

Newslink

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



Through Lent to Easter: April 2011

Worship at Saint Faith's

Please consult the weekly sheets for any variation in service times



SUNDAYS

11.00am	SOLEMN MASS and Children's Church
1.00pm	Holy Baptism (2nd Sunday)
6.00pm	Evening Service and Benediction

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday 10.30am, Tuesday 9.30am, Wednesday 10.30am (1662 Book of Common Prayer in S. Mary's), Thursday 9.30am (Holy Days only), Friday 6.30pm, Saturday 12.00noon (10.30am from Easter Saturday)

THE DIVINE OFFICE (The Prayer of the Church)

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

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

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 regularly make home or hospital visits to the sick and housebound so please call to arrange this.



From the Ministry Team

April 2011

Dear Friends,

For some years we were fortunate to begin our Holy Week celebration with a procession of witness led by a donkey. Two donkeys, in fact, on more than one occasion! You must remember George and Elvis? As I write this we are not sure whether this can happen or not. Government cuts are affecting many areas of life and it seems that provision of a uniformed presence on Palm Sunday may not be possible for that reason. There is, we gather, an association of Christian Police Officers on Merseyside and it may be that if an off-duty officer is willing to volunteer, then the procession may go ahead. Otherwise it's walking from the Church Hall into Church! Not much of an act of witness as no-one will see us, I know. (I wonder how many of us might consider giving up our Palm Sunday morning to help another parish with their celebrations?)

We might not be able to offer the community a visible public reminder, by means of a procession, that Holy Week has begun. But are there other ways in which people around us will know that Holy Week and Easter are being celebrated?

The Easter message requires us to "go out to the whole world, and proclaim the Good News". All well and good. But we first have to accept that Good News in our own hearts and lives. Accepting unconditional love and forgiveness is one of the most difficult things for human beings to do.

If we are to know the power and presence of God in our own lives, in order that His love might be shared, then we have to commit ourselves to making that special journey with Jesus during Holy Week.

Holy Week requires much of us and during the season of Lent we will have considered the demands of Christian discipleship, particularly in the Lenten addresses on Sunday evenings. Our hymns speak to us of the cost of following Christ - "love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all." Those words are not for the fainthearted or half-committed!

As we consider this love of God which is "so amazing, so divine", are there people we can invite to come with us to church during Holy Week? Do we make an effort to

encourage our family members or friends to come with us? Or is going to church 'our business?' - a private affair? Our faith might be many things. A living faith is never a private affair; it is something which, by virtue of our baptism, we share.

We might not be bringing the colour of a procession to the streets of the parish, but we can bring the people of our parish to the colour of our worship.

Do please take note of the special services during Holy Week. It is an ideal week to bring people along. The liturgies all speak much louder than words ever can and they draw us ever closer to God whose love for the world was so great that He gave us His Son. There has never been, nor can there ever be, such a gift to the world. Our faith is a gift to be cherished, to be nurtured and to be shared. Shared with **all** those around us.

With my love and prayers for a blessed Holy Week which leads us all to the deep joy of Easter.

J. Neil



Lent 2011

Sundays at 6.00pm

A series of Devotional Addresses, based on familiar Lenten hymns, are being given by students of the College of the Resurrection, Mirfield. These devotional addresses (set in the context of a simple evening service concluding with Benediction) help us to explore our Christian discipleship and the nature of the God we worship.

Lent 3 (27 March) **Richard Norman**
My song is love unknown

our eternal destiny

Lent 4 (3 April) **David Pickett**
Stabat Mater dolorosa

the pain of loving

Lent 5 (10 April) **Steve Holt**
Lift high the Cross

the inclusiveness of salvation

Fridays at 6.30pm

Stations of the Cross and Holy Eucharist

1st April in S Faith's

8th April in S. Mary's

15th April in S. Faith's

Holy Week and Easter

in the United Benefice

Sun 17 **PALM SUNDAY - HOSANNA!**

Preacher for Holy Week at Saint Faith's:

Canon Bob Lewis

8am SF Morning Prayer

9.30am SM Sung Eucharist and Blessing of Palms

10.30am Blessing of Palms at Merchant Taylors' School and
Procession (*but see the Ministry Team letter on p.2!*)

11am SF High Mass and dramatic reading of the Passion

Mon 18 **MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK**

9am SF Morning Prayer

6pm SM Evening Prayer

7pm SF Stations of the Cross and Eucharist

9.15pm SF Compline

Tue 19 **TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK**

9am SF Morning Prayer

9.30am SF Eucharist

6pm SM Evening Prayer

9.15pm SF Compline



Wed 20 **WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK**

9am SF Morning Prayer

10.30am SM Eucharist

6pm SM Evening Prayer

7pm SF 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)

9.15pm SF Compline

- Thu 21 **MAUNDY THURSDAY - THE LAST SUPPER**
 9am SF Morning Prayer
 10.30am Crism Eucharist with Blessing of the Oils in the Cathedral and commitment to Ministry, all welcome
 7pm SM Holy Eucharist in commemoration of the Last Supper & Washing of Feet
 8pm SF Solemn Mass of the Last Supper, Washing of Feet, Procession to the Altar of Repose and Watch of Prayer until midnight
- Fri 22 **GOOD FRIDAY – CRUCIFY!**
 9am SM Morning Prayer
 10am- SM Joint Young People’s Easter Workshop
 12 noon
 11am CWT Act of Witness at Crosby Civic Hall
 1.30pm SF The Solemn Liturgy of the Day
 6pm SF Evening Prayer
- Sat 23 **HOLY SATURDAY - “The Journey from Darkness to Light”**
 9am SM Morning Prayer
 2pm SM Sacrament of Penance
 8pm SF Joint Easter Vigil, Service of Light and First Mass of Easter (this will be followed by Champagne, Easter biscuits and fireworks!)
- Sun 24 **EASTER DAY – Alleluia “Celebrating the Risen Christ”**
 8am SM Morning Prayer
 9.30am SM Blessing of the Easter Garden, Sung Eucharist, Holy Baptism & children’s Easter Egg Hunt
 11am SF Procession, Blessing of the Easter Garden, High Mass, Holy Baptism & children’s Easter Egg Hunt (followed by wine)
 6pm SF Festal Evensong, Procession and Solemn Te Deum (no sermon)
- Mon 25 **EASTER MONDAY**
 12noon SF Solemn Eucharist (followed by champagne)

Please note revised Easter Week arrangements:

Easter Thursday, April 28th

- 9.30 am Mass with special prayers for the APCM
- 7.30 pm Annual Parochial Church Meeting



Easter Friday, April 29th

6.30 pm Mass with special prayers for Prince William and Catherine on their wedding day

*Lord of love,
we pray for William and Catherine.
Be with them in all their preparations
and on their wedding day.
Give them your love in their hearts
throughout their married life together,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*



Easter Saturday, April 30th

10.30 am Mass

11.00 am United Benefice Men’s Fellowship walk to Hightown,
followed by a pub lunch

12 noon Opening Summer Saturday recital by Isobel Jenkins (mezzo-soprano)



Sacrament of Reconciliation

There will be an opportunity for those who wish to make their Confession during Holy Week in preparation for the Great Feast of Easter. If anyone wishes to avail themselves of this Sacrament a priest will be available as follows:

Tuesday in Holy Week

Revd Denise after the 9.30am mass (SF)

Wednesday in Holy Week

Canon Bob Lewis after the 7pm mass (SF)

Holy Saturday

Fr. Neil at 2pm (SM)

Watch of Prayer and Washing of Feet

If you wish to participate in the Washing of Feet at the Maundy Thursday mass please sign the list at the back of church. 12 people are needed. Also, if you are able to be in church for some of the Watch of Prayer after the Maundy Thursday mass please sign the list at the back of church.



Christian Aid Week

15-21 May 2011

Volunteers needed!

You can be part of a story of transformation. By getting involved in Christian Aid Week in your own community, you can help to turn the hopes of communities all around the world into realities. You can be part of a movement which is transforming lives.

Firstly we need collectors on our streets again this year. Christian Aid Week has been said to be the biggest act of Christian witness in the country – men and women like you and me walking the streets of our towns to help eradicate world poverty. Last year St Faith's collectors produced a total of £1,115 and each collector was given an average of £48, a sum which could buy a First Aid kit and emergency radio for people in natural disasters and five mosquito nets to protect Ugandan children from malaria. Even the smallest sum raised last year would buy a goat!!

This year's Christian Aid Week focuses on Nicaragua in Central America, a country which often bears the brunt of the hurricanes and tropical storms that sweep across the Atlantic each year. Christian Aid's partners there help vulnerable communities prepare to face the storms. Christian Aid through its partners also supports cooperatives, helping groups of small-scale farmers improve their production, marketing and sales skills so they can reach new customers and earn a better living.

Five years ago, in Nicaragua, Eladio Simeón Pineda's community was a group of poor farm labourers. Then Christian Aid partner Soppexcca (pronounced 'so-pecks-ka') offered them credit to establish themselves as coffee farmers and supported them to work together as a cooperative. Eladio and the other members of the La Paz del Tuma cooperative now hope that together they will transform their own community, building a school, health centre, clean water and new latrines, like other cooperatives helped by Soppexcca. Imagine life without these amenities. Wouldn't we be happy to receive the means to improve our lot?

Soppexcca's support for coffee cooperatives like La Paz del Tuma allows communities to see a bigger picture, full of possibilities for the future.

For the people of Jinotega, Nicaragua, coffee isn't just a caffeine kick – it's a means of transforming the lives of entire communities. By getting involved in Christian Aid Week, you can help to make this transformation possible.

Campaigners needed! Trace the Tax!

Aid is not enough! Developing countries are thought to be losing more through tax dodging by unscrupulous companies than they receive in aid! About US\$160 billion is probably lost every year in this way, a sum that would lift millions out of poverty once and for all. That is a scandal worth exposing and a problem worth solving. Christian Aid is hoping to persuade four of the world's most powerful companies, Unilever, Vodaphone, TUI Travel (which won the World's Responsible Tourism Award 2009), and Intercontinental Hotels group to support a new international accounting standard so that tax dodging can be exposed. We as individual Christian consumers can help in this persuasion in various simple ways including sending a post card to the chief executives of these companies. I can give more details of the campaign to interested readers.

Kathleen Zimak

Fairtrade Fanfare



We shouldn't let Fairtrade fortnight slip by without saying a heartfelt thank you to Kathy Zimak as she retires as Fairtrade organiser at St. Faith's and St. Mary's. She has worked tirelessly to promote the cause of fair trade by providing goods for sale on the stall at the back of church, and by working quietly behind the scenes to ensure that Fairtrade supplies are used for all our refreshments. Kathy and her other volunteers have gone the extra mile in helping to establish fair trade as a mainstream principle in our community. There is now plenty of choice for consumers among fairly traded goods, and there is no reason to complain that they are of inferior quality. Although there is still much work to be done, it is heartening to see major retailers such as Sainsburys, Tesco, M & S and the Co-op stocking and indeed promoting Fairtrade products. So well done Kathy and the other Fairtrade pioneers!

And while we're on the subject: a big thank you also to the Cubs, Mike Carr (aka 'Fairtrade Fred') and all the other leaders for their thought-provoking and very entertaining presentation on Fairtrade during the family service on Sunday March 6th. It was great to see everyone - leaders, young people and congregation – supporting a fair deal for the poor in such an enjoyable way. Good for you!

Endpiece A well- heeled young man is overheard at the checkout in M & S: 'These Fairtrade tea bags are a bit expensive; have you got any unfairly traded ones?'

Fred and Linda Nye

APCM and Visitation



Fr Neil

Please note that various lists will soon be in church for those who wish to indicate their willingness to serve as Churchwardens, Deputy Churchwardens and PCC members. For those elected to office please note that you are required to attend the **Archdeacon's Visitation Service** which is on **Tuesday 10th May at 7.30pm in St. Mary's Waterloo.**

Saturday 21st May, 9.30am-12.30pm
Joint PCCs' Away Day – Seafarer's Centre, Waterloo

Theme: "Going for Growth"

We will look at the areas of numerical growth, spiritual growth, financial growth and the ways in which these areas overlap and work together.

The day is open to all who wish to attend – not just PCC members - all those who love their Lord and their Church are welcome!



Adult Confirmation Classes 2011

Classes begin on Monday 14th March at 7pm in the Vicarage and will run on most Mondays throughout Lent and Easter-tide. The classes will be led by members of the Ministry Team and the following topics will be covered:

Monday 21st March
Monday 28th March
Monday 4th April
Monday 11th April
Tuesday 3rd May

Prayer and connecting with God – Revd. Denise
The Eucharist – Jackie Parry and Cynthia Johnson
The Old Testament – Joyce Green
The New Testament – Joyce Green
Reconciliation and Forgiveness – Fred Nye

Monday 9th May
Monday 16th May
Monday 23rd May

Christian Living and Giving (Stewardship) – Fr. Dennis
A Rule of Life – Revd. Denise
A journey through the liturgical year – Fr. Neil

In addition there will be a guided tour visit to Liverpool Cathedral (date and time t.b.a). The Deanery Confirmation Service will be on Thursday 19th May at either 7pm or 7.30pm (the exact time will be agreed well in advance).

Easter Day: The Day of Resurrection



A meditation from Martin Dudley's 'Ashes to Glory'

Alleluia! Christ is risen! This is the cry that fills the Church today, that shapes her life and gives voice to her joy for fifty days. Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! It is the source of our joy and of our hope that the Crucified Redeemer lives. Today is a day of joy. A day of good news, festive chant, sprinkled water of purification, solemn yet joyful liturgy, and the bonus of Easter eggs. It is a day in which hope has overcome reasoned and reasonable doubt, in which joy has displaced grief and in which light shows itself unconquered. As such it touches that part of us that believes, often against the odds, often in opposition to experience, that all will be well, in the long run, no matter how long the run may be.

It reveals that hope - a sure and certain hope, not something vague and ill-defined - is central to Christian faith. Christianity is not first and foremost about morality, about obeying rules or keeping commandments. It is not about being religious, talking in a special way, quoting biblical texts, differentiating the believing friend from the unbelieving, or asking: 'Are you saved?' It is not about the suspension of reason, the denial of intellect or the suppression of our critical faculties. It is also not about material or physical well-being.

It is about what it means to be human. It is about the way in which the Creator loves the creation and how creation and creatures acknowledge the Creator. It is about the mysteries of life; human creativity, suffering as both destructive and redemptive, how we become what we are intended to be, and what death means. It is about how God loves the world and suffers because we suffer, and how God came to share our human life and death. It is about a man who died a terrible death and who, against all the evidence to the contrary, was found to be alive three days later.

Christianity requires of us first, faith, belief and trust in God. Second, hope, that the darkest night will end in dawn. Finally love for God and one another, love such as that with which Christ loved us. The Christian faith teaches us that there may be, perhaps must be, suffering. The journey to Easter Day comes through Good Friday. There is no resurrection without death.



Above ...Then off to School *Below* Some don't go to School

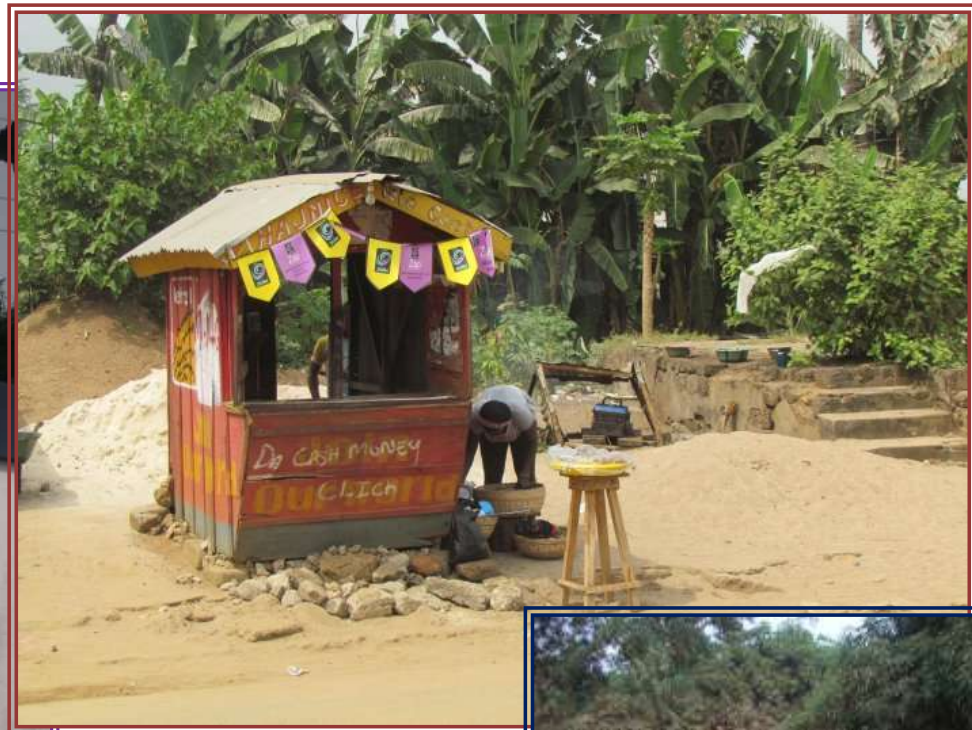


'From Crosby to Waterloo'

Pictures to accompany Rick Walker's article about his visit to Sierra Leone

Top The Mountain Road *Below* Wash and Brush up in Sierra Leone





Rick's Pics...

Left above
Liverpool Street,
Freetown

Left below
City Centre living

Right above
Recharge your
Mobile here

Right below
First fetch the water

There is a spiritual experience of dying and rising; a dying to self and a rising to God, a dying to those aspects of this world that deny God and a rising to the values that affirm God. This process of death and resurrection is essential for our spiritual growth. But do not be mistaken. I am no unbelieving liberal, nor biblical fundamentalist. I affirm without reservation that Jesus of Nazareth was crucified, dead and buried, sealed in the tomb, and rose again from the dead, passing through the vault of death. We are not to substitute some spiritual or virtual reality for this. Dying and rising are real physical events, and an outward and visible expression of inward, invisible spiritual experiences.

It is possible to affirm the dying and rising of Jesus of Nazareth and yet still say, so what? What we teach is that from the cross and the empty tomb comes a ray of light that penetrates the darkest moments of our lives, a hope that is firm in the face of despair, a love from which we can never be separated. We can forget this. We often do. Today reminds us. It is not a day of complex theology and religious argument. It is a day of joy. A day of good news, festive chant, sprinkled water of purification, solemn yet joyful liturgy, Easter eggs and sure and certain hope of the glory that is yet to be revealed.

May Devotions to the Blessed Virgin Mary

Sunday 8th May at 6pm
Choral Evensong, Procession and Te Deum

Preacher:

Fr. Craig Roters

(St. Mary's, High Crompton, Shaw)

followed by a glass of wine!



The Trip of a Lifetime to see the wonders of Africa. Part 2

Last month we read the holiday brochure description for a visit to Sierra Leone: here is the holidaymaker's version. . . .

Two or three hundred years ago Sierra Leone would have been a tremendous place to visit, and of course our ancestors did just that. As a source of slaves and precious jewels and metals it was a colonialist paradise!

Sadly the next few hundreds of years saw a decline and fall to rival that of Rome. The country was then systematically raped, pillaged, plundered and used by a number of colonial powers. Despotic rulers followed in succession, until horror of horrors, rebels from neighbouring countries came over the border and joined forces with the Sierra Leonean army and wreaked havoc.

Ten years of civil war followed and the worst sort of barbarism and brutalisation swept back and forth across the country, reducing the once proud nation to the poorest of the poor and obliterating even the basics of their infrastructure. Imagine your own house with no electricity, no water, no drainage, no gas, no kitchen or bathroom and no wheelie bin collections. Along with over 90% of adults you are without a job.

Because of corruption in the past there is no stable monetary system, no credit cards. What roads that were left were reduced to tarmac strips with pot holes bigger than any that Sefton council are dealing with and most public buildings were severely damaged or destroyed.

Then just 9 years ago (and after some intervention by British troops) they stopped fighting, put down their weapons and forgave each other. With tremendously generous foresight they actually agreed to put the past behind them and with the exception of the main leaders who even now are on trial in The Hague, they agreed to move forward and rebuild their once beautiful country. As a gesture of forgiveness I find it amazing, but entirely plausible after meeting the people whom I have now come to know as friends.

So, just a few years after peace broke out, our then MP, Claire Curtis-Thomas, on a fact-finding tour of Sierra Leone came across a township called Waterloo just outside Freetown, the Sierra Leonean capital. Never one to be short of ideas, she started the business of founding a charity to support our namesake community so many miles away. Twinning was obviously out of the question, as apart from the name there were no similarities whatsoever between the two communities, so a Partnership was formed, with a committee in each Waterloo to oversee the work, and two support teams to make sure that money and materials were raised and properly delivered or spent. An early decision taken jointly was to adopt the strapline “Two Waterloos, One Hope”, and this continues to shape our thoughts when looking at the magnitude of the problems that lie ahead.

From the beginning, the Partnership decided that they would not just raise money for other charities towards well-meaning but possibly rather anonymous projects. It was decided that every penny raised would count, and that as far as possible the Partnership would run with zero overheads. NO paid employees, NO expense accounts and NO payments to unknown people to “process paperwork”. Even the two or three trustees who visit Sierra Leone each year to check on the various projects pay much of their own costs and their air fare comes largely from the Gift Aid tax relief that the Charity claims.

Over the last four or five years, the Partnership has sent out several containers full of books, medical equipment, school furniture, sewing machines, garden tools, clothes and general hardware, and these have all been followed up by visits of UK Trustees. These gifts have been gratefully received and used by our friends in Sierra Leone.

Two or three years ago the method of support was changed to meet the needs of the community and the rising costs and difficulty of sending containers. The Trustees in Sierra Leone were more than capable of deciding what help they needed, and with the now well-established working relationship within the Waterloo Partnership, a project based system was evolved.

Initially this involved setting up a working e-mail link directly with Waterloo Sierra Leone to save the four hour round trip to an internet café in Freetown. This was no mean feat as it included supplying a generator, laptop and scanner/printer, and a mobile 'phone dongle for internet connection. Once established however this link has proved to be worth every penny. We can now swap information and signed documents, provide clear and concise details of projects and minutes of meetings. Waterloo Partnership Sierra Leone has joined the modern world and as a result we have in place a good support structure that can withstand not only several thousand miles separation and two totally different cultures, but can also withstand a British financial audit!

In the last year, the Partnership invited me to join the Trustees, and as an engineer, I was asked to go and look at the various projects that have been completed and comment on their value for money. I was accompanied by David Lloyd, a retired paediatric surgeon who was also a new Trustee and who was particularly interested in all things medical. It was the first visit for either of us, and what an eye-opener it was. Teresa McLaughlin, the Chair of the UK Trustees, joined us and arranged the details of the visit.

The journey there was as you would expect – long, hot and tedious, but with the added spice of being in a VERY different environment. We travelled by train, taxi, plane, bus, ferry and car, and at each interchange the conditions became more and more different from the UK until very late in the evening we arrived at our hotel in Freetown and were greeted with a bottle of water and a mosquito net! Both were welcome and necessary!

The first morning was amazing – out of the bedroom window was a panoramic view over Freetown, but it wasn't there! In January there is a constant gentle wind from the Sahara called the Harmattan which brings a fine airborne dust which makes everything hazy. This combined with smoke from innumerable small fires as everyone has to burn their rubbish, and the exhaust fumes of vehicles which would have failed any MOT that ever existed, made any long distance views a matter of imagination and conjecture.

There are two routes from Freetown to Waterloo, and our driver knew them both well. The easy road took about 2 to 3 hours and was fairly low level following the coast. Unfortunately more than half of this time was spent in traffic jams, and with high temperatures and the aforementioned fumes, it was a waste of valuable time and not at all pleasant. The shorter route over the mountain road took about an hour, and took us

through rural Sierra Leone. I say route rather than road because it was nothing more than a wide dusty track with huge gullies and pot holes, and is totally impassable when the rains come in June; in fact it was barely passable in the dry season, with 1 in 3 hills and no help for miles if you were to break down. We saw people washing themselves and their clothes in rivers, we saw isolated groups of dwellings gathered around streams, we saw people breaking stones with hammers for road repairs, we saw boys and girls in tattered clothes walking along with huge water carriers on their heads, and then we would see a little line of children in immaculate school uniform, walking the two or three miles to their nearest school.

This was the first real hint at what poverty means in Africa – only the children who could afford uniform were allowed to go to school.

Our arrival in the township of Waterloo was amazing. The roads were still only dirt and the houses not much more than concrete shells or tin huts, but it was buzzing. Everywhere people were walking, carrying, talking, and selling – a bit like a busy South Road but with no shops. In fact I saw very few shops anywhere. Much trade is done from baskets on people's heads, and the more serious trade from rickety shacks at the side of the road. Health and Safety, Trading Standards and VAT inspectors have not yet reached Sierra Leone so everything is happy and relaxed, but having said that there was no evidence of dodgy dealing, and at no time was there any fear of personal danger.

So we had finally arrived, and next month you can read of the fun and sadness we shared with our Partners and some of the details of their daily lives.

A selection of Rick's Pics may be enjoyed on the centre pages of this issue. Ed.

100 Club Winners

March, 2011

1	72	Joan Tudhope
2	7	May Clarke
3	103	Paul Jones
4	119	James Crooke



New members are always welcome to help boost this valuable source of income for our church – and to enjoy vastly better odds than those offered by the National Lottery. Please see Gareth Griffiths or Brenda Cottarel for information. As they say – you've got to be in it to win it!

Fifty Years of Memories *(continued)*



The departure of Fr Hassall in November 1965 from the living of St. Faith's meant we were in an interregnum. Under the guidance and care of the Rural Dean, Canon Harry Bates, services, including some of the weekday masses, took place as normal, thanks to the regular appearance of the local clergy and priests who held teaching posts in the area: Canon Mark Luft, Headmaster of Merchant Taylors', Fr. Irvine of Waterloo Park School, Fr. Watterson of Waterloo Grammar School and Fr. Osborne of Kirkby College.

Now in his dotage, George Houldin, the "elder statesman" of St. Faith's was still in office as Lay Reader. Held in the highest regard and much loved by us all, George had been greatly involved in the worship and life of the parish for many years. A wise and astute pillar of the community, the few at St. Faith's who still remember George will recall his dignified, almost imperious, presence in the Sunday services, the intercessions taken by him in the central aisle at Evensong and the sermons which, if given in the morning, had to be delivered very near the start of the mass, as was the custom and practice if the preacher wasn't ordained.

George was very pastoral in his role as Lay Reader, and before Sunday services began one would see him going from pew to pew, having a kindly word with those in church and catching up with their news. The last time I visited George he was being cared for and a little confused. With his death St. Faith's lost one of its greatest servants, a prayerful, charming, courteous gentleman of strong faith and deep Christian convictions, whose exemplary presence and practice over several decades had made a powerful impact and influenced a great many of us for good.

Another venerable character of those far off days was the gentle and remarkable Miss Mountfield. Known affectionately as "Bunny", her contribution to the life of St. Faith's was enormous. Undergirding everything she did was a profound prayer life, attendance at weekday masses as well as Sunday services and her regular use of the Sacrament of Penance. The most senior of the Sunday School teachers, she taught the oldest of us and one "moved up" into Miss Mountfield's class. For many years one of "Bunny's" roles was to provide the girls and young women who were to be confirmed with the appropriate white mantilla-like head coverings and, on the great day, assemble them suitably attired! Another job of Bunny's was to look after the Children's Corner in St. Faith's, what is now the Chapel of the Cross. At the weekend she would dust the furniture, shine the candlesticks and change a large Biblical picture which sat on an easel not far from the statue of the Holy Child (now abiding on a window ledge in the north transept aisle). Having lovingly cared for this area of the church for a long time and now in her twilight years Bunny asked me to take on this responsibility and duly gave me all the Biblical pictures to take home and look after.

Miss Mountfield was a woman of many interests and talents. She loved to paint and was keen on drama. During her time at St. Faith's she was very involved with the production

of what were said to be extremely moving and impressive Holy Week tableaux, performed in both parish hall and church. Her commitment to and enthusiasm for the ecumenical movement was very strong and, for one with no formal university religious education or training, her reading, understanding and appreciation of theology was immense. I shall always remember her extraordinary knowledge of, and passion for the French palaeontologist and theologian Teilhard de Chardin and the study groups she helped initiate to examine and explore his writings.

In 1967 and 1968 as a member of Merchant Taylors' Voluntary Service Unit (the option preferred by those who didn't want to be in the school's Combined Cadet Force) I was assigned to visit Bunny on Friday afternoons, do any shopping she required and then return to her to enjoy tea, cake and a chat. It was a delightful and wonderfully civilised way of spending an afternoon towards the end of a school week. (Saturday morning lessons continued at Merchant Taylors' until 1982!).

Bunny died in 1974. St Faith's was truly blessed to have been the beneficiary of her love, devotion and commitment for so many years.

Fr Dennis

Let the Music Begin!



Since the end of the highly successful Summer Saturday concert series, there have been several separate recitals over the autumn and winter. There is one more of these to come on Saturday 2nd April when Michael Maine will be giving an organ recital. Then on Easter Saturday, April 30th, the season proper begins. As Easter 2011 is so late, the series is extended to the end of September: the full schedule will be available soon. Meanwhile we look forward to welcoming regulars and newcomers to the first concerts in the 2011 series.

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|------------|--|
| 30th April | Isobel Jenkins (mezzo-soprano) |
| 7 May | Crosby Symphony Orchestra wind section |
| 14 May | Crosby Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Society |
| 21 May | Merchant Taylors' School woodwind ensemble |
| 28 May | Merchant Taylors' School Chamber Orchestra |

Points from the PCC

The PCC met on February 14th last, with a full agenda and plenty to discuss. Here are some of the highlights!

Season of Lent: Out of the various Lenten services and activities Fr Neil strongly recommended the afternoon of reflection at Sandymount with the Bishop of Warrington on Saturday 12 March; the series of 6.00 pm Sunday Evenings devotional addresses followed by Benediction by students from the College of the Resurrection, Mirfield and The School of Prayer at the Anglican Cathedral 'Food for the Journey 2011' on Friday evening and Saturday 25th and 26th March.

Fr Neil said he felt that he was personally making good progress and thanked everyone for the prayers and goodwill messages he received while he was off ill. He was especially grateful to the Ministry Team and all who had shouldered extra burdens and duties during his absence.

What we do on Fifth Sundays in the month.

We discussed the present pattern of joint Liturgy and Lunch Services held alternately in the church halls of St Faith's and St Mary's. Opinion favoured holding future joint services in our churches, followed by refreshments in respective church halls. Because of the crowded diary in May and June, it was agreed that there would be separate services on May 29th, followed by normal Sunday refreshments, as St Mary's Patronal Festival with the Bishop of Warrington follows very soon after (May 31st). The Ascension Day services will for the same reason be moved to Sunday June 5th. The remaining two 5th Sunday services will be held at St Mary's (July 31st) and St Faith's (October 30th)

Premises Committee Report

Jobs done recently include the replacement of the centre notice board which collapsed in the high winds. The tiling repairs to the church floor continue as and when time allows. Lead had been stripped from the vestry windows and some flashings above. Some of the lead was salvaged before it could be removed!

Margaret Houghton and Maureen Madden had met with the Crime Prevention Officer and an official from Ecclesiastical Insurance to explain our plans for security to the hall and the provision of a diagonal section of fencing to protect the vestry corner and cellar steps. The insurance official was adamant that the lead should be protected and that we needed to fence off the main entrance to church at the corner porch and also at the Milton Rd entrance to the grounds from the corner of the hall kitchen to the vicarage garden fencing. This would effectively isolate the 'L' shaped area alongside the church and hall. Our scheme to provide porchway gating to the hall has therefore been put on hold. Our 'Plan B' is for a completely new gate to be made for the Milton Rd entrance and the pedestrian entrance from the road to the hall to be bricked up, with railings instated on top of the wall bordering Milton Rd. The gates on Crosby Rd would be renovated and kept closed outside church and hall use times. Planting of berberis and pyracantha along the strip of ground inside wall alongside Crosby Rd was recommended. It is suggested that combination locks could be used for the gates to avoid problems with many and varied gatekeepers and keys. The Hall window

refurbishment is waiting in the queue, as is the reinstatement of the original doors to the side entrance of the hall. Both of these jobs await the resolution of the security situation as it would be foolish to put them at risk before we have made the necessary security improvements.

Treasurer's Report

Our Parish Share has now been stabilised, and although there is still a considerable amount due to the Diocese outstanding, it is a considerable improvement on the previous year and the Diocese is grateful for the efforts and commitment being made.

We still need to increase our overall income, as, despite having raised more in recent months, we still fall short of the monthly Parish Share figure to be paid to the Diocese. Gift Aid receipts were increased on the previous year – which is great news – but the transitional relief that allowed us to claim at the old rate (before the tax rates were altered) stops in April and we will lose money, unless people are able to increase their giving. Fr Neil is to investigate the requirements of a Parish Purse Recorder's job description and seek out a replacement as soon as possible, following Ron Rankin's retirement from the post.

Young people and Holy Communion distribution

It was agreed that the method used by the cub scouts should be adopted to differentiate between young people who are eligible and wish to receive Holy Communion and those who wish to receive a blessing: which is 'those who wish to receive will kneel – those who don't will stand.'

Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch

It was reported that the enforced postponement of the 2010 Christmas Lunch to 30 January 2011 because of bad weather conditions, had proved so successful that the it was hoped that this event could be regularly moved to January and also that a small payment be made by the invited guests towards their meal. After much discussion it was unanimously agreed that the date be changed to January in future, but it was strongly felt and agreed that invited guests should not be asked to pay for their meal.

New musical setting to Lord's Prayer

A setting is to be introduced at the start of Lent with music copies being available for those who require them.

Pastoral Placement

Mirfield Ordinand Helen Coffey would be with us for 4 weeks from mid-June on pastoral placement.

Visit to Sierra Leone

On March 20th after the morning service Rick Walker and others are to give a talk on his recent Waterloo Partnership visit to Sierra Leone

Lillie Wilmot (Secretary)



Margaret and the Ministry



Margaret Dixon writes...

Almost three years ago, just as I was about to embark on ordination training in Oxford, Chris asked me to write an article for the magazine. I expect he had given up hope of ever receiving anything, but I thought that as I am only four months away from my ordination I had better rectify the situation.

I am sure that many of you will not even remember me but I was brought up as a child at St Faith's. My father, George, was the sacristan and I learnt much about liturgy from him – all of which has stood me in good stead as sacristan of Great Missenden Church in Buckinghamshire and as Worship Co-ordinator of the Oxford Ministry Course.

I felt a sense of calling to the ministry when I was still a teenager and worshipping at St Faith's and so I still feel very much part of the place and enjoy reading the magazines that Chris kindly sends to me. At that time women could only become lay readers or deaconesses but it was thought I was too young to be considered and began training in youth work. As with many things I got heavily involved with that work, which took me away from the area. I trained and lived in Yorkshire for seven years (never finding another church as supportive as St Faith's), before moving south to Buckinghamshire.

A further eight years in youth work, during which time I met and married Paul, (at St Faith's) before starting a family. It was only in the last five years that I felt another sense of calling to the ministry, which I decided to explore with the help of a vocations advisor and then the Director of Ordinands. Several forms and interviews later and I found myself attending a three-day Bishops' Advisory Panel in Ely – someone once described them as 'trial by teacup' as your every move is watched and scrutinised to see if others too feel that you have a calling to the ministry. It is certainly a nail-biting 10-day wait until that phone call arrives to let you know the result.

I was selected for training, which I started in September 2008 at Ripon College, Cuddesdon on their part-time training programme (OMC). The course is academically hard but we have the benefit of brilliant tutors and access to some of the best scholarly brains in Oxford. I have undertaken a community placement, working in a night shelter for the homeless and a recent church placement in an evangelical church in a neighbouring town. The course has also given me insights into pastoral theology, spirituality, preaching and liturgy as well as Biblical studies and doctrine and I have met some wonderful Christian people along the way.

I am due to be ordained in the afternoon of Saturday 2nd July in Christ Church, Oxford and will serve as the non-stipendiary curate of the United Benefice of Ellesborough, the Kimbles and Stoke Mandeville. I am looking forward to beginning my ministry with

these three parishes, although it will be hard to leave the parishioners of my existing home parish here in Great Missenden – especially as I have worshipped there for over twenty years.

St Faith's will always be special to me as the place where my vocation began – even if it took another calling nearly 30 years later! I hope that some day I will be able to come and visit you again and meet up with old friends who were and are so special in my life. I hope that you will pray for me and my future ministry here in Buckinghamshire.

With much love,

Margaret

The Preston Church Chronicles



Thanks to Chris Dawson, the editor has been reading a little book entitled 'Visits to Some Preston & District Churches and Chapels c1870' – a book which is more entertaining than its title might suggest. It is an anthology of the writings of a journalist called Anthony Hewitson, who, under the pen-name of Atticus, was an early forerunner of today's 'Mystery Worshippers', visiting and quietly observing the churches, clergy and worship of a wide range of Christian churches of every denomination. His observations are sharply observed and elegantly written in a Dickensian style – but they are always impartial and almost always affectionate. As a portrait of nineteenth century Lancashire at prayer (and often asleep, at least during long sermons) they make for easy and delightful reading, and make a fascinating contrast with today's church life. The editor, who has never fallen asleep at St Faith's, hopes you enjoy these extracts.

St George's Church

There is a quiet, secluded cosiness about the pews; the sides are high; the fronts come up well; nobody can see much of you if care is taken; and a position favourable to either recumbent ease or horizontal sleep may be assumed in several of them with safety. The congregation includes a few well-disposed tradesmen, who judiciously mingle piety with business, and never make startling noises during their devotional moments.

Christ Church

Mr Firth likes visiting folk who are well off; wouldn't object to tea, crumpet and conversation with the better end of his flock any day... he says many a good word to folk in poverty, but would look at a floor before going down on it, like his predecessor.

St Peter's Church

Mr Chapman the incumbent is a powerfully-constructed gentleman, somewhat inclined to oleaginousness. He has a strong will and an enormous opinion of the incumbent of St Peter's; will fume if crossed; will crush if touched; thinks every antagonist mistaken; is washy, windy and ponderous; and, finally, has quarrelled more with his churchwardens than any other live parson in Preston.

St Saviour's Church

Few districts are more entirely at enmity with soap and water than that in which this church stands. Pass through it and you will see enough to convince you that many missionaries, with numerous Bibles and piles of blankets, are wanted at home before being despatched to either farthest Ind or the plains of Timbuctoo, At some places you are tormented to death with stirring feet, rustling clothes, coughing, sneezing &c; here a positive dead calm prevails. We saw fewer sleepers at St Saviour's than in any other place of worship yet visited by us. Only one gentleman got fairly into a state of slumber; a stout girl tried to 'drop off' several times, and an old man made two or three quiet efforts to get his eyes properly closed, but both failed.

St Augustine's Catholic Church

The average number hearing mass on a Sunday is 3,290. There are several very excellent sleepers in the multitude of worshippers, but they are manly at the entrance end where they are least seen. We happened to be at the church the other Sunday morning and in ten minutes after the sermon began about 16 persons were fast asleep. Their number increased slowly till the conclusion.

St Walburge's Catholic Church

Father Papall has a sweeping powerful voice; you could almost hear him if you were asleep, and this fact may account for the peculiarly contented movements of several parties we observed recently at the church whilst he was preaching. At least 20 near us went to sleep in about five minutes after he began talking, slept very well indeed during the whole sermon, and at its conclusion woke up very refreshed, made brisk crosses, listened awhile to the succeeding music &c., and then walked out quite cool and cheerful.

The Tabernacle of the Revivalists

The preacher we heard was s stranger. After a few introductory remarks, in the course of which he said he had been troubled with the stomach ache for six hours on the previous day, and that just before his last visit he had an attack of illness in the very same place, a lengthy allusion was made to his past history. He said that he had been 'a villain, a gambler, a drunkard, and a Sabbath breaker' – we expected him to say that he had also abused his mother, thrashed his wife and punished his children, but he did not utter a word on the subject. At the close we descended the step carefully, groped our way out quietly and left, wondering how ever we had got to such a place at all, and how those worshipping in it could afford to Sabbatically pen themselves up in such a mysterious, ramshackle shanty.

The Mormons

There are about 1,1090 different religious creeds in the world, and not one more energetic, more mysterious, or more wit-shaken than Mormonism. It is a mass of earnest abysmal nonsense, an olla-podrida of theological whimsicalities, a saintly jumble of pious stuff made up of Hebraism, Persian Dualism, Brahminism, Buddhistic apotheosis, heterodox and orthodox Christianity, Mohammedanism, Drusism, Freemasonry, Methodism, Swedenborgianism, Mesmerism and Spirit-rapping, but what he have said will probably be sufficient for our purposes.

Joseph Smith, the founder of Mormonism, came to grief in 1844, by a pistol shot, administered to him in Illinois by a number of roughs and Brigham Young, a man said to be ‘very much married’, and who will now be the father of perhaps 150 children, was appointed his successor.

Freckleton Wesleyan Chapel

The preacher was a thoroughgoing Mr Blazeaway – a savagely-earnest, desperately shouting, strangely Bible-hitting, tremendously sweating soul. We can put up with a tolerable amount of shouting – something equal to about 100 lbs. on the square inch; but when it gets to about 300 lbs we feel nervous, and consider that escape is necessary.

Wray Green Church

The service was regularly gone through, and the periodical bowing was quite superb. At some places we have seen, when the Name calling for reverence was mentioned, men nodding their heads as if they were just recognizing somebody on the opposite side of the street, and females ducking down quickly all in a lump, but here we noticed the correct thing – the elegant descent, the long drawn, evenly-pulled bend, the easy drawing-room undulation...

Samlesbury Church

The font is between 700 and 800 years old. It is plain, circular, massive and contained, when we lifted the lid, an old trowel, a paint can, two ancient rags and sundry other articles equally interesting and valuable. The christening pew adjoining contained some good old shovels, several rollers, sticks, paint cans &c. The churching pew adjoining had no ornamentation of this description in it but in time, if all is well, it may have.

Euxton Church

There was found some years ago, in the pulpit, under the floor, not a skeleton, nor the philosopher’s stone, nor a bagful of old coins, nor the mouth of a subterranean passage, but – what? – listen! – be still, wild heart! – why, there was actually found in it a whisky still. And a very spiritual thing, too...

Garstang

When Father Michael Hickey died in 1871, his funeral was attended by people belonging to all denominations; and old quaint-minded Garstang, which for want of a better diversion, had previously burnt him in effigy in many a Fifth of November night, closed the shutters of its shops and wept while his ashes were being put into the grave.

Claughton Catholic Church

Father Barrow was a former priest here whom the Vicar of Chipping once offended in some way, and Barrow vowed that if he ever caught him he would horse-whip him. Well, the vicar happened to turn up one fine day in some part of the district, and, having ascertained this, Barrow set off to administer the promised castigation. In the meantime, the vicar had got an inkling of the approaching Nemesis, and he lost no time in shifting his quarters. Father Barrow gave chase some distance, but fright put mettle into the movements of the Vicar, who escaped rapidly to his own native hills.



The Parish Directory and Church Organisations



VICAR

Fr. Neil Kelley, The Vicarage, Milton Road, Waterloo. L22 4RE
928 3342; fax 920 2901

ASSISTANT PRIESTS

Revd Denise McDougall, 27 Mayfair Avenue, Crosby. L23 2TL. 924 8870
Canon Peter Goodrich, 16 Hillside Avenue, Ormskirk, L39 5TD. 01695 573285
Fr. Dennis Smith, 16 Fir Road, Waterloo. L22 4QL. 928 5065

READERS

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 WARDENS

Mrs Margaret Houghton, 16 Grosvenor Avenue, Crosby. L23 0SB. 928 0548
Mrs Maureen Madden, 37 Abbotsford Gardens, Crosby. L23 3AP. 924 2154

DEPUTY CHURCH WARDENS

Mrs Christine Spence, 52 Molyneux Road, Waterloo. L22 4QZ. 284 9325
Mrs Rosie Walker, 17 Mayfair Avenue, Crosby. L23 3TL. 924 6267

TREASURER

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

PCC SECRETARY

Mrs Lillie Wilmot, Flat 7, 3 Bramhall Road, Waterloo. L22 3XA. 920 5563

PARISH OFFICE MANAGER

Mr Geoff Dunn 32 Brooklands Avenue, L22 3XZ • Tel & fax: 0151 928 9913
Email: sfsmparishoffice@btinternet.com

GIFT AID SECRETARY

Mr Rick Walker, 17 Mayfair Avenue, Crosby. L23 3TL. 924 6267

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, 42 Arch View Crescent, Liverpool, L1 7BA. 07921 840616.
email samOaustin@googlemail.com

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

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

SACRISTAN

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

ASSISTANT SACRISTAN

Mr Leo Appleton, 28 Hougoumont Avenue, Waterloo. L22 0LL. 07969 513087

SENIOR SERVER

Ms Emily Skinner, 1 Valley Close, Crosby. L23 9TL. 931

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

UNITED BENEFICE MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

James Roderick 0141 474 6162

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

MAGAZINE EDITOR and WEBSITE MANAGER

Chris Price, 17 Queens Road, Crosby. L23 5TP. 924 1938

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Church website: <http://www.stfaithsgreatcrosby.org.uk>

Email: cdavidprice@gmail.com



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**THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**



Diocese of Liverpool

This month's extra... scroll on down!



On the first anniversary of the setting up of the Services Family Support Group at St Faith's, Irene Taylor baked this cake which was shared and enjoyed at our March meeting.