

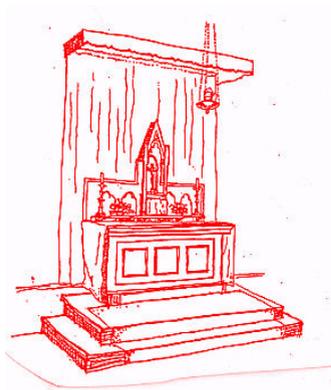


# *Newslink*

St Faith's Church, Great Crosby

October 2009

# Worship at Saint Faith's



## SUNDAYS

10.30am Morning Prayer

**11.00am SUNG EUCHARIST and Children's Church**

1.00pm Holy Baptism (2nd Sunday)

7.00pm Compline and Benediction (1st Sunday)

## WEEKDAY SERVICES

Monday 1030am

Holy Eucharist

Tuesday 9.30am

Holy Eucharist

Wednesday 10.30am

Holy Eucharist in St. Mary's

Friday 6.30pm

Holy Eucharist

Saturday 12 noon

Midday Prayer

## SACRAMENT OF PENANCE AND RECONCILIATION

Father Neil is 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.

## HOLY COMMUNION to the sick and housebound and those in hospital

If you, or someone you know, would like a visit from a member of the Church, please contact the Vicarage to arrange this. The Eucharistic Ministers are always happy to bring Holy Communion to the sick and housebound. If you are unable to get to church and would like to receive Holy Communion at home please contact Joyce Green (931 4240). If you or someone you know would like to be visited in hospital please let Fr Neil know. Fr Neil will normally try to take Thursday as his day off.



# From the Ministry Team October 2009

*Dear friends,*

## What, no Vicar...?

Despite the fact that clergy are supposed (or encouraged I should say) to take a period of study leave every seven years or so (hence the name sabbatical) many clergy avoid this and many parishioners think that if they take a sabbatical it is an extended holiday. Chance would be a fine thing! I don't know how many of you spend your holidays getting up at 6am to attend services, spend the morning attending lectures and the afternoon studying? I certainly don't do that on holiday and if I'm honest I wasn't all that good at doing it when I entered Theological College in 1988. So some 18 years after ordination a period of study leave or sabbatical is long overdue.

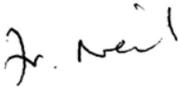
Many of you will know from what I have said and written earlier in the year that for most of the time I will be based at the College of the Resurrection at Mirfield. I am looking forward to it very much as I know that such a period of time away will be invaluable as I look to the priorities of my future ministry in the United Benefice under God's guidance. It will also be an interesting time to be at Mirfield as the Community of the Resurrection (CR) is having to face a challenging future – elsewhere in this edition I have reproduced something from their website outlining their plans and vision. [Parish Churches aren't the only places of worship needing to face the future honestly!] We at Saint Faith's have benefitted very much from the CR having had curates trained at Mirfield; there have been trips to Mirfield, the Ministry Team has used it for an away-day and of course we welcomed Fr Aidan in 2007 to lead Holy Week for us and in 2008 he led a quiet day in Formby for us also.

Anyhow, returning to the sabbatical for a moment! People will obviously wonder about practicalities during this period and in my absence the first point of call will be The Reverend Denise McDougall. As the priest holding the Bishop of Liverpool's license as NSM in the United Benefice, Reverend Denise (as she will be known) will effectively take charge of things, supported a great deal by the Ministry Team. Home

Communions, pastoral visits, hospital visiting, baptisms, funerals, daily services.... all of these will continue. Reverend Denise and the Parish Administrator, Liz Mooney, will have a regular weekly meeting together with a warden from each church to 'touch base' and keep on top of any issues. The Ministry Team will continue its monthly meetings. Very little will change. Callers to the Vicarage will be diverted to the Parish Office and when the office is not staffed, the telephones will be diverted to a member of the Ministry Team so there is a human point of contact as much as possible. So life will continue as normal and it is important that people realise that.

I would be very grateful for your prayers during this period when I shall be both away from the place in which my ministry is based, and away from my home for such an extended period. And I ask you please to remember Reverend Denise and the Ministry Team in your prayers as they assume greater responsibilities during this time.

With my love and prayers



**P.S.**

*You will remember that in 2006 we hosted a concert for the 'Walsingham Appeal' attended by His Grace the Archbishop of York. Those going on pilgrimage to Walsingham this month will be able to view for themselves the 'new look' accommodation and facilities. I was honoured to be invited to represent St. Faith's at the Opening of the new Milner Wing by His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh on Thursday 8th October, although with my sabbatical time so close it wasn't possible, sadly, to accept the invitation. It is however nice that we were remembered and I have assured the Master and Guardians of our prayers.*



***As we bid a temporary farewell to Fr Neil, we wish him every blessing for his long-postponed sabbatical and assure him of our prayers in the months ahead.***

# "Focus"

Sharing our faith together

As you will have read in last month's *Newslink*, each of these meetings will focus on one particular word; and following on from refreshments as people gather, there will be a short introduction from a member of the Ministry Team and after the discussion there will be a simple act of worship to conclude.

Each evening will take place in the Annexe of St. Mary' Hall starting at 7.30pm and finishing at 9pm.

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October      "DYING"  
Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November    "REMEMBRANCE"  
Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November    "WAITING"



## Fred Nye

*Fr. Neil writes:*

I am delighted that Fred has been effectively 'discharged' after his last operation and is now able to 'report back for duty' in the Ministry Team. The past months have not been an easy time for Fred, Linda and their family, and I ask you please to continue to hold them in your prayers. However, I am delighted that we are welcoming Fred back to the pulpit and the many other places his ministry takes him in our two churches!

## Money, Money, Money!

The church, both locally and nationally, is facing significant challenges in terms of generating income. The current economic situation has made matters worse and has placed pressure on all aspects of church life. People on fixed incomes, the huge rise in the cost of utilities and lower returns on investment income have all had an effect.

At Saint Faith's we are facing challenges like everyone else. In 2009, the majority of our Parish Share (formerly known as the "quota") which is set at £41,971 for the current year, remains unpaid and is a concern. It takes a lot of hard work and commitment to find nearly £3,500 every month – and that's before we pay for anything else like utilities (gas, electricity, telephone, water), insurance and all the other costs of running the church.

So, what exactly is the “Parish Share”? All churches pay a sum of money to their respective diocese and by far the largest cost met by the Diocese on the parishes’ behalf is the cost of parish clergy and housing. There is also a contribution paid to the national church – a large part of which is spent on training clergy. The other element is the cost of running the services in the Diocese itself, including money spent on ministries that support parishes such as youth work, children’s services, stewardship and communications.

The 2009 Parish Share in Liverpool is based on two factors:

- The average Sunday attendance figures over the past three years, and
- The socio-economic conditions of the parish.

From the twelve churches in the Bootle Deanery, the Diocese expects to receive £182,588 in Parish Share in 2009. It is also worth noting that none of the Parish Share is spent on the diocesan administration at St James’s House. It should also be pointed out that Parish Share is not reduced in the event of a vacancy or pastoral re-organization.

What are we doing to address the issue? A sub-committee of the Finance Committee has been established with the specific brief to generate income. One meeting has been held already and a number of ideas have been put forward and are being implemented:

- A Talents Scheme – this was last operated in the 1980s and was very successful. An explanatory leaflet has been distributed to the congregation and the scheme will be launched officially in early October. Chris Pirce explains the scheme in the next article in this issue;
- A “Safari Supper” in January; Rosie Walker flags up this event elsewhere in this issue;
- A Christmas Tree Festival, encouraging support for local businesses and charities;
- Film nights; and
- A drop-in ‘School Run’ Club.

Fr Neil has been talking to the business community locally about the possibilities of sponsorship for various events and this has already borne fruit in that we have received donations for printing.

I have reported separately later in this issue on the great success of the Saturday Recitals. Apart from the income, they are a really enjoyable of spending a couple of hours on a Saturday catching up with old friends and making new ones. The blue Gift Aid envelopes are now widely used and so we recover tax as well from donations.

We will keep you updated with these initiatives through *Newslink* but we are always happy to welcome other people to join us, particularly if you have experience in fundraising, event management, sponsorship or income generation. If you can help in any way, please contact either Chris Price, Maureen Madden or me.

The Finance Committee will also be re-visiting the issue of planned giving and seeking more people to commit on a regular basis through either the weekly parish envelopes or a monthly standing order. If you want details of our planned giving scheme, please ask me.

If you pay tax, are you giving through our Gift Aid scheme? In 2008, we recovered over **£11,500** from the Inland Revenue in tax. We recover 28p for every £1 you give, so it is extremely worthwhile. If you give through the weekly envelopes or a standing order already and don't yet Gift Aid your giving, please ask for a form – it's a one-off signature required and we do the rest.

Thank you for all your support. These are challenging times but we are approaching the issue seriously and urgently. And we expect to have some fun along the way!

**David Jones**

Treasurer



## **Talking Talents**

**Cashing in on your skills and abilities to help St Faith's**

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**In order to put our church's finances on a better footing for the future, we have revived a money-making scheme which we last operated here in the 1980s. Here's how it works.**

### **➤ OFFERING YOUR TALENTS**

We are looking for as many people as possible to offer their talents to the congregation in as many ways as possible. You can make and sell things, organise events or provide practical services which make use of your skills and abilities. Over the page you can read a list of possible things which you might offer – but please feel free to suggest new ideas. You attract 'customers' from members of the congregation, your family or friends, take their money, keep back any expenses you want to claim and pay the rest to

church. It is entirely up to you what you offer to do, how you do it and how much you charge. The underlying idea is to provide goods and services that people want or need - or would like to try - do it for a fair price, and channel the money to the church.

## ➤ USING WHAT'S ON OFFER

Of course, we don't expect everyone to offer their talents in this way. You can help the scheme just as much by paying for goods and services as by providing them – without customers the idea won't get off the ground! And you are **not** being asked to make donations, or to pay for something you don't need or wouldn't normally use or buy. The idea is to divert to the church some of what you would spend anyway, by making use of some of the home-grown talents and services – and probably getting better value in the process, as well as having the satisfaction of helping the church into the bargain.

## ➤ GETTING THE SCHEME GOING

Provided there are enough people offering their talents (and at the time of going to press we have already had an encouraging number of offers), we will publish a full list of everything that is on offer, with prices and contact details. Customers then choose anything they would like to buy or use and get in touch with the provider. As well as individual arrangements like this, there will be some talents Mini-Markets where goods will be on sale and services and events advertised. We will launch the scheme at our Patronal Festival in early October. The scheme will run throughout the autumn and winter and well into next year – and maybe beyond.

## ➤ WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

If you would like to offer your talents, or have any questions, please let **Chris Price** or **Maureen Madden** know as soon as you can. Offers from individuals, families and organisations are all equally welcome. We need a fair number of offers to get started, but you can join in at any time over the months ahead, depending on what you have to offer and the time you have available. Have a look at the list, which is based on what was on offer in the previous very successful Talents Scheme – and feel free to ask for more information. There will be regular bulletins and announcements in church, here in *Newslink* and on the church website.

We are confident that the scheme can work, that it will make money (more than £6,000 last time!) and that it will be rewarding in every sense to operate. We all have talents, given to us to use and not to lie buried. Please help us to cash in on those talents now!

## ➤ THE IDEAS LIST

*Here are some of the ways the people of St Faith's used their talents last time – together with some new ideas. Please feel free to suggest others...*

Making jam, pickles and preserves  
(the Jam Factory is already in full operation!)  
Printing headed notepaper and tickets etc (watch this space!)  
Painting and decorating  
Dog walking or pet sitting  
Massages and 'pampering'  
Lifts to church or to the shops  
Airport and railway station taxi runs  
– or taking things to the tip!  
Cookery classes  
Bed and breakfast  
House sitting  
Baby sitting  
Cake making and baking  
Doing shopping for people  
Gardening or rubbish cleaning  
House cleaning, ironing, sewing and mending  
Car washing and valeting  
Help with computers  
Hosting dinner parties – or tea parties  
Singing (last time we had 'operagrams'!)  
Coffee mornings  
Music making (individuals, groups, concerts)  
Cooking for people  
Flower arranging  
Making wills  
Making garden furniture  
Knitting things!

## ➤ THE TALENTS HAND-OUT!

On **Sunday October 11<sup>th</sup>**, at the **10.30 am** service, those who have signed up to help will be commissioned at the service – and given their Talents – real money to act as a starter. **Then you go forth and multiply!**

## ➤ THE TALENTS POEM!

The church finance committee was formulating ways  
Whereby the church might keep afloat in dark financial days.  
For many thousand pounds we need to keep us up to par:  
In dread we faced the prospect of another church bazaar.  
Then, lo! one spake and suddenly a cunning scheme suggested  
Wherein the skills of one and all might safely be invested.  
And thus was born and brought to life a great and mighty plan:  
That very day 'twas voted in - the Talents Scheme began.  
Now folks are making marmalade, and others making wills,  
Or printing things, or mending things, and ringing up the tills  
With washing cars and knitting toys and offering B and B,  
Or typing things or walking pets or having folks to tea.  
Folk offered talents, pledging they would not inactive lie,  
But grow, expand, increase, add up, go forth and multiply.  
So some clean cars and some make cakes and others teddy bears,  
Sing operagrams, plan busking shows or make and sell their wares  
At Talents Mini-Markets, where goods are on display  
For the rest of us to do our bit by buying what we may.  
For all can help and all *must* help in this our hour of need,  
That we may reach our target and the Talents Scheme succeed.  
So forward one, and forward all, support all those who strive  
By giving skills and services to keep St Faith's alive.  
Our soaring bills and quota costs have left things in the balance;  
We'll tip the scales and square our books by cashing in our Talents!

*(Chris Price: 1984, revised 2009!)*

# Patronal Festival 2009

*“All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above...”*

**Sunday 4th October - HARVEST THANKSGIVING**

11.00 am      Family Eucharist and Parade Service  
6.00 pm      Harvest “Songs of Praise” in St. Mary’s,  
                  *followed by Harvest Buffet Supper*



*“For all the saints, who from their labours rest...”*

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October - S. FAITH’S DAY**

**8.00 pm PROCESSION AND HIGH MASS**

Mass setting: The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace - Karl Jenkins

Preacher: The Very Revd. Justin Welby, Dean of Liverpool  
*followed by buffet supper*

*“Loud organs his glory forth tell in sweet tone...”*

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October “CELEBRITY ORGAN RECITAL”**

7.30 pm David Poulter

(Director of Music, Liverpool Anglican Cathedral)

**ONLINE STOP PRESS! Due to the recent serious problem with the organ blower, we very much regret that this concert has had to be postponed.**

*“We love the house O Lord, wherein thine honour dwells...”*

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October - DEDICATION FESTIVAL**

10.30 am Joint Festival Eucharist (no service at SM)  
with commissioning of Talents Scheme fundraisers

Preacher: Revd Liz Halbert

6.00 pm Festal Evensong, Procession and Te Deum



## Magazine Matters

We currently print some 350 copies of *Newslink*, of which about 100 are sent out by post free of charge. As most readers will be aware (and some may have experienced) the whole of each issue (text and pictures) is reproduced on the church website month by month. Past issues (going back in fact to 1994) are archived online and may be accessed at any time.

For some months now, this has meant that all the photographs in each and every issue are online in colour, even when they are printed in the ‘hard copy’ magazine in (cheaper!) black and white. And of course the digital reproduction online is superior to that in print, due to the limitations of printing processes. Furthermore, we are considering printing from time to time extra pages of photos old and new as a ‘colour supplement’ to the online version.

We are now inviting readers – especially postal readers - to consider using the website version to read the magazine month by month, thereby saving us the postage, as well as making possible a reduction in the print run. Needless to say, we will always be happy to continue to post magazines to those who prefer the ‘real thing’, like to keep back numbers, or simply don’t want to go down the online road.

If you are happy to stop receiving a paper copy (whether by post or from your parish distributor) please let Chris Price know by word of mouth or email.

## **Finding the Time**

I knelt to pray but not for long: I had too much to do.  
I had to hurry and get to work for bills would soon be due.  
So I knelt and said a hurried prayer, and jumped up off my knees.  
My Christian duty now was done, my soul could rest at ease...  
All day long I had no time to spread a word of cheer,  
No time to speak of Christ to friends – they’d laugh at me, I fear.  
No time, no time, too much to do, that was my constant cry;  
No time to give to souls in need... but at last the time to die.  
I went before the Lord, I came, I stood with downcast eyes,  
For in his hands God held a book: it was the book of life.  
God looked into his book and said: ‘Your name I cannot find.  
I once was going to write it down... but never found the time.’

*Anon. From the magazine of St John the Baptist, Great Meols*

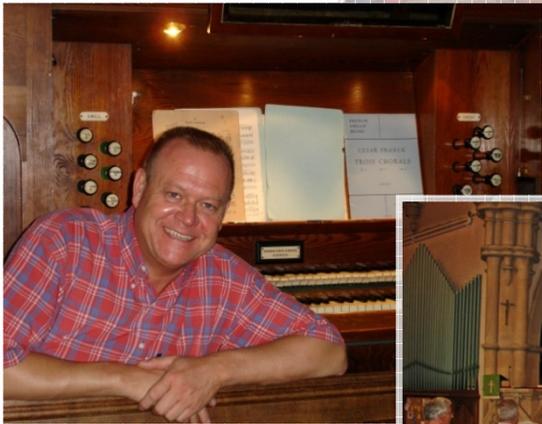
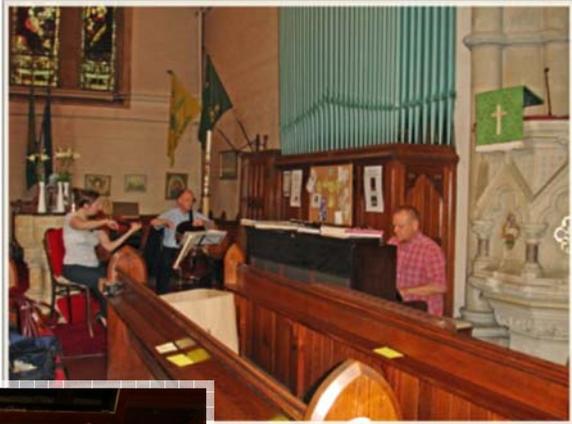


## **To die for...?**

**Chris Price**

Once upon a time, when I was a callow youth, I was fashionably anti-militarist. There were two main reasons for this stance. At the tender age of 18, I was one of the last to be drafted for National Service, before going up to University. After square bashing, I spent two years in Germany as an RAF radar operator, and had an interesting time monitoring planes as they flew along the air corridors to beleaguered Berlin. With the passing of the years, the memories of two European years are fairly mellow, and the maturing process was certainly useful. I cruised the Rhine, explored Westphalia and

'Seated  
One Day  
at the  
Organ...!'



For 24 non-stop  
hours in August Fr  
Neil made music at  
Saint Mary's to raise  
money for the United  
Benefice. His sterling  
efforts raised well  
over £2,000.



**Holy Smoke!**  
There were just a few fine  
weekends in that  
'barbecue summer'  
promised by the  
forecasters for 2009...



... and one Sunday  
afternoon in August saw  
the sun shine down on the  
happy hordes of sausage  
scuffers at the United  
Benefice barbecue in the  
sylvan setting of the  
vicarage garden.

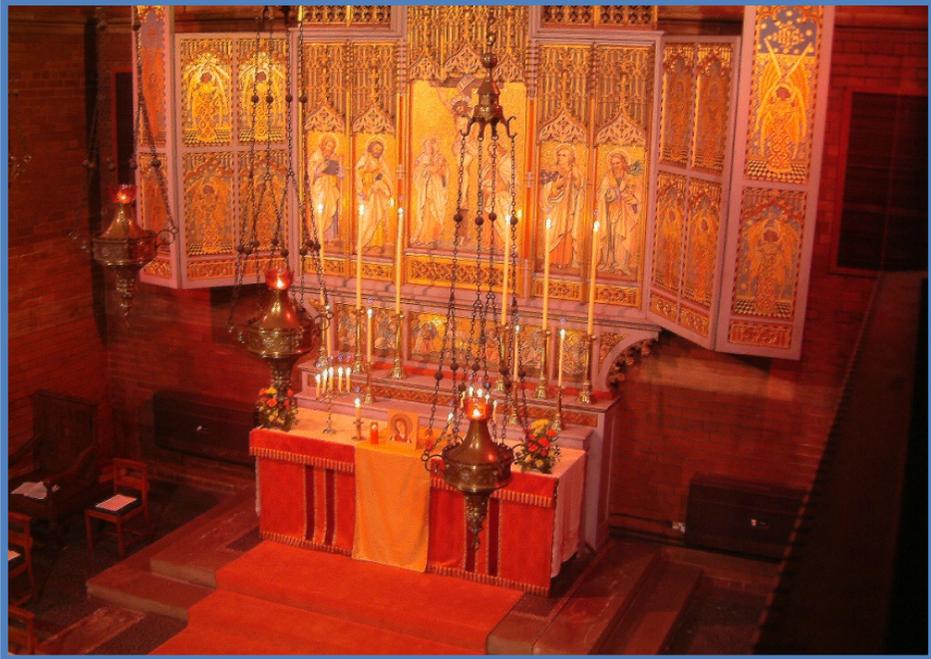




Welcome back,  
Denise!



On Sunday, September 13th, The Revd Denise McDougall joined the Ministry Team of the United Benefice. These archive pictures show her at Christ Church in 2002 and a year later celebrating her priesting in St Faith's Hall.



Patronal Pageantry  
Here and on the cover: images of St Faith's Days past and present and of our patron saint



underwent a Conversion Experience on a Moral Leadership Course (no laughter please) which started me on the Christian trail which led to St Faith's. But the military side of things was far from appealing: we were comically ill-equipped, the administration and organisation were chaotic and the underlying philosophy distasteful. As the Cold War threatened to heat up, the possibility of dying for one's country became real, even if the level of our training and the standard of our equipment made us more of a threat to our comrades than a gallant line of defence against the Red Peril. SAC 2771142 Price was therefore vastly relieved to get out after two years ('I am not a number, I am a free man!') and indulge in the fleshpots of Oxford.

So, when I started teaching across the road in the swinging sixties, I was deeply suspicious of all 'warmongers' and soon developed a fervent dislike of the school cadet force: the CCF. Everyone had to belong, and I and fellow brave antiestablishmentarian young teachers called it the Completely Compulsory Force, doing all we could to undermine it and preach against its philosophy. In an early edition of the unofficial school literary magazine which I founded (in the room where all our church printing is still done) I printed a cartoon showing cadets standing guard over the foundations of the new school hall, and daringly captioned it: 'At last, something useful for us to do'. It was duly censored, copies were recalled and pulped, and thenceforth our rebellion had to be expressed by such boldly subversive activities as sporting jazzy ties, wearing cool sports jackets instead of suits, and calling boys by their Christian names.

But now, nearly fifty years on, I surprise myself solemnly watching military tattoos and Remembrance Day parades and being deeply moved as the folk of Wootton Bassett and, increasingly, elsewhere, stand in reverent silence to honour the young soldiers brought through their streets to their final resting place. Looking back at this apparent volte face, I can see more than one influence at work in converting an angry young(ish) pacifist into military establishment man.

The first and most important thing to say is that perspectives almost always change with time. It is natural and right for the young to challenge and question established ideas and put them to the test. It is almost as natural for a lifetime of experience to bring about a re-evaluation of principles and the seeing of things in a new light. While much of what I was exposed to all those years ago was crudely and simplistically proclaimed, and thus more likely to antagonise than to recruit sympathy, I guess I secretly knew then what I certainly happily acknowledge now: without armed conflict the freedom I enjoyed to protest would long ago have been trampled under jackbooted feet. Just because a cause is unattractively peddled it does not mean that it is unworthy of serious consideration. Armies have fought and men have died in their countless thousands to preserve and foster democratic freedom. The alternatives are anarchy or dictatorship and the world of Orwell's '1984'.

Of course this doesn't mean that all war is good or justified. There are continuous and necessary debates about recent and ongoing conflicts. I believe that we have to wage the war against terrorists (no, not against *terror*: as many have pointed out, you can't

fight an abstract noun) – and I still more or less believe that the Iraq war was a necessary evil whose eventual consequences will be seen as the lesser of a number of greater evils. On the other hand, there have been, and doubtless still are, unnecessary and deplorable conflicts, often waged in the name of freedom, which should not have taken place. I am still aware of the uncomfortable symbolism of military chaplains on opposite sides calling down God's blessing on their respective soldiers before they go out and slaughter one another. The price of freedom is eternal vigilance, and the jury will inevitably still be out. The debate must continue, but there will in my reconstructed opinion always, sadly, be times when the waging of war becomes a painful necessity and the only alternative, and with it will still come the tragedy of the loss of young lives.

And this is where I stand today: alongside the silent witness of the townsfolk lining the roads as the funeral corteges pass through. Joining the respectful applause as communities welcome home returning regiments. Recognising what I once could not: that there is such a thing as a just war. And finally, and most important of all, praying that the day may soon come when the peace of God prevails and swords will at last be beaten into ploughshares.

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## **Preparation for Holy Week 2010**

*24th-28th March, at St Chad's College, Durham*

Four days, including Palm Sunday, based in the heart of Durham at St Chad's College (our patrons at St Faith's). Includes a pilgrimage to Lindisfarne and plenty of time to explore the meaning of the cross in view of the great Celtic crosses which adorned the countryside centuries ago. Worship in Durham Cathedral on Palm Sunday morning. Led by writer and broadcaster Revd Rob Marshall. Only £269 inclusive. 01482 562455 for a brochure.



## **Retreat to Iona**

*(19th-24th April) on Iona itself led by Bishop David Hope*

The former Archbishop of York leads his annual pilgrimage to the Island of St Columba: coach from York to the shores of Loch Lomond for an overnight and then onto Oban and the various ferries to Iona where you can rest and relax for three gorgeous days. Only £475 in a twin room (some singles available). Brochures: 01482 562455.

## Celtic Summer

*(16th-23rd July) at St Chad's College, Durham*

Led by Dr Gavin Wakefield, Director of Training in the Diocese of York, and his wife Revd Fran Wakefield, this week-long pilgrimage takes in Bede's World, Whitby, Lastingham, Monkwearmouth, Jarrow, Holy Island and Bamburgh. As well as a quiet day and a special visit to Durham Cathedral, it is a week to celebrate the lives of the saints of the 7th/8th century. Gavin is the author of the book *Holy Places: Holy People* (Lion). Only £448 for the week. Brochures 01482 562455

More details on [www.ukltg.com](http://www.ukltg.com)

## 100 club winners

- |           |                   |
|-----------|-------------------|
| 1 No. 142 | Stephanie Dunning |
| 2 No. 136 | Sarah Evison      |
| 3 No. 91  | Alan Morgan       |
| 4 No. 134 | Caroline Vitty    |



If you don't yet belong to the Club and would like to help raise funds for St Faith's and stand a far-better-than-the Lottery chance of winning, please see **Gareth Griffiths**.

## Merry Go Round Dinner

Please book the date of Friday 22nd January 2010 for a Merry Go Round Dinner in aid of Church Funds.

A chance to dispel those mid-winter blues! More details later.

## Another Record Recital Series!

We have reached the end of another record-breaking series of the Saturday Recitals which have continued to grow in popularity. By the end of the series on 29 August, nearly £2,900 had been raised for church funds through refreshments and donations. 1,640 people had supported them which is an average of 82 people every Saturday (last year: 72). There has been an amazing mix of organ recitals, soloists, instrumentalists, choirs and bands. We also recognize and appreciate the outreach effect of these recitals on the wider community.

On the last two Saturdays, we circulated a feedback form, seeking people's views on the recitals, their favourite/least favourite concert, and if they had any ideas for future performers. The results will help us to prepare for the 2010 series and we have a few ideas already for next year.

As well as administrative support from our Parish Administrator, Liz Mooney, we have welcomed input from our Director of Music, Sam Austin, and it has been good to see a number of new performers this time. There has been good coverage in the local media and the Diocesan e-Bulletins, which has raised our profile, and the "house style" of the programmes has been maintained.

A very big "THANK YOU" goes to the army of helpers, organizers and caterers who work hard to ensure that everyone receives a welcome and that everything is ready on Saturday morning. Then it has to be cleared and ready for Sunday morning, so we are really grateful to everyone who has helped this year. And, of course, we very much appreciate the brilliant support of the performers without whom the recitals would simply not take place!

The 2010 Recitals will start on **SATURDAY, 10th APRIL**, so make a note in your diaries now and we look forward to seeing you again for another great season of music.

**David Jones**  
Treasurer



## **Transfiguration**

*A sermon preached at St Faith's by Fr Neil Kelley, August 2009*

I'm sure that many of us have had an experience which was so enjoyable, it meant so much to us, that we didn't want it to end. Perhaps a holiday? a pilgrimage? perhaps a marvellous performance or piece of art? some event which at the time was so wonderful that we didn't want to end. Perhaps it was the 'barbecue summer' that has ended!

The story of the Transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain – the festival we celebrate today – is told in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, and Peter refers to it in his second epistle. Each time, it is made clear that God's salvation is for all and Christ is the one who brings that inclusive salvation. The testimony of the Law and prophets to Jesus are given by the presence of Moses and Elijah and the event also pre-figures the resurrection, giving a foretaste of the life of glory.

Well – a heavenly experience.... Such was that experience of Peter, James and John on top of the Mountain with Jesus. ‘Master, it is good to be here’ says Peter. “‘tis good Lord to be here” – we sang in the entrance hymn ... Like us with that experience we wanted to hold on to, to capture for ever, they wanted to capture the moment and hold on to it – hence the comment about making tents. The experience was just so great they would have done anything to keep hold of it.

The Transfiguration had two clear purposes.

**Firstly**, it was to show that Jesus was the Messiah. He wasn’t just a prophet, a do-gooder or just a kind helpful person. Jesus was the Chosen One – You are my Son, says the Father’s voice from heaven (as we heard in the second reading today). Jesus, the second person of the Holy Trinity, is the one chosen by God. It is his death and resurrection that will accomplish the work of God.

The **second** (and most) important reason that Jesus appeared to his disciples was to banish fear. They were worried about his forthcoming agony – like all human beings they were worried about the future of someone who was very close to them. The physical sight of Jesus overwhelmed the disciples – they wanted to hold on to the glory – not to let it go. His appearance helped to strengthen their faith and their knowledge that Christ was doing the will of God.

The issue of assisted suicide is very much in the public domain at present. What is the Church’s teaching on this? As this important debate unfolds I believe we need a forum here for the subject to be discussed – perhaps at one of the discussion groups planned for the autumn? People often say that it’s not so much death that they fear, but dying... Fear can be very real and very frightening. There are times when the way ahead is not at all clear. There are times when we feel confused, bereft and isolated. There are times when we feel that deep down within us there is a sadness or unhappiness, an emotional aching which seems not to go away. At times like this we are often tempted to put our trust in things which are not of God. When life is unclear, confused and frightening it is tempting to give up trusting in God. Our prayers seem unanswered, like a lone voice crying in a wilderness. When life is difficult there are many places to which people turn. Perhaps they turn to...

- Mediums
- Spiritualists
- Tarot Cards
- Horoscopes
- Palm Readers
- 

The number of practising Christians who seem to think that these things are OK is quite astonishing. These things are clearly contrary to orthodox Christian teaching: to indulge in such practices is to doubt the power of God and his guidance in our lives

because it means placing our hope and trust in things which are not *of* God or directed *by* him. Well. It's only a bit of fun, some might say. But it doesn't take much, believe you me, for that fun to become an unhealthy obsession.

So is our 100 club a bad idea? I hope not – the church needs the money! Is buying a lottery ticket bad news? No – partly because many charitable causes are on the receiving end of lottery money: but we do have to beware – the love of money is the root of all evil, not money in itself, the love of it. The compulsion driven by greed or sometimes financial hardship, is real and potentially destructive.

The awful pain of bereavement can lead some people to want to get in touch with a loved one 'on the other side'. That is completely contrary to the Christian hope expressed in the liturgy when we pray 'rest eternal, grant unto them,' We pray that they may rest completely in the peace of heaven not that that rest is disturbed by people wanting to 'get in touch'.

Like so many through the ages, we ask questions, we want more answers to what life holds. Yes, the invitation issued by Jesus - 'follow me' means carrying our cross and sharing the sufferings of Christ. It is difficult to be a Christian as Jackie pointed out in last week's sermon. But it doesn't stop there with the pain of Good Friday. God's gift is new and eternal life in heaven. We don't earn our way there – it is his gift. The disciples were worried about Jesus and his forthcoming passion. Of course they were – they were human. It didn't matter how close they were to Jesus, they had the same fears as we have.

What does happen when we die? That is the sixty-four thousand dollar question! People often ask me, expecting me to be able to describe in perfect detail a place that I've seen. Those of you who wish to be bereavement visitors, you can be fairly certain it is a question you will be asked at some point by someone who is bereaved. But if we are known to be Christians, then any of us can be asked that question at any time! It is by faith alone that we believe in the promise of eternal life. Our Creed asserts that Jesus rose from the dead, but there is no report about what it was like there!

Perhaps S. John in the Book of Revelation gives us the clue when he says of heaven: "God will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away." If we are putting our trust anywhere, it is in that vision of heaven described by S. John.

Since the world began people have wrestled with good and evil, faith and doubt and have had to make choices and difficult decisions. It was the case two thousand years ago and it is the same now. The apostle Paul writing to the people of Philippi, encourages them to restrain from all earthly gain and security and to place their trust and hope in God. St Paul wrote:

*For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe.*

So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. A friend of mine once said that his picture of hell is eternity with all those people to whom one has said over the years, do come and stay some time (hoping of course they never do!). Well, what is your picture of heaven?

Jesus's meeting with Elijah and Moses is a sign that heaven is going to be recognisably human, a great reunion, not only with those we already know and love but all the great and good in human history - in other words it will be a place in which there are no longer any barriers to human friendship and we will finally have time for everyone. So in this Gospel we not only see Jesus transfigured - we also glimpse humanity transformed.

When our faith is tested, when we are not sure which way to go, let us open our hearts to the leading and prompting of God. And as we draw closer to Him in our daily prayers and as we go about our daily tasks let us have a faith which can say with certainty and confidence, echoing those words of Peter, "Master, it is good to be here."

Jesus's meeting with Elijah and Moses is a sign that heaven is going to be recognisably human, a great reunion, not only with those we already know and love but all the great and good in human history - in other words it will be a place in which there are no longer any barriers to human friendship and we will finally have time for everyone. And that is *the* experience which will have no end. **Amen.**



## Dead Easy Quiz

1. What poet's last words were "I've just drunk eighteen straight whiskies? I think that's a record?"
2. Who said "Old? Me? Nonsense. The hills are old, but evergreen."
3. Who wrote the opera "Death in Venice"? \*\*
4. Who wrote the novel "Death in Venice"? \*\*
5. Who died with one eye, one arm and a kiss?

\*\* Talking of Venice, did you know that land there is so precious no burials are allowed in the city itself, but have to take place on the island of San Michele in the lagoon. Space is even at a premium on the island, and burials only last for a decade before the bones are disinterred and taken to an ossuary, so that the graves can be re-used.

# Less Easy Quiz

6. Are you sure that your will expresses your wishes as they currently stand?

## Answers

1. *Dylan Thomas*
2. *Chairman Mao*
3. *Benjamin Britten*
4. *Thomas Mann*
5. *Horatio Nelson*

6. Most people need to review their wills regularly. Throughout our lives our situations change - family circumstances change and we might change the causes we support. Updating your will is relatively simple, and not as expensive as you might think.

Next month, we shall give some information on making and updating wills.

**David Jones**

**Treasurer**

# Politically Incorrect Blonde Joke

A gorgeous young redhead went into the doctor's office and said that her body hurt wherever she touched it.

'Impossible!' said the doctor. 'Show me.'

The redhead took her finger, pushed on her left shoulder and screamed, then she pushed her elbow and screamed even more. She pushed her knee and screamed; likewise she pushed her ankle and screamed. Everywhere she touched made her scream.

The doctor said, 'You're not really a redhead, are you?'

'Well, no,' she said, 'I'm actually a blonde.'

'I thought so,' the doctor said. 'Your finger is broken.'

*(Supplied by **Fiona Whalley**, who has provided many more such offensive funnies)*

# News from Malawi

A bulletin supplied by **Margaret Houghton** from the Malawi Anglican hospital which we support by fundraising activities and donations here at St Faith's.

The growth of St. Andrew's Hospital, Mtunthama, has been such that further staff have needed to be employed, giving a total of seventy one. There is a new surgical ward and a care centre for HIV/AIDS patients. It has been most encouraging to see the reduction in mother-child transmission of HIV as a result of education and the improving amount of ante-natal testing. The Ministry of Health is funding the training of clinicians in management of HIV/AIDS and St. Andrew's will be the principal centre for such treatment in the area; quite an achievement.

Generally the hospital is seeing an ever increasing number of patients and is set to become a centre for all but the most complex surgical procedures. Future plans include enhanced water supplies, enhanced electrical supplies through the use of additional generators, ideally solar power/water heating, additional wards and an administration block, as funding becomes available.

The orphanage has forty two resident children, nine children cared for by adoptive families and two who somehow manage to divide their time very happily between adoptive families and the orphanage. Florence and Boyson, the couple who have run the orphanage since it began, without pay and without even a room to themselves, now have a small room of their own. When told there would be two beds provided for them their immediate response was that three were needed, all the babies would be sleeping in the room with them. A great deal of help is provided by the local community, quite apart from those who have adopted children. All Saints' Church gave its maize, originally earmarked for the Diocese, to the orphanage, any electrical or plumbing work is done without charge by local tradesmen, volunteers drop in to help on a regular basis and people turn up unannounced with small gifts of maize or vegetables to help feed the children. The older children do all their own washing and are responsible for other tasks such as looking after little ones, cooking, chopping firewood for the kitchen and so on.

The Mothers' Union has been responsible for the cleaning of the whole interior, including washing down all the walls and the result of all this support is a wonderfully happy place, full of laughter and high spirits. However, as there are nine babies, large amounts of formula milk are required, the cost of which is a major drain on resources; then there is the cost of clothes, shoes, school fees and uniforms, the list goes on and on. It would be wonderful to offer the children a better diet with more protein, but that depends, as everything, on funding. Two meals per day of a thin maize porridge are given to the children and, if the budget stretches, one of these meals is enhanced by a small amount of 'relish'. Sounds grand, but one chicken will have to provide the protein for every child in the orphanage. Yet these children are frequently better fed

and cared for than those who live within a family group. Imagine being fed less than the above diet, then walk miles to school and back each day and help with daily chores. We really cannot comprehend poverty of this level can we?

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## The Community of the Resurrection, Mirfield



Many people from near and far come in a constant stream to Mirfield for spiritual refreshment, experience of monastic life and worship and for Christian education and formation. Sometimes we can hardly cope with the numbers. We find ourselves offering space and resources for women and men who seek encouragement, stillness and space to pray in the midst of stressful lives. At the heart of it all, our church is our place of worship and home for many other events. It is now in need of major refurbishment: structural repairs, a new heating system, rewiring, new lighting and sound systems, a new floor, redecoration and much-needed disabled access.

If all our activities here are to flourish, we need a church able to meet the needs of today. We need your help to safeguard what makes this place special and to create a church that can serve and sustain its many users for another century.

This is just one element of the wider development of our site at Mirfield. We will also be building a new monastery to be situated next to the church, which will be separately funded.

Our vision is to have a church truly worthy of the Lord and to reflect the requirements of a 21st century monastic church. It is important that we have a space which allows us to worship as we have always done, whilst being flexible enough to accommodate modern practices. The levelled floor will not only allow improved accessibility, it will

also provide a sanctuary unencumbered by fixed pews and myriad steps. We're also installing a lift at the western end of the church to improve access to the lower church and gallery levels.

The new floor will incorporate an underfloor heating system. This will transform the building into an oasis of warmth in the harsh winters, whilst being energy efficient, environmentally sound and sustainable for the Community. We will also install new lighting and sound systems which will enhance the interior of the building and its usability. They will not only be functional but will add to the worshipful atmosphere of the space, making it a place of serenity and beauty.

We have an important part to play in education, ensuring that school pupils get a valuable insight into the modern-day calling of the Community. Heritage is another crucial aspect of the project, keeping alive and educating the wider community about the Anglican monastic tradition, whilst conserving our fine Grade II listed church. To enable these parts of our mission we are establishing an Education & Heritage Centre, which will act as the focal point for these activities. When not in use, the space will serve as a chapel for retreatants and those undertaking quiet reflection.

Please visit the Mirfield website for more details (and details of how people can give something to the appeal).

***One of the Patrons of the Appeal, Archbishop Desmond Tutu writes:***

The Community of the Resurrection and its church are a fantastic resource for building up and encouraging the Church in challenging times. I hope you will do all you can to assist the Brothers in their act of faith. There is a chance here to help many people see that it's great to be alive, and equip them to help build a better world.



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**‘Hedgehogs. Why can’t they share the hedge?’**

*(Reported in The Daily Telegraph as having been voted the best joke at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Ed!)*

# The Parish Directory and Church Organisations

## **VICAR**

Fr. Neil Kelley, The Vicarage, Milton Road, Waterloo. L22 4RE

Tel 928 3342; fax 920 2901;

mobile 07980 872203; e-mail: frneilkelley@tiscali.co.uk

## **PARISH ADMINISTRATOR and CHURCH BOOKINGS**

Liz Mooney, Parish Office, 32 Brooklands Avenue

928 9913 (usually Monday to Wednesday 9.30 am – 4.30 pm)

email parishadministrator@btinternet.com

## **ASSISTANT PRIESTS**

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 Kari Dodson, 51 Stafford Road, Southport. PR8 4LX. 01704 565725

Mrs Maureen Madden, 37 Abbotsford Gardens, Crosby. L23 3AP. 928 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

## **PCC SECRETARY**

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

## **TREASURER**

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

## **HALL BOOKINGS**

Mrs Ruth Winder, 36 Milton Road, Waterloo. L22 4RF. 474 3633

**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, Apt 13, Gladstone Court, Upper Parliament St, Liverpool L8 7JY

07921 840616. Email samOaustin@googlemail.com

## **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**

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

## **SACRISTAN**

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



**ASSISTANT SACRISTAN**

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

**SENIOR SERVER**

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

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

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

**CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER**

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

**CHURCH CENTRE**

1, Warren Court, Warren Road, Blundellsands

**CUB SCOUTS**

Tuesday 6.30 - 7.45 pm.

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**

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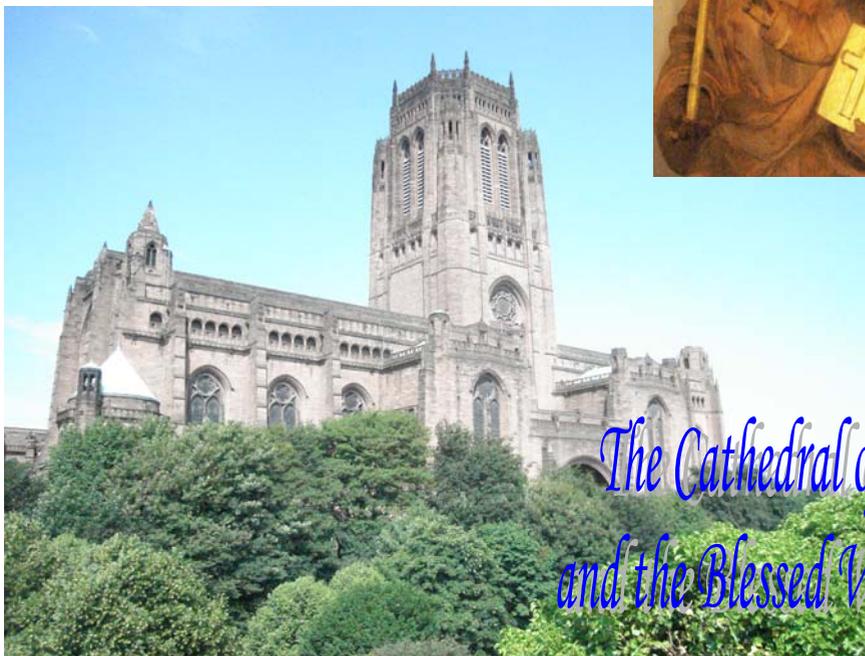
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