

Newslink



The Parish Church of St Faith
Great Crosby
PARISH MAGAZINE
JUNE 2010

Worship at Saint Faith's



SUNDAYS

10.30am	Morning Prayer
11.00am	SOLEMN EUCHARIST and Children's Church
1.00pm	Holy Baptism (<i>2nd Sunday</i>)
7.00pm	Compline and Benediction (<i>1st Sunday</i>)

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday 10.30am
Tuesday 9.30am
Wednesday 10.30am (<i>1662 Book of Common Prayer, in S. Mary's</i>)
Thursday 9.00am (<i>Holy Days only</i>)
Friday 6.30pm
Saturday 10.30am

THE DIVINE OFFICE (The Prayer of the Church)

Morning Prayer: 9am daily (*except Thursday & Saturday*)

Evening Prayer: 6pm daily (*except Thursday*)

Please consult the weekly sheets for any variation in times for the Daily Office

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE AND RECONCILIATION

Fr. Neil and Revd. Denise are available by appointment to hear confessions or to talk about any matter in confidence. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is always available in preparation for Christmas and Easter and at other advertised times.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK AND DYING

Please contact Fr. Neil at any time, day or night, if someone is ill and requires the ministry of a priest.

HOME VISITS to the sick and housebound and those in hospital

If you, or someone you know, are unable to get to church and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, or be visited in hospital or at home, please ring the Vicarage or another member of the Ministry Team. We are always happy to make home or hospital visits to the sick and housebound so please call us to arrange this.



From the Ministry Team

June 2010

Petertide, which we celebrate at the end of this month, is the traditional moment for recalling the “many excellent gifts” of the saint. We also remember his struggles and the setbacks he had to face. The training period of this saint in the making continues to fascinate us. Indeed, we find encouragement and inspiration among the very contradictions and complications of his vivid personality.

We learn from him, who, in later days when the whole world seemed to be his responsibility, was sufficiently humble and realistic to declare “I also am a man”. We learn about this great teacher when the arguments grew heated and the protests sounded. The pity, patience, and the power of uninterrupted love displayed by Jesus in many a troubled scene never ceases to impress.

There was a time when Peter, with all his potential for leadership, was clearly short of faith; he found it hard to believe. At other times, his courage and sense of trust seemed to know no limits; he took risks and plunged into deep waters out of sheer devotion. Again, in spite of much questioning and challenging, he would supply the penetrating answer, scarcely aware of its source or meaning: he had the gift of reaching to the heart of the truths his teacher constantly pressed home.

He listened carefully to the famous answer about forgiveness and the need to be continually forgiving, to the power of seventy times seven. The best lesson in this subject, however, was learned when the cock crew near an outer court, and the Lord turned and looked upon Peter. It was a hard lesson, never to be forgotten. John Donne helps us to remember it for our own needs: “The eye of his Lord,” he wrote, “lightened Peter’s darkness.”

Donne elaborates: “We hear of no blows, we hear of no chiding from him towards Peter ... the eye of the Lord lighted his darkness, the eye of the Lord lighted those three crusts of ice, which were grown over his heart in his three denials of his master.”

With hindsight we perceive that this saint became dedicated, devoted and saintly by the hard and testing way of suffering, sinning and slipping. He had his mountain-top experience and found it good, although difficult to understand; doubts and perplexities also attacked him in dark moments. His master warned him against saying “never”; a warning for our times, no less.

Peter said “never” at least three times: he declared that the killing of his master and friend “would never happen”; he protested at the thought of his master doing him a service and showing him hospitality; Peter was the one to do the serving: “You shall never wash my feet.” He had to learn to receive with a good grace. Overconfident, overflowing with zeal, he had cried, before the awful moment of denial, “I will never fall away.” There is a lesson for us on the festival day of a saint, who became what at one time seemed most improbable, a leader unshakeable in the faith, restored, renewed and rock-like. We should never say never in these spiritual issues.

With every blessing,

Fr. Dennis

Feast of Corpus Christi

Thursday 3rd June

Solemn Mass at 8pm

Followed by a *bring-a-bottle-party* in the Vicarage Garden

Preacher: **Revd Clare Robson (Bath Abbey)**

During the service there is an opportunity to pray for those who serve as Eucharistic Ministers in the United Benefice.



Sunday 6th June at 7pm

Devotional Address and Benediction

Following on from the series of the Lenten devotions on religious art, this evening will focus on different artistic representations of the Last Supper across the centuries.



Corpus Christi Poems

No longer bread, no longer wine,
His body and His blood
Through sacrifice are mine.
Without such nourishment
My soul would be
A wasting headland
Above a raging sea,
A rootless acreage
With neither leaf nor tree.

Love

Love bade me welcome, yet my soul drew back
Guilty of dust and sin
Buy quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack
From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning,
If I lack'd any thing.
A guest, I answer'd, worth to be here:
Love said, You shall be he.
I the unkind, ungrateful?
Ah, my dear, I cannot look on thee.
Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,
Who made the eyes but I?
Truth, Lord, but I have marr'd them: let my shame
Go where it doth deserve.
And know you not, says Love, who bore the blame?
My dear, then I will serve.
You must sit down, says Love. And taste my meat
So I did sit and eat.

Would You Believe It?

Four oddities noted in recent weeks in the press...



- An Australian publishing company has pulped and reprinted 7,000 copies of a pasta cookbook that advised people to use ‘salt and freshly ground black people’ in a tagliatelle dish.
- A dead man has been elected mayor of Tracy City, Tennessee. Carl Geary, 55, won three times as many votes as his rival, Barbara Brock, even though he had suffered a fatal heart attack at the start of the campaign. ‘I knew he was deceased but we wanted someone other than her,’ said one local. ‘If he were to run again next week, I’d vote for him again.’
- Police have introduced the first speed trap on the Isles of Scilly... on an island with only six miles of road. Officers on St Mary’s, population 1,600, have taken delivery of a radar gun. The island has a 60 mph speed limit, but police admitted that its roads contain so many bends that it is virtually impossible to drive that fast. Since the radar gun has been introduced, the fastest vehicle recorded had been a moped travelling at 34 mph.

And finally, a letter in the ‘Daily Telegraph’:

Sir,

The Church of Ireland’s 2004 Book of Common Prayer instructs those presenting themselves for confirmation not to covet their neighbours’ houses – and not to cover their neighbours’ wives.

Himalayan Trek

Intrepid chorister Mari Griffiths has sent us the first instalment of her trek diaries, following her return from her epic money-raising storming of the Himalayas in aid of the Classic fm Music Makers charity.

The journey to Kathmandu was remarkably uneventful. We had an overnight flight to Delhi and the only thing to say about Delhi airport is that when I followed a sign for traditional Indian food, I was confronted with a shop selling pizzas!

At Kathmandu we were presented the garlands of beautiful flowers. We drove through the city which was not at all as I imagined (more later), and much hotter (30 degrees) to

our hotel where we had time for a quick shower and then to a restaurant for dinner. Walking to the restaurant was an experience, the 'pavements' were uneven enough to cause broken ankles should anyone have been silly enough to wear anything other than very flat shoes and of course we had to play dodge the dead rat as well! James (a friend I had met on the Sahara trek) and I shared a mixture of starters which included local vegetable dishes, curried chicken, spiced buffalo and deep fried lung which surprisingly was the tastiest part of the meal. The trip back to the hotel was even more interesting being in almost total darkness which meant playing dodge the rat was more hazardous!

The next morning found us at the local Kathmandu terminal at 7a.m. We were a little concerned to be queuing alongside Yeti Airlines but were happy to discover we were flying with Buddha Airlines instead. The toilets at the airport were absolutely unusable so we crossed our legs and hoped our destination would be cleaner.

The 45 minute flight to Pokhara was amazing as we flew through snow capped mountain ranges, radiantly blue skies. I remember thinking I couldn't ask for anything more.

Pokhara airport toilet were much better and they even provided a bucket and tap to flush the ceramic hole in the floor. Our coach ride through the city of Pokhara was interesting, we stopped to buy and send postcards (none of which have arrived yet) at the side of a beautiful lake in a small village surrounded by what I thought were large mountains.

We were then taken to see a Tibetan refugee camp. The people had been there for over 10 years so it was well established with homes made of stone, a school, shops and stall where the locals sold crafts and jewellery. There was also a Buddhist temple, the monks range from 5-6 years old to very old men. While we were there we met a film crew from America making a film about the monks in the area. The Director explained that the children were sent by their families to the temples as it may be the only way they were likely to survive. We were invited into the temple which was immensely ornate and contained many photos of the Dalai Lama. What a lovely face that man has, there seems to be something very special about him. As an aside my daughter's boyfriend was at some airport and a Buddhist monk came and sat next to him. They passed the time of day. Phil said he was very pleasant but was very disconcerted when all of a sudden they were surrounded by security men. The monk then got up and walked off, and it was only a little later Phil discovered he had been talking to the spiritual leader of Buddhists.

I digress. The coach took us to the start of our trek where we had lunch and started on the first 3 1/2 walk. It started on the flat then up a steep rocky hillside. The first day was hard partly because it was so hot but also I guess through lack of sleep. Our first camp was surrounded by inquisitive locals. My friend Annette had brought stickers for the children so she was very popular. Some of the ladies had walked from the refugee

camp to sell us their crafts. One accosted me on the way. I had to go to see her first and when I did see her later Tashi greeted me like a long lost friend, a shrewd business woman there I think. We were given bowls of cold water to wash in in camp followed by tea and biscuits. Then the rain started. It was torrential, thunder, lightning and even the inside of the tent was wet. It was so bad that some of my things didn't dry until we reached the hotel at the end of the trip. Dinner was pasta, after which my headache began. I only mention it because it was the start of things to come. I don't think I've ever had such a bad headache but after some strong painkillers from the doctor and some sleep, I felt better in the morning. Through the trek about half of us went down with it, it was obviously some sort of virus and lasted for a few days in different forms. I was lucky to have had it in the first 2 days.

Trek breakfasts were lovely. Porridge, chapattis, freshly made omelettes, granola, tea, coffee and all in the most stunning locations, and so the second day began.

Mari

SUNDAY SCHOOL PARTY

**Sunday 20th June from 3pm – 5pm
in the Vicarage Garden**

PICNIC, GAMES,
BOUNCY-CASTLE & LOTS OF FUN!



Phil Saltmarsh's farewell

I am writing with mixed emotions to say thank you and au revoir to all my friends at St Faith's and St Mary's.

I arrived with some trepidation, not really knowing what to expect. My home Church of St Mary's, Grassendale is often described as 'Halfway down the Candle' or Evangelical.

As part of my training for ordination I was told to challenge myself and try a Church from a different tradition. St Faith's was suggested and I was told it was "as high as you could get up the candle," Anglo Catholic in tradition with a "really good" liturgy. I'm glad to say I haven't been let down.

From my first week at St Faith's I was made to feel involved and have been given many really valuable opportunities. I agreed to join the Serving Team to undertake such roles as M.C., Acolyte, Crucifer, Thurifer, Server one and Server two; I have tried bell-ringing and incense-swinging, as well as being sub-deacon, leading intercessions, children's services and preaching. The opportunity will I believe prepare me better for wherever God calls me and as a tradition I have loved the colour and variety and found it a more reverent, spiritual and powerful experience than I could have imagined or would have expected.

But for all I have learnt, my greatest lesson is that although God makes us all wonderfully different, whatever our tradition, essentially we are all here to Glorify His Kingdom. I thank you all for giving me a glimpse of the Kingdom here at St Faith's and St Mary's and for sustaining me with your prayer, support, smiles, patience and Marmalade!

Yours in Christ

Phil

(It has been marvellous having Phil with us over recent weeks and months. We know he will make an excellent priest and we wish him every happiness. We shall miss his cheerful presence and his willingness to submit himself to all manner of strange rituals! Ed.)

Financial Review 2009



This is a summary of the key points in my Financial Report to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Thursday, 22 April 2010:

“It has been a particularly challenging year for the church's finances but I believe we should be thankful for the generosity of many who have, through planned giving, fundraising and legacies, enabled so much to be achieved.

It is very encouraging to note that there has been an increase in the collections of just over 4% and we are very grateful for people's generosity. Stripping down the figure to the amount that comes in from planned giving, however, (i.e. the weekly parish envelopes or standing orders) we are still falling short by about £200 per month on our commitment to meet the Diocesan Parish Share – which was £3,468 per month in 2009, rising to £3,694 in 2010.

Although it is not appropriate for this Annual Meeting to consider previous year's accounts, it is worth reflecting on the considerable benefits that have been brought about as a result of legacies. A large sum of money – around £130K – has been spent on the fabric of the church and hall over the past two or three years. The new works in the hall to provide a toilet for the disabled will feature in next year's report but thanks should be recorded to the many individuals who have worked so hard to raise the money necessary for the work to be completed at no cost to the church.

Gift Aid tax recovered is down slightly but this is only because the final quarter for 2009 has yet to be received. We are still receiving transitional relief for Gift Aid and we continue to be grateful to everyone who has committed their giving to Gift Aid and those who use the blue envelopes.

There have been many excellent fundraising initiatives during the year and our thanks must go to the organisers for their ideas and commitment. The Saturday Summer Recitals again proved as popular as ever and we saw an increase in net receipts to £2,873 (excluding Gift Aid). The number of visitors to the church increased again and this is encouraging.

A "St Kevin's Night" social and the Quiz Night proved very successful and other events have been arranged to raise money to provide an accessible toilet in the church hall and to repair the organ. A regular Traidcraft stall in church is proving popular. Despite losing a major hirer in the year, the church hall has performed well and brought in a very reasonable income. Thanks are due to our "resident engineers" who were able to repair the organ at a tiny fraction of the cost proposed by others.

One of the most successful events, and a first for St Faith's Church, was the Christmas Tree Festival at the beginning of December. Over £2,700 was raised for local charities and a surplus of £1,400 was generated for church funds. Apart from the financial success, over 1,000 people visited the church during the week and praised the initiative. Another event is being planned for 2010. The re-formation of the "Talents Scheme" has proved very successful and popular.

As well as looking at income, it is encouraging to note that the church's running costs are being driven down as well. The Quinquennial Inspection of the church is due and this could have cost implications for our maintenance programme. Ecclesiastical Insurance carried out a survey and re-valuation of the church in May which has increased the value of the church by about £1m but has also increased our premium

accordingly.

In June (2009), the church was the victim of a scam which I detected on the morning I set off on a two-week holiday in Italy. £3,200 had been spent on designer goods in California! The bank was alerted immediately and their fraud team sorted out the problem. Three weeks later, the money was returned in full to the church.

The church is now a Registered Charity with the Charity Commission and this places additional responsibilities on the church in terms of reporting and proving that we satisfy “public benefit”. All our stationery, cheques and other documents must now bear the charity number and a copy of the Annual Report must be lodged with the Charity Commission as well as the Diocese for public access.”

Thanks were extended to members of the Finance Committee and many individuals who take an active interest in the church’s financial affairs. The Independent Examiner, Ray Bissex, was present at the meeting and was thanked for his thorough examination of the accounts and the clear way in which they were presented. Finally, Fr Neil was thanked for his time, support and encouragement and his careful interest in the church’s financial position.

The prospects for 2010 are, again, likely to be challenging. The PCC and the Finance Committee take their responsibilities seriously to manage the charity’s affairs prudently and to raise funds for the mission and outreach of the church for the future.

The Annual Report and Financial Statements were approved unanimously by the meeting.

David Jones

Treasurer



(See Fr Neil’s APCM address and some of the other reports presented at the meeting later on in this issue)

Trains of Thought: the Bishop and the Boat

Chris Price

Not our Bishop... and the boat doesn’t float. It was Bishop Andrew John of Bangor, and the boat runs on rails... narrow-gauge ones. From which you may guess that this writer is back with his lifelong preoccupation with railways in general, and the Ffestiniog Railway at Porthmadog in particular. So what was the Bishop doing?

A while back I wrote about the Revd Richard Buxton and his long association with the

railway as enthusiast, mediator, volunteer and unofficial chaplain. It was through his good offices that the Bishop of Bangor was invited to a rather special occasion: one which needs a little background explanation.

Since its resurrection in the 1950s, the Ffestiniog has relied on successive generations of volunteers, from all walks of life, possessed of a wide range of practical skills but united in that peculiar passion for railways that inspires them to support this (and many other) British preserved lines. This writer is one of them, having wielded a shovel some fifty or so years ago when the line was beginning to be unearthed again. Today a good thousand volunteers serve the line and make an irreplaceable contribution to its financial viability.

But with the years, inevitably more and more have passed away, and their places taken by new generations, including a hearteningly large number of young people. The F.R. takes its history and its heritage with proper seriousness, and honours those who have helped to renew it. Which is why, not so long ago, a memorial to past volunteers was proposed and built - and the bishop readily agreed to come and dedicate it.

It is situated in a corner of the railway's Boston Lodge Works complex, at the far end of the Cob, the mile-long embankment built to keep out the sea and atop which the railway runs from Porthmadog to Blaenau Ffestiniog. On one side the sea; across the line the reclaimed Glaslyn estuary and the stunning panorama of the Snowdonian mountains. On its walls there are already plaques commemorating great names of the railway's past, and there will soon be more. This is what Bishop John was coming to dedicate.

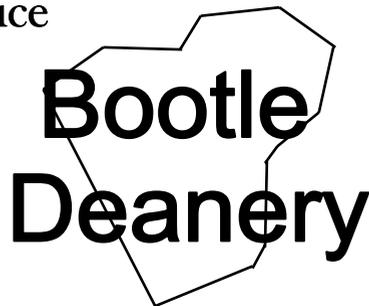
So why in a boat, even one on rails? The Ffestiniog, as well as running regular trains, indulges its army of supporters with special events, and this was a three-day extravaganza aptly labelled 'Quirks and Curiosities'. All manner of visiting locomotives and transportation devices were present, running up and down all day. There were gravity trains and even a rowing lifeboat out in the bay. But the main nautical curiosity was The Boat, a faithful modern re-creation of a unique device built by the great engineer Charles Spooner, surveyor of the line, bearing his original and entirely apt inscription: 'Ni l'un, ni l'autre'. It is, quite literally, a sailing boat on wheels. Towed up the line, it would transport the Spooners, who would return by gravity, allegedly using its prow to push open level crossing gates. But the Cob embankment is level, but windy, and the driver (pilot?) would hoist sail and speed across the level mile. The Bishop was scheduled to travel to the Works in a reproduction Model T Ford on rail wheels (yes, really), but it broke down - and The Boat was in the sidings, so the Bishop, and Richard Buxton, in full canonicals, sailed across to join us.

The sight of the bishop, crozier aloft, tacking into the works, was entirely unforgettable. He joined a congregation of perhaps a hundred well-wishers in the afternoon sunshine for speeches, a bible reading, prayers and dedication of the

memorial, while cameras flashed and whirred and a succession of trains clanked and whistled by. That done, he moved across to a new locomotive, another re-creation of a historical design, steamed for the first time that very day. This too he blessed, this time sprinkling it with water and prayer, before mingling with railway staff, volunteers and spectators.

The connection between railways and the church (especially the Anglican church, interestingly) is well-established and long-standing – from The Revd Wilbert Awdry's Thomas the Tank Engine, through the Tiffield Thunderbolt, to the late Bishop Eric Treacy of Wakefield, foremost railway photographer of his age. But surely nothing in recent years will have cemented that connection so surely and so distinctively as the day the Bishop sailed in on The Boat.

Deanery Service



In 2008 we welcomed all the congregations from the Bootle Deanery to St. Faith's for a Deanery Service. It was hugely successful and has now become something of a tradition. On **Sunday 27th June at 11am** the Bishop of Warrington will preside at a Deanery Service in St. Andrew's, Litherland. There will be no services in St. Faith's that day. Please do turn up in force to support this important occasion of us all coming together.

A poem for the Feast of Corpus Christi, from an anthology by the Rev. Sandys Wason (1867-1950)

Corpus Domini

At every doorway of the rose-hung street,
On the stone stair-heads, in the angled shade,
Peasants in old-time festival brocade
Took refuge from the unrelenting heat;
These, all by some Mystery made one
12

With those who dozed or whispered, kissed or played
As silver trumpets rang through the arcade,
Leaned to the far-off sound like wind-blown wheat.

A dark-haired boy, sandalled and naked save
A shift of camel's hair, came first as John
The Baptist: in his wake a yearling lamb,
A crucifix, blest incense; next, a score
Of sunburnt singing-boys in lawn and black
Swept gaily on before a company
Of girls in long lace bridal veils and wreaths
Of oleander, telling rosaries,
But none so fervid that she failed to screen
The lighted taper in her small brown hand
Lest any love-lorn breeze mistake and woo
Its flame for some gold flower.

A group of children who from ribboned frails
Unendingly were flinging to the Host
Flowers of genista, poppy, myrtle, bay;
At last, as from a mist of frankincense
And candle-light and waving cypress boughs,
A priest in silver vestments flowered with gold
Came holding, shaded by a baldaquin
Of white and silver tissue, thin with age,
A golden monstrance like an outspread fan,

To which, as by a spell, his eyes were held;
He gazed, as if these transitory things
Were with the earth, all they had been before
They were created; as if our life were but
A greying garland doomed to pass away.

To him, within the pale orb of the Host,
All he had ever dreaded or desired,
Truth, wisdom, power, peace and righteousness,
As in a crystal mirror, stood revealed,
And so, adoring his uplifted God,
Wonder, profoundest wonder filled his soul.

This Host he held before him was, he knew,
But one of thousands he, with Christ's last words,
Had blessed and raised to God at break of dawn;
As known to him, as dearly natural
As his young olive trees, his violin,



The cedar press where lay the folded alb
He would at death be clothed in, the pale crown
Of 'everlastings' on his mother's grave.

This Host was close to these persisting things.
In this, then, dwelt the marvel; here abode
The Lord who made the beauty of the world,
The sun, the moon, and all the stars that be,
The solace and the menace of the sea.

Brownie Bulletin



Pack Holiday

On the first weekend in December 2009, I, along with Mary McFadyen, Laura Walsh and Jess Rens (our young leader) had the privilege of taking 15 of St. Faith's Brownies on our first pack holiday. We had spent the previous 12 months attending training sessions, organising menus, activities and funding.

We spent two evenings (Friday and Saturday) at Shirdley Hill and our theme was 'Christmas'. We spent time doing crafts, playing games, competing in teams and cooking and cleaning, but most importantly having a great time. On the Saturday we even had a full Christmas dinner with all the trimmings.

After reading the questionnaires we provided as a form of feedback, I know that all the girls really enjoyed themselves. We successfully gained our pack holiday licence and are now in a position to take the girls away regularly. Here's to summer 2011!

A Big Thank You!

St. Faith's Brownies would like to thank Amirah Groves' (one of our Brownies) dad for taking part in the Christmas Santa Dash in December, where he managed to raise £240, which he split equally between a children's charity and St. Faith's Brownies.

We are extremely grateful for this very generous boost to our funds and thank him again for his wonderful generosity. WELL DONE!

Sue Walsh

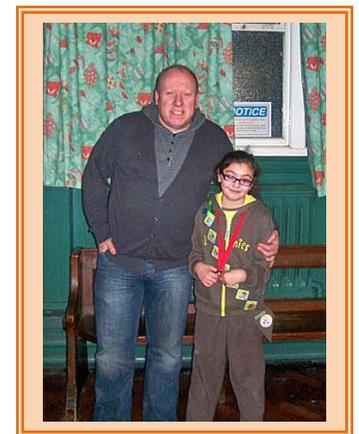
(Editorial apologies for omitting to include this article in earlier issues!)



Fr Neil presenting Steve Holt with a gift to thank him for his part in our Holy Week celebrations

June Photo Collection

Fr Neil with the five Mirfield ordinands, Steve Holt, Michael Maine, Ian McCormack, Richard Norman and Nick Nawrockyi.



Brownies on Parade

Chairman's Report to the APCM 2010



Fr Neil started by introducing a moment of silent prayer to remember those of our church family who had passed away since the last APCM: Edwina Harding, Alan Turner and Joyce Woods.

Fr. Neil thanked Kari Dodson (in her absence) who, at the Archdeacon's Visitation service, concludes her term of office as Churchwarden and welcomed Margaret Houghton who takes over from her next month.

During the past year, the PCC appointed Judith Moizer as Sacristan and Leo Appleton as Assistant Sacristan; the PCC also welcomed the services of Ron Rankin as Verger. Training sessions had been arranged for servers. Since the last APCM we welcomed Revd Denise as a member of the Ministry Team, just before Fr. Neil's sabbatical leave.

We welcomed new Eucharistic Ministers – although the swine flu pandemic meant that their assistance was not needed for a time – and thanked those whose term of office had come to an end. Fr. Neil also offered thanks to *everyone* for their commitment and hard work in the daily life of St Faith's.

The joint PCC Away Day will take place on 8th May at the Seafarers' Centre. It is probably the most difficult away day we will ever have as there are some very crucial decisions to make regarding financial management and survival. Action had been taken to address the Parish Share deficit and the Diocese had acknowledged the efforts being made. Fr Neil reminded everyone present, as on previous occasions, that all meetings are public and open to everyone although only PCC members can exercise a vote.

As a result of the MSI course during Lent last year, two new initiatives were started: a drop-in for school mums, which may be re-launched at some future point, but thanks were extended to those who tried; and the very successful initiative to support families of service personnel. The important thing is to have the courage to give things a go. If not, we will never know!

Fr Neil thanked people for all that they have done and continue to do but, as he has said more than once since he returned from study leave, he is very much aware and appreciative of the extra responsibilities the Ministry Team undertook during his four month sabbatical.

We were very fortunate to have three Mirfield students with us during Holy Week – and five more will be joining us for the May Devotions, so please come along to support them.

Fr Neil emphasised the importance of the Ministry to sick and housebound. This has never been more urgent, with a growing number of people from both churches now unable to worship in church on a Sunday. The Ministry Team is seeking to co-ordinate a proper rota of how this service is delivered.

He referred to the final report of the Sustainability Group and encouraged members to take a copy home with them to study. The report will be debated at the PCC Away Day. Fr Neil drew attention to four key words from the quotation from Romans and commented on their significance to the issues to be addressed (underlined):

“May the God who gives you a spirit of endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” *Romans 15:15-16*

Fr Neil had taken the opportunity to visit many churches during his sabbatical and saw at first hand the difficulties under which some priests operate in challenging areas with very limited resources. He commented that Saint Faith’s and Saint Mary’s still remain a good place to be with people ready, willing and able to take on new tasks, challenges and opportunities!

He concluded by saying, “Long may that be the case – we might feel under pressure but remember God doesn’t call us to be successful, but faithful. So with God, let’s KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON!!”

Church and Community Reports 2010



Ministry Team

The year has been one of change and development. At the 2009 APCMs Doreen Whitlow stepped down as churchwarden and was thanked warmly for her contribution to the team. In her place we welcomed Joy Roderick. Our big challenge was Fr. Neil’s long overdue sabbatical at Mirfield, which started in October. To our great good fortune Denise McDougal our ‘new’ NSM curate was licensed to the United Benefice just before Fr. Neil left, and we have all been helped and encouraged by her support and friendship.

This ‘mini interregnum’ produced a steep learning curve, certainly as far as I was concerned! Taking the parish phone calls on a rota system was a fascinating and sometimes demanding experience, but the arrangement worked well and will be

adopted again if and when the vicar is away for any length of time. We also introduced a more formal rota for home and hospital visits. This has now become well established and will hopefully ease the vicar's workload a little.

Fr. Neil returned in February, refreshed and invigorated, to receive a warm welcome from the team (mixed with a little relief!)

We are now preparing for some testing times ahead, as our two parishes discuss the problems of falling income and falling numbers. At our recent team 'Awayday', led by the Dean of Liverpool, Justin Welby, we were encouraged to seek a common vision, to learn together, and to pray together.

As we begin this year, we thank God for His presence among us in word and sacrament, fellowship and service. Please continue to hold Father Neil, and the rest of the ministry team, in your prayers.
Fred Nye

Junior Church

First of all a big thank you to all teachers and helpers who have as always worked hard to make our Sunday sessions interesting and worthwhile for the children. Their work is very much appreciated. Despite their efforts, however, we have been unable to keep older children attending regularly, and our numbers are dwindling again. It is lovely to look after and nurture our younger children, but we need older ones so that we can take part fully in activities and worship, especially at all-age and parade services. All ideas welcome!

We continue to lay on parties and events during the year, some together with St Mary's, and we are grateful to Fr Neil for the use of the vicarage garden in the summer. His prayers for fine weather are usually answered!
Angie Price

Communications

It has been said that the medium is the message: that presentation of information is almost more important than the information itself. We thus aim to present the news from St Faith's as attractively as possible within the constraints of funding and facilities, and hope that this is a proper use of resources for mission.

Newslink continues to be published monthly. A campaign to encourage readers, both local and further afield, to access the magazine via the website electronic edition, has resulted in a reduction of the 'hard copy' print run from over 350 to a current figure of 315: at least a tree or two saved in the rain forest. The online edition features monthly colour photos, whereas we only fund full colour in the printed edition every few months, and then do so relatively cheaply thanks to the good offices of the Archdeacon's magic machine. We are also grateful to the steady stream of contributors (not just the vicar!) who fill our pages month by month with a variety of articles and

notices, as well as dubious jokes (not just from the clergy).

The church website is doing well, with anything between 30 and 50 ‘hits’ a day, and a current total of over 112,000 since its launch. A growing library of ‘pages’ enable readers to access news, notices, pictures and archives, as well as jokes and assorted curiosities. If you still haven’t tried it, log on to www.stfaithsgreatcrosby.org.uk.

Apart from these brand leaders, we produce the weekly liturgy and notice sheets for us and for St Mary’s, as well as assorted flyers, posters, tickets and the like for both our churches, as part of our communications strategy. The beneficial financial arrangements with Merchant Taylors’, home of this writer’s Image Press, give, we feel, excellent value for money. Our watchword: the Word made fresh...

Chris Price

Serving Team Report

There have been a few changes to the Serving Team this year and we have been pleased to welcome new members Richard Woodley and Gareth Griffiths. Judith Moizer took over as Sacristan, with Leo Appleton as her deputy, and two training sessions were arranged by Fr Neil for new and existing servers. Thanks are due to the loyal and dedicated team who serve each Sunday and at all the special services throughout the year

Catering Team

The catering team was busy as usual during 2009 with our annual events, successful despite the weather.

On May 3rd we celebrated Fr Neil’s 10th anniversary with good food and fun in our usual way.

We celebrated St Kevin this year with an Irish night, when we were entertained by Irish dancers, a ceilidh band and lots of Irish music and dancing. The evening was planned to also celebrate our Kevin Walsh, and as a fundraiser to start the fund for the installation of toilet facilities for the disabled. A total of £700 was raised which gave us a good start, thanks to those who organised things.

As usual the year closed with the Senior Citizens’ Christmas lunch, a changed menu this year, we decided to be different this year as most pre-Christmas dinners are the traditional fare and get to be a bit overdone by Christmas.

Many thanks to all of the team for their hard work during 2009, in particular at Christmass for shopping and organising a very successful day in my absence.

Ruth Winder

United Benefice Over 65s Holiday Club

Once again this week of activities was an enormous success. Applications were such this year that we had to create a waiting list. This year we had a full day out to York with a guided tour around the Minster and a visit to the Jorvik Centre. People enjoyed a fun afternoon out to Knowsley Safari Park with an excellent afternoon tea at the end of the tour, and we also had a half day guided coach tour of Liverpool with the excellent Blue Badge Guide, Elizabeth Newell. We look forward to our week in 2010 and hope the week will live up to expectations.

Joan Tudhope

S. Faith's Holiday Club

Lynne Connolly ran the August 2009 seventh S. Faith's Holiday Club. Once again the grants from Sefton Council and St. Christopher Home Trust enabled the children to enjoy a great week. The Club was at full capacity with over 50 children attending the week's activities. Thanks are extended to all the Leaders of the Groups and to those who helped in any way whatsoever. Particular thanks to Lynne for stepping in to run the Club.

(The remaining reports will be printed in a later edition. Ed.)

Jumbling On...



Our fourth jumble sale was held on Saturday, 17th April and a great success it was too. In all, we raised a total of £320, bringing the total raised by jumble sales alone to nearing £1,500.

The sale could not have been such a success without the support given us by St. Faith's congregation who responded magnificently to requests for donations. Thank you so much. Due to the large volume of stock, setting up on the Friday evening took a considerable amount of time and effort, but at the end of the evening it was rewarding to see the tables packed high with enticing jumble. All our usual suspects put in such a supreme effort. We couldn't have had the sale without them. So, please may I thank the following who helped set up the sale: Ruth Winder, Chris Spence, Lillie Wilmot, Fred and Linda Nye, Angie and Chris Price, Joyce Johnson, Laura Caddick, Rosie Walker and Maureen Madden for the loan of the clothes rail.

Thank you too to all our team of helpers who manned stalls and battle stations on the Saturday: Angie and Chris Price, Lillie Wilmot, Joyce Johnson, Ruth Winder, Chris Spence, Linda and Fred Nye, Audrey Dawson, Rosie Walker, Fiona Whalley and Liz.

Gill made a great success of selling our posh frocks and we had helpers, (you know who you are), who scooted from helping out at the recitals to then helping out at the jumble sale!

The money raised will be used directly for the continuing refurbishment of the church hall. Up to now, nearly £4,500 has been raised (through fundraising and chaitable donations), towards the refurbishment and improvement of our church hall

Corinne Hedgecock



A Very Close Shave...

His local Church had done a week of outreach training, leaving the local barber feeling guilty. When had he last shared his faith with anyone? So the next morning he prayed: "Lord, today I promise to witness to the first man that walks through my door."

Soon after he opened his shop the first man came in and said, "I want a haircut and a shave, please." The barber said nervously, "Sure, just sit in the seat and I'll be with you in a moment." The barber rushed into the back of his shop and sent up a desperate prayer: "Dear God, this is it. Give me the wisdom to know just the right thing to say to him. Amen."

Then slowly the barber came back to his customer with his razor knife in one hand. He laid a shaking hand on the man's shoulder, stared at him in the mirror, and said: "I am glad you came to see me this morning.... are you ready to die?"

From the magazine of St Mary, Davyhulme

St. Saviour's Chapel, Stydd

- tranquil, serene and simple

Stydd Chapel, near Ribchester is one of the few early mediaeval churches remaining in Lancashire. Written records go back to the mid 12th Century, but there is evidence of earlier buildings at the site for some decades before that date.

Walking up Stydd Lane from the busy main road, the bustle of traffic is left behind and there is just birdsong to listen to. Excavations at the site indicated that perhaps there had been a Roman Temple to Mithras there, used by the soldiers at the nearby fort and

then an early Christian Basilica. In any case, by 1265, Stydd was at an important crossroads, east/west across the Pennines and north/south over an easily-forded point on the Ribble.

By this time, the Knights Hospitallers of the Order of St John had acquired the site and they provided a large hospice for the care and shelter of pilgrims. Many of the patients were lepers who had caught the disease whilst fighting in the Crusades. They could not be cured, but were offered a safe haven. A 'squint' in the south wall of the Chapel allowed lepers to take part in worship, whilst separated from the rest of the congregation.

A century later, the battle for the Holy Land was lost. There were no soldiers or pilgrims returning from the middle east and the religious life at Stydd went into a decline, although the building survived. After the Reformation, Henry VIII seized the Chapel and later it went into private ownership. The dilapidated building was restored in 1925. The space is a plain, simple rectangle, stone flagged with white plaster walls. There is no electricity and candles provide light. Simple oak chairs mirror the design of the 13th Century window above the altar. The font is 16th Century. Screen and pulpit date from the 17th Century and the simple altar from the 18th. The crucifix and candlesticks are modern, made from the wood of an ancient yew which grew in the lane.

Some believe that Saint Margaret Clitheroe is buried in the church. She died at York in 1586, after being pressed to death because she refused to plead to an indictment that she had harboured Jesuit priests and allowed Mass to be said.

Stydd Chapel is still used regularly for worship. There are services at Christmas, Easter and Harvest and monthly Evensong and Compline during the summer. Baptisms and weddings are celebrated. The church is open every day and welcomes visitors, pilgrims and parishioners. A sign on the original studded door proclaims that this is the House of God and the Gate of Heaven.

The Vicar of Stydd hopes that all who enter the holy space which has offered worship and service to God for over 1,000 years will find its holiness and tranquillity a key to unlock the heart of God.

Further afield, on our way to a wedding in Dorchester, we found ourselves in Bradford-on-Avon, where, in the mid-19th Century, Canon Jones, a vicar and keen archaeologist found two carved angels whilst a three storey cottage was undergoing repairs. This led to the re-discovery of 'one of Britain's most complete Saxon churches'. Passages from William of Malmesbury, dated 1125, mention a little church which Adhelm built in the name of the most blessed Laurence. This is believed to be that church.

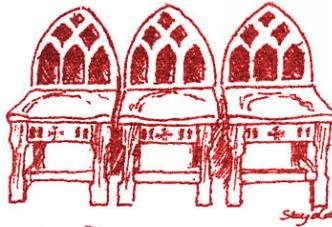
Ecclesiastical use is thought to have ceased in 1715 and the nave was used as a school, whilst the chancel was converted into the cottage examined by Canon Jones. In 1871,

the school building and the cottage were purchased, rededicated and re-consecrated and opened to the public. The carved angels can still be seen, high above the chancel arch. They are said to be Byzantine in style, carrying drapes over their arms to catch the blood of Christ. Relics of a Saxon cross and altar frontal have also been placed in the chancel.

When we arrived at noon on the Wednesday of Holy Week, a small ecumenical group were meeting for prayers and we were given a warm welcome as we explored the atmospheric interior.

In such churches today, the holiness and tranquillity does indeed assist the visitor to reach a better understanding of the faith the building was designed to express.

Barbara and Eric Wolstenholme



Picture Postscript

Apologies for the lack of photos in this issue, which has been prepared in more than the usual rush before editorial holidays! The online version may include some colour pics in due course.

The Parish Directory and Church Organisations



VICAR

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

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR and CHURCH BOOKINGS

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

ASSISTANT PRIESTS

Revd Denise McDougall, 27 Mayfair Avenue, Crosby. L23 2TL. 924 8770
Canon Peter Goodrich, 16 Hillside Avenue, Ormskirk, L39 5TD. 01695 573285
Fr. Dennis Smith, 16 Fir Road, Waterloo. L22 4QL. 928 5065

READERS

Dr Fred Nye, 23 Bonnington Avenue, Crosby. L23 7YJ. 924 2813
Mrs Jacqueline Parry, 21 Grosvenor Avenue, Crosby. L23 0SB. 928 0726
Mrs Cynthia Johnson, 30 Willow House, Maple Close, Seaforth, L21 4LY. 286 8155

CHURCH WARDENS

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

DEPUTY CHURCH WARDENS

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

TREASURER

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

PCC SECRETARY

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

GIFT AID SECRETARY

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

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

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

BAPTISM BOOKINGS

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

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

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

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

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

SACRISTAN

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

ASSISTANT SACRISTAN

Mr Leo Appleton, Flat 6, 45 Crosby Rd N, Seaforth. L21 1EN. 07969 513087

SENIOR SERVER

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

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Sunday 11.00 am in the Church Hall. Angie Price 924 1938

CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER

Mrs Linda Nye, 23 Bonnington Avenue, Crosby. L23 7YJ. 924 2813

CHURCH CENTRE

1, Warren Court, Warren Road, Blundellsands

CUB SCOUTS

Tuesday 6.30 - 7.45 pm. Adam Jones 07841 125589

Thursday 6.30 - 7.45 pm. Mike Carr 293 3416

SCOUTS

Tuesday 8.00 - 9.30 pm. George McInnes 924 3624

RAINBOWS

Monday 4.45 - 5.45 pm. Geraldine Forshaw 928 5204

BROWNIE GUIDES

Monday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Sue Walsh 920 0318; Mary McFadyen 284 0104

CHOIR PRACTICE

Friday 7.15 pm - 8.30 pm. Sam Austin 07921 840616

MAGAZINE EDITOR

and WEBSITE MANAGER

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



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





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