

'High Church' - St Faith's and the parish from the bell tower

Newslink

St Faith's Great Crosby
Parish Magazine

AUGUST 2012

Worship at Saint Faith's



SUNDAY SERVICES

11.00am	SOLEMN MASS and Children's Church
1.00pm	Holy Baptism (2nd Sunday)
6.00pm	Evening Service and Benediction (1 st Sunday)

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Monday	10.30am	Morning Prayer
Tuesday	9.30am	Holy Eucharist
Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Eucharist (in S. Mary's)
Thursday	6.30pm	"Reflections Prayer Group" (in S. Mary's)
Friday	6.30pm	Evening Prayer
Saturday	10.30am	Holy Eucharist

Please consult the website or weekly sheets for any variation in service times, particularly for weeks where there is a Holy Day.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE AND RECONCILIATION

The Clergy 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.

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 the Eucharistic Ministers are happy to undertake this - please call 928 3342 to arrange this. Likewise, to arrange a visit to someone in hospital or at home, please call 928 3342 to arrange this.

IN A PASTORAL EMERGENCY

please contact a member of the ministry team directly or call **07986 478846**.



From the Ministry Team August 2012

Dear friends,

When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" (John 1:38)

Just over a month ago we said our fond farewells to Fr Neil after his last service in the United Benefice. He led us in uplifting worship at St. Mary's; the inspirational liturgy was enhanced by moving music from both choirs, a soloist, trumpeter and organist. What a memorable close to Fr. Neil's 13 year ministry with us, which concluded with the symbolic acts of removing the chasuble he was wearing and transferring it to me and handing over his church keys to the wardens. I believe most of the huge congregation struggled with their emotions (I know I certainly did!) as we closed one chapter in readiness to open another.

Inevitably there will be changes, but in life we have to change in order to grow, how we face and manage those changes, though, will undoubtedly have an impact on our future.

I truly hope we can move on with enthusiasm, optimism and great hope. I have heard a number of comments ranging from 'try not to worry too much', 'I don't know how we'll manage without Fr. Neil', 'things won't ever be the same', to far more positive and encouraging words, 'it's exciting to be facing something new and fresh', 'I wonder what gifts the new incumbent will bring' 'we will all pull together as a big family'. It's amazing how someone else's spirits or attitude can influence our own and I for one certainly embrace the idea of us all working together as a large family; a family that shares its concerns and thoughts openly and honestly and views life with vigour and optimism. Of course it is healthy to voice legitimate complaints and concerns but I also believe that it's damaging to our spiritual life if we constantly view things negatively or with unnecessary worry. Negativity or worrying prevents us from seeing and enjoying all that is good in life at the present moment and the wise voice of the author of Ecclesiastes tells us that there is a time for everything.

The interregnum provides us with the opportunity to grow and change and work out just what it is we are looking for in the future of our United Benefice

I wonder what your answer would be if suddenly Jesus was standing in front of you and asked ‘What are you looking for?’

Would you just stand there speechless, perhaps too dumbstruck to even respond? Or do you think the words would come pouring out with requests for yourself, your family, our next incumbent, peace, money...? Would you hope for miracles and answers to all your/our problems and concerns?

Anthony De Mello, S.J. tells a story in ‘Free Flight’ about a woman who dreamed that Jesus was a salesman in a market place. When she asked him what he sold, Jesus told her that she could have anything her heart desired; she very excitedly asked for things like freedom from fear, peace of mind and the end to the pain and struggles in her life. But when Jesus heard these requests he responded by saying, “Oh no, you’ve got me all wrong. We don’t sell fruits here, only seeds.”

So we mustn’t expect miracles or outcomes to just happen overnight; seeds need tending in order to grow and mature. I believe that together we can face the future as a family in openness, honesty and trust and as a family continue in faithful prayer that God will give us seeds of wisdom, courage and faith which will continue to grow and mature through the worship, discussions and events of the months to come. Perhaps then we will be able to say with confidence: *‘we have found what we are looking for!’*

My love and prayers,

Rev. Denise



Dear Lord,
Help us to pay attention to the ‘seeds’
that are waiting to be watered and tended.
Help us to stop looking for instant answers and outcomes and
Open our eyes to the joys and opportunities of the moment.
Amen.

What is an ‘Interregnum’?

The interregnum is the period between the departure of the outgoing vicar and the institution and induction of the new one (literally “between reigns”!). Some vacancies are filled very quickly, others can take longer but it is usually about a year. In another church of my acquaintance, the vicar left in July, a new one was appointed in December and he was inducted in June this year.

The new vicar is chosen by the Patron(s), acting together with the Bishop and the parish representatives appointed by the PCC. The PCC meets to prepare a “parish profile” that describes the conditions, needs and traditions of the parish and the kind of parish priest the PCC feels the United Benefice needs.

The PCC decides whether to advertise nationally or to seek applications from within the Diocese. It is most likely that the PCCs of the United Benefice will opt for a national advertisement.

Meetings are held to discuss a new appointment with the Bishop (or his representative, usually the Archdeacon), the Area Dean, the patrons, parish representatives and the PCC.

During the interregnum, the churchwardens, with the PCC, are legally responsible for maintaining the life of the church. They have the responsibility for providing for the services of worship and the continuation of pastoral care. The churchwardens are also responsible for collecting fees and for taking care of the vicarage and any other property of the benefice.

It is always in the best interests of the parish to get on with things as quickly as possible. If, however, no priest is presented to the Bishop within nine months of the vacancy, then the patronage is passed to the Archbishop of York and the parish representatives lose their right of veto. The Archbishop would consult the Bishop and the parish representatives but does not normally need their approval before offering the benefice to a priest of his choice.

Let us hope that the appointment process runs smoothly and that a new parish priest is appointed sooner rather than later!

David Jones

From the United Benefice Diary

Extra services and scheduled events. Please see the front page for the regular pattern of services during the interregnum.

July

Monday 23rd – Friday 27th

Children’s Holiday Club at St Mary’s

Wednesday 25th (St James)

10.30 am eucharist at St Mary’s

Saturday 28th

Saturday lunchtime recital by Shaun Lock (clarinet)



Sunday 29th

10.30 am at St Faith's Liturgy and Lunch (no other services this morning!)

7.00 pm in St Mary's annexe: Men's Fellowship beer and wine tasting

August

Wednesday 1st

Please note: no Services' Family support Group meeting until September

Saturday 4th

Saturday lunchtime recital by Helen Shilsky (viola) and Simon.... piano)

Sunday 5th

1.00 pm at St Faith's: baptism preparation and rehearsal

Monday 6th (The Transfiguration of the Lord)

10.30 am eucharist at St Faith's

Friday 10th (St Laurence)

6.30 pm eucharist at St Faith's

Saturday 11th

Saturday lunchtime recital by the Risingbridge String Trio

Tuesday 14th

2.00 pm service at Green Heys Nursing home

Saturday 18th

Lunchtime recital by Daniel Rathbone (organ)

Sunday 19th

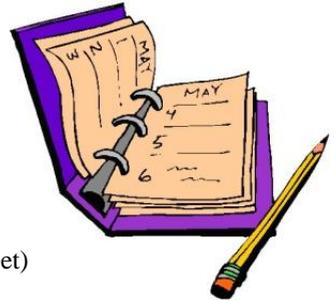
United Benefice barbecue at 4.00 pm at St Mary's

Friday 24th (St Bartholomew)

6.30 pm eucharist at St Faith's

Saturday 25th

Final lunchtime recital of the season: Becky Waite (trumpet)



You Couldn't Make it Up!

Commenting on a complaint from a Mr. Arthur Purdey about a large gas bill, a spokesman for North West Gas said, 'We agree it was rather high for the time of year. It's possible Mr. Purdey has been charged for the gas used up during the explosion that destroyed his house.' (*The Daily Telegraph*)

Irish police are being handicapped in a search for a stolen van, because they cannot issue a description. It's a Special Branch vehicle and they don't want the public to know what it looks like. (*The Guardian*)

A young girl who was blown out to sea on a set of inflatable teeth was rescued by a man on an inflatable lobster. A coast guard spokesman commented, 'This sort of thing is all too common'. (*The Times*)

(With thanks to Corinne Hedgecock for supplying these originally)

The Man with a Mission



***Fr Neil's final sermon, preached at St Mary's,
24 June 2012: the Feast of the Birth of St John the Baptist***

When I think of the books I've read, the courses I've attended, the talks I've listened to – all on the subject of church growth – I could have made thousands by sharing the secret of how to get a full church. LEAVE!

It is a great joy to see so many of you here in church today. People not just from our own two parishes but the Waterloo Group of churches, with Christ Church and Saint John's. There are people here today who first knew me before I'd left school, only two or three of you mind! And I am touched that friends from other parts of the diocese are here today.

Focussing on John the Baptist today reminds us that all share in the task of preparing the way of the Lord. For that was John's message: he preached a message of repentance to those who would hear, and his ministry was devoted to preparing his people to receive both the message and the person of Jesus. The little we are told about him in the Gospel tells us that John was something of an individual character. The Bible tells us that he came into all the country about the Jordan, preaching, clothed not in the soft garments of a courtier but in those 'of camel's hair, and a leather girdle about his loins'; and 'his meat' - he looked as if he came neither eating nor drinking (Matthew 11:18; Luke 7:33) – 'was locusts and wild honey'.

So if the term existed at the time he was probably a 'trendy-lefty' or a 'hippy', dressed not in a smart tailored cassock from Rome (unlike your Vicar) but simple garments, enjoying a rather simple life of vegetarian fare rather than rump steak. Again, not like your Vicar!

In this United Benefice we have been privileged over the past few years to share in the formation of men and women preparing for ordination as we have welcomed them on placements. This is the time of year when most ordinations take place. This weekend saw the ordination of a former organist from here and next weekend some of you will share in Helen Coffey's ordination in the Cathedral. The time I have after leaving here tomorrow, and before I begin a new post next month, will allow me to attend various ordinations and first masses up and down the country. Priests and deacons are called to be stewards of the gifts entrusted to them, and the greatest gift is God's people.

The Gospel is an account of change, movement and transformation. And today as I look to a new challenge ahead of me I do so with gratitude for my time here and the people who have blessed my life. Today you in St. Mary's and St. Faith's look to a new challenge and chapter too.

If new chapters in church life are times for priests to reassess and refocus what they were ordained to do, so too, an interregnum is a time for parishioners to reassess and refocus on what they were baptised to do.

Of course, for some, church simply means turning up week after week without getting involved at all. But that isn't the way of this United Benefice.

Soon these two parishes will have to formulate a parish profile. This can on the face of it seem an arduous and academic task. But it's actually, potentially, one of the most exciting things you will do at this stage in time.

The process of putting together a parish profile is an important one. And not simply because it may attract the person who will end up being your next Vicar but because it will challenge you to think seriously and maturely about what you reckon your priorities are? How should ministry in Crosby and Waterloo be shaped? What are your strengths and weaknesses? What do you want in a new Vicar? What ministry is important to you – Vicar or not?

It is a time for you to redefine your ministry and give it a sharper focus. A time to stand up and be counted.

Are you wanting the miracle person to come and fill the church and the bank account overnight all on their own? What gifts and ministries are you, the people, putting at the disposal of God and His Church?

This is grown-up time. Your priorities. Your hopes. Your dreams and aspirations.

How easy it is to do 'what Father says'. Having to do the thinking for yourselves as well as the doing is a very transforming experience.

Of course talk of priorities happens whilst an incumbent is in place but so often we just get used to the fact that someone in a dog collar may generally call the shots and lead the way.

Each one of us, by virtue of our baptism, is called to love and serve the Lord and his world. Each and every one of us is called to a ministry within the Church, whether that be as deacon or priest, as lay reader or Bishop, as a person in the pew as well as a person in the pulpit. Active ministry is not dependent upon whether you have a Vicar – it is dependent upon your baptism and how you respond to the baptismal challenge to serve!

God calls all of us. Those who go forward for ordination are ordinary people who one day knelt down and said their prayers and heard a particular call to them. That could happen to any of you, beware next time you pray! Priests, contrary to popular belief,

do not come from Planet Zog, they do not just materialize when the mood takes them, they are called, and examined, and chosen from among the pews containing ordinary women and men.

A most unlikely contender on the face of it, John the Baptist had an important ministry. He was a man with a mission, and that mission was to bring people to a deep knowledge of God's love for them. That is the mission of the Church today and that mission can only be undertaken when we ourselves have heard the call to repentance and have experienced God's overwhelming love. When we have come into contact with that life-changing force then we will want to stop at nothing until it is shared with all those around us.

I for one am determined to enjoy the music offered in our worship today. But I agonised a lot over the final hymn: 'Lord for the years'. *For the future – take us*. That's fine. That's a prayer we need to say daily. That's what 'thy will be done' really means.

Past put behind us – NO! No way.

Our past forms us, when we allow it. We learn from our successes, we learn from our failures. So often mistakes made by travelling down the wrong path are ultimately part of the greater lessons we learn – lessons about ourselves primarily, and most importantly lessons about God and the transforming power of His love.... But we put the past behind us at our peril, individually and corporately.

So I've re-written that part of the hymn. *Past – to inspire us; For the future – take us*.

One of the things I want to do today is to thank God, and you, for the great joy and immense privilege of being your parish priest for the past 13 years. There's no way I want to forget that! Nor should I. Nor should you – I hope!

Whatever I do in my next chapter of ministry will be most definitely formed by what you have given to me, in so many ways, here at St. Faith's and St. Mary's.

Priests, deacons, laity, we all have a part to play together in sharing in John the Baptist's Message and Mission. John led his people to welcome and accept Jesus. That is the task of all the baptized.

I'm mindful that an interregnum can be a time of anxiety as well as a time of blessing. But faithfulness in prayer and worship will help you to face squarely what the future holds.

So my final words come from John; not John the Baptiser, but John Betjeman who has an equally important message for us today:

*“Highness” or “Lowness” do not matter,
You are the Church and must not scatter,
Cling to the Sacraments and pray,
And God be with you every day.*

Be faithful in prayer and in attending the Eucharist. Cling to the Sacraments and pray. Cling to each other, for you are indeed the Church and must not scatter. And if you ask God to be with you every day then you will be amazed at the blessings and the future he has in store for you. Thanks be to God.

Days to Remember

Chris Price



The three days from Friday June 22nd to Sunday June 24th will surely loom large in the memories of all of us when we look back on the history of our church and its priests and people in years to come.

Four services, a concert and a party, in our parishes and beyond, marked not only the closing days of the ministry of our ex-Vicar, Fr Neil, but the opening of the priestly ministry of our ex-organist. All these events are recorded in words and pictures in fuller detail on the church website, and a selection on the following pages; this archive presents a summary of the highlights of what took place.

St Faith's can be rightly proud of its long and illustrious line of priests who found or nurtured their vocation during or soon after their years with us. Very soon after the Three Days two more: ordinands Lucy Davis (Nye) and Margaret Dixon (Goodwin), St Faith's girls of yore, were ordained to the sacred ministry: Fred writes about his daughter's big day elsewhere in this issue. But it was Ged Callacher, fondly remembered as organist and choirmaster here in past years, who last year became the Revd Ged and, following his priesting by the Archbishop of Liverpool at St Monica's Roman Catholic Church in Bootle, became the full Father Gerard on the Friday night.

Those of us who managed to find somewhere to sit down in this striking modern – and packed – building were treated to a long, splendid and colourful service with Ged at its centre. Supported by many of us from St Faith's and St Mary's, he was duly ordained and vested, to the accompaniment of much fine organ, brass and choral music – the last of these by a choir from St Faith's and the Amadeus singers, conducted by David Holroyd. Afterwards the prolonged and crowded bun-fight offered a chance to congratulate Ged, grinning ear to ear even more than usual, and to wish him well in his future ministry in the Metropolitan Cathedral. Our loss is certainly Rome's gain!

Ged celebrated his first mass and gave his first priestly blessing the next morning, while the focus shifted to the United Benefice and the Neil Kelley Weekend. Our



Picture Gallery

Six pages to record packed recent events. We start with Fr Neil's final high mass – that of Corpus Christi, with the annual rededication of eucharistic ministers and a line-up of some familiar faces



Dining Out

Fr Neil's final weeks were marked by many a farewell meal. This one was as the guest of the United Benefice Men's Fellowship



Father Ged!

Friday 22nd June saw the ordination to the priesthood of Ged Callacher, seen here with his father and nieces and the Archbishop of Liverpool. He found time to greet some of those of us who had shared the occasion with him



The Music Makers

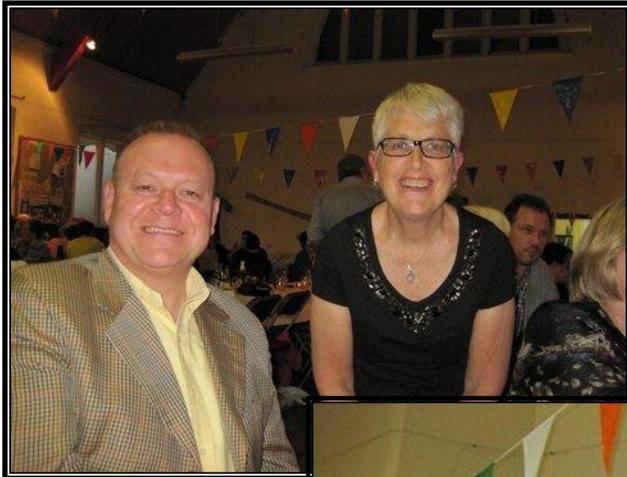
On Saturday, Fr Neil joined with cellist Fr Gregor Cuff and violinist Melanie Harvey for a farewell concert in our lunchtime recital series



Saturday Night Fever

A selection of revellers, clerical and lay, enjoying the hog roast, the drink and the convivial company at Fr Neil's farewell party in the church hall



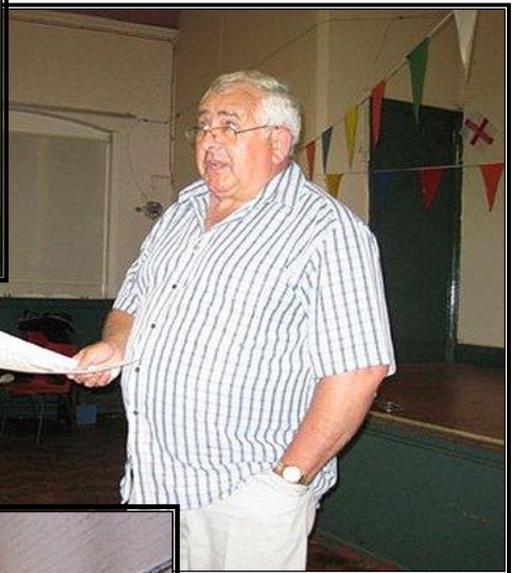


Party Presentation time

Towards the end of the evening, it was time for the Maureen Madden show, the 'Our Father' word-search, the gifts and the farewell thanks and speeches



... and after that, there was entertainment in words and song to round off the evening professional, semi-professional - and Fr Dennis... and more fireworks to follow...



Eucharistic Ending

At St Mary's on Sunday morning, Fr Neil is given presents and cards by the children of our Junior Churches



In his closing hours as vicar of the United Benefice, Fr Neil hands his chasuble to Revd Denise and moves to the back of church for the final exit



A week or so later, newly-ordained Revd Lucy Davis (Nye) poses for the first time in her diaconal garb with the Bishop of St Albans at his cathedral

*Photos: Chris Price, the Tudhopes, Lillie Wilmot and Kathy Zimak
Cover picture: Denis Griffiths*

about-to-be-late Vicar presided at St Faith's High Altar for the last time on the Saturday morning. An hour or so later, he sat at the church grand piano as part of a trio playing, probably for the last time, at a Summer Saturday concert.

He was joined by old friends, his co-Crosby Cleric Fr Gregor Cuff and violinist Melanie Harvey, to offer accomplished performances of Beethoven's 'Ghost' Trio and Dvorak's 'Dumky' Trio. We were inescapably reminded of the great contribution Fr Neil has made, as soloist, accompanist and ensemble member, to our musical heritage over his years with us.

Saturday evening was Party Time. Members of both congregations and many of Neil's friends packed the hall for a hog roast and several hours of fellowship and reminiscence. Then it was presentation time, and churchwarden Maureen Madden ushered ten people on to the stage. Each held a letter which formed, when they were displayed in order, the words 'Our Father'. She used each letter to begin a word describing the attributes – or otherwise – of Fr. Neil: **O**utrageous, **U**nique, **R**idiculous, **F**lattering, **A**tttractive, **H**igh standards, **E**xasperating (after teasing him that it was going to be Evangelical!) and **R**emembered (always!)

Various party turns, songs and poetry, monologue and duets followed, and the evening's finale was a firework display in the vicarage garden – a fitting social send-off!

The spiritual send-off took place on Sunday morning at St Mary's, where Fr Neil presided and preached to a full church for the last time as our vicar. As ever, there was colour, powerful liturgy, much music and food for spiritual thought. The text of Neil's farewell sermon is to be found earlier in this issue. But the special and especially moving part of the liturgy came at its conclusion. Fr Neil removed his chasuble, and Revd Denise robed herself in it. In plain cassock, the departing incumbent knelt to be blessed and, escorted by the four churchwardens, walked slowly down the length of the church to the door. The keys were handed over and, in a moment none of those present will forget, Fr Neil Kelley walked quietly out of his church for the last time as its incumbent. An era had ended.

The website records both these events and the year-by-year 'Milestones of a Ministry', highlighting the key happenings in the United Benefice from 1999 – 2012. The former starts at www.stfaithsgreatcrosby.org.uk/threedays.html; the index page for the latter is at [/milestones.html](http://milestones.html).

In his powerful and thoughtful final sermon, Fr Neil stressed the importance of using the past as a source of inspiration: not as something to be simply 'put behind us' but to be used as a springboard for our future. We at St Faith's have much to be thankful as we enter into a new chapter of our church's story. Fr Neil, in his 13 years with us, built on our past and gave us many good things by which to remember him and our recent past and on which to build for our future. A verse from the St Faith's centenary hymn, may serve to underline that.

**Lord, for a century of praise
Here on this holy ground;
For Faith in whose strong sacrifice
Our watchword still is found,
We give you thanks, and ask your grace
For holiness like hers:
To serve your world and keep the faith
Through all the turning years.**



More Harmony and Jazz

Friday 21st September sees the return of the Wayfarers Barbershop Chorus to St Faiths, bringing their unique singing style to the church in support of the Waterloo Partnership.

Their first concert, last year, saw the church nearly full, so please don't leave buying your tickets until the last minute, as demand will undoubtedly be great.

Supported as usual by Timepiece, who play strict tempo traditional jazz, the chorus will be introducing many new numbers this year and are on the lookout for recruits, so if you fancy singing in close harmony then have a word with Rick Walker!

The proceeds will go towards the work of the Waterloo Partnership, who are working to improve the life of our namesake community in Sierra Leone. Last year the money raised went towards completing a well, building a bridge and educating children – and there are dozens more projects just waiting for our help.

Tickets will cost the same as last year - £10 – (Sorry, no concessions – we need the money!) but will include nibbles and a drink. They will be available from mid August.

Rosie and Rick Walker

A Reflection for the Feast of the Transfiguration

Fr Dennis

There are some passages in the Bible which are particularly hard to preach about or they are so difficult to understand. Such a passage is the story of the Transfiguration: “And while he was praying the appearance of his face changed and his clothes became dazzling white.” (Luke 9: 29).

As we ascend this mountain with Jesus our lips are silent. We feel we are treading on the verge of an experience that cannot be communicated in words. We can only muse and ponder and reflect, yes, and pray too!

Jesus went up into the mountain to pray. Many a time he prayed alone in the hills, but this time he took his “inner circle” of Peter and James and John. Why? The Gospels give us no reason. But we do know that there was something special about this occasion of prayer. Luke places it immediately after the confession of Peter at Caesarea Philippi: “You are God’s Messiah.” It was then that Jesus predicted his sufferings and death. This marked a turning point in Jesus’ ministry. Jesus was now facing the inevitability of his death. It was increasingly dawning upon Jesus that only through suffering would his ministry be fulfilled. And at this point in his ministry two things had to happen: first, Jesus himself had to come to terms with his destiny as the suffering Saviour of men; second, Jesus’ disciples had to come to terms with it also. Along with Jesus’ growing realization of his destiny there was also the need to make his disciples understand what was going to happen and why.

The Transfiguration has two aspects then: there is its message for Jesus and there is its message for his disciples, and for us all.

What did this vision mean for Jesus? Here we can only venture to hint at its deeper meaning, for none of us can penetrate the mind of the Son of man at this point.

This above all was a time of reassurance. At three points in the Gospel Jesus received God’s direct seal of approval. The first point was his Baptism when he heard the declaration; “Thou art my Son, my Beloved; on thee my favour rests.” The second point was here at the Transfiguration, when Jesus received the assurance again in almost identical terms: “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him.” The third point was the Garden of Gethsemane when “there appeared to him an angel from heaven bringing him strength.” There were other occasions of course, but these three points were the most decisive and therefore most stressed by the Gospel writers.

It’s important to realize that Jesus needed reassurance. He was no superman striding masterfully through any and every experience. He was a man and shared our flesh and knew our need for reassurance in a time of testing and crisis. That’s why he can help us all the more when we are feeling lost and lonely and afraid.

What was the reassurance contained in this vision of Moses and Elijah and the voice out of that cloud? It was above all the reassurance that he was doing God’s will and could rely upon God’s strength. Let’s look at this a little more closely.

The one problem with which Jesus wrestled all through his ministry was the problem of loneliness. All the great leaders have been lonely men. Their visions have far outstripped the ability of men to follow them. However much they may have earned the plaudits of the crowd, their loneliness has remained and been made even worse

perhaps by the thought that even the greatest admirers failed to understand them. If this was true of great leaders, how much more true it was of Jesus! Jesus at this time was wrestling with the need to make his disciples understand what was going to happen to him, and why. And yet we sense how little they understood, even Peter: “But they did not understand what he said; it had been hidden from them so that they should not perceive its drift; and they were afraid to ask him what it meant.”

It’s very likely that Jesus took the disciple up the mountain in order to help them share something of his experience. It’s probable that Jesus was tempted to relieve the essential loneliness of his destiny by trying to take his disciples with him into the heart of his own experience. And at this point God had something to say to Jesus, something which had to be said. What was it? Only that at this point he had to do without his disciples, that he mustn’t count on them, or lean on them as if they could take away his loneliness. They would understand later, but first Jesus had to face the Cross without the props and support of human companionship. He had to face this ordeal and go through it alone.

The proof of that fact lay in the disciples’ inability to keep awake: “Meanwhile Peter and his companions had been in a deep sleep.” Again in the Garden of Gethsemane the disciples fell asleep, owing to their sheer inability to enter into the heart of our Lord’s lonely ordeal. There again they fell asleep while Jesus communed with God: They could not have done otherwise, for they didn’t and couldn’t as yet understand who he was.

So the support of the disciples was taken away and Jesus’ gaze was directed utterly at God. God’s radiance streamed upon him as his being filled with the light of God’s presence and approval. Humanly speaking Jesus had to face his ordeal alone. But he was not alone, for the father was with him.

And here we see the significance of the vision of Moses and Elijah. They were the representatives of the Old Testament dispensation, the Law and the Prophets. Their appearance was an assurance of the fact that Jesus’ ministry was the culmination of all that had been prepared for in the Old Testament. But there is added significance in the fact that here were two men who in their day had faced precisely the same problem, the problem of loneliness. Moses sitting in lonely eminence upon Mount Nebo looking into the promised land which he was never to enter is the prototype of all lonely leaders. Elijah, the mysterious prophet who came and disappeared with repeated suddenness, and was taken into heaven at the end, expresses again the deep loneliness of the man of God. They now stood alongside Jesus as those who had been through the same ordeal of loneliness themselves. Their lonely ordeals had paved the way for his supreme ordeal. Their victory over loneliness had paved the way for his supreme and lonely victory upon the Cross. Here lay a reassurance for Jesus. He was not alone. All the forces of God were ranged on his side, invisible though they would be at the height of his ordeal. Any temptation to lean too heavily at this point upon the

unreliable props of his disciples as an escape from his own inner loneliness was banished by the sight of the sleeping disciples on the one hand and the intensity of his communion with God on the other.

But there was something in this vision for Jesus' disciples as well. The Transfiguration contains a reassurance for them in their loneliness and for us too. The disciples awoke just before the end of the Transfiguration: "But when they awoke they saw his glory and the two men who stood beside him. Peter was able to glimpse Moses and Elijah as they were moving away from Jesus. Peter reacts extravagantly to the sight. For the first time in Jesus' ministry Peter saw something of the forces ranged on their side. Now they could go ahead with joy and confidence. With Moses and Elijah at their side, what great things could they not do? This would show the doubters and sceptics once and for all that God was with them. So the sight of them moving away filled Peter with panic: "Don't let them go! Let's keep them here. Let's make shelters for them and for you," said Peter to Jesus.

But Peter didn't understand. He didn't understand that Jesus had to face his ordeal, humanly speaking, alone. And they too had to face their ordeal in dependence upon no one but Jesus. And as if to make that fact utterly clear, a cloud descended and blotted out everything. God deliberately created a situation of loneliness on the spot for them. The disciples couldn't see a thing – not even each other. They were isolated and lonely and terribly afraid.

And then came the voice: "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him." Can we sense an emphasis upon the word "him"? The voice points them to Jesus. He was all they had. There was no reassuring vision of Moses and Elijah now – simply Jesus. And as the cloud lifted "Jesus was seen to be alone."

This was the lesson for the disciples. They too were lonely; they too were tempted to grab at every prop they could find, to relieve their loneliness. Peter had wanted Jesus plus Moses and Elijah. In the first and last resort, however, they had Jesus only, and that was enough.

We all have our problems of loneliness. Ultimately we all have to face this question of our own loneliness. We all have our personal burden of responsibility to bear alone. We all have our own experience of the cloud descending and blotting out every available human landmark and support. We are all afraid at such times. And we have our own deaths to die – nobody else can do that for us. Always, too, we are tempted to relieve our loneliness by grabbing for the support of those who cannot ultimately help. Like Moses and Elijah, our friends leave us eventually and we are forced back to the point where there can be only one person to stand by us in our need, the point at which we see Jesus to be alone with us, and ourselves alone with Jesus.

And yet ultimately that is enough and more than enough. Jesus alone faced and bore the Cross for us. And in the light of that lonely victory all our lonely ordeals are braved – and won!

Ordination and Celebration

Fred Nye



This summer has seen the ordination of two ‘daughters of St. Faith’s’: Margaret Dixon (Goodwin) as priest, and Lucy Davis (Nye) as deacon. Mature members of the congregation will remember them as a young altar server and acolyte respectively, at a time when even these roles were viewed as novel for girls. So we celebrate both their calling and their formation, and once again give thanks for the part that the St. Faith’s community has played, over the years, in fostering so many vocations.

Perhaps I may be forgiven (for obvious reasons) for saying a little more about Lucy. She has given a short account of her experiences in a previous edition of *Newslink*. Three years ago she was accepted on the Eastern Region Ordination course, which is ‘part time’, but very intensive. Balancing high standards of academic theology with challenging placements (one in a prison) and the domestic world of a wife and mother seemed pretty demanding, but provided a tough yet rewarding preparation for life as a priest. Lucy also experienced the full gamut of churchmanship during her training: everything from Benediction to guitars and liturgical dance. It seems to me that part-time training can provide more of an insight into the realities of our ‘broad church’ than some traditional residential courses – though I realise that this is embarking on controversial territory!

The ordination service in St. Albans Abbey on July 1st was truly inspirational; with memorable words and music, including the Mozart *Missa Brevis* and *Ave Verum*, and a gloriously eclectic mixture of hymns. The theology of the service is based on Servanthood: the servanthood of Our Lord, of the ordained ministry, and of ourselves (I may well bore you with a sermon about it one of these days.) Immediately after the ordination rite the Archdeacon, surrounded by the eleven new deacons, turned to the congregation and said, on their behalf: ‘We preach not ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake’: to which we all replied **We welcome you as fellow servants of the gospel. May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, that you may be rooted and grounded in love.** This was not a service celebrating the supremacy of the ordained ministry, it was about the responsibility of the whole church, clergy and lay, to be servants of the good news, and to point others to Christ.

For our family the day finished with a party and hog roast chez Lucy, attended by friends and relations, godparents, fellow ordinands and tutors, the incumbents and church members from both her old and new parishes, and teenagers from the ‘Bedrock’ group that she had started at St. John’s Harpenden. We even had some sunshine!

Like a wedding an ordination celebrates a new relationship and a new life. Thank God

that the joyous work of the Holy Spirit continues to call men and women anew to His service. As we pray for the newly ordained, for those in training, and for those feeling the first tentative hints of a vocation, we give thanks that Our Lord is still gloriously alive in his church. And if you are ever tempted to feel that the church may be dying I have a simple remedy: go to an ordination!



Rock Choir comes to Crosby!

Do you sing in the shower or croon along to the car radio, yet have never had the confidence or opportunity to take it any further? Now you can! Due to popular demand, national singing phenomenon Rock Choir is coming to Crosby, from September 2012.

Recently featured in the popular ITV1 documentary ‘The Choir That Rocks’, Rock Choir is the UK’s original and largest amateur contemporary choir, with over 16,000 members in more than 200 locations nationwide. It offers teenagers and adults the chance to sing and perform pop, gospel, chart and Motown songs, with no auditions and no requirement to reach music or have any previous singings experience – Rock Choir is the contemporary choir for people who just love to sing, and it’s taking the UK by storm!

Members attend weekly rehearsals, learning a repertoire of upbeat and feel-good songs, which they perform at local and national events – many of which raise money for charity. So far this year Rock Choir has helped raise over £340,000 for charities and local causes.

Weekly rehearsal sessions will take place here at St Faith’s on Wednesday mornings from 10.30am-12 noon, starting on 19th September. If you’re looking for something fun and different to do with your Wednesday mornings and fancy singing, why not give Rock Choir a go? You can even try a session for free. Just visit our website at www.rockchoir.com or telephone 01252 714 276 to book your free taster session.

Rock Choir has released two popular albums and made numerous TV appearances, including the Paul O’Grady Show, BBC Breakfast and The One Show. It has also achieved two Guinness World Records (The Largest Musical Act To Release An Album (Signed) and The Biggest Hit Act in the UK). Nicknamed ‘the people’s choir’ by the media, Rock Choir’s uplifting ethos of fun, friendship and community spirit is a huge part of its attraction. It helps improve people’s self-confidence, and gives them new singing skills, a dynamic new social life and a great sense of fulfilment.

Local Rock Choir leader Luke Yates will be running the Crosby sessions. ‘If you’re looking for something fun and different to do with your Wednesday mornings and fancy singing, then why not give Rock Choir a go?’ says Luke. ‘You’ll make new friends, develop your singing skills, and have the chance to be involved in lots of exciting performances – we’ve got some very exciting things in the pipeline for 2013!’



The Parish Directory and Church Organisations

VICAR

Vacancy

PARISH OFFICE

32 Brooklands Avenue, L22 3XZ . Tel: 0151 928 9913

Parish Office Manager: Geoff Dunn; email: sfsmparishoffice@btinternet.com

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

Ms Brenda Cottarel, 6 Lawton Road, Waterloo. L22 9QL. 928 4275

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

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Mr Daniel Rathbone. Tel: 07759 695683

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

SACRISTANS

Mr Leo Appleton, 23 Newborough Avenue, Crosby. L23 3TU. 07969 513087

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

SENIOR SERVER

Ms Emily Skinner, 1 Valley Close, Crosby. L23 9TL. 931 5587

CHILDREN'S CHURCH (*restarting as usual in September!*)

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 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

BEAVERS

Thursday 5.00 - 6.15 pm Mike Carr 293 3416

CHOIR PRACTICE

Friday 7.15 pm - 8.30 pm.

MAGAZINE EDITOR and WEBSITE MANAGER

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

The **September 'Newslink'** will be distributed on or before **Sunday, August 19th**. Copy by **Sunday, August 5th**, please - but all contributions are welcome at any time.

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

Online edition: <http://www.stfaithsgreatcrosby.org.uk/magazine.html>

Email: cdavidprice@gmail.com



ONLINE EXTRA...

*Scroll down for more pictures
from the action packed days
at the end of June!*



Ged's big days....

Fr Ged's father Vincent vests him as he prepares for the rituals of ordination

Reading the Gospel at his first mass on Saturday morning



Party Time Pictures

Everyone having a great time at the hog roast evening... it was a 'bring your own drinks' do!





Smile please!

Assorted clerical and lay figures (musical and financial) clearly enjoying the party having a really good time as the evening wears on



Kiss me Quick!

Fr Neil can contain himself no longer at the presentation... and there were still the recitations to come!



The Final Act

The trumpet sounds for Fr Neil Kelley... and he bows his head for a final blessing at St Mary's altar