

# Newslink



**St Faith's Church  
Great Crosby  
May 2011**

# Worship at Saint Faith's



## SUNDAYS

**11.00am SOLEMN MASS and Children's Church**

1.00pm Holy Baptism (2nd Sunday)

6.00pm Evening Service and Benediction (1st Sunday and as announced)

## WEEKDAY MASSES

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

## THE DIVINE OFFICE (The Prayer of the Church)

**Morning Prayer:** 9am daily

**Evening Prayer:** 6pm daily

*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 : May 2011*

Dear friends,

I'm sure many of you will be able to recall some of the lyrics to the song, 'Love is in the air'.

The song tells us that love is everywhere: in every sight, in every sound, in the rising of the sun, and also when the day is nearly done. At this time of year, probably more than any other, we become aware of the beauty of new life and I believe that by using all our senses we can feel and see God's love around us in His awesome creation; gardens are blooming and filling with sweet-smelling blossoms and buds are bursting into colourful life, birds are building nests or collecting food for their young - spring is at its best. We are living, perhaps even walking on air, because of the joy and hope given to us through Christ's resurrection.

The song also says that love is there when I call your name and love is there when I reach out for you. Well love certainly is in the air at the moment, royal love, Catherine Elizabeth (Kate) Middleton is to marry Prince William of Wales in Westminster Abbey on April 29th; these two young people are ready publicly to declare their love for each other, make their promises and receive God's blessing. This joyous occasion will be watched by millions across the world and I have to say I'm looking forward to spending the day in Anglesey just a couple of miles from the RAF Valley base where Prince William is stationed. William and Kate are familiar figures among the local residents and the small island is buzzing with excitement. The couple have already been welcomed on the island for their first official engagement together and on another occasion the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh toured the base to see their grandson's working environment and see the search and rescue helicopters that he flies.

A wedding is one of life's joyous moments as well as being a time of solemn commitment and I hope many of you will be able to come to the 6.30pm mass on the 29th with special prayers for Prince William and his new wife and give thanks for the love they share.

Of course this is romantic love but there are many different types of love: this one word covers a whole range of meanings in the English language and we tend to use it rather glibly: ‘I love your new shoes’, ‘I love Liverpool Football Club’, or ‘I love my new job’. These and similar examples don’t refer to actual love in any way. Then there is the love that is real, people that we love but in very different ways: our partners, children, parents, our very dear friends or close relatives or our pets; but as special as these loves are, they don’t speak of the love that Jesus was talking about in St John’s Gospel when he says to his disciples “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another; just as I have loved you, you should love one another. All will recognise that you are my disciples by the love you have one for another”. This type of love is radically different from all the others, but it is how Jesus wants us to show love.

We are called to love as He loves, with unconditional, sacrificial love and we are all called to live in communion with each other, to share with one another and serve one another in simple acts of loving and caring, without ever judging or condemning but always forgiving. It’s a tough ask of any of us and means we need to love others regardless of whether we even like them or not or whether we will get anything back in return because of our actions. The theologian Frederick Buechner observed that: “In the Christian sense, love is not primarily an emotion, but an act of will.” This type of love is not about a feeling, it’s about our actions and the motivations behind them. It’s about going out of our way for each other, listening to each other, praying for and supporting each other during both good times and bad.

So let’s take some time to reflect:

- Do we show love for those we don’t get on with or feel uncomfortable with?
- Are we able to show tough love by being truthful even it means pain to ourselves or others, or do we back away because we prefer a quiet life?
- Do we show love to those outside the Church, those on the margins of society or whose views differ from our own?

This is what Jesus commands us to do. How good at obeying are we?

I believe there is room in us all to try harder and perhaps then we will be able to call ourselves true disciples of Christ.

My love and prayers,

**Denise**



# *Introduction to the Season of Easter*

(from *Common Worship*)

The Great Fifty Days of Eastertide form a single festival period in which the tone of joy created at the Easter Vigil is sustained through the following seven weeks, and the Church celebrates the gloriously risen Christ:

*Triumphant in his glory now,  
his sceptre ruleth all,  
earth, heaven and hell before him bow,  
and at his footstool fall.*  
(*Fulbert of Chartres*)

Early Christians gave the name Pentecost to this whole fifty-day span of rejoicing, which Tertullian calls ‘this most joyful period’ (*laetissimum spatium*). It is sometimes also called ‘Great Sunday’. In those places where the custom of lighting the Easter Candle at the beginning of Easter is followed, the lit Candle stands prominently in church for all the Eastertide services. The Alleluia appears frequently in liturgical speech and song; Morning Prayer begins with the traditional collection of Pauline texts known as the Easter Anthems, and white or gold vestments and decorations emphasize the joy and brightness of the season.

On the fortieth day there has from the late fourth century been a particular celebration of Christ’s ascension. He commissions his disciples to continue his work, he promises the gift of the Holy Spirit, and then he is no longer among them in the flesh. The ascension is therefore closely connected with the theme of mission. The arrival of the promised gift of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost completes and crowns the Easter Festival.



**Alleluia! Christ is Risen, He is Risen Indeed. Alleluia!**

# *Easter Week Events:*

## **Easter Thursday 28th April**

9.30am Mass with special prayers for the APCM

7.30pm Annual Parochial Church Meeting

## **Easter Friday 29<sup>th</sup>**

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



Lord of love,  
we pray for William and Catherine.  
Be with them in all their preparations  
and on their wedding day.

Give them your love in their hearts  
throughout their married life together,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **Easter Saturday 30<sup>th</sup>**

10.30am Mass

11.00am Men's Fellowship walk to Hightown

12noon Opening Summer Recital

# *A Gated Community...*



What does the above suggest to you? An exclusive estate of footballer-style mansions of slightly questionable taste, a correctional institution sited well away from the residential area or a monastic building whose occupants must avoid the temporal in order to focus upon the spiritual?

It may well be that in a short while we at St Faith's may be viewed as fitting into one of those categories (the reader may speculate as to which is the most likely!). In fact, the PCC recently gave its approval for work to begin on the security measures which our insurance company are insisting upon.

For some time we have been 'in discussion' with the insurance company's representative, considering the best way in which to protect the church and hall grounds, discourage theft and vandalism and support hall and church users, particularly at vulnerable times such as dark winter nights.

If it were to be said that some of the suggested plans coming from the insurers were met with muted enthusiasm, it would be a mild and very polite version of the truth! For some time, their preferred plan was the construction of a ten foot high mesh fence in two sections. The first section was to stretch from the corner of the church porch at the main entrance across to the vicarage fence. They wanted the second section to go from the corner of the hall kitchen to the fencing along the side of the vicarage driveway. Our unease with this plan arose from several points. There would be great difficulty for vehicles turning at those points when we were opening for bigger services, funerals or weddings. It would be virtually impossible to get a hearse or an emergency vehicle through the opening sections of the fencing. Not least, such high fencing at such obvious locations would look ugly and foreboding; definitely placing us in the category of Correctional Institution!

After further consultation in which the police were involved to give their point of view, we lit upon a scheme which we hope will tackle the issues of concern whilst, at the same time, adding to, rather than detracting from, the dignified outer appearance of an ecclesiastical building.

The project involves setting railings into the top of the wall which borders the hall and Milton Road, setting a fixed section of fencing into the old pedestrian access way into the hall and placing a new gate across the vehicle access from Milton Road. There will also be two new, slightly higher gates made for the access ways from the A565 main road and the corner of Kingsway. The railings, gates and fencing will all be finished in black powder coating and the railings will incorporate a 'fleur-de-lys' style design.

Obviously, this project will come at a cost but we are looking at the possibility of securing grant aid for the gates and security measures and our preferred plan, as described above, still came in as less expensive than the high security fences the insurers had at first seemed to require.

Of course, to do their job effectively these gates will have to be kept locked when the church and hall are not in use. It will become immediately clear to you that this gives rise to several practical difficulties:

- Key holders will have the extra responsibility of more padlocks or combination locks to remember
- Those in charge of opening up for a service (sacristans and wardens) will have to be even earlier to attend to gates
- Hall users, by the same token will have an extra job to attend to before the arrival of their 'customers'
- At some point, it may be necessary to have a one-way system for vehicles driving into and out of the grounds
- We will most certainly receive some 'flak' from neighbouring residents who have long regarded the church grounds as their right of way, a short cut and a convenient place to park....

We have considered all these points and cannot rule out that other issues may arise as well but what we have to realise is that there is no option. If we do not attend to our security arrangements, protect our property and the safety of our users who have long been subject to threat and abuse, then no insurance company will agree to cover us any further. We cannot afford to be without insurance and no-one on the PCC is willing to stand liable for a £3million+ building!

We hope that this helps to explain the situation to all who have an interest in our church, hall and grounds. Clearly there will be 'teething' problems and minor inconveniences with which to contend but with consideration and patience it is hoped we will offer a safer, more secure and much more attractive environment for all.

**Maureen and Margaret**

***APCM and Visitation* Fr Neil**



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

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May**

9.30am-12.30pm

## *Joint PCCs' Away Day*

**Seafarer's Centre, Waterloo**

**Theme: "Going for Growth"**

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

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



## *'Seek and Ye Shall Find'*

Some months ago I uploaded a search facility to the church website. Anyone wanting to find something merely has to type in a key word or short phrase and the facility instantly comes up with all the references to the words anywhere in the website



(which, incidentally, contains some 6,100 separate items). As such, this clever device is an alternative to using the more detailed index pages elsewhere on the site, and is being used by quite a few of those who browse the site.

How do I know this? Because the organisation that supplies the software sends me regular reports on the number of searches each month, together with the words that have been typed in by searchers. Over the last three months, there have been between 50 and 60 searches a month, and the results are often rather interesting.

The most common searches are for people's names. Christian names (I won't reveal the surnames to protect the innocent!) include 'Kenneth', 'Muriel', 'Irene', 'Frances', 'Kevin', 'Peter', 'Neil', 'Ken' and 'Jill'. Then there are titles: 'Rev', 'Mrs', 'Fr', 'Father', 'Vicar' and 'Reverend' (*spelt thus, so probably searched for in vain!*). Some people are persistent searchers. 'Esster' is followed by 'ester', 'Easters' and finally by 'Easter' (*success at last!*). 'CartoonChurch' leads to 'Caburycartoon' and eventually to 'Cadbury' (*search me! ed.*). Intriguingly, 'bearstead' gives way to 'Bearstead' and then to 'breasted' (*best not to ask...*).

Spelling variations crop up quite often. Whoever searched for 'diaray' twice clearly went away unsatisfied, as did whoever looked for 'picutres', unless they had more luck with the nearby search for 'jpg' (ask any computer-literate person). There was a frustrated enquiry for 'servcies', but presumably better luck with 'timesofservice'. Someone sought references to 'cubs', 'beavers' and 'servers'. There was an enquiry for 'ArthurDooley'. Someone else looked for 'Beamish' (actually that may have been me, trying to find the words of that marvellous song about 'Mrs Beamish', come to think of it).

It is interesting to speculate about the search for 'wise' swiftly followed by a search for 'men'. There have been several people each month looking for information under 'hall' and 'hire'. They may well also have been the enquirers after 'alcoholic'...

Finally, there have been quite a few wanting to find references to that new dance craze. They tried 'zumba', 'zumb' and finally 'ZUMBA'... Although folk practise this activity in our hall, or so I believe, there are no references to it on the website. Maybe they had more luck with Google Search (24,600,000 online references in case you're interested...)

## Chris Price

### *100 Club winners April*

1	82	John Crooke	3	31	Anne Holland
2	92	Martin Jones	4	15	Dave Jones



**Thursday 14th July 2011 at Loyola Hall – 10am to 4pm**

## ***Re-enchantment, Empowerment & Meaning***

**- Understanding the spiritual quest**

**A day organised by the Diocesan Spirituality Contact Group, led by Revd. Simon Small**, based in Glastonbury, author of *From the Bottom of the Pond*, and who leads seminars, retreats, and training sessions for clergy, lay and chaplains. He works now in the field of spirituality.

**He writes:** We live in the midst of great spiritual searching. There is a hunger to re-enchant daily life, to find personal fulfilment and discover true meaning. The extensive “mind/body/spirit” shelves of major book shops, academic research and casual conversation all support this claim. It is predominantly an individual quest, drawing from many sources. But its personal and private nature means that it is mostly hidden, and its scale underestimated. Where this phenomenon surfaces, it has been labelled in a variety of ways – e.g. “new age”; “contemporary spirituality”; “alternative spirituality”. It is a search that, for the most part, is by-passing the Church and poses vital questions.

**This day** will look at these issues and how can we as Christians, individually and as the wider church, respond to those seeking a spiritual life. There will be time for questions and discussions. The day is **open to all**. If you would like to come please book your place with Life Long Learning on 0151 705 2120. There is a small charge of £10 to cover the speakers costs and the room. Tea and coffee is provided, but please bring your own lunch.

## ***Out of the Mouths...***

*A selection of schoolchildren's writings*



- ☺ In wartime children who lived in big cities had to be evacuated because it was safer in the country.
- ☺ The total is when you add up all the numbers and a remainder is an animal that pulls Santa on his sleigh.
- ☺ Sometimes in the war they take prisoners and keep them as ostriches until the war is over. Some prisoners end up in concentration camps.
- ☺ I would like to be an accountant but you have to know a lot about moths.
- ☺ The closest town to France is Dover. You can get to France on a train or you can go on a fairy.
- ☺ If it is less than 90 degrees it is a cute angel.
- ☺ Helicopters are cleverer than planes. Not only can they fly through the air but they can hover.

- ☺ Crabs and creatures like them all belong to a family of crushed asians.
- ☺ In geography we learned that countries with sea round them are islands and ones without seas are incontinents.
- ☺ If you marry two people you are a pigamist, but morons are allowed to do this.
- ☺ In last year's Christmas concert, Linzi played the main prat. I played one of the smaller prats.
- ☺ A mosque is a sort of church. The main difference is that its roof is doomed.
- ☺ I asked my mum why we said old men at the end of prayers at skool, I don't know any old men apart from grandpa.

*Internet circulation... so they must be genuine. Ed.*

## 50 Years of Memories *[continued]*



**Fr Dennis**

In the early 1960s one of the most welcoming and friendly of faces at St. Faith's belonged to the Verger, Jim Burgess. Jim had been employed at the church for several decades and once told me that he had never spent a single night out of Crosby in his entire life! He put in a full working week looking after church and hall and would never be too busy or preoccupied to put down his mop or brush and chat to those of us in the Sunday School or uniformed organisations. He had an avuncular and caring manner and we delighted in engaging him in conversation and listening to his stories. He would cycle to church from his home in York Road and when officiating at the three Sunday services, would occupy the Verger's seat on the back row and be attired in the customary black gown. I never saw him wear the ceremonial white gloves that I recall the Verger of St. Bartholomew's, Brighton wearing as he led the donkey round that fine church one Palm Sunday in the late 1980's.

When Jim retired in the mid 1960's I was asked to take over a few of the "light duties" of the Verger's role and was paid ten shillings a week for putting out service books, changing the hymn board numbers, opening up the church for services and helping Martin Perks run the heating systems. Of blessed memory, Martin was one of St. Faith's "characters". He and his beloved wife, Maybell, had moved to Crosby following his retirement as a Grammar School Headmaster, somewhere in the Midlands. With particular concern for Maybell's well being in what would otherwise have been a cold church on winter Sunday mornings, Martin took on the role of ensuring that the ancient boiler system, the headquarters of which were centred in the cellar behind the sacristy, was working efficiently and reliably.

Now in his early seventies, Martin was a sidesman, PCC member and Parish Purse Recorder. He was forthright in expressing his opinions and was particularly annoyed if

on January 30th (by coincidence my birthday) the name of Charles, King and Martyr appeared in the sacristy service register (*he even crossed it out more than once! Ed.*). Martin sang in the Welsh Choral Union and on the occasions when he was singing in the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall he would give me a complimentary ticket so that I could accompany Maybell to the performance and look after her. With his engaging smile and wry sense of humour Martin served the church faithfully and died in 1982.

One of the truly great characters of St. Faith's in the 1960's and 70's was Archie Pattison. In earlier years Archie had worshipped at St. Thomas' Seaforth and often referred back to his time there, but upon taking over the pharmacy which was then on the corner of Queens Road and moving to live above the shop, he transferred his allegiance to St. Faith's. He had a big heart and was both kind and generous. Once his elderly mother went to be cared for at Sundene Lodge in Waterloo, Archie was living on his own and greatly enjoyed and appreciated being in the company of others. At church he was a sidesman and Sunday School teacher and at one stage, I was one of his pupils. In later years, having always had the thought of priesthood as a possibility in his mind, he opted for Reader training and, subsequently, was duly licensed to serve St. Faith's in that capacity.

Archie was one, the most senior, of the group at church who enjoyed an active social life that centred upon the Brooke Hotel where, after mass on Sundays, any number between six and twenty of us would meet to have a few drinks, share in discussion, laugh or groan at Geoff Holiday's jokes and plan any sporting fixtures or excursions for the days and weeks ahead. Archie was past joining in any football, cricket or tennis games that were arranged but he was always keen to join in the crown bowling which we played in one of the local parks.

Archie loved to drive up to Alnmouth on the Northumberland coast and stay at the beautifully situated Franciscan Friary overlooking the sea. Some years after his death I paid my first visit to the place and realised why it had given him such pleasure. Fell-walking in the Lake District or Snowdonia was something that a group of us enjoyed doing a few times a year. The black, military-style boots I wore for my first outing I borrowed from Archie, and not quite getting his instructions correct I rubbed the dubbin he gave me over my feet instead of the boots. On an unforgettable hike up Helvellyn Archie's face turned an unhealthy colour and it was left to John Rankin and me to get him back down the mountain to the cars. As Archie was one of the drivers, it was almost a case of drawing lots to determine who dared travel back to Crosby as one of his passengers!

Archie's preferred libation in the pubs we frequented was ginger-beer shandy. Puffing away with his pipe in one hand and a pint glass in the other he once managed to burn a hole in the first suit I ever bought. An abiding memory of this dear friend will be the beaming smile and the raised, demonstrative hand gesture which always accompanied his arrival at any meeting, and the delight on his face at seeing his friends.

# *May Devotions to the Blessed Virgin Mary*

Sunday 8th May at 6pm

## **Choral Evensong, Procession and Te Deum**

followed by cheese and wine!

## **Preacher: Fr. Craig Roters**

(St. Mary's, High Crompton, Shaw,  
Diocese of Manchester)



## *Stephen Hargreaves*

Those in church on Mothering Sunday will have been saddened to learn that on Easter Day, Stephen officially concludes his time with us after 12 years of being Assistant Organist. We congratulate him on his appointment as Organist of Walton Parish Church and after Evensong on Easter Day there will be a farewell drink to enable us to say a proper and formal farewell. During the past 12 years (and many years before he was officially appointed) Stephen has played a major part in the musical life of the parish. His professionalism and his skilled playing, as soloist and accompanist, have helped the choir move from strength to strength. During that time there have been many memorable performances, too many to list, and we were especially fortunate to have Stephen to take on the post of Acting Director of Music when Ged left some years ago.

We hope that Stephen will feel able to continue to use the organ to practise on, as he is only in the next street, and that from time to time we might welcome him back to play for special services. In the meantime, we thank God for all Stephen has contributed to the musical life of the parish and all that he has done to enable us to worship God in the beauty of holiness.

# St. Mary's Patronal Festival

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May at 7.30pm

*(The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth)*

## *Festal Eucharist*

*followed by cheese and wine*

*Celebrant and Preacher:*

**The Right Reverend Richard Blackburn,  
Bishop of Warrington**



# *The story of a trip of a lifetime to see the wonders of Africa*



**Last month we reached the Township of Waterloo – but what happened then? . . .**

We visited the various projects that the Waterloo Partnership has sponsored from a bakery to bridges, from wells to workshops; from latrines to libraries. Yes, I did say latrines.

One new school that we had funded two years ago and to whom we had promised a further extension this year had asked for cash to build latrines. It is only when you look round several schools, many with 600 or 700 pupils, that you realise that they have no running water, drains school libraries or even simple toilets. It was a statement of confidence in the Waterloo Partnership that the school had the courage to ask us for latrines, knowing that we would not let them down, with cash for another classroom block as well.

This changed our thinking a little. We realised that by relying on the Trustees in Sierra Leone to propose projects, they were generally only asking us for what they felt we could afford. They didn't want to appear greedy. They were not necessarily asking us for everything they needed. This important difference has resulted in a slightly different approach to writing the project proposals so that we have a better view of things. For instance we have funded a few wells, but we now realise that a well complete with pump and concrete surround is not enough. It is also necessary to fence around the top of the well to keep animals away and keep the area clean. The pump is seen as a community facility, but is kept locked for part of the day to preserve the water table. A neighbour is appointed by the community to hold the key, and the local health centre monitors the water quality. A well, pump and surrounding fence costs about £3,000.

Everywhere we went we met children. Young and old, they seemed to follow us, and as I suggested earlier, they fall into two categories – with and without school uniform. One of the best projects we sponsor is one that supports 40 orphans through their school life. We have a local volunteer who monitors the children weekly and makes sure that they are keeping up with their work, and she supplies them with uniform, books and a basic daily meal. We interviewed all these children and the appreciation that they showed was staggering – their self-confidence, personal attitude and the value they put on their education puts many UK children to shame, and visiting their schools and seeing them learning all about AIDS and family life, often by rote, with little or nothing in the way of school equipment, one can only marvel at the confidence and diligence of the teachers, and the keenness of the children to learn. To put a child through primary or secondary school costs less than £100 a year.

£5,000 builds a bridge. OK not exactly up to motorway standards, but a bridge that can carry not just pedestrians but also wheelbarrows, mopeds and 4x4s, in safety between their homes and their church or school. Several bridges were built by the British in times past – in 1850, many of them, and they have long since fallen into bad repair and are often replaced by planks of wood. It is high time that we rebuilt those bridges, and guess what? Without rather unnecessary planning committees it only takes 6 to 8 weeks to complete!

A few hundred pounds buys dozens of pairs of rubber boots, some spades, machetes, watering cans and some seeds: all that is needed to feed a family for a year and to provide an excess for sale to pay for other luxuries such as clothes and schooling. The Waterloo Partnership is currently supporting around 350 war widows who, given just a little help can raise their lifestyle and assume the basic dignity of feeding their families properly.

A similar sum supports a group of disabled people who rejoice in the wonderful name of the PHDA - Progressive Handicapped Disabled Association. Their positive attitude despite some appalling handicaps was beyond words. There are currently 28 people who are being taught trades that set them up for life. Welding metals, working in a blacksmiths forge, making clothes, they find an appropriate skill for any disability – and with no state hand-outs or even assistance they have to help themselves, and are making a great job of doing it.

What value can you place on one man who as a licensed mechanic could earn a reasonable living, but has decided to spend his time helping to give youngsters off the streets some of the skills he has learned? He teaches them to read and write (so they can read safety instructions and what's in the tin!). He teaches them car bodywork repairs and spraying. The more able he trains in engine maintenance and serious car repairs. We have helped buy him a new garage area and service pit, and will be providing money to build a schoolroom and stores so that he can do an even better job.

I mentioned the health problem earlier – the Sierra Leonean Government announced a year ago that healthcare for every child under 5 would be free. Two (predictable) things happened almost simultaneously: the number of mothers with young children presenting at clinics more than doubled, and shortly afterwards most drugs and equipment ran out. It should be noted here that the greatest single cause of death in Sierra Leone is to mother and child at childbirth. Remember also that 5% of women carry the AIDS virus; malaria, hepatitis, polio and similar disabling diseases are everywhere.

At the Waterloo Health Centre they had no rubber gloves, very few new and unused bandages, a maternity room that had almost no disinfectant or equipment, and no doctor and of course no running water. They have two excellent nurses who work under extreme pressure, but who are not, by UK standards, sufficiently trained to meet the demands that they face each day.

I am pleased to say that with the help of friends in the last few weeks we have sent out some emergency supplies, but sending significant quantities is very expensive and very difficult. We are currently seeking ways to send in regular supplies of what can only be considered essential materials.

We met a number of influential Sierra Leonean government members, including the President, Ministers for Health and Land, the Deputy Speaker of the House and the Ambassador to the United Kingdom.

All were impressive people who were very obviously committed to improving the lot of their people. Gone are the days of large-scale dishonesty or corruption. The President is popular with his people and seems to be doing his best, but with a national budget that relies nearly 70% on overseas aid his hands are tied by big business in foreign lands.

During the visits by the Waterloo Partnership to Waterloo, the impact that the children have had on us was amazing. The optimism and excitement in their eyes and the keenness of their learning has touched us all.

One of the best spin-offs from the Partnership is that we have established links between nearly a dozen schools in Sierra Leone and schools here in Sefton, and, sponsored by the British Council, teachers from these schools are now not only exchanging ideas and curricula, but actually visiting each other's schools. The impact on all the schools talking part is seen in project work and lessons in both continents as the children of today learn from each other.

So back to us and what we can do. We brought back project requests for over £30,000 but in a good year we raise only about £20,000. Like the rest of the UK, and much of the Western World, we are short of cash. But with the Waterloo Partnership I can honestly say that every penny is well spent, and with the effort, enthusiasm and initiative of the Sierra Leoneans every penny brings worth at least £1 worth of value.

The generosity of those that I have spoken to since my return has restored my faith in human nature, and although we can only ever hope to even scratch the surface of the problems in Sierra Leone, we can continue to make a difference.

If you want to help then please talk to any member of the Waterloo Partnership or visit our website [www.waterloopartnership.co.uk](http://www.waterloopartnership.co.uk). From there you can download more details about our projects and if you wish also a Gift Aid form to make a donation.

**Rick Walker** *Trustee of the Waterloo Partnership UK*

- *See more of Rick's pics at the end*

# No Songs of Praise for the Wee Frees



“A traditionalist church has become bitterly divided over the introduction of hymns for the first time in a century. Worshippers at the Free Church of Scotland have begun a campaign to overturn the decision, arguing that it amounts to ‘new gimmicks to fill church pews’.

The staunchly Presbyterian Church, nicknamed the Wee Frees, had hitherto allowed only the singing of unaccompanied psalms and had banned compositions ‘of merely human origin’. The 100-year old policy was narrowly overturned last November to attract new worshippers. Six of the Church’s former moderators have placed an advert in a newspaper covering its Highlands and Western Isles base attacking the ‘unbiblical, unconfessional and unconstitutional’ changes.”

*The Daily Telegraph, March 13th, 2011*

The editor has followed the fortunes of the dwindling band of extreme Protestants with interest over the years. It was one of their ministers who lay down on the slipway to protest against the docking of the first Sunday ferry .When one of their services was televised, it was ironically boycotted when it was thoughtlessly aired on a Sunday. Many bed and breakfast establishments would not accept bookings for Sundays, and some still don’t. And we recall bus-loads of stern Wee Frees on a Stornoway Sunday morning, the men in severe suits and the womenfolk in incongruously gay hats, en route to their chapels, and hearing the eerie sound of their psalms issuing forth. On that same island, under the stern influence of the elders of that church, they locked the public lavatories on the Lord’s Day. No relief for the wicked...

## God and the “leftovers” Fr. Neil



**Does God get 10% of your (disposable) income?** This is the commitment many Christians make in line with a Biblical understanding of tithing. You will not be surprised to learn that in churches where that is the case, financial problems seem to be very few or non-existent. One priest friend of mine the other day admitted that because he was in a relatively comfortable area (some might argue that we are too, relatively speaking) some people had too much money to be generous! Research shows that it is often the people who have little or nothing that are prepared to give sacrificially. That is nothing new. The parable of the widow's mite (Mark 12:41-44, Luke 21:1-4) illustrates that clearly. But the more comfortable we get in life the more we become accustomed to that comfort.

The Church, like the society that we are placed in, is set in challenging times. As a new PCC year begins I am aware that it has further difficult decisions to make. Last year one such decision was to terminate the contract of our Parish Administrator. With an admirable mix of common sense and prudence both PCCs took the brave decision to create a new post (Parish Office Manager) which would save us money but recognised the necessary work there is for someone to do.

In the past year we have seen our monthly commitment to the diocesan parish share rise from 0% to almost 75% of the amount required. At one level that result is absolutely brilliant. There is still much myth regarding the parish share and how it is calculated. If you are not certain what it is and how it works, visit the Diocesan website where you will find a full explanation of this.

Also, one of the challenges facing the new PCC will be to explore new ways of fund-raising. I know that there are many in our congregation who do give sacrificially. But there are also those who give the leftovers! Going on the documentary evidence that is both public and available it would seem that there are still **some 20% of the congregation who do not commit anything at all**, either by standing order or parish purse. Given that the average loose plate collection is generally only a few pounds that makes an average of less than a pound from some people on the plate. Is God really worth that little?

When I was a curate in Chiswick we had a stewardship committee. And each year, without fail, members of the PCC and stewardship committee (including the clergy!) visited everyone on the electoral roll in their homes to talk with them about church finances, present all the relevant information and encourage, where possible, an increase in giving. Each year, without fail, there was an increase as a result. What also emerged (not surprisingly) was that, despite figures given from the pulpit, in AGM minutes, magazine articles and presentations at PCC, many people were still in ignorance as to the amount required to run the parish. I would like next year's PCC to consider undertaking the same exercise of visiting everyone in their homes. Of course, an annual review works both ways: people may find that they in fact need to decrease their giving according to circumstances. But that's why an annual review is necessary – it's what we do in our own homes, is it not?

## What % of your (disposable) income does God receive?

Your new PCC does indeed have a challenging task ahead of it. Please pray for your PCC members as they seek to rise to this challenge.

*Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,  
the glory, the splendour, and the majesty:  
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.  
Yours, Lord, is the kingdom:  
and you are exalted as head over all.  
Alleluia, Alleluia. Amen.*

*cf 1 Chronicles 29.11*

## *Funny you should say that....*

An organist worked in various different churches filling in when the regular organist was away. At one funeral the family of the deceased provided him with a list of the hymns they had chosen, but left the incidental music to his discretion. Among the pieces he chose was Bach's 'Sheep may safely graze'.

After the service the officiating clergyman first complimented the organist on his playing, then asked whether he was aware of the former occupation of the deceased.

"No, I'm afraid not," the organist replied.

"He was the village butcher," said the minister.



## *Gift Aid Changes*

Reforms were announced in the Budget to encourage more charitable giving. The Chancellor promised to "bring [Gift Aid] into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" by cutting bureaucracy to encourage donations by companies and individuals. The current system of complex red tape will be slashed, allowing charities (such as St Faith's) to claim Gift Aid on up to £5,000 of small donations a year – typically given in collection tins and buckets – without the need for declarations. Building on the recommendations in the "Giving" Green Paper published last December, the Chancellor promised to reduce bureaucracy for charities overall by introducing a new system of online filing, which will modernise the Gift Aid scheme.

Individuals will also be encouraged to leave 10% of their money through their wills to charity in exchange for an equal reduction in inheritance tax. The Chief Executive of the Charities Aid Foundation said: “The commitment to bring Gift Aid into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century will revolutionise this important tax relief and go a long way towards reducing the £750m that goes unclaimed each year”.

On 5 April 2011, the amount of Gift Aid that St Faith’s can reclaim on a donation fell from 28% to 25% - this is as a result of the change in the basic rate of income tax in April 2008 and the end of the three-year transitional relief.

At present, a donation of £100 from an individual taxpayer to St Faith’s is worth £128.21 after Gift Aid, including transitional relief. As from 6 April, a donation of £100 will only be worth £125.

We hope that all those in the planned giving scheme (envelopes or standing orders) will review their giving if we are to maintain our present level of income.

Further information about Gift Aid may be found on the Diocesan or the HMRC websites. Thank you for your support of this important scheme.

**David Jones**

*Treasurer*



## *Food for the Journey*

*A very small but extremely faithful group from St. Faith’s and St. Mary’s attended this year’s Food for the Journey at Liverpool Cathedral, which was led by Canon Jules Gomes. The following reflection will give you who missed it a taste of what you missed! But it might hopefully encourage you to think about attending next year’s.*

I found the freedom within the structure so life-giving, what a blessing it was for me to come on the Friday (a last minute freedom to do so) and to share in the Eucharist at the High Altar. The Cathedral has played such an important part in my life, I have always lived within sight of it, my father was a Mersey Pilot, so we had to be near the river even though we were on the Wirral side and even now can see it from Neston.

The talks were brilliant and thought-provoking and the Dean's sense of humour a delight, the Morning Prayer with the story of the desert in slides will also remain with me. It all spoke to me in a deep way and I realise it was thanks to such freedom to go at one's own pace in the time of Space on Saturday morning that after a lovely cappuccino, a visit to the shop, a solitary walk around just absorbing the stillness, I

found myself in the Chapter House sitting, as Ann Lewin says in her poem, waiting as for the kingfisher, which in turn led me to the Chapel of the Holy Spirit.

So a huge thank you from me, for all the preparation that must have gone in to making the retreat what it was, a grace and a blessing.

Gillian Barber

## *Men's Fellowship Breakfast & Work-In*

What better date in the Christian Calendar for a “work-in” than Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> March, the Feast Day of St. Joseph the husband of Mary? Although not exactly the feast of St. Joseph the Worker, which is celebrated on May 1<sup>st</sup>, it seemed appropriate for the buzz of activity that took place in and around St. Faith's Church and Hall on that day.

For the people involved the morning began with a full (very full) English breakfast in the hall – provided as ever by those stalwarts, Ruth, Christine and her friend Liz. After that, sixteen or so of the Men's Fellowship (plus a visiting spouse!) and Fr. Neil set to on outstanding heavy tasks needed in Church, Hall and gardens.

And so, on this Saturday doors were painted, graffiti removed, efflorescence treated, heavy and overgrown foliage hanging over the main path was cut away, paving stones and breeze block cut and mortared to provide proper protection for exposed gas pipes at the front of the Hall – a whole range of jobs was done.

Many thanks to all those who supplied tools and equipment. Sometime soon (after the walk to Hightown) we look forward to the next cooked breakfast - at St. Mary's (and, of course, the work-in..!)

Bill Tudhope



*Steve Holt*

As many of you will know, Steve is to be ordained in the summer. His ordination takes place on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July at 5pm in the Minster Church of St. James, Grimsby. **All from St. Faith's and St. Mary's are very welcome.** If you would like to come, please let Fr. Neil know so that he can pass on numbers. Already a few people have expressed an interest so there may be the opportunity of sharing cars and offering lifts if people would like to go but do not have transport.

# Parish Directory and Church Organisations



## **VICAR**

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

## **ASSISTANT PRIESTS**

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

## **READERS**

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

## **CHURCH WARDENS**

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

## **DEPUTY CHURCH WARDENS**

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

## **TREASURER**

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

## **PCC SECRETARY**

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

## **PARISH OFFICE MANAGER**

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

## **GIFT AID SECRETARY**

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

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

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

## **BAPTISM BOOKINGS**

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

## **DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**

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

## **SACRISTAN**

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

## **ASSISTANT SACRISTAN**

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

## **SENIOR SERVER**

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

## **CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

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

## **CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER**

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

## **CHURCH CENTRE**

1, Warren Court, Warren Road, Blundellsands

## **UNITED BENEFICE MEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

James Roderick 0141 474 6162

## **CUB SCOUTS**

Tuesday 6.30 - 7.45 pm. Adam Jones 07841 125589

Thursday 6.30 - 7.45 pm. Mike Carr 293 3416

## **SCOUTS**

Tuesday 8.00 - 9.30 pm. George McInnes 924 3624

## **RAINBOWS**

Monday 4.45 - 5.45 pm. Geraldine Forshaw 928 5204

## **BROWNIE GUIDES**

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

## **CHOIR PRACTICE**

Friday 7.15 pm - 8.30 pm. Sam Austin 07921 840616

## **MAGAZINE EDITOR and WEBSITE MANAGER**

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

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The **June 2011 'Newslink'** will be distributed on or before **Sunday, May 22nd**  
(*or possibly somewhat later: editorial holidays!*)

Copy by **Sunday, May 8th**, please - but all contributions are welcome at any time.

**Church website:** <http://www.sfaithsgreatcrosby.org.uk> (and access online edition)

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





**Downtown Sierra Leone**

**Sierra Leone Picture Gallery**  
Rick Walker's photographs to accompany the  
final instalment of his report



**The Sewing Room**



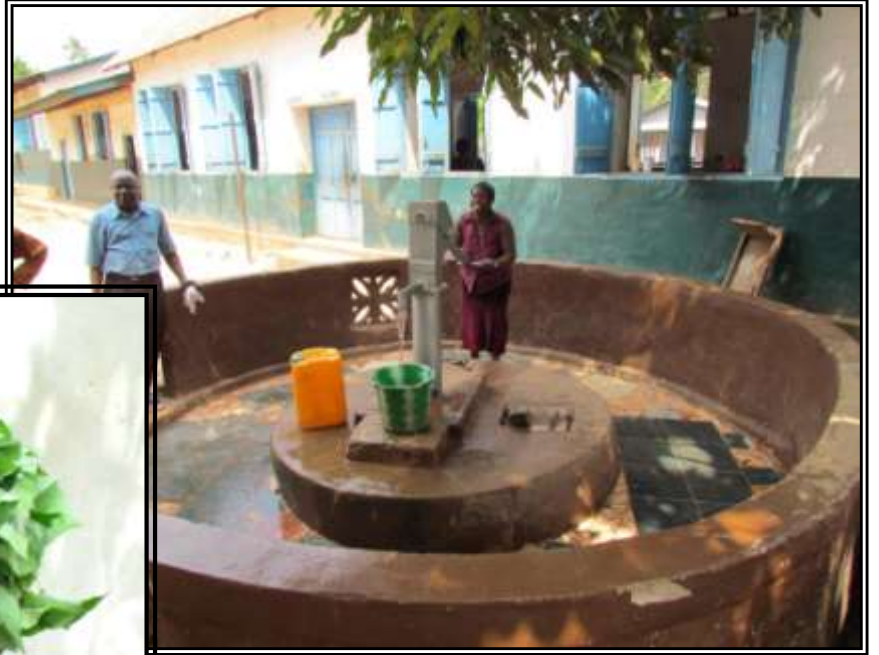
**Women Farmers**



**David Lloyd outside Waterloo Health Centre**



**Blacksmith's Forge**



**Clean Water**



**Carrier Bags  
not provided!**



**Hope for the Future**



**Setting a Trend?**