



The Parish Church of Saint Faith,
Great Crosby

NEWSLINK

August 2018

Worship at Saint Faith's



SUNDAY SERVICES

11.00 am SUNG EUCHARIST

Holy Baptism by arrangement

6.30 pm 1st Sunday: Evensong

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Morning Prayer: weekdays as announced, at 9.00 am

Holy Eucharist: Tuesday at 7.00 pm; Thursday at 12 noon

Please consult the weekly service sheet (in church and online) for any changes

<http://www.stfaithsgreatcrosby.org.uk/bulletin.pdf>

Around Waterloo: The Eucharist

2nd and 5th Mondays & Feast Days as announced - Liverpool Seafarers' Centre

10am; Wednesdays 10.30 am at St Mary's; Wednesdays 7.00 pm at Christ Church.

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, or to arrange a visit to someone in hospital or at home.

IN A PASTORAL EMERGENCY

Please telephone as for home visits, or a member of the ministry team.



From the Ministry Team August 2018

Dear Friends,

Following the heat wave we had this summer, it gives us pause for thought. I know that not everyone copes well with extreme heat like that, and the RSPCA gave out cautionary advice on keeping pets out of the sun. In the south of England, temperatures were even higher, so whilst we had the rain in Liverpool, further south in the country, the heat wave continued. For most people the heat was simply too much, and when the rain did come it was greeted like a much-missed and dear friend.

At the vicarage garden party we were blessed with warm weather (but not too hot) and it was a lovely afternoon of fellowship, gentle music and wonderful food. Socks the dog was amongst the group, affectionately greeting everyone. Photographs of the work of the Waterloo Partnership in Sierra Leone were on display, and reminded us of the essential fundraising function of the garden party too.

We here in the UK's town of Waterloo, are so lucky and act on the great need in Waterloo, Sierra Leone to give relief to the people there. The Ebola outbreak has been devastating, but the Waterloo Partnership has funded relief efforts to help the community in Sierra Leone to manage the crisis. This is alongside existing projects to provide clean water and healthcare. Our United Benefice continues to play its part in supporting the Waterloo Partnership.

It is part of our church life and fellowship to be a place of refuge and support – spiritually and in practical ways. Life may be difficult at times, but it is our Christian faith that strengthens our community, with prayer, fellowship and hope.

Yours in Christ

Paula

70 years at St Faith's



Thank you all so very much for the lovely birthday celebrations you organised for me at church a couple of Sundays ago. I was so very surprised and what a lovely way to start my big '7-0' celebrations with my St. Faith's family. I have to admit I find it very

difficult to accept that my spiritual journey of faith actually began 70 years ago at St. Faith's. I was baptised in 1948 by the curate Rev. John Schofield and began attending Sunday School when I was about 5 or 6; we met in the church hall before being taken into church in time for the Eucharistic prayer and we would then receive a blessing by Fr. Hassall, whom I must admit that as a young child I found to be quite scary. The Sunday School used to act out a nativity play each year and the hall in those days was filled with bursting with proud parents. On one occasion though I remember my mum being furious with me because as a beautifully dressed angel with wings and a halo I had forgotten to take off my old brown cardigan before the grand performance!

I joined the Brownies and then later the Guides and even today when I receive the flags from our uniformed organisations at the start of a parade service I still remember how heavy I thought those flags were and how walking down the aisle with them seemed to take an eternity!

I think I was about 9 or 10 when I met Fr. Dennis and most years he would receive the Sunday School prize for boys and I would receive the girls' prize, each of us being the most regular attenders. We both went on to be confirmed and it is almost impossible to believe that Fr. Dennis is coming up to his Ruby Anniversary as a priest.

Having journeyed through Sunday School with some wonderful teachers, remembering especially Miss Mountfield, Mona Turner and Marian Ashworth, I started to teach the first class of children who had moved up from the hall. I think we had about 5 or 6 classes taking place in church. I can't remember when the classes actually took place! I loved teaching at Sunday School and that was probably what prompted me to take up teaching as a career.

We had a thriving Youth Club at St. Faith's which offered various activities and we all enjoyed the regular Saturday discos taking place in the various church halls in the Waterloo group. Many friendships were formed that are still firm today, including Fr. Colin Oxenforth and Fr. Mike Finlay. Little did I think then that one day we would go on to ordained ministry.

It was during those teenage years that I was inspired and impressed by a lovely and very handsome young curate Fr. Tom Stanage, who later went on to become a Bishop in South Africa. Fr. Dennis and I both corresponded with him until fairly recently. I think it is fair to say that he helped me to realise my first sense of calling, although in the late 1960's ordination was something beyond the wildest dreams of women.

In 1966 I left Crosby to go to teacher training college in Bangor, North Wales and after qualifying I came back to Crosby and taught at Waterloo County Secondary School; the school became comprehensive in 1972 and we moved to Manor High School now known as St. Michael's Church of England High School. It was at Waterloo County where I met Bruce and we were married by Fr. Peter Goodrich at St Faith's in February 1974. The church choir was by joined by the school choir led by the now retired Rev. Graham Atherton.

We went on to have three daughters, who were all baptised, went to Sunday School and were confirmed at St. Faith's, as was Bruce, as an adult. As time went on I became more and more aware that God was calling me into ordained ministry and I began that long period of exploration.

I completed the foundation course at St John and St James in the late 90's and was accepted to train for ordination on the Northern Ordination Course in Manchester from 2000–2003. So many of you attended the wonderful occasion of my ordination as Deacon at Liverpool Cathedral in 2003 and then my priesting a year later. In those early days my ministry often proved quite challenging because many people found it difficult to accept the ministry of a woman; thankfully time has moved on and women today are far more readily accepted.

It is not normal practice to return to your sending parish and after ordination I moved to Christ Church in Waterloo, where I served as a deacon and priest alongside Rev. Gregor Cuff. I thoroughly enjoyed every second of my ministry there but after 6 years felt I was being called to move on. So in September 2009, after a good deal of prayer and many discussions with Fr. Neil, I returned to St. Faith's as a Non-Stipendiary Assistant Priest. Having accepted the new role I then learnt that Fr. Neil was going on study leave, so in at the deep end you might say! All very enjoyable though and good practice for the interregnums that followed a few years later.

I retired from teaching 10 years ago and now at 70 my current licence to officiate as a priest will need to be renewed by the Bishop. Although I now plan to give more time back to the family I do still hope to have the Bishop's permission to officiate.

My spiritual journey so far has lasted for 70 years; I have known 8 vicars, each bringing their own personalities and gifts, a number of choir masters and organists and to date a very loyal and committed choir. All have added to the quality and style of the worship, music and liturgy. I have seen many changes during my years and many members of the congregation have moved on either in this world or to the next. However it has always been a great joy and a privilege to continue my own faith journey as well as walking alongside others on theirs.

God bless and thank you all again so much for your friendship, love and trust.

Love and prayers

Denise

A Fair Balance



'It is a question of a fair balance'. Part of St. Paul's second epistle to the Corinthians is a begging letter. In it he asks the new church in Corinth to give generously to an appeal he has organised to support poor Jewish Christian families in Jerusalem. This has been

described as ‘Paul’s Stewardship sermon’ – though it seems to me even more like an early version of the Parish Share scheme. But before you all start developing antibodies: no I’m not going to preach a Stewardship sermon. And yet we can’t entirely escape from that notion of the Parish Share as a way of evening out the differences between rich and poor communities. It is a question of a fair balance.

Paul was fired up by two big ideas. The first was the revelation on the Damascus road that Jesus had offered his grace and salvation to *him*, Saul of Tarsus. As chief persecutor of the Christian church, surely he was the least likely and the least worthy of anyone to receive such a gift. And growing out of this experience was the realisation that salvation through Christ Jesus is offered to everyone, just everyone. ‘There is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free man.’ Christians were therefore called to strive for justice and equity, but they were to do so not in their own strength, but through the grace of Jesus Christ, who himself became poor that we might become rich.

Just as Paul made this whole principle real by collecting money for the poor in Jerusalem, we too have to decide on what real practical steps we can take to promote justice and equity in *our* world. In terms of sheer numbers the burden of injustice is intolerable: so many people are suffering because of poverty, disease, natural disasters, climate change, war, religious persecution, and displacement and migration. Going to our Christian Aid lunch (and our thanks to all who organised it) is one small way in which we can respond to these overwhelming needs.

It is said that charity begins at home. It certainly shouldn’t stop there: but on the other hand we can overlook or ignore injustices right on our doorstep. We need to be reminded perhaps that Liverpool, Knowsley and Manchester are among the five most deprived urban areas in England (the other two are Hull and Middlesbrough). And as a retired medic I get more and more concerned about the inequalities and injustices in health in our country – what Margaret Thatcher euphemistically used to refer to as ‘variations’ in health. Life expectancy for instance is much lower among the poor than in affluent areas, and in deprived communities infant mortality rates are actually increasing. If you look at a list of twenty-five common diseases, including cancer, stroke and heart disease, the burden of illness is much, much, greater among the poor, particularly in the north of England. This means that more poor people are ill compared with those who are wealthy, and that many more poor individuals have to cope with multiple medical problems. They do indeed ‘suffer much under many physicians’. The causes of this excess of ill health are many: among them are an impoverished diet, substandard and overcrowded housing, environmental pollution, lack of green spaces for recreation and exercise, and the sheer stress of the struggle to make ends meet. Whatever the causes may be, countless disadvantaged people are sucked into a black hole of chronic or life-threatening disease

This is a sermon, not a lecture, so we’d better leave it there. But maybe I have said enough to convince you that as a nation there is something seriously wrong with our sense of justice. England in some respects is still a developing country, still a country where much more needs to be done to bring health, prosperity and well being to the

poor, as well as to the rich. As Christians we have to become a little more generous-hearted in giving our money and taxes to deprived communities, and bolder and more confident in speaking out for the poor and the disadvantaged.

It is a question of a fair balance. And if a fairer balance is to be achieved, at home or globally, we can't achieve it in our own strength. Our efforts can only bear fruit if they are done in the name of the One who was rich, but became poor for our sake, and blessed by His grace.

Fred Nye



News from the Back

The Back of Church project at St. Faith's to provide toilet and kitchen facilities inside the church has been a long-held vision. Conversations began in the spring this year with the church architect over preliminary plans, which the PCC has commented upon. A meeting with the Diocesan Buildings Officer Ian Simpson gave us a timetable to work to and pointed us to some grant-making bodies. Needless to say we will need to raise a large sum of money, possibly in the region of one hundred thousand pounds to do this. Rick Walker is heading up the project.

Things are still at the early planning stage. But we have to urgently sort out the lighting in the church first. We need to replace forty nine light fittings.

However on the good news front, I recently received an email from Rev. Gregor Cuff saying that St. John's PCC wished to donate fifteen thousand pounds specifically for the Back of Church project. That is a great encouragement to everyone, especially those who have been regularly working away catering at recitals and other events building the back of church fund.

Fr. John

Congratulations!

It's some time since we heard any news from our unformed organisations, but it has been worth the wait! Helen Kibbey's report gives us a glimpse of the many hours of dedicated service our Leaders continue to give in the service of the young people of our organisations. The prestigious awards detailed below are clearly well-earned, and we congratulate George, Jennifer, Helen and Mike most warmly on the achievements

At a time when churches in general, and certainly ours in particular, are so short of young people in our ranks, we have particular reason to be grateful to our Leaders for keeping the flag flying. To them, and all show aork with them, the family of St Faith's sends thanks. There is more from the organisations later in these magazine – read the inspiring story of Jacala's Journeys on page 9.

On Monday 18th June 2018, four of our Leaders from 10th Crosby (St Faith's) Scout Group were presented with awards from the Scout Association for their commitment, dedication and good service to scouting as volunteers. Our four Leaders were part of 12 Leaders from Crosby & District who received awards.

All the Leaders in scouting are volunteers. The Leaders run scouting activities in addition to their full-time jobs and families. They give up their time each week to run scout nights, and to have days out and nights away opportunities for all the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Young Leaders in the group.

The evening was a celebration of all the adults who volunteer in the Merseyside County who were the recipients of awards from the Chief Scout. Unfortunately Bear Grylls (Chief Scout) was not able to present these awards in person and they were given on his behalf by the County Commissioner for Merseyside Scouts, Peter Oliver.

George Cunningham, Scout Leader and **Jennifer Wilson** (aka Rama), Cub Scout Leader, received the Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service. The Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service is given in respect of not less than five years good and outstanding service. It should be regarded as the Chief Scout's recognition of the very real contribution made to the Scout Association by the individual concerned

Helen Kibbey (aka Hathi) Beaver Scout Leader/Cub Scout Leader and Assistant District Commissioner Beaver Scouts for Crosby and District received the Award for Merit. The Award for Merit is given for outstanding service of not less than 12 years and 10 years exceptionally. It implies keen, conscientious, imaginative and dedicated service over a sustained period.

Mike Carr (aka Akela) Cub Scout Leader, Local Training Manager for Crosby District, received the Bar to the Award for Merit. The Bar to the Award for Merit may be awarded after a period of not less than five years of further outstanding service.

Congratulations and well done to all.

Helen Kibbey





An Assumptiontide Reflection

In the biblical disclosure of God's plan of redemption, Mary, the mother of Jesus, stands as near to the centre as it is possible to be. As the totally faithful and obedient Israelite, she is able to fulfil the vocation of the people of God and to bring the Messiah into the world. Some of the prophetic books point to her in a startlingly direct way, when Israel is addressed as the Daughter of Zion. This is Israel as she is meant to be, feminine and responsive to the divine initiative, Israel as she indeed comes to be in the person of Mary of Nazareth, the willing partner of God.

The early Christian Fathers trace this partnership of Creator and creature, and the prefiguring of Mary, behind the history of the chosen people to the activity of God in creation itself. They loved to draw a parallel between the virgin earth fertilised by the Spirit of God in the act of creation and the virginal womb similarly fertilized by the Holy Spirit at the beginning of the new creation. From the second century Mary was seen as the second or new Eve, "the Mother of all living."

It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of Mary's fiat, for the Incarnation was as much dependent on Mary's loving response as on God's loving initiative. Some words from that massive and splendid volume "Consider Your Call: a theology of monastic life today", put it well: "In the story of Mary's call the classic elements are present: as assurance that 'the Lord is with you', the preliminary disclosure of the plan, the giving of a sign, and her consent in graced freedom... but from that moment she had to go forward in partial ignorance and total trust, not knowing where that first consent would lead her."

We have already begun to see Mary from the other side of the centre of the history of salvation, not now as the final shining member of the old covenant but as the first member of the new community of faith, as the type and ideal of the Catholic Church, the example of the perfectly redeemed life.

The Gospels show how painful the transition was for her and the glimpses we are given suggest that her way was that of every Christian, a way of bewilderment and misunderstanding, of darkness and suffering at every level. She had to be weaned, as it were, from her unique physical relationship with Jesus, in order to fulfil her unique spiritual vocation as Mother in the Church. Outside the Gospels we are given that lovely cameo of Mary, at the heart of the apostolic Church in Acts 1:14 and finally that wonderfully rich and complex symbol of Israel–Mary–Church, in glory in Revelation 12:11 ff.

The whole length of her way Mary stands before us as the Church's true self, in obedience and co-operation bringing Christ into the world, suffering with him, and looking forward to final blessedness and glory. She is at once contemplative,

pondering all that is said in her heart, and compassionate in her love and service of others. Indeed she perfectly fulfils the twofold command of love. She is herself Good News for mankind, showing what our graced human nature can become and encouraging us all to be channels of Christ's redeeming love.

Fr Dennis



Jacala's African Adventure!

Between the 22nd of June and 16th of July 2018 I was lucky enough to travel to Fort Portal, Uganda where I was teaching in a local Primary School and working in an orphanage for children with HIV. For this trip with the charity "Global Hope", I had to raise a minimum of £1,500, which through doing a sponsored skydive from 15,000ft and with lots of support from 10th Crosby (St Faith's) Scout Group, I was able to exceed. Together we raised an amazing £1,617! As a group, we are hoping to continue fundraising to support 'Manna Rescue Home', the orphanage I worked with in Uganda. The work they do is incredible and I am delighted that we can support them further.

I travelled to Uganda with a team of 14 other people and together we were teaching at St Peter and Paul's Primary School which provides an education for over 1,100 children. I was teaching P4 (where most pupils were between 8 and 10 years old). It was split into two classes, each of over 90 pupils. It was completely different, as can be expected, to education in the UK and it has taught me so much about teaching (which is what I am studying at University). I was teaching all subjects but mainly English, Art, Music and PE. I am used to teaching class sizes of around 30 so this was a new world entirely and it definitely took a few days to adjust to. The children were all so excited to have us with them and they made us feel so welcome instantly. I took many ideas of games for PE with me that I have been playing myself since I was aged 9 at Cubs and still play now with our Beavers and Cubs at 10th Crosby. The children loved all of the new games I taught them and were always so eager to play again or learn more.

I think the best bit for all of my pupils (and me!) were the campfire songs I taught them. The two favourites were "Oh Alayla" and "Everywhere We Go", which are both call and response songs. They absorbed everything like sponges and it only took us a few times of singing each song before they all knew the words and didn't need me to lead any more. It was magic for me. Being on the other side of the world and being able to pass on songs, games and knowledge that I have learned in Scouts at St Faith's was such an amazing experience.

At Manna Rescue Home, there are currently 29 children living together and roughly half of them are educated at the Home as they are too ill to attend school. All 29 children at Manna are HIV positive and some have additional illnesses or complications, so working here could easily have been a very sad experience. However, it was the

complete opposite. The children were so full of life and so happy to see us every evening or Saturday morning. We were able to take over lots of pens, paper, balls, football kits and other items of clothing such as socks. The children were unbelievably grateful and it was very emotional seeing how excited children got over something as simple as a pair of socks. We take so much for granted in this country and often don't appreciate just how lucky we are. My time at Manna House was unforgettable and possibly the highlight of my whole experience.

I have come home with memories to last a lifetime and a new outlook on life. I am so grateful for all the support I have received over the last year in the build-up to this amazing adventure. It will be exciting to see what we can do together in order to support these beautiful children. I have never quite appreciated just how true 'every little helps' is until the experience I had in Uganda.

Alex Clark (Jacala)

Assistant Section Leader for Beavers and Cubs at 10th Crosby (St Faith's).



Yet more from the Registers

The last of the exceedingly weighty service register tomes bears the embossed cover '1963 -' but that year was almost done when the new book opened. The first entry is made below the still traditional emblazoned red banner CHRISTMASS 1963; it records 276 communicants at the usual 11.45 pm Blessing of the Crib and Midnight Mass, followed by 58 more at the next morning's services.

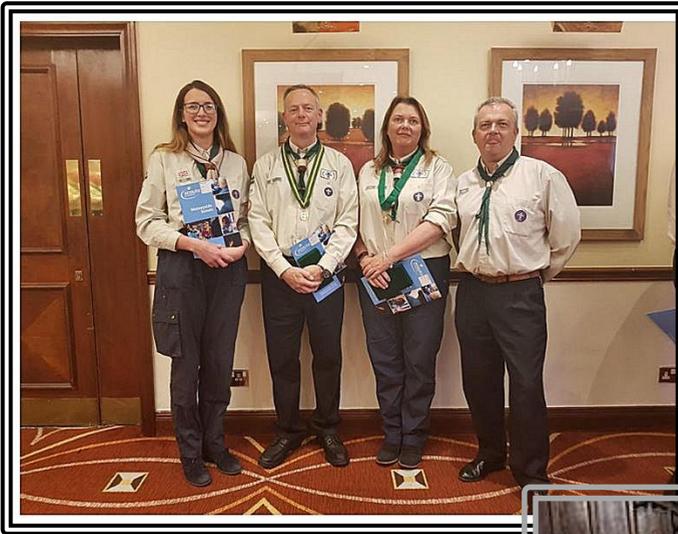
1963 gives way almost unnoticed to 1964, with a small marginal note reading 'Communicants for 1963 6465.' – some 800 down on the 1962 total. On into a new year and the faithful W.H takes every service until M.H.Bates steps in for a weekday Low Mass on January 20th. although Lay Reader George Houldin preaches from time to time. A few days later there is the possibly unique occurrence of a Sunday (Quinquagesima) with services shown but neither signatures nor communicants recorded. Four days later W.H takes four services on Ash Wednesday, three of them morning Masses with a total of 87 communicants.

Fr Hassall also records the preacher at 10.45 on the first Sunday in Lent as being 'The Archdeacon of Liverpool', followed the next Sunday's Evensong by 'The Archdeacon of Liverpool': neither worthy leaves a signature.

On into Lent, with eucharists on Monday at 10.30, Wednesday at 7 am, Thursday at 8 am and Saturday at 9 am. This last is transfigured into Sung Mass with Instruction for the season.

Happy Days

Good things happening at St Faith's recently: awards for our youth leaders (see page 6); Revd Denise is 70 not out (she writes on page 2); a parish lunch raising funds for Christian Aid



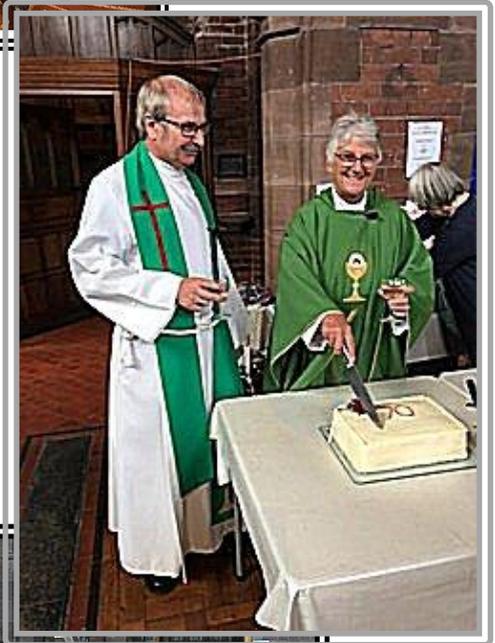
The Chief Scout's
Commendation for
Good Service



The Award for Merit



The Bar to the Award
for Merit

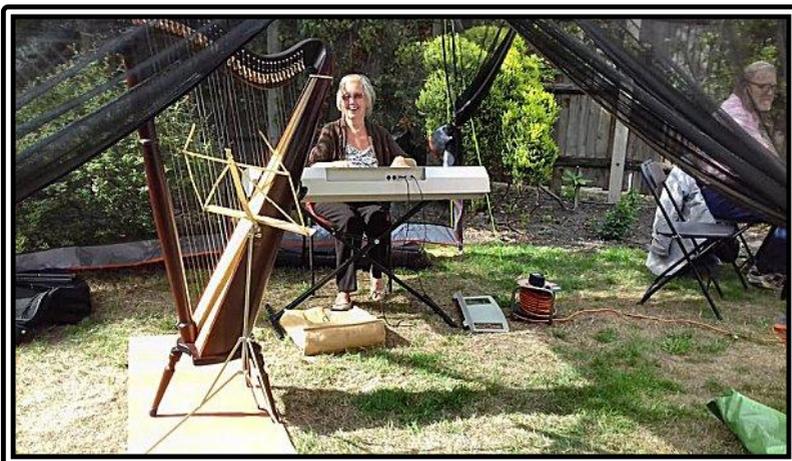






'In an English Country Garden...'

A good time was had
by all on August 4th
in the vicarage
garden. Fr John tells
the story on page 12.
Photos by him and
Rick Walker





Jacala's Journey

Lovely images from Beavers and Cubs A.S.L. Alex Clarke (Jacala) of her inspiring time in Uganda. Read about Alex's African Adventure on page 9 – and see our happy cover picture as well!

Holy Week sees Compline and Address from Monday to Wednesday, with D.G.Clawson officiating and George Houldin preaching. The Lord's Supper eucharist on Maundy Thursday sees 75 communicants; then the Bishop of Warrington takes the Good Friday Three Hours. Easter Day communicants total 268.

Things go quiet for a few weeks now, the more rapid turning of pages brought to a halt when your scribe notices a marginal note on Monday, June 10th 'Requiem for JOHN BRIELEY, one time Vicar of S. Faith's' – a fitting memorial but an unfortunate misspelling of Canon Brierley's name.

The steady flow of services continues, until mid-August. Various clergy (mainly D.C.Ellis actually) take all services between 20th August and 6th September, when Fr Hassall returns, whether from holiday or illness is unclear. There may be some connection with the marginal note the day after, which reads 'Requiem for my father'.

In the run up to the Patronal Festival there are several weekdays with no services, while a marginal note on one such day reads '1 Holy Unction' – the first recorded use, if my archival memory serves me right, of the phrase. The eve of St Faith's Day, a Monday, sees Bishop Mark Way preaching at an 8.00 pm Solemn Evensong, while the day itself attracts only 32 communicants at early Low Masses.

The Sunday within the Octave has H.M.Luft, headmaster of Merchant Taylors' School, preaching at the Sung Mass. The weeks that follow see him celebrating and preaching at a Sunday Sung Mass, while Paul Nichols makes several appearances. Advent leads into Christmass (still the invariable spelling), with 276 at the Midnight. The vicar resumed meteorological observations in Christmas week, when there is clearly a lot of snow about. Probably as a result, the attendances on the following Sunday, 27th December, register what is probably an all-time low, with just 18 at the 8 am and 4 communicating at the main service. There is a service on Holy Innocents (28th) and that's it for the year, ending not with a bang but a whimper. Communicants for the year total 6049, down substantially again.

Thus ends the last full year of William Hassall's long and ever-faithful time at the helm. Rather than bewail the steady decline in attendances, it is surely better to laud the steadfast achievements of a priest who, against the odds and in failing health, gave so much to the church he clearly loved and helped to shape.

But he is still with us as 1964 becomes 1965: he will depart in October and an interregnum will pave the way for Fr Charles Alfred Billington and a whole new chapter in our story. Watch this space.

Chris Price



Party Time



Fr John writes:

On Saturday 4th August the sun shone and the vicarage garden was filled with the sounds of the gentle clink of china, the hum of quiet conversations, and music in the background. Over fifty people from St Mary's and St Faith's arrived to take their places at tables and chairs, to eat the finest afternoon tea Rosie Walker and the Social Committee could provide. For the children there were toys to play with and for all ages the added attractions of Benjamin the Rabbit and Socks the Dog.

The afternoon began with "Ye Olde Wigan Bible Quiz" which proved a challenge even for Father Dennis. Father John entertained on the guitar with a rendition of "My old man's a dustman". Heather Stark, one of the young people from St Mary's, played on the harp and Ann Dickinson gave a fine medley on the keyboard of songs from the shows.

The raffle was organised by Gareth and Brenda, and Fred and Linda Nye provided a display from the Waterloo partnership.

Thanks go to Ruth Reed for her organisation of the event, and to those who helped to move tables and chairs before and afterwards. The aim of the event was to get lots of people together to have a good time, but the bonus was that after expenses we raised £309 which was divided between St. Faiths, St. Mary's and the Waterloo Partnership.

Linda Nye, the Chair of the Waterloo Partnership, writes

"Rest assured, the money will be well spent - £103 goes a long way in Sierra Leone, and is almost enough to pay for two of our Ebola orphans' schooling for a year

The Nun's Prayer



Lord, Thou knowest better than I know myself, that I am growing older and will some day be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all, but Thou knowest Lord that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point.

Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing, and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others' pains, but help me to endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a Saint - some of them are so hard to live with - but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and talents in unexpected people. And, give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so. Amen.

Fr Dennis is Remembering



Arthur Osborne, 10 November, 2001

Born in 1909, Arthur Frederick Osborne trained for the priesthood at King's College, London and was awarded a Bachelor of Divinity degree and AKC. In 1933 he was deaconed and served his title as priest in the parish of Beaconsfield. Further parochial appointments followed in the London Diocese before Fr Osborne left his post as Rural Dean of Barnet to take up a teaching job, as Senior Lecturer in Divinity and Chaplain at Salisbury Diocese Training College. Following five years in Salisbury Fr Osborne returned to parish ministry and was for nine years Vicar of a church in Bradford-on-Avon.

It was in 1965 that the Osborne family arrived in Crosby, Father Osborne having secured a post as Chaplain and Principal Lecturer at Kirkby Fields College of Education. In the final year of his incumbency and with increasingly poor health Father Hassall was immensely thankful for the great help and support Father Osborne was able to give him. Trained in the Sarum rite, it was a joy to hear this experienced Anglo-Catholic sing the Sunday mass at St. Faith's and look to be perfectly at home with all the ritual and ceremonial that we were used to. With his charming wife and lovely daughters, Father Osborne greatly enjoyed being part of the St. Faith's family, and when the interregnum began in November 1965 we were very fortunate that we could be assured of his ongoing involvement in the life and worship of the parish.

In 1972 having been appointed to a teaching post at Northampton College of Education, Father Osborne and family left Crosby and we never saw or heard from them again. Those of us in the parish in the mid and late 1960s will always remain grateful for the ministrations of a faithful and inspiring priest who gave us much to be thankful for and, not least enabled us to worship in the beauty of holiness. May Arthur Osborne rest in God's peace and be raised in his glory.

Helen Osbaldeston, 3 December, 2010

In the late 1970s a number of St Faith's parishioners who needed help with their house cleaning employed the services of Helen Osbaldeston, who lived in a top floor flat in Willow House, Seaforth. Engaging Helen to come to 16, Fir Road for a couple of hours a week was the beginning of a lovely friendship that lasted until her death thirty years later. A plain speaking Lancastrian, Helen was a devout and committed Roman Catholic who attended Star of the Sea church in Seaforth. Having begun working for my mother and me in 1980, over the ensuing years Helen retired from her other cleaning jobs and came to us to iron, dust and Hoover once a week. Being ecumenical in outlook it wasn't long before Helen became a regular visitor to services and events at St. Faith's and over three decades our friendship grew and flourished.

As I retired from teaching in the summer of 2010, Helen began having a number of falls over the coming weeks and, alas, she was diagnosed as having an inoperable brain tumour. From being in a nursing home in Seaforth, in early December she was admitted to Aintree University Hospital. Helen's daughter Lynn, came from Cocker mouth to be by her side and in the company of other close friends, after I had prayed with her and anointed her, Helen passed away peacefully. Her funeral followed the following week in the church where she had worshipped faithfully for so many years. Helen was a very dear, greatly valued and much loved friend whom I shall always remember with much joy and heartfelt thanksgiving. May she rest in peace and be raised in glory.

Leslie Crossley, 5 December, 2015

One of my nearest and dearest friends, I miss him. Leslie was born on January 19th, 1940. Brought up as an only child, living in St. Luke's Road, Southport, at a young age Leslie began worshipping at the beautiful Anglo-Catholic church a few yards from his house. It was here that Leslie's love of ceremonial and liturgy was nurtured and where he was trained to serve at the Altar by the colourful and eccentric Master of Ceremonies and Head Server, Jim Jackson (known affectionately as "Jimmy Incense"). St Luke's was a very lively parish in the 1950s and '60s and at the Youth Club Leslie met his wife to be, Jean Williams. Having trained as a radiographer marriage to Jean soon followed and in 1962 the couple moved to a flat in Blundellsands. St Faith's being similar to St Luke's Southport, in churchmanship, Leslie and Jean found a natural home here.

Not having the "distractions" of children Leslie and Jean were very big contributors to both the liturgical and social life of their new parish. It would be true to say that Leslie and Jean were the co-founders of the "Brooke gang." Over several years, which began in 1966 with the arrival of Father Charles Billington as Vicar of St Faith's, following the Sunday morning Sung Mass, a group of any number from eight to eighteen could be found at the local hostelry chewing the fat and enjoying one another's company. Over the years the Brooke became the late evening venue after many church meetings, including PCCs, Standing Committees, Gardening Groups and Youth Club Leaders. Many of the parish

social events and day excursions were planned in the Brooke and the parish's sporting calendar of football, cricket, tennis, bowling and pitch and putt was arranged over much enjoyed liquid refreshment.

The first and only Easter midnight mass in 1968 was followed by a memorable party at Leslie and Jean's and both Leslie and I were back in St Faith's for the 8.00 am Mass of the Dawn to lead the singing of the hymn "Jesus Christ is risen today" as we had promised Fr Charles we would.

In 1974 the Crossleys left Crosby, as Leslie was now working for Kodak at their headquarters in Hemel Hempstead. Two years later he had been promoted to a senior sales job in Ireland and, whilst living for five years in Dublin, he was responsible for covering the length and breadth of the Emerald Isle. It was during their time in Dublin that I paid my first visit to that lovely city and in addition to a memorable trip to the Guinness Factory and an excursion to the famous monastic site of St. Kevin's at Glendalough, it was a great joy to worship at the Sunday Solemn Mass in the very beautiful and magnificent Church of St Bartholomew's, Clyde Road.

The following year, 1977, I was delighted that Leslie and Jean were able to travel back to Liverpool to be present at my Deaconing in the Cathedral and at a lunch for family and friends at the Blundellsands Hotel. Upon taking up another appointment at Kodak HQ in Hemel Hempstead, Leslie returned there in 1980. Having separated from Jean in the mid 1980s, it was some years later, after being made redundant in 1990, that Leslie found the time, enthusiasm and patience to begin a genuine and much-needed pastoral ministry to the town's marginalised lonely and addicted. Monday to Friday Leslie would open up St. Mary's church, where he served as Church Warden, for two or three hours each day and men and sometimes women, would find their way to him where they knew they could be assured of a listening ear, a non-judgemental response, convivial chat, a cheese or ham sandwich and a good cup of coffee.

With great industry and commitment, Leslie did much at St. Mary's to ensure the church never lost sight of its missionary purpose, and in his role as Church Warden much of his time was taken up with the usual nuts and bolts tasks and responsibilities of maintaining the plant and keeping everything ship-shape.

Catherine Gilroy entered Leslie's life in the late 1980s and the couple married in 2009. Throughout their time together they made a wonderful couple and worked tirelessly for the good of St Mary's, invariably extending a warm and welcoming friendship to those who were new to the fold.

Always delighted at being able to return to his native roots, Leslie would visit both St. Luke's and St. Faith's to meet old pals. It was a great joy that he was able to join us both for my own Silver Jubilee celebrations in 2003 and for Fr Charles Billington's Golden Jubilee celebrations in 2006.

From the diagnosis of prostate cancer in 2010, Leslie's quality of life gradually began to diminish. His natural ebullience and good humour were maintained long into the debilitating illness he suffered and until just weeks before his death. Throughout his last months he received enormous love, care and support from his beloved Catherine, the light of his life, and it was a blessing when his suffering came to an end on December 5, 2015.

As well as the large congregation present, some of the "old gang" Anthony and Irene Walker, Geoff Holiday, Dai Hawkins, Rick Walker and myself were able to travel to Hemel for Leslie's funeral requiem. With all those present we were able to remember and give thanks for a life well lived which had brought much sparkle and joy to us all. At the conclusion of the mass we stood to sing Leslie's favourite hymn, assuring him and all of us of the great resurrection hope to which we cling:

"Hail thee festival day!
Blest day to be hallowed forever,
Day when our Lord was raised,
Breaking the Kingdom of death."

May Leslie, our dear and much loved brother in Christ, rest in peace and be raised in glory.

Elsie Bell, 7 December, 1955:

Waiting for mass to begin, whether kneeling in the Lady Chapel or up in the choir stalls of the chancel, we would hear the sound of the west door opening and then the patter of feet heading the direction of the Altar. It would be the arrival of Elsie, so regular and faithful a communicant during the week as well as on Sunday.

I don't know what it was that first drew Elsie to St. Faith's, but having arrived in the mid 1960s, for the next three decades she was to make an enormous contribution to the life and worship of the church which she came to love. Diminutive in stature, she had a heart of gold and her warm and welcoming disposition endeared her to all who found themselves in her company. A tireless and enthusiastic worker on behalf of St Faith's, she was invariably willing to offer help and assistance wherever and whenever it was needed.

A very active and committed member of the Horsfall Ladies, and then the '84 Club", Elsie would knit and sew items that could be sold at the regular bazaars held during those years. At home in Rimrose Valley Road she would bake numerous bun loaves, bringing them with her on a Sunday to sell in the church hall after the service, the proceeds going to church funds.

Gregarious and cheerful by nature, Elsie was always a joy to be with. There was though, a recognisable depth and spiritual quality that underpinned her faith and

was the foundation of her devotional and prayerful life. She gave the parish clergy great encouragement and support over the years and was happy to respond positively and willingly to any new initiatives that were undertaken. She was dependable as a sides-person and served on the PCC for a number of years.

Elsie will always be remembered with great affection and thanksgiving by those of us who were privileged to know her and worship alongside her. May our dear and much loved sister in Christ rest in peace and be raised in glory.



Christmas in August?

Although our Christmas Tree Festival is still some months off, the planning is even now underway. We are looking for items of value to sell at the Festival on the 'Previously Loved' stall. In particular Jewellery, which always sells well, and items that you think are too valuable to throw away. Please pass anything to Rosie, Rick or Christine so we can start to plan the stall. Jam Jars! Please also donate clean jam jars to church for the jam factory to use for the Christmas Tree Festival. Many thanks.

Fight the Good Fight?



Just under ten years ago, I collected together a selection of my magazine articles written at various times in the previous decades under the title 'Diversions: Outings and Opinions.' One such piece is given another airing below, for more or less the same reason as before: to fill some space in the issue concerned. I'm not sure when this piece was actually written, but it certainly predates the foundation of our admirable Services Family Support Group, which has been blessed with the presence of several forces' chaplains, to whom apologies may perhaps be due. Read the last paragraph below to explain this cryptic comment – and if you would like a copy of the 'Diversions' collection, it can be yours for a small donation to the back of church fund.

The other day, browsing TV channels, I happened upon the last half hour or so of the Kenneth Branagh film of Shakespeare's 'Henry V'. I came in just as the victorious, exhausted English soldiery, having beaten the French at the battle of Agincourt, were streaming off the battlefield. Then a powerful and moving sequence unfolded. A solitary soldier began to sing, unaccompanied, 'Non nobis domine' to a lyrical and haunting tune. As he finished the lines, others joined, then more and more caught up the tune and repeated it. As the camera tracked slowly past lines of weary, muddy and bloodstained survivors, some carrying the dead and wounded, the chorus swelled to a triumphant climax. Everyone seemed to be singing, many looking heavenward, and all caught up in the power of the moment as they offered thanks to God and dedicated the victory to him, led by the King, whose progress we have followed as he carried a wounded comrade the length of this famous four-minute tracking shot. The words are: 'Non

nobis, Domine, non nobis, Sed nomine tuo da gloriam’, which translates as: ‘Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory.’ The original musical canon was, apparently wrongly, attributed to William Byrd; the Branagh film’s music was written by contemporary English composer Patrick Doyle.

A powerful and telling piece of modern film-making, then, and one which gave this writer pause for reflection. Shakespeare, it is surely fair to say, would have included this hymn of heartfelt praise for victory as a patriotic and religious statement with no hint of irony. The soldiers at the real battle of Agincourt, had they actually been moved to sing, would have doubtless been just as happy to attribute the victory and offer its glory to the God in whom, as a matter of course, they believed.

Six hundred years later, the host of muddy film extras seen singing their tired hearts out on location with Branagh, would, I suspect, have been far less likely to subscribe to these sentiments. Some of them, provided of course that they were English film extras, would have had no problem with uttering patriotic sentiments, (although some critics lambasted the film as jingoistic and accused Branagh of suspiciously Thatcherite leanings) - but singing a hymn of praise to God might stick in the throat of many of today’s more cynical liberal agnostics.

And what of us today? We are rightly happy to ascribe our successes, and the triumphs of good over evil, to the hand of our God. We can praise him for sparing us from disaster, but are we (or should we be) as happy thanking him for victory against our enemies in war? Some wars can quite easily be seen as righteous crusades, where the spilling of ‘enemy’ blood is a sad but necessary and justified price to pay for preserving freedom and justice. Wars did away with Hitler – and with slavery.

But what about wars where things are less black and white, and where the other army is equally convinced that right is on its side? The soldiers who received the host before going over the top in the trenches grappled with troops who had been equally blessed and prepared and were equally convinced that God was on their side. Whichever side emerged victorious in such situations would sing ‘non nobis domine’ (or its secular equivalent for unbelievers) with the same fervour.

This is an age-old dilemma, for which there is no easy solution. It is hard to see how God can wish his creatures to pit themselves in battle against each other in his name, or for the sake of giving glory to it: yet without past wars, tyranny would almost certainly have been triumphant in many lands, not least our own. How do chaplains to the forces resolve this dilemma? In what we look back on as uncivilised times, kings, or their nominated champions if the kings were particularly old or weedy (or just sensible), would meet in single combat to decide crises of honour or territorial disputes. How about reviving the idea, and setting army chaplains against one another, armoured only in righteousness and righteous certainty, rather than whole armies? It would save a lot of waste, expense and bloodshed, and it would make marvellous films...

Chris Price



The Parish Directory and Church Organisations

VICAR

Fr John Reed, the Vicarage, Milton Road. 928 3342/07484 381182

Email reed926@btinternet.com

Parish Administrative Assistant email dunungeoff@talk21.com

ASSISTANT PRIESTS

Fr. Dennis Smith, 16 Fir Road, Waterloo. L22 4QL. 928 5065

Revd Denise McDougall, 58 Hartley Crescent, Birkdale, Southport PR8 4SQ

01704 550590; 07888 97564

READER

Ms Paula O'Shaughnessy, 30 Curzon Rd, L22 0NL. 286 2764 / 075823 19440

READER EMERITUS

Dr Fred Nye, 23 Bonnington Ave, Crosby L23 7YJ Tel 924 2813

CHURCHWARDEN

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

ASSISTANT CHURCH WARDENS

Ms Corinne Hedgecock. corinnehedgecock@virginmedia.co.uk. 0751 021 9705

Mrs Christine Spence, 52 Molyneux Road, Waterloo. L22 4QZ. 284 9325

TREASURER

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

PCC SECRETARY

Mrs Eunice Little, 77 Endbutt Lane, Crosby. L23 0TU. 474 9708

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Mr Robert Woods, robertwoods1986@hotmail.co.uk. 07847 251315

GIFT AID SECRETARY

Mr Rick Walker, 17 Mayfair Avenue, Crosby. L23 2TL. 924 6267

VULNERABLE ADULTS OFFICER

Mr Gareth Griffiths, 6 Lawton Road, Waterloo. L22 9QL. 928 4275

CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER

Ms Helen Kibbey, 17 Oxford Road, Waterloo. L22 3XB. 293 3416

BAPTISM BOOKINGS

Telephone 928 3342

BEAVER SCOUTS

Thursday 5.00 – 6.15 pm Mike Carr. 293 3416

CUB SCOUTS

Thursday 6.30 – 8.00 pm. Mike Carr. 293 3416

SCOUTS

Thursday 8.00 - 9.30 pm. Mike Carr. 293 3416

RAINBOWS

Monday 4.45 - 5.45 pm. Geraldine Forshaw. 928 5204

BROWNIE GUIDES

Monday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Mary McFadyen. 284 0104

CHOIR PRACTICE

Friday 7.30 pm - 8.45 pm.

MAGAZINE EDITOR and WEBSITE MANAGER

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

The next magazine will cover the months of September and October with an elastic deadline around the time of the Patronal Festival. We are as ever happy to print (almost) all offerings at any time. Only if more people submit more stuff will the magazine publish monthly again.

Church website: www.stfaithsgreatcrosby.org.uk

Online edition: www.stfaithsgreatcrosby.org.uk/magazine.pdf

Online events diary: www.stfaithsgreatcrosby.org.uk/googlecalendar.html

Friends of St Faith's Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/23599022440/>

Editorial email: cdavidprice@gmail.com



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

