tickets to the passion play. Places are £1195 per person and with limited availability. More details and a colour brochure are available at

www.lightlinepilgrimages.com or by calling 01992 576065.

Money Matters

On Sunday February 15th we made a break with tradition at sermon time. This is, of course, not unusual for St. Faith's, and neither is it unusual that our subject had to be the financial crisis!

Three members of the PCC, two of whom volunteered and one who was co-opted in his absence but upon whose goodwill we confidently relied (thanks, Leo!) introduced our current appeal for support under the title "Changed Priorities Ahead".

During discussion in January, the PCC had established that we needed to share, not only with the congregation but also with all those who hold St. Faith's dear to them, the current situation in which we find ourselves. People were genuinely shocked to hear that in just four years the annual running costs of the church had risen from £64,500 to **£105,000**. Sadly, this 40% increase in costs has not been matched by an increase in giving. At current levels, we are facing a shortfall of approx **£1000 a week**, just to maintain the status quo, with no flexibility for developing mission and outreach.

Please can we ask you, on behalf of the PCC, to consider ways of maximising your giving, and also to help us improve our fundraising? We believe St Faith's deserves our renewed commitment, and we hope you do too!

£2,187 a week
£313 a day
£13 an hour
54p a minute

How much is St Faith's worth to YOU?

Heaven's Grocery Store

As I was walking down life's highway many years ago
I came upon a sign that read 'Heaven's Grocery Store'.
When I got a little closer the doors swung open wide
And when I came to myself I was standing there inside.
I saw a host of angels, they were standing everywhere
One handed me a basket and said "My child shop with care".
Everything a human needed was in that grocery store
And what you could not carry you could come back for more.



First I got some Patience; Love was in that same row.
Further down was Understanding - you need that everywhere you go.
I got a box of two of Wisdom and Faith a bag or two
And Charity of course - I would need some of that too.
I couldn't miss the Holy Ghost: it was all over the place
And then some Strength and Courage to help me run this race.
My basket was getting full but I remembered I needed Grace
And then I chose Salvation for Salvation was for free:
I tried to get enough of that to do for you and me.
Then I started to the counter to pay my grocery bill,
For I thought I had everything to do the Master's will
As I went up the aisle I saw a Prayer and put that in
For I knew when I stepped outside I would run into sin.
Peace and Joy were plentiful: the last things on the shelf.
Song and Praise were hanging near, so I just helped myself
Then I said to the angel, "Now how much do I owe?"
He smiled and said "Just take them - everywhere you go."
Again I asked, "Really now, How much do I owe?"
"My child," he said, "God paid your bill a long, long time ago."



Supplied by John Chapman

Hospitals and the Christian Heritage

Hospitals began in the eastern part of the Christian Church, inspired by Christ's example of serving and caring for the poor, the sick and the needy. They spread rapidly to the West and were closely associated with religious orders and their duty to offer hospitality to any in need. The oldest hospital in the land, I believe, is in Rochester, and it is called St Bartholomew's, like its more famous namesake in London. The names - St Thomas's, St Richard's, St Mary's - betray their origins, and quite often these foundations continue to have connections with the Church. How is it, then, that the Christian faith is becoming more and more marginal in the very places that owe their origin to it? Why are chapels being replaced by "multi-faith rooms" and how can it be that a nurse, Caroline Petrie, can be suspended for offering to pray for a patient who could have said - and did indeed say - "No, thank you"?

Praise be! Mrs Petrie is being allowed to return to work - but are other people vulnerable to the same kind of treatment? People's personal beliefs and their professional practice are often closely inter-related. Of all professions, nursing is one that is firmly rooted in the Christian tradition. It arose first in the religious orders, and, although it began to become secularised after the Reformation, its Christian foundations were rediscovered by people such as Florence Nightingale - the founder, in

many ways, of modern nursing. During a visit to Egypt, she studied the work of the Sisters of Charity at Alexandria and also of the order of deaconesses in Germany. While in the Crimea, she is known to have prayed for the soldiers who were her patients. It was her inspiration that led to the training of nurses in a systematic way in this country, and she was hugely influential in the increase of Christian medical missions in Africa, Asia and elsewhere.

In many parts of the world, these missions pioneered the practice of modern medicine and, especially, the training and use of nurses in hospitals. This debt is widely acknowledged in the countries concerned. How ironic that it is in Britain that a nurse is threatened with the loss of her job for offering to pray for someone who was unwell - especially when prayer at the beginning of work was routine for nurses in many British hospitals right up to the 1960s. Indeed, in the NHS itself spiritual care is widely recognised as part of caring for the whole person. More and more evidence is available that spiritual beliefs and prayers have a positive effect on patients and their sense of well-being. Chaplains and others are employed to deliver appropriate care to staff, relatives and patients. This is especially so at times of bereavement or of a local or national emergency, but it is not, of course, limited to such occasions.

It may be, however, that political correctness is restricting even the role of chaplains and of the volunteers who work with them. It is no longer enough, it seems, for the chaplain to be able to visit people who have declared their faith on admission. The chaplain may not be allowed access to such data on confidentiality grounds (in which case why gather it in the first place?), and patients may actively have to request the services of a chaplain or volunteer before they can have access to them. Why cannot consent for access by chaplains, for example, be taken at the same time as information about religious allegiance?

The arrival of people of other faiths provided chaplains with an opportunity for Christian hospitality by making sure that such people had access to a spiritual leader from their own tradition and had their spiritual needs met. This has now mutated into the closure of chapels, the retrenchment of a distinctively Christian chaplaincy and the advent of a doctrinaire multi-faithism. Let me say immediately that this has little to do with people of other faiths, who have no objection to chapels and chaplains, as long as their own needs are met, and everything to do with secularist agendas that marginalise all faith but seem especially hostile to Christianity.

It seems certain that no other faith would be subjected to such strictures and, indeed, to the benign neglect to which the churches have become accustomed. A place for Christians in the public square must be reclaimed. We should be able to contribute to public discussion about the beginnings of life and its end, the structure of the family, the building of community, justice for the poor, company for the lonely and, especially, the care of the sick, the dying and the bereaved.

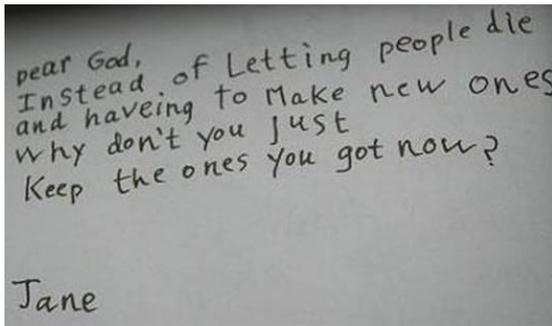
It is time for a movement of Christians that will put the Christian case vigorously in public debate, that will remind the nation of its Christian heritage, that will make a difference where there is human need and, yes, that will commit itself to prayer in schools, hospitals, prisons, workplaces, Parliament and the streets so that people may experience again the blessing of God on this country.

Michael Nazir-Ali

Bishop of Rochester

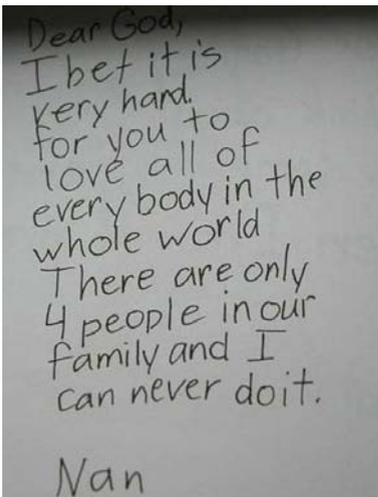
Dear God...

Children's letters as quoted by Fr Neil in a sermon at St Faith's



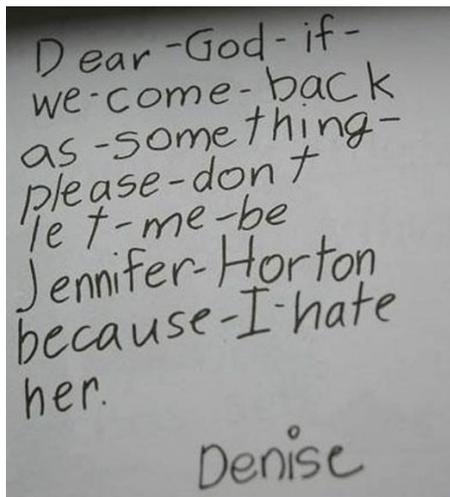
Dear God,
Instead of Letting people die
and haveing to Make new ones
Why don't you Just
Keep the ones you got now?

Jane



Dear God,
I bet it is
very hard
for you to
love all of
every body in the
whole world
There are only
4 people in our
family and I
can never do it.

Nan



Dear-God-if-
we-come-back
as-something-
please-don't
let-me-be
Jennifer-Horton
because-I-hate
her.

Denise

We read Thos. Edison
made light.
BUT in SUN. School they said
you did it.
So I bet he STOLED
you r I dea.
sincerely,
DONNA

Dear God
Maybe Cain and Abel
would not kill each so much
if they had their own rooms.
It works with my brother
Larry

Dear God -
Please put a -
nother ^{holiday}
between Christmas
and Easter.
There is nothing good
in there now.
Ginny

The Parish Directory and Church Organisations

VICAR

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Tel 928 3342; fax 920 2901;
mobile 07980 872203; e-mail: frneilkelley@tiscali.co.uk

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR and CHURCH BOOKINGS

Liz Mooney, Parish Office, 32 Brooklands Avenue
928 9913 (usually Monday to Wednesday 9.30 am – 4.30 pm)
email parishadministrator@btinternet.com

VICAR'S P.A.

Mrs Joan Tudhope, 16 Galloway Road, Waterloo. L22 4QX.
474 9923 email: W.Tudhope@blueyonder.co.uk

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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

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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 House, Maple Close, Seaforth, L21 4LY. 286 8155

CHURCH WARDEN

Mrs Kari Dodson, 51 Stafford Road, Southport. PR8 4LX. 01704 565725

DEPUTY CHURCH WARDENS

Mrs Judith Moizer, 1 Valley Close, Crosby. L23 9TL. 931 5587
Mrs Rosie Walker, 17 Mayfair Avenue, Crosby. L23 3TL. 924 6267

PCC SECRETARY

Mrs Judith Moizer, 1 Valley Close, Crosby. L23 9TL. 931 5587

TREASURER

Mr David Jones, 65 Dunbar Road, Birkdale, Southport PR8 4RJ. 01704 567782

GIFT AID SECRETARY

Mrs Cathy Taylor, 152 Stuart Road, Crosby. Liverpool L23 0QQ. 286 2710

HALL BOOKINGS

Mrs Ruth Winder, 36 Milton Road, Waterloo. L22 4RF. 474 3633

TUESDAY OFFICE HOUR: 6.30 – 7.30 pm (wedding and banns bookings)

Mrs Lynda Dixon, c/o the Vicarage. 928 7330

BAPTISM BOOKINGS

Mrs Joyce Green, 14 Winchester Avenue, Waterloo, L22 2AT. 931 4240

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Mr Sam Austin, Apt 13, Gladstone Court, Upper Parliament St, Liverpool L8 7JY
07921 840616. Email samOaustin@googlemail.com

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Mr Stephen Hargreaves, 86 Molyneux Road, Waterloo. L22 4QZ. 07939 119220

SACRISTAN

Mr Geoff Moss, 13 Galloway Road, Waterloo. L22 4QX 07846 306 500

ASSISTANT SACRISTAN

Mrs Judith Moizer, 1 Valley Close, Crosby. L23 9TL. 931 5587

SENIOR SERVER

Mr Ken Bramwell, 93 Rimrose Valley Road, Crosby. L23 9TF 924 9894

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

MEN'S GROUP

Sunday 8.00 pm monthly. Rick Walker 924 6267

CUB SCOUTS

Tuesday 6.30 - 7.45 pm. Alan Jones 284 7038/07761 960671

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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Church website <http://www.stfaithsgreatcrosby.org.uk>
email cdavidprice@gmail.com

**Holy Week and
Easter at St Faith's**

