



**St Faith's Church  
Great Crosby**

**Newslink**

**March 2013**

# Worship at Saint Faith's



## SUNDAY SERVICES

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

## WEEKDAY SERVICES

Monday	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Tuesday	9.30am	Holy Eucharist
Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Eucharist ( <i>at S. Mary's</i> )
Thursday	6.30pm	Reflections Prayer Group ( <i>at S. Mary's</i> )
Friday	6.30pm	Evening Prayer
Saturday	10.30am	Holy Eucharist

*Please consult the website or weekly sheets for any variation in service times, particularly for weeks where there is a Holy Day. See the separate notice in this issue for details of extra Lent, Holy Week and Easter services.*

## SACRAMENT OF PENANCE AND RECONCILIATION

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

## HOME VISITS to the sick and housebound and those in hospital

If you, or someone you know, are unable to get to church and would like to receive Holy Communion at home the Eucharistic Ministers are happy to undertake this - please call 928 3342 to arrange this. Likewise, to arrange a visit to someone in hospital or at home, please call 928 3342 to arrange this.

## IN A PASTORAL EMERGENCY

Please contact the vicarage (928 3342) or a member of the ministry team.



# From the Ministry Team

## Keeping Warm

After the freeze, the welcome thaw. The days lengthen, and we see more of the sun. Things get back to normal for those who are unsteady on their feet, and may have felt imprisoned during the cold weather. Children can walk safely to school. We can all relax again.

As I write, it has been again a cold week, but hopefully by the time you read this, we will be starting to feel a sense that Spring is on its way.

We look forward to Spring in the church too, as Lent gets underway, and we wait for the new life of Easter. We often think of the Resurrection in terms of light. But Christ's coming again among us warms us up just as much as it enlightens us.

One way we can live out our Easter faith is in service to those in need. Many of us are already serving others in myriad ways, and St. Faith's and St. Mary's are both communities in which a great deal of quiet, humble serving routinely goes on. I would like to pay tribute now, while my first impressions are still fresh, to the many who visit friends, neighbours or other members of the church to take communion, assist with practical tasks, or just to offer some company and a listening ear. The mostly informal ministry of keeping an eye on the vulnerable is one of the most important aspects of the life of any church.

It's also good to keep an eye on those who may need it in a more organised and corporate way. I recently attended an afternoon of training at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral organised by various church groups involved in tackling fuel poverty, an important issue for the less well-off in these days of higher unemployment and Benefits cuts. Those who attended were given information about various easy ways to reduce bills by avoiding loss of warmth. Parish groups can be trained to help those on lower incomes to make the best use of their heating resources. Help can also be made available for those who have got into debt with utility bills.

For more information about this interesting possible area for corporate action in the future, see the website for Energy Projects Plus: [www.epplus.org.uk/](http://www.epplus.org.uk/)

Just as we care about the well-being of people in the communities we serve – including their warmth - so too, the relational warmth of any congregation’s life must always be a concern. We should perhaps judge a church, not by the warmest of the relationships it fosters, but by the frostiest.

Ups and downs in the life of any group of people inevitably produce an occasional cooling off between people. This is quite natural. What’s important is how we deal with conflicts where they occur. We are an Easter people, after all, a people of the Spring. We believe in transformation, which is the great gift of Christ rising. We do not let winter have the last word.

This Lent, let’s pray for and actively invite the healing warmth and thaw of God the Holy Spirit to dispel any lingering wintriness in our life together, so that we can move forward together. United. And warm.

Yours

*Fr. Simon*



# Celebrating Lent and Easter

Details of special services in Lent and Easter. These are in addition to the normal pattern of Sunday worship.

<b>Sun</b>	<b>Feb 24</b>	<b>LENT 2</b>		
		6.00pm	SF	Solemn Evensong and Benediction with address by Mirfield student David Warner
<b>Fri</b>	<b>March 1</b>	<b>St. David</b>		
		6.30pm	SF	Stations of the Cross and Holy Eucharist
<b>Sun</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>LENT 3</b>		
		6.00pm	SF	Solemn Evensong and Benediction with address by Mirfield student Penny King
<b>Fri</b>	<b>9</b>	6.30pm	SM	Stations of the Cross and Holy Eucharist
<b>Sun</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>LENT 4</b>		<b>Mothering Sunday</b>
		11.00am	SF	Family Eucharist and Parade Service
		6.00 pm	SF	Solemn Evensong and Benediction with address by Mirfield student Ben Kerridge
<b>Fri</b>	<b>15</b>	6.30pm	SF	Stations of the Cross and Holy Eucharist
<b>Sat</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Eve of St. Patrick</b>		
		10.30am	SF	Eucharist
<b>Sun</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>LENT 5</b>		
		6.00pm	SF	Solemn Evensong and Benediction with address by Mirfield student Paul Deakin
<b>Fri</b>	<b>22</b>	6.30pm	SM	Stations of the Cross and Holy Eucharist

<b>Sun</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>PALM SUNDAY</b> 11am SF Blessing of Palms, Eucharist and dramatic reading of the Passion
<b>Mon</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK</b> 9am SF Morning Prayer 8pm SF Stations of the Cross and Eucharist followed by Compline
<b>Tue</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK</b> 8pm SF Stations of the Cross and Eucharist followed by Compline
<b>Wed</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK</b> 7pm SF Eucharist with hymns and address (after which the Sacrament of Penance will be available for those wishing to make their confession in preparation for Easter) 9.15pm SF Compline
<b>Thu</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b> 8pm SF Solemn Mass of the Last Supper, Washing of Feet, Procession to the Altar of Repose and Watch of Prayer until midnight
<b>Fri</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> 10.00am SM Joint Young People's Easter Workshop 1.30pm SF The Solemn Liturgy of the Day
<b>Sat</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>HOLY SATURDAY</b> 8.00pm SF Joint Easter Vigil, Service of Light and First Mass of Easter (followed by Easter biscuits and fireworks!)
<b>Sun</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>EASTER DAY</b> 11.00am SF Procession, Blessing of the Easter Garden, High Mass, Holy Baptism & children's Easter Egg Hunt 6.00pm SF Solemn Evensong and Benediction



## It's coming! Fairtrade Fortnight 2013

Find out more about Fairtrade Fortnight (25 February to 10 March), the Fairtrade Foundation's two-week awareness raising campaign when campaigners around the UK will take steps to look after the food we love and the people who grow it. Visit [www.fairtrade.org.uk/gofurther](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/gofurther)

## **What is Happening in Crosby?**

Crosby Fairtrade Network is working to make Crosby a Fairtrade town. You can visit their website at

**<http://fairtradecrosby.org>**

## **Why does Crosby aim to be a Fairtrade Town?**

Crosby, Hightown, Thornton and Waterloo have a strong sense of local identity which is matched by the daily awareness – through work, family and the concerns of the many voluntary groups and charities – that we are all part of a global village. Sefton Council has already been awarded Fairtrade Borough status as a result of its support for Fairtrade.

Becoming a Fairtrade town brings fair trade practices to the heart of our community, connecting the area to the rest of the world. Janet Bissex (St Mary's) and Kathleen Zimak (St Faiths) represent the United Benefice on the organising committee and will be glad to give you further details of events in our local Fairtrade Fortnight.

**Sunday February 24th 1-3 p.m. Crosby Justice and Peace Group.** Fairtrade event at St Helen's Church Crosby. Traidcraft and Zaytoun goods on sale.

**Friday March 1<sup>st</sup>. 10 – 12 noon Liverpool Seafarers Centre.** Open Day with Fairtrade produce

**Saturday March 2<sup>nd</sup> Crosby United Reformed Church 10 am onwards**  
Traidcraft Big Brew event

**Sunday March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Crosby Fairtrade Network**

Crosby Lakeside Activity centre. 1 - 3:30 p.m FREE TASTING AND FUN as part of Fairtrade Fortnight.

**Sunday March 10<sup>th</sup> Mothering Sunday. United Benefice of St Faith's and St Mary's Churches**

Traidcraft stall at St Mary's and St Faith's churches after the Eucharist. (Easter Eggs included!)



# **Heather Billington, R.I.P.**

Sat on a pew alongside Denis Griffiths, Geoff Moss and Rick Walker in the lovely little village church of St Sannan, Llansannan, my mind wandered back to the joy and excitement of the summer of 1996 when Fr Charles Billington and Heather arrived at St Faith's. As a boy of sixteen I had been "Acting Verger" and "Keeper of the Keys" during an interregnum of nine months, and much hard work was needed to restore a neglected Vicarage garden to acceptability. Over several weeks, in what I remember was very good weather, Charles, Heather and I put in many hours of digging, cutting, planting and mowing, with Heather providing numerous much-needed cups of tea,

coffee and light refreshments to keep us going. They were happy days, not least because they provided the foundation for a lovely garden which would be an attraction for any future prospective incumbent viewing the Vicarage and its environs.

For the six years that Heather lived in the Vicarage she fully immersed herself in the life and worship of St. Faith's. Far from being the archetypal and conventional clergy wife, (if there is such a person) she nonetheless gave invaluable and unstinting support to Fr Charles, and particularly in her role as Guide Captain, and co-founder, with Mona Turner, of the Horsfall Ladies' Club.

In the early years, free of the responsibilities of parenthood, Charles and Heather would join a group of some twelve to fifteen of us who would go hiking in the Lake District or Snowdonia, and for holidays she and Charles would go for walking trips, staying at a friend's remote cottage in the tranquil Ulpha Valley or at the Diocesan clergy house, "Fellfield", at Hawkshead. On a number of occasions I was one of the parishioners to join them and enjoy a few days of fresh air and challenging exercise as well as the compulsory hostelry visits to sample the delights of good food and beer.

With the happy arrival of children Chad and Tara on the scene, Heather's freedom was, naturally, more restricted as she took on the mantle of motherhood. A tiny number of the present congregation will remember the baptisms of both Chad and Tara taking place during the vigil and midnight mass of Easter.

On doctor's advice, and in order to provide a less polluted and more healthy atmosphere for Chad's asthmatic condition, Fr Charles and Heather left St Faith's in the spring of 1972 to begin life in the villages of Harrold and Carlton in the Diocese of St Albans. In the ten days leading up to the Induction, George Smith, of blessed memory, and I stayed at the Rectory in Harrold and, with Charles and Heather, managed to paint the entire inside of the house, from top to bottom. Always pleased to welcome friends and house guests, eight happy years were spent in Bedfordshire and a number of us enjoyed visits and short stays.

Following hospital chaplaincy work in Kent and brief incumbencies in Somerset and Yorkshire, Fr Charles's last appointment was as rector of four North Wales parishes, including Llansannan, the village to which Heather had been evacuated in the war.

In retirement, at the time of her eightieth birthday in 2009, Heather suffered a severe stroke which paralysed her left side. A number of years earlier she had also undergone major heart surgery at Broadgreen Hospital in Liverpool. These last years were very difficult for both Charles and Heather. Fortunately, Heather was able to receive great care and support from the staff at The Old Vicarage Nursing Home, Pandy Tudur, where I visited her just three weeks before her death on January 31<sup>st</sup>. During these years, although unable to move by herself, Heather continued to take much pride in her appearance and, remarkably, never lost her impish sense of humour. She showed great fortitude, serenity and patience and death came, as it did for St Francis of Assisi, as a welcome friend.

Poignantly and appropriately, as she was laid to rest in Llansannan Cemetery, stood watching, we couldn't help but observe that the adjacent grave had written on its tombstone: DOUGLAS PERCY HORSFALL A GENTLE MAN. It could well be that a relative of our Founder and Benefactor lies in that hallowed ground.

Our love, sympathy and prayers go to Fr Charles, Chad, Tara and their families. May Heather, our dear and much loved sister in Christ, rest in God's peace and be raised in His glory.

*Fr Dennis*



## Snowy Owl's Announcement

I have decided that after almost 20 years of guiding I will be giving it all up. I intend to finish officially in July 2013 when we break up for the Summer. I will not be returning in September. Therefore I am appealing for help in the form of new leaders/helpers.

Anyone can volunteer to become a Brownie leader/helper; training and support will be given.

I found myself responding to this very same appeal 20 years ago when my eldest daughter Laura was about to start Brownies and both leaders were finishing and St Faith's Brownies was threatened with closure.

Unfortunately if we do not get any volunteers, our unit cannot continue to run. Helping/volunteering with a Brownie unit is very demanding yet rewarding and I have enjoyed my time immensely but it is time for me to move on and take up new challenges.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been involved with St Faith's Brownies past & present and hope that someone out there will be happy to take up the challenge.

*Sue Walsh*



# The 100 Club draw - 3/2/2013

1	£150	60	Denise Walker
2	£100	156	Joan Utley
3	£75	32	Ken Bramwell
4	£50	142	Stephanie Dunning



## A Holy Week Reflection

Christians make much of Holy Week. The veiled crucifix is a symbol of sorrow as Holy Week recalls the last days of the life of Our Lord. It is a week of high drama. It begins on the Sunday with a great demonstration of popularity for Christ. People sing, carry palm branches, and hail Christ as leader. But by the Friday what a change! The same people are demonstrating again with new leaders. And they are shouting for Christ's death. The man they honoured on Sunday, they dishonoured on the Friday. That day he died.

Yet, strangely, Christians call this Friday Good Friday. What was good about it? How can torture and death be good? There is nothing pretty about a crucifix. And the real crucifixion must have been sheer horror. Yet Christ often foretold his death and quite calmly. He knew it would be hard. He seemed to think it would be necessary. And he never seemed to think it would be useless. His followers were always shocked when he mentioned death. No one likes people who talk about their death. To Christ's followers, death was the one topic they dreaded. He had promised so much, a new Kingdom in which they would have top places. And what if he died?

But Christ went on to predict his death, but in a curious way. He seemed to be giving it a new slant, a new angle. He didn't speak of death as failure, as the end, as the final tragic curtain. There was no pathos, no self-pity in his words. And he didn't use the standard symbols of death, darkness descending, the cold silence of the grave, final parting. In fact he chose a most extraordinary example, a startling example. He compared death to a seed – these were country people he was talking to – and he said a seed dies when you put it into the ground. It does of course, as any gardener knows. If it doesn't it remains as useless as a pebble. But if it dies it erupts into a new life, far bigger, far more fruitful, and, indeed, far more useful than its own tiny existence. It produces the life we all love to see in the fields, the spring corn, a life that will nourish and sustain and build our lives. And all from a seed that died.

That is how Christ saw his death on Good Friday – just a seed dying. Of course, he never spoke of his death in isolation. He foretold he would rise like the seed with a richer, finer life which, like the corn, would be passed on to others. He even said it

would be three days later. And of course, his followers, hard-headed folk, just didn't believe. Many still don't. The human mind is a curious gadget. It is always trying to reduce God to its own trivial dimensions. It doesn't hesitate to edit even God's words, blue-pencilling hope, underlining there, and producing an edition abridged to its own petty understanding in tune with its own sentiments. St Paul well said that the Cross was outrageous to some, and a stumbling block to others. But it is otherwise to the Christian.

The Christian does not regard his or her crucifix as a symbol of horror. He regards it as Christ did – a symbol of life. The seed must die this spring if we are to have life this autumn. Christ's death and Christ's resurrection are just two sides of the same coin. Life through death is the spring, the muscle of Christianity. And so Holy Week is Victory week, its Friday is Good Friday, the Cross is the Victoria Cross, victory not defeat, life not death, not failure but success, the one success that always endures.

*Fr Dennis*



## The Sefton Foodbank Project

It is a sad fact in today's society that 13 million people live below the poverty line in the UK.

Every day people in the UK go hungry for reasons ranging from redundancy to receiving an unexpected bill on a low income. Trussell Trust foodbanks provide a minimum of three days emergency food and support to people experiencing crisis. The Trussell Trust forms partnerships with churches and communities to open new foodbanks nationwide. With over 300 foodbanks currently launched, the goal is for every town to have one.

There are three foodbanks based in the Liverpool area – Clubmoor, Garston & Wavertree and there are plans for three to be based in the Sefton area, in Southport, in Bootle and a local one in Crosby which a group from various churches are in the process of establishing and which will provide for people living in the area between Seaforth and Hightown.

### **How does it work ?**

### **Where does the food come from ?**

Schools, churches, businesses and individuals donate non-perishable, in-date food to a foodbank. Large collections often take place as part of Harvest Festival celebrations. Food is also collected at 'Supermarket Collections': These are events held at supermarkets where volunteers give shoppers a 'foodbank shopping list' and ask them to buy an extra item or two for local people in crisis.

### **Food is sorted and stored**

Volunteers sort and datecheck the food and then pack it into boxes ready to be given to people in need.

### **Who says who should receive food ?**

Care professionals such as doctors, health visitors, social workers, CAB and police identify people in crisis and issue them with a foodbank voucher. Foodbanks partner a wide range of care professionals who are best placed to assess need and make sure that it is genuine.

### **How do clients receive food ?**

Foodbank clients bring their voucher to a foodbank centre where it can be redeemed for three days' emergency food. Volunteers meet clients over a cup of tea or free hot meal and are able to signpost people to agencies able to solve their longer-term problems.

### **So how can you help?**

- Please pray as this venture moves forward. It is hoped that the foodbank will open in early April
- The organisers appreciate any donations of non-perishable foods which congregations in some Crosby churches are already collecting
- The organisers need people with various gifts and skills to help with finance, secretarial skills as well as trustees for the organisation, and many volunteers will be needed to help on a day to day basis.

Church congregations have an obvious role to play - as Jesus said : "When I was hungry, you gave me something to eat, and when I was thirsty, you gave me something to drink... Whenever you did it for any of my people, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did it for me." Mt 25:35&40 (CEV). Jan Matthews of St Luke's Church, Crosby is one of the main organisers and she can be contacted for further information at [steve.matthews@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:steve.matthews@blueyonder.co.uk)retreat

*Nathy Limak*



## **A Quiet Afternoon in February**

On the afternoon of Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> February, about 20 of us met in church for a Quiet Afternoon. Fr Simon led the afternoon, which began with him reading a passage from St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians. After this he asked us individually to say one word, or two, which had stood out for us. This certainly helped me to focus completely on the reading and try to understand what it was about. It soon became clear that the afternoon was about Reconciliation. Fr. Simon delivered an excellent address on Reconciliation, talking about reconciliation with our neighbour. and ourselves. It gave us a great deal to think and pray about.

There was then a time of silence when we were free to wander about church, or outside, write a letter to God, for our own private archives, read various passages from the Bible which had been printed out for us, or just to sit quietly, reflect and pray.

The afternoon ended with Evening Prayer, after which we were ready to go home, and hopefully to consider carefully what we had learnt during the afternoon. The arctic conditions in church helped to keep the mind keen and alert. All in all, it was an excellent opportunity for us to take time out in our busy lives to listen to God.

*Joan Audhrope*



## Friends in Retreat

What does the word retreat mean? Probably different things to each of us, so I went to an on-line dictionary to find out what it really means:

*Retreat (noun) [ri'tri:t] Movement back, withdrawal from position, quiet time or place, period of seclusion, flight.*

Apart from the last bit about flight, we had got it about right: we had certainly moved back to David's House, our much loved farmhouse in Yorkshire, we had withdrawn from our day to day routines here in Crosby, and the house was certainly a quiet place. As for the seclusion, a half-mile long farm track and a total lack of signals for radio, TV, mobile phones and Wi-Fi, meant that we could have been staying on another planet!

Thursday saw us driving over the Pennine hills in glorious weather, meeting up for lunch as usual at the Bolton Arms a few miles from our destination to check that the quality of the Black Sheep had not fallen. (*It hadn't*). Then off to David's House where the central heating was on and the double-glazing fended off the wintry winds. (Just because the house is remote doesn't mean that it has to lack some modern conveniences!) A blazing wood fire put the final touch to our welcome and within minutes we were all ensconced in our favorite chairs and eating mouth watering Eccles Cakes. (Thanks Rosie!)

Friday saw us heading off for our yearly drive to Durham where we visited the Cathedral for the midday mass – this time in the Shrine of St Cuthbert. This visit has become an essential part of our retreat as we listen in the peace and quiet of the cathedral to the words that are so familiar to us in St Faith's. After lunch in the refectory, and once again checking on the quality of a few more sheep, we returned home and the essential toasted tea cakes.

For many years, Fr Charles Billington has been with us, but this year, following a period of illness, he had stayed home in Abergele. We were therefore very upset to hear the news that evening that his wife, Heather, had died earlier that day.

Saturday morning traditionally includes a Eucharist in the house, where we remember past members of the Men's Group and those at home, but sadly this year without a chaplain, this was not possible. After breakfast we made a return trip to the National Rail Museum at Shildon where we saw close up examples of many steam trains including the Duchess of Hamilton in full streamlined glory! On the way home we watched the start of the six nations rugby and herded up a few more sheep.

The Saturday evening meal is always special, and after canapés and champagne we enjoyed a Mexican themed meal complete with flags, music and an awful tasting drink that needed to be taken with salt and lime juice. Unfortunately nobody could remember the name of it the next morning.

Sunday at St Edmund's church in Marske is another annual highlight. Without Fr Charles the eucharist was taken by the Curate of Richmond Parish Church, who welcomed the St Faith's contingent, and mentioned Heather in the intercessions. It was a family Eucharist: that meant there were two children in the congregation along with a dozen or so local residents. As always we were made very welcome and enjoyed the coffee from thermos flasks – just like St Faith's!

Monday was the day for a return visit the South Shields Technical College where we were once again able to try our skills with a simulated engine room and bridge of a ship – and not just any ship but ANY SHIP! The simulator could mimic any ship afloat and we had a happy hour or two sailing cruise liners and oil tankers, and, unlike last time, without parking a ship in Whitby High Street. Shipping lines and the College normally use the multi-million pound simulator for training purposes. It is similar to a flight simulator used for training pilots, and we were very grateful to be allowed to 'play' with probably the most expensive, elaborate and lifelike computer game in the country.

Our last evening meal together was well up to the highest gastronomic standards that Geoff can manage, and as there were no sheep left to count we had to make do with damsons and sloes – they were drunk in the spirit in which they had been prepared.

Tuesday dawned with four inches of snow on the ground. A quick but thorough cleaning and tidying up was called for and we set off with fingers crossed. Sure enough the hill out of the village was all but impassable but after a number of unsuccessful tries, much sideways sliding and a lot of manhandling, both cars reached the main road and returned to Crosby safely.

Another successful retreat behind us and we're already planning a return trip next year. In fact the word "return" is as good as any to describe the weekend – a return to Marske, Durham, Shildon, St Edmunds, the ship simulator and at last to Crosby.

The retreaters: Brian, Denis, Geoff, Michael, Mike, Paul and...

*Rick Walker*



## Services Support Group

Have you ever wondered what being a British soldier serving in Afghanistan would be like? Working for 8 hours at a time in 40-45 degree heat carrying 60lbs of equipment, constantly on high alert both on and off duty, regularly coming under fire, not knowing who to trust, or what is around the next corner. All this and being thousands of miles from home and your loved ones. This was the insight that Padre Simon Farmer of The Royal Welsh gave when he spoke at our February meeting. An insight that is not always possible to see or comprehend when watching a news item or documentary. Hearing on film with a commentary by somebody who has experienced this first hand, the very loud rapid gunfire which can happen at any point and many times while out on patrol, brings home just how real and scary being in that situation can be. Or in a patrol driving along an empty stretch of road one way only to return a short time later to see a seemingly innocent white plastic bag lying at the road side that hadn't been there before. Only it turns out that it is definitely not innocent at all but an IED (Improvised Explosive Device) placed there after the convoy had passed through. The sharp eyes and experience of the commander in the lead vehicle saved the lives of his comrades by stopping the convoy, calling for the Bomb Disposal team to render the IED safe with a controlled explosion so that serious injury was averted. These are just a few examples of the dangers our servicemen/ women live with each day.

There are however other things that occur that are not so tangible but show that within all this danger God is present and watching over them and they have The Royal Welsh version of the loaves and fishes miracle. A number of soldiers had been without rations and the means to eat for a short while, their problem became known to Padre Simon and he set about doing something to rectify it. This included collecting together whatever food he could, this was about enough for some 15 people, and the means to turn it into a hot meal. He then asked how many he was to feed and the reply came back "46"! Undaunted he carried on and the last plateful of food was served to the 46th man! Miracles do still happen in the strangest of places.

With fear and high alert always on the agenda, the Padre and his church form a close bond with the soldiers. The church or "Shed" as it was known, is small and very basic but a much needed haven in a chaotic world. Padre Simon, a larger than life presence (he is over 6'6" tall), his calm manner, understanding, compassion and faith supported servicemen/women, British, Danish, American, as they joined with him for services, prayer, quiet contemplation and coffee. Prayer is a very powerful support in abnormal situations and for these men and women to know that there are small groups like ours, supporting and praying for both them and their families is much appreciated and gives the reassurance that they are not forgotten.

On a much happier note, Padre Simon, a keen yachtsman, is taking a group of servicemen recovering from injury sailing as part of their rehabilitation and I thought

that it would be rather nice if we could raise some funds to help them, so a couple of ideas are being explored and as soon as a decision has been reached an announcement will be made. So as the saying goes.....watch this space!

Also for those who don't already know, our tree collection bucket at last December's Christmas Tree Festival raised £150 and the retiring collection at the Festival Carol Service raised £310, which has been divided equally between the three charities we support, Combat Stress, BLESMA and UK Forces Support, so "Thank You" to all gave so generously: it is much appreciated.

*Eunice Little*



## Registering the Past *Episode 8*

### **Yet more gleanings from St Faith's first Register of Services**

The first evidence that the world had changed in 1914 comes a few days later with the annotation 'Daily service of intercession at 8 p.m.'. It is in fact only recorded once in the service records, when August 21<sup>st</sup> is labelled as 'Day of Intercession' and annotated as having 'Very good attendance'; doubtless the 'Bishop's Letter' read at the services on the following Sunday would have been on the same ominous subject.

Again in the margin a few days later we read 'H.C. Rev T.R.Musgrave', after which his initials disappear from the book for a spell. October 1<sup>st</sup>, a weekday, is designated as Harvest Festival and £2.5.9 was given in the plate at Evensong, suggesting a good turnout, although the visiting preacher's signature is indecipherable. Our patron saint is again not visibly honoured on October 6th, prominent mention again being reserved for several clearly exceptionally wet days in that month.

The pattern of Sunday services as 1914 draws to a close is now generally for an 8.30 am Holy Communion, an 11.00 Mattins (by itself or with H.C. tacked on) and Evensong. There are few weekday records, save for major feasts, until Christmas, although Mr Musgrave is back in the book at the end of September. The total communicants on Christmas day was 219; four days later Mr Musgrave inserts in his own handwriting 'Holy Innocents... Just celebrant present'. After a collection for the Red Cross Society at the Watch Night Service, 1915 slips in quietly.

In the early weeks on 1915 collections are recorded for Liverpool Hospitals, Bootle Borough Hospital, the Melanesian Mission; the weather is frequently 'Wet' and sometimes even 'Very wet'. On January 17<sup>th</sup> we read in bold script of the coming of a new organist: 'J.W.Waugh, F.R.C.O'.

The weeks that follow see the register more than usually cluttered with collection details and marginal notes. For three weeks in early Lent Mr Musgrave enters, and indeed takes, all services. During this period ‘Litany and Commination’ features twice, once with ‘good attendance’ the other with ‘about 50 present. Daily services are squeezed into the margins, but faithfully recorded as to *Time* (usually 7 or 8 am), *No Present* (between 2 and 10, but averaging about 7) and *Collection* (between 1s 1d and 3s 10d).

The columns are less cluttered for Holy Week, which saw daily early celebrations, but just a 7.00 am on Maundy Thursday and an 8.00 am on Good Friday. Mattins that day reads ‘Very fair congregation. Very wet’ (!) Easter Day featured four different Holy Communions: at 6.30 (57), 7.30 (115) 8.30 (141) and 11.00 (with Mattins: 80) – grand total an impressive 393.

On the Sunday after Easter D.G.Fee Smith returned at evensong to dedicate ‘Brass in memory of Dr Gay’ (it’s near to the *Titanic* plaque in the south aisle), garnering no less than £7.1.7 for Waifs and Strays. Then on 25<sup>th</sup> April ‘F.J.Liverpool’ was present for Sunday Evensong on what is labelled ‘Dedication Festival’ – and he went away with £10.13.5 for the Bishop of Liverpool’s Fund. The spring weather remained predictably Wet, sometimes Still Very Wet – and on May 7<sup>th</sup> the *Lusitania*’s torpedoing is recorded marginally.

The regular pattern of worship, celebrants and collection figures continue with little of note in June, July and August: August 8<sup>th</sup> was a ‘dreadful night’ but 22<sup>nd</sup> Evensong had an ‘Excellent congregation’. Clergy from St James the Less, Liverpool, Prenton on the Wirral and the S.P.G. preached variously in September, Then, somewhat suddenly, on October 3<sup>rd</sup> we read writ large ‘The close of Mr Baxter’s ministry at S.Faith’s’. Equally notably, for the very first time, October 6<sup>th</sup> is marked down as ‘Festival of St Faith, V + M’, with the faithful Mr Musgrave recording 27 communicants at two celebrations. He is also clearly pleased to be able to record a ‘very good congregation’ at Mattins four days later, at the mid-point of what is certainly the shortest interregnum in the history of our church. We turn the page and read, on Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at 3.0 pm ‘Institution of the Rev. H.B Bentley-Smith’ by F.J.Liverpool with the assistance of R.F.G.Smithwick, R.D.

Behind these bald announcements lies a story which is told in the first history of St Faith’s, and which will be recounted in due course. It concerns the aspirations of churchmanship and an exchange of livings, and heralds a somewhat more stormy period in the story of our church.

*Chris Price*



# Poems for Lent and Easter

## Maundy Thursday Watch

Tall arches spanning darkness;  
High invisible roof: warm still air.  
The shadowed crucifix outlined against carved beams.

And light spilling out through the pillars:  
Soft radiance from a firmament of flickering candles,  
Gold and white in the night, swaying shadows.  
Burnished sanctuary lamp mirroring the arc of fire below;  
Dark grouped leaves and boughs, and frozen flowers:  
Christ on the altar in Gethsemane.

The dull roar of traffic sounds outside the walls.  
Silent worshippers kneel or sit to keep their watch,  
With only the rustle of a page, the shifting of a chair  
To move the soft silence.  
Waiting for death to come to their Lord in the morning  
To bring them life.

Footsteps echo quietly down the dark aisle. The vigil  
Goes on. The faithful watch with Christ.  
Outside the cold midnight brings another Good Friday.  
Inside, no time, only the soft shadow of eternity.  
Surely, God is here.

*Chris Price*

## April Wind

The wind was cold one April morning,  
And the sun was hid in heaven.  
They took a man one April morning,  
And while he said goodbye,  
Blew the wind in April.

They took a man one April morning,  
And the sun was hid in heaven,  
They drove the nails into his fingers,  
And while he said goodbye,  
Blew the wind in April.



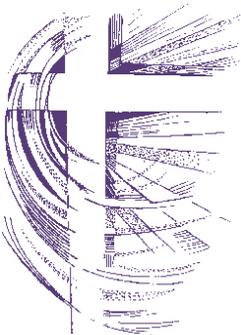
They murdered love one April morning,  
And the sun was hid in heaven,  
The sky grew black, the rain came falling,  
And while he said goodbye,  
Blew the wind in April.

They laid his body in a garden,  
And the sun was hid in heaven,  
They went away till Sunday morning,  
And while they said goodbye,  
Blew the wind in April.

The sun shone high on Sunday morning,  
Yes, the sun shone high in heaven,  
He said goodbye, goodbye to sleeping,  
And while he said goodbye,  
Blew the wind in April.

And there he stood one April morning,  
And the sun shone high in heaven,  
He stood and smiled one April morning,  
And when he smiled again,  
Blew the wind in April.

***Damian Lundy***



## **The Judas Tree**

In Hell there grew a Judas tree  
Where Judas hanged and died  
Because he could not bear to see  
His Master crucified.

The Lord descended into Hell  
And found His Judas there,  
Forever hanging on the tree  
Grown from his own despair.

So Jesus cut His Judas down  
Took him in His arms,  
It was for this I came, He said  
And not to do you harm.

My Father gave me twelve good men  
And all of them I've kept,  
Though one betrayed and one denied  
Some fled and others slept.



In three days' time I shall return  
To make the others glad  
But first I had to come to Hell  
To share the death you had.

My tree will grow in place of yours  
Its roots strike here as well  
There is no final victory  
Without this soul from Hell.

So when we all condemn him  
As of every traitor worst  
Remember that of all His men  
Our Lord forgave him first.

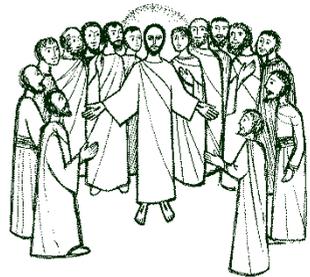
## **I am the Great Sun**

I am the great sun, but you do not see me,  
I am your husband, but you turn away.  
I am the captive, but you do not free me,  
I am the captain you will not obey.

I am the truth, but you will not believe me,  
I am the city where you will not stay,  
I am your wife, your child, but you will leave me,  
I am that God to whom you will not pray.

I am your counsel, but you do not hear me,  
I am the lover whom you will betray,  
I am the victor, but you do not cheer me,  
I am the holy dove whom you will slay.

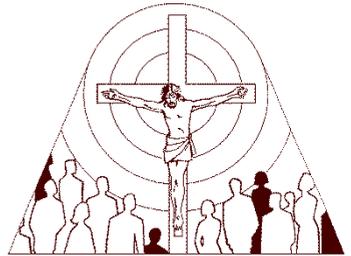
I am your life, but if you will not name me,  
Seal up your soul with tears, and never blame me.



*Charles Causley*

# Because the Snow

Because the snow clears in the valleys,  
Leaving white lanes by the hedges  
And moist clumps of primrose under the deep banks;  
Because the fields lie green after the thaw,  
And the young corn shows,  
Pushing in trust to the promised sun;  
Because the lambs  
Race and dance on the buoyant grass,  
Without thought, without cause;  
Because I love and am loved,  
Confirmed in belief  
Against the world and reason's tyranny -  
Because of these, I know I know  
The moment's faith outlogics fact and time,  
And the heart's truth is truth.



*Olive Sansom*

## A Thank you from Fr Peter Goodrich

I would like to thank everyone who phoned, sent cards and asked after me during my recent illness. I am much better and hope to be back before too long.

## Postscript: Points from the PCC

*Unofficial highlights of the meeting of February 11<sup>th</sup>! The official minutes are of course subject to approval at the next PCC meeting.*

The PCC welcomed **Fr Simon** to the chair occupied during the interregnum by Maureen; both she and Margaret were thanked for their hard work ... Margaret reported on the success of last year's **Christmas Tree Festival** which raised an amount of £6298.22 - £3155 going into church funds – and was warmly thanked.

**The Treasurer** reported that the church current account stands at £14,600, with no outstanding creditors ... The **Sequestration account** has been wound up ... Our **Parish Share** is up 1.7% to £46,141 and is being paid in full... The **year-end analysis** shows that planned giving now covers the parish share, as the annual total planned giving, now exceeds £50K ... **St Mary's** no longer owe us anything and £400 was

returned to them at the year end ... In the aftermath of the 2012 **Stewardship campaign**, the 26 people who failed to respond are to be chased up again ... We have accepted Scottish Power's offer of a fixed price **fuel deal** until 2015 ... The **servicing team** are planning a sponsored walk in May to raise money towards replacing their shabby cassocks.

**The Premises Report:** church heating repair work will be completed soon, but will cost us as it isn't covered by the annual charge ... **Roof leaks** are being investigated and estimates sought for this expensive item: as a result **guttering work** now has to be a lower priority ... The original **hall doors** are back and paid for ... The **upstairs toilet** is to be refurbished, and the **Upper Room** needs upgrading with 40 stacking chairs: second-hand costs for these are being looked into ... Thanks were expressed to all those who had worked on the premises, especially Mike Broom, Mike Carr and Ruth Winder.

**Events 2013:** Following the success of last year's event, a May Fair will be organised by Lillie Wilmot ... Other events include a **PCC Away Day** on May 11<sup>th</sup>, the **Deanery Visitation** at St Mary's on June 1<sup>st</sup> and the various events at the October **Patronal Festival**.

**Vicar's Business.** £395.29 is to be spent on new **service books** for the daily offices and for Fr Simon's own use in preparing services.... There is a need for a clear and consistent pattern of **daily services:** a discussion document on this subject will be circulated among the congregation during Lent. ... **Notice and service sheets** are to be integrated from Easter, with readings omitted, and provision made for the hard of hearing .... Training will be offered to lesson readers ... It is hoped to arrange a **Holy Week film** showing of 'Babette's Feast' on Maundy Thursday afternoon at the Plaza cinema ... **Community links** are planned, with contacts forthcoming with Waterloo Primary and the Merchant Taylors' Schools ... Following the success of the first such event, **Sunday suppers** in the vicarage are to be scheduled following monthly Evensong and Benediction services as well as the imminent Lent Sunday evening services ... The **provision of alcohol** at the back of church following Sunday morning services is to be reduced ... **PCC meetings** will revert to 7.30 pm, with a 90 minutes length target; to this end written reports are to be circulated and read well in advance rather than gone through in detail at meetings ... The **Summer Saturday recitals** are to continue, and will take place between 6 April and 10 August.

A statutory full **Electoral Roll revision** has to happen this year. Forms are to be available in advance of the APCM and regular mentions and public notices are to be provided ... Bill Tudhope has been appointed as our named **verger** ... A vote of thanks was offered to Ron Rankin, to whom the vicar will write ... The use of colour photographs in the printed magazine was commended, with the hope that it could be regularly funded and that the magazine could become self-financing ... Plans are in hand to book a **weekend silent retreat** at Parcevall Hall from February 21-23, 2014, and provisionally a **midweek pilgrimage** to Walsingham in April 2014.

*Fuller accounts of this and subsequent PCC meetings will be posted in church.*

# The Parish Directory and Church Organisations



## **VICAR**

Fr Simon Tibbs, The Vicarage, Milton Rd, Waterloo. L22 4RE. Tel 0151 928 3342  
email fathersimontibbs@googlemail.com

## **PARISH OFFICE**

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

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

## **ASSISTANT PRIESTS**

Revd Denise McDougall, 27 Mayfair Avenue, Crosby. L23 2TL. 924 8870

Canon Peter Goodrich, 16 Hillside Avenue, Ormskirk, L39 5TD. 01695 573285

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

## **READERS**

Dr Fred Nye, 23 Bonnington Avenue, Crosby. L23 7YJ. 924 2813

Mrs Jacqueline Parry, 21 Grosvenor Avenue, Crosby. L23 0SB. 928 0726

Mrs Cynthia Johnson, 30 Willow Ho, Maple Close, Seaforth, L21 4LY. 286 8155

## **CHURCH WARDENS**

Mrs Margaret Houghton, 16 Grosvenor Avenue, Crosby. L23 0SB. 928 0548

Mrs Maureen Madden, 37 Abbotsford Gardens, Crosby. L23 3AP. 924 2154

## **DEPUTY CHURCH WARDENS**

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

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

## **TREASURER**

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

## **PCC SECRETARY**

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

## **DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**

Mr Daniel Rathbone. Tel: 07759 695683

## **GIFT AID SECRETARY**

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

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

Mrs Lynda Dixon, 928 7330

## **BAPTISM BOOKINGS**

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

## **SACRISTANS**

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

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

**SENIOR SERVER**

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

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

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

**CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER**

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

**CHURCH CENTRE**

1, Warren Court, Warren Road, Blundellsands

**UNITED BENEFICE MEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

James Roderick 474 6162

**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. Sue Walsh 920 0318; Mary McFadyen 284 0104

**CHOIR PRACTICE**

Friday 7.15 pm - 8.30 pm.

**MAGAZINE EDITOR and WEBSITE MANAGER**

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

---

The April '*Newslink*' will be distributed on or before **Sunday, March 24th**. Copy by **Sunday, March 10th**, please - but all contributions are welcome at any time.

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

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

**Email:** [cdavidprice@gmail.com](mailto:cdavidprice@gmail.com)



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND



Diocese of  
Liverpool