



'Where did you get that hat...?'

NEWSLINK

St Faith's Great Crosby
Parish Magazine

SEPTEMBER 2012

Worship at Saint Faith's



SUNDAY SERVICES

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

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Monday	10.30am	Morning Prayer
Tuesday	9.30am	Holy Eucharist
Wednesday	10.30am	Holy Eucharist (in S. Mary's)
Thursday	6.30pm	Reflections Prayer Group (in S. Mary's)
Friday	6.30pm	Evening Prayer
Saturday	12.00 noon	Holy Eucharist

Please consult the website or weekly sheets for any variation in service times, particularly for weeks where there is a Holy Day.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE AND RECONCILIATION

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

HOME VISITS to the sick and housebound and those in hospital

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

IN A PASTORAL EMERGENCY

please contact a member of the ministry team directly or call **07986 478846**.



From the Ministry Team

September 2012

Dear All

This is the first time I write on behalf of the Ministry Team in Newslink. My licensing as a Reader approaches in September; I feel blessed to have such opportunities and I pray for guidance and God's grace in my endeavours.

It has been an unsettled summer – where the weather belies the season. We thank God for sparing us the worst extremes of climate, but we keep in our thoughts and prayers those who are not so fortunate.

St Faith's Church stands as a stalwart against time and seasons, a living presence and Christian witness in a changing and troubled world. The building and its people offer home and comfort both in this parish and in the wider world.

We think especially of the work of St Faith's people in the Waterloo Partnership in Sierra Leone, in the Christian Aid mission and the donation of gifts to deprived children at Christmas.

During this time of interregnum we face new challenges and are asked to work together to become an even stronger community. It is a test of our resilience and will surely bring us closer, as we support one another.

It is the life of prayer and worship which is at the heart of St Faith's. In our steadfast devotions, throughout the coming seasons we can and will grow stronger in fellowship and faith together.

Yours in faith,

Paula O'Shaughnessy

Paula will be licensed as Reader at Liverpool Cathedral, on Saturday 22nd September at 3.00 pm.

Dates for the United Benefice Diary



Details of events and of extra services in the coming weeks. The normal pattern of services is as advertised on page 1. Please note that the Saturday morning service has now reverted to its usual time of 12 noon

August

- Saturday 18th Final Summer Concert: Daniel Rathbone (organ)
Sunday 19th The Blessed Virgin Mary (transferred)
1.00 pm: Baptisms at St Mary's
4.00 pm: United Benefice Barbecue at St Mary's
Friday 24th St Bartholomew
6.30 pm Eucharist at St Faith's

September

- Wednesday 5th 7.30 pm: Services Support Group meeting at St Faith's
Saturday 8th Birth of Our Lady
9.00 am: Men's Fellowship working party at St Faith's church
and hall (to include a 'Full English' breakfast)
12 noon: Eucharist at St Faith's
Sunday 9th 1.00 pm: Baptisms at St Faith's
Tuesday 11th 2.00 pm: Service at Green Heys Nursing Home
Friday 14th The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
6.30 pm: Eucharist at St Faith's
Saturday 15th 7.30 pm: Concert at St Mary's (details to be announced)
Sunday 16th 1.00 pm: Baptisms at St Mary's
Monday 17th 7.00 pm: St Mary's PCC meeting
Tuesday 18th St Matthew
10.30 am: Eucharist at St Faith's
7.00 pm: St Faith's PCC meeting
Friday 21st 7.30 pm: Barbershop and Jazz Concert at St Faith's
(in aid of the Waterloo Partnership)
Saturday 29th St Michael and all Angels
12 noon: Eucharist at St Faith's
Sunday 30th Harvest Festival
10.30 am Sung Eucharist and Harvest Lunch at St Mary's
(no other services in either church this morning)

With Many Thanks

We received this letter a few days before we embarked upon our epic journey to see the writer in person...!

The Rectory
High Street
Bushey
Hertfordshire
WD23 1BD

16th July, 2012

Dear friends



I'm sorry this letter is a little late in arriving but it's taken a few weeks to get everything in place; since leaving Liverpool my time has been divided between unpacking boxes, attending first masses and ordinations, unpacking boxes, trips to John Lewis and B&Q, a brief holiday in France and... more unpacking of boxes!

I just wanted to say thank you so much for the very kind and lavish send-off you gave me. It was a lovely weekend all round and I was very touched and humbled by your kindness and generosity. I am very grateful indeed for the cards, gifts and good wishes I received. It was lovely to see such a very full church on my final Sunday.

With the cheque presented to me by the parishes I have had a sofa (bought recently at auction) re-upholstered. I shall think of you when I sit on it!

Please be assured of my continuing prayers as the interregnum progresses and you embark upon the process of seeking a new Vicar.

I look forward to reading reports of life at St. Faith's and St. Mary's via the website and to seeing many of you for my Induction Service next week.

With love and prayers, and many grateful thanks,

Yours in Christ

Neil

The Day we went to Bushey



Monday, 23rd July, 2012 – a long day but a rewarding one. It was, of course, the day that Fr Neil Kelley, who left us a month before but was technically still vicar of St Faith's and St Mary's, actually became Rector of Bushey, in the Diocese of St Albans, Hertfordshire, and his installation was compassed about by a great cloud of northern witnesses.

We have a long tradition of coach-loads of our people venturing to distant parts, and especially to inductions of ex-vicars, but this day matched them all. There were about 47 of our congregations on the coach, a goodly number who came down by car, another goodly number of Neil's friends and relations, a cross-section of Liverpool Diocesan clergy and a gathering of Mirfield ordinands and priests. All in all, there must have been 70 or 80 of 'our folk' in St James, Bushey by the time the service began.

It was a long haul south for the coach stalwarts, in increasingly hot weather. Our planned stop at Hilton Park was frustrated by a flood which had closed the facilities, so it was legs crossed until we could change drivers and move on to Corley, blessedly open for business. For this relief, much thanks – and on with the next leg of the journey, to spend an hour or so at St Albans.

This magnificent Abbey shrine deserved a day to itself, and we explored its cool and splendid interior and found the grave of Lord Runcie, St Faith's most distinguished old boy, who was bishop there before moving on to Canterbury. Poignantly, it was bereft of decoration and headstone, as the latter was away to be engraved with the name of Robert Runcie's wife, Rosalind, following her death some months ago.

From here it was a few miles' run (although long and slow in the interminable traffic and the heat) to reach Bushey and the lovely ancient church set back on a beautiful village green. Both in its setting its architecture and general ambience, it reminded me of a large and lavishly-appointed village rather than a London outlier – definitely more 'Dibley' than I had expected! We were warmly greeted by the almost-Rector, as he ambled down from his rectory, and treated to tea, cake and biscuits in the adjacent hall – the welcome, clerical, lay and gastronomic, more than compensated for the seven hours it took us to penetrate this southern fastness.

There was time to soak up the atmosphere of the church green, the duck-pond, the lush greenery and the early evening sunshine - never has the north-south divide seemed so real! - before wandering over to the church and forming a solid phalanx of support in the pews, gazing round at the wonderful ancient fixtures and fittings and listening to

the choir rehearse. We watched as Neil's guests came in and the locals found seats. It was hard to estimate numbers, but our Bushey battalions may well have matched the numbers from Bushey parish.

The service, starting at 7.00 pm, was broadly familiar to those of us who have sat through many such occasions at St Faith's and elsewhere. There were processions, anthems, and the established actions of institution and installation. The process was known as a Collation. This writer and his friends had thought this was what one did to a magazine, or with a plate of meats, but apparently it had to do with the patron being a bishop - the good old C. of E. specialises in such arcane titles and splendid solemn rituals. Fr Neil took the statutory oaths of obedience and allegiance, the Bishop preached over us, the Archdeacon, looking every inch a proper Archdeacon, did what proper Archdeacons do on such occasions, the Area Dean did likewise, and there was the usual succession of local worthies to greet their new incumbent. At one stage, Fr Neil was taken to the back of the church, where he tolled the bell to signify his arrival. A dubious tradition has it that incumbents stay as many years as they ring the bell at their institution. Bushey can therefore expect ten (or was it eleven?) years of their new rector!

Finally they all processed out into the sunshine and we strolled in the lovely warm evening past the Conservative Club and some promising-looking hostelrys down the main street and along to the local R.C. Church hall for the bun fight. There it was time to satisfy hunger and thirst after righteousness, to meet and greet and indulge in photography. Just after 9.30 pm we got back on the coach, said our last goodbyes and set out for the distant north. Back in Crosby somewhere before 2 a.m. we could reflect on a day to remember, and what could be described as a glimpse of how the other half lives. Fr Neil has sent messages saying how much he appreciated our mass turn-out – and we were only too happy to provide it for him. We wish him every happiness and blessing as he starts this new phase of his ministry. By the time we got to bed, we may not have been exactly bright-eyed and Bushey-tailed – but we are sure that he was, and will continue to be!

Chris Price

And Finally...



Dear friends

I know that Revd Denise has already communicated my thanks to those of you who made the pilgrimage to Bushey in the heat of the noonday sun! Thank you so much for being there. The support of so many familiar faces was so reassuring and comforting.

I am grateful, too, to those who were unable to be there in person but had sent cards, text messages and emails of support. Again, I was very touched by all that.

I know I will be kept in touch with the Waterloo goings-on via the church websites and I wish you well in the task of discerning who your next parish priest should be. She - or he - will be a very lucky person if they receive half the love and support that I received over my 13 years with you.

So - many thanks and au revoir. People sometimes say that priests are a hard act to follow. I have learned that that is also true of congregations! God bless. And with my love and prayers.

Neil

A Reflection for the Feast of Michaelmas



In Brian Aldiss's science fiction thriller, 'Starship', the ship is a miniature world in which the crew and their families have lived for so many generations that they no longer know any other. For them the starship is their entire world. From time to time the members of this community glimpse larger beings, objects of fear and awe, who appear from nowhere and then disappear again. Only at the end does Aldiss reveal a terrible truth about this crew and their families: for all these generations, they have never actually left the orbit of Earth. They are part of a millennia-long experiment in which they have become shorter, their body rhythms have changed, and their sense of time and season altered. The large, mysterious life forms they have glimpsed from time to time and about whom they tell stories and fables are human beings, technicians sent up from Earth to service the ship.

Why link this story with the feast of Saint Michael and All Angels, which we celebrate on the 29th of this month? Because I suspect that it is a good description of the way most people think of angels, if they think about angels at all. The main difference between the appearances on our fictional ship and those of angels is that the angels' appearances are, we think, deliberate, and have a definite purpose. For example, Genesis tells of an encounter with angels very soon after we humans appear on the stage of creation, a meeting that is neither pleasant nor reassuring. When Adam and Eve are expelled from Paradise an angel is posted at the gate, flaming sword in hand, barring their return.

By the time we arrive at the last page of scripture we have had so many encounters with angels they have become like old friends. In the book of Revelation, John and his angel-escort saunter together by the river of life and take in the grandeur of the Holy City. The angel is quite alarmed when John falls down to worship him, insisting that he is no more than a fellow servant of God along with John himself and all the prophets.

Angels encounter us for an infinite number of reasons. They come in order to warn, to admonish, to guide, to rescue, to announce, to open prison doors, to sing anthems. They enter our lives at the most unexpected moments. Saint Luke wrote of a door opening in time and space in the hill village in Palestine where Gabriel appeared to Mary. The appearance to the young woman disturbs her because the angel enters not only into the outer world of time and space, but also into her inner world of awareness.

In heaven, too, we see contention and struggle as the great archangels gather their forces and war breaks out. Michael and Satan ride to battle and Michael triumphs, banishing Satan, hurtling him as a falling star from heaven to the depths of hell, and ever since Satan has won battle after battle among human beings because they are naïve enough to think him defeated. They do not realize that he still possesses grandeur and power because he is an archangel, albeit a fallen one. We see this truth more clearly than anywhere else in Epstein's great bronze on the wall of Coventry Cathedral. Look quickly and you see Michael standing above a defeated Satan, apparently slain by his sword. Look again and you see that Michael's spear has not yet entered Satan's body, that Satan is not recumbent but propped on one elbow, about to rise. The struggle goes on forever and will not be resolved until the end of time.

Since angels come primarily to guide or to warn us we need to ask ourselves about the times in our lives when we have been guided or protected – often from our worst selves. When we remember, then we need to recall the people we encountered at those times, realizing that in them we were encountering angels. Their wings and their glory were hidden, their voices were familiar and they spoke of everyday things. Yet when we remember such times and such people, we realize how much we have been guarded, protected and guided, most often when we were completely unaware.

Two thousand years ago Joseph remembered when he awoke that an angel with great wings had warned him to take his wife and child to Egypt. His shoulder was shaken and his nostrils assailed by the midnight breath of some sleepy but courageous neighbour who had overheard a bar-room conversation and decided to warn a stranger to get out of town before disaster struck. It is so easy to suppose that Elijah, sleeping the sleep of utter exhaustion as he fled from certain death by Jezebel's guards, remembered a flaming and majestic figure placing food before him in his periods of fitful wakefulness. But it may have been no more than the brief glimpse of a hand over a veiled face before it faded into the desert; such faces appear and fade soundlessly in the Sinai to this day.

Where both Joseph and Elijah differ from us, as they wake from their dreams and we wake from ours, is that they recognize these encounters as meetings with angels, angels who are ministers of grace. Our restless hearts will find no rest until, in the comings and goings in our daily lives, our ears are open to the beating of wings and our eyes can see the glory of Michael and his companions.

Fr Dennis

Interregnum Bulletin

Margaret Houghton



On Tuesday 29th May the Church Wardens of both parishes met with the Archdeacon to discuss the procedure for an interregnum. Firstly a Parish Profile needed to be written, to include the needs and traditions of the parish and full description of both churches, followed by two individual descriptions.

At a meeting of the two PCCs held at St. Mary's Church on the 17th July the Parish Profile was presented for comments and approval, which was agreed with one or two suggestions for a few minor amendments and additions. Also at this time each PCC elected two parish representatives, who, together with the Archdeacon, are responsible for the selection of a new incumbent. The representatives elected for St. Faith's Church are David Jones and Margaret Houghton.

The Parish Profile is now complete and awaiting the addition of photographs highlighting events and services which have been enjoyed by both churches over the past few years, ably edited and embellished by our very capable Mr. Price, which will then be forwarded to the Archdeacon for approval.

A Section 12 meeting will then be held at St. Mary's on the 10th September when the PCC, wardens and Archdeacon will discuss the finer details, personal profile required in a new incumbent and details of the advertisement. Once this is agreed, on the 15th September an advertisement will be placed in the Church Times and other relevant publications. The closing date for applications is the 12th October, shortlisting by the 14th and interviews on 31st October.

Points from the PCC Secretary

A few extra brief highlights ... As well as PCC members, there were several other members of our congregation present at the July 17th meeting: a welcome development.... **Brenda Cottarel**, Joyce Green and Tam McLaren were approved as new Eucharistic ministers, bringing the current total to 15... **There was a** brief report on the happenings at the recent Bishop's Growth Conference... **Geoff Dunn's** report outlining our response to the 'Going for Growth' initiative has been published (see page of this issue)... **Following the** success of the stewardship campaign, future action will focus on the Youth and Publicity groups... **A sequestration account** is being set up to deal with all relevant financial affairs during the interregnum ... **The vicarage** has been assessed for possible letting during the vacancy... **Resolutions A and B** (concerning acceptance of women priests at the altar or as possible incumbents) were explained but it was agreed by a large majority that they should not be debated... **The next** ordinary meeting of the PCC will be on September 18th.



‘The Day we went to Bushey’

En route to cheer on Fr Neil we stopped off at St Albans to view the magnificent Abbey. Many managed to find Lord Runcie’s grave, although the commemorative stone was away having Lady Runcie’s name added to it



It was still sunny and very hot when we finally got to Bushey, to be greeted by a familiar figure strolling down the Rectory drive to meet the coach. We were more than happy to be treated to a very welcome cuppa in the church hall.

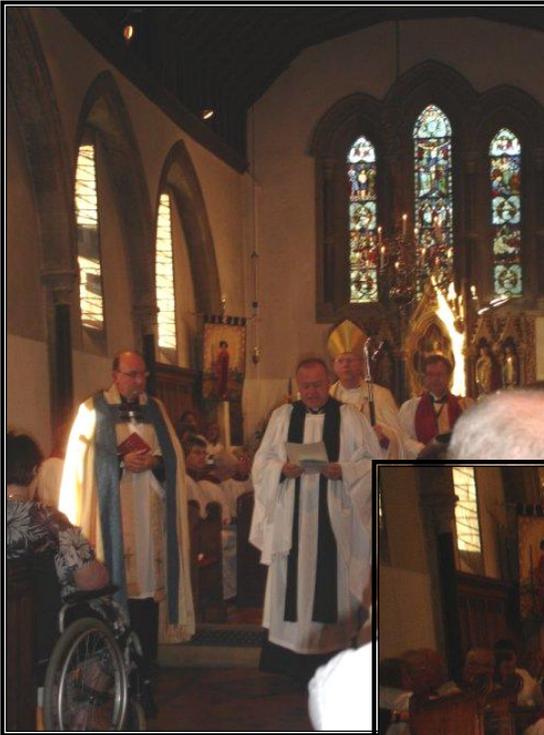


In St James' church hall, Fr Neil did the round of the tables, posing with assorted worthies and their millinery.



In the fine medieval interior of St James, Bushey, a solid phalanx of northern support await the off. The church choir are seen practising their choral contributions before the service.

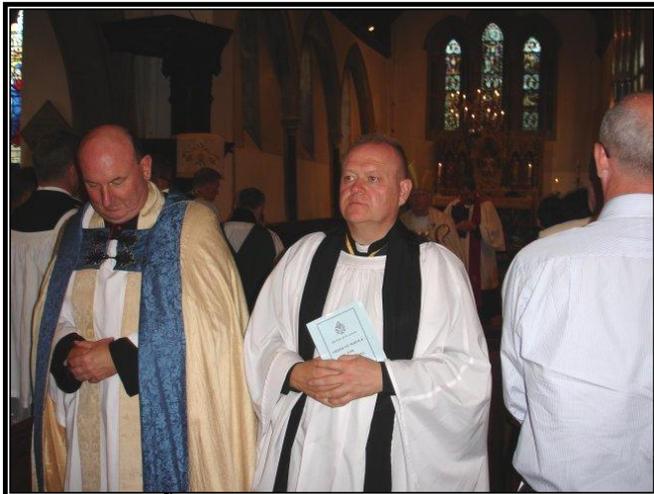




In the service itself, the new Rector of Bushey is seen taking the required oaths of office and obedience, and kneeling alongside the Bishop of St Albans at the entrance to the sanctuary.



The children of St James' Youth Club greet their new Rector and hold up a welcoming banner.



As the procession leaves the church at the end of the service, Fr Neil, with the Archdeacon alongside, is in suitably solemn mood as the newly-collated Rector of Bushey.



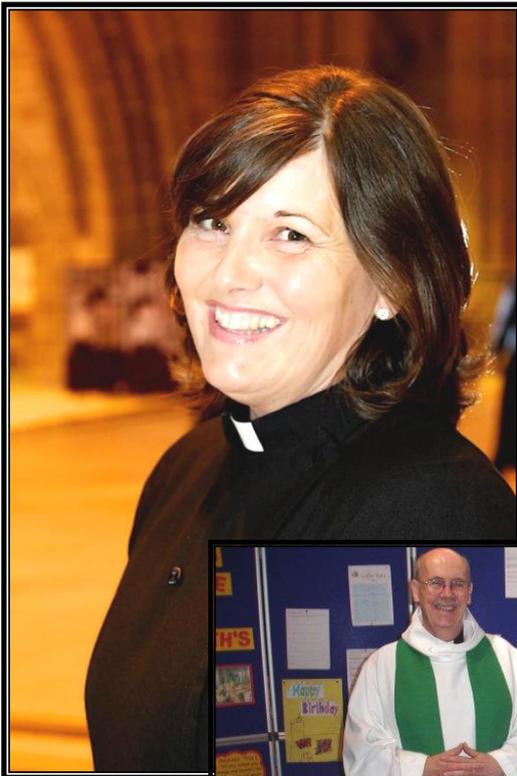
The congregation stream out of church to make their way down the road for the reception. There Fr Neil is greeted by well-wishers from Crosby.



Outside the reception, Fr Neil faces the camera with a selection of the usual suspects from St Faith's and elsewhere who had made the pilgrimage to see him off and to wish him well.

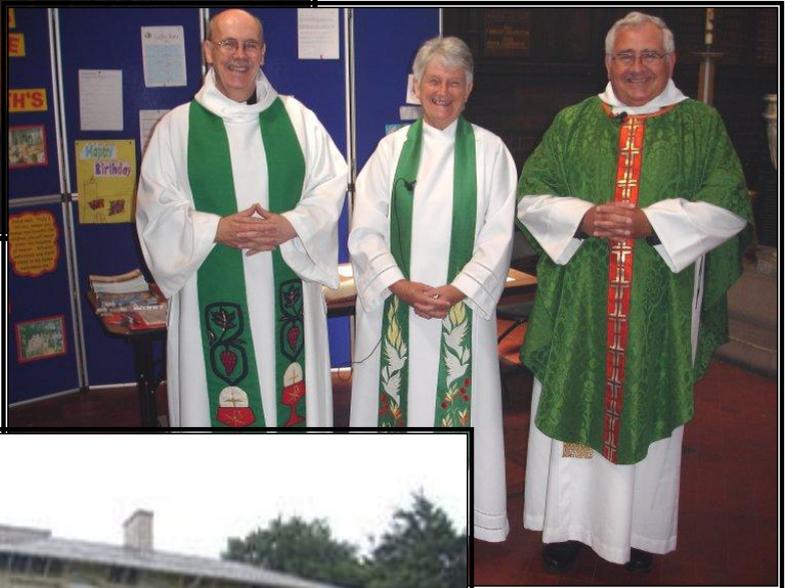


Priests and ordinands from the Mirfield connection line up with Neil. He then makes a final appearance in the coach before he goes back to the hall to do the washing up (!) and we head north through the night...



Elsewhere....

In other news, Helen Coffey, who made many friends at St Faith's and St Mary's during her pastoral placement, was made deacon at Liverpool Cathedral. Another old friend, Fr Mark Waters, recently paid a visit to preach at St Faith's.



Finally, a view of Noddfa, the retreat house in North Wales which is the setting for a planned United Benefice parish weekend in October.

More Harmony and Jazz



Friday 21st September sees the return of the Wayfarers Barbershop Chorus to St Faiths, bringing their unique singing style to the church in support of the Waterloo Partnership.

Their first concert, last year, saw the church nearly full, so please don't leave buying your tickets until the last minute, as demand will undoubtedly be great.

Supported as usual by Timepiece, who play strict tempo traditional jazz, the chorus will be introducing many new numbers this year and are on the lookout for recruits, so if you fancy singing in close harmony then have a word with Rick Walker!

The proceeds will go towards the work of the Waterloo Partnership, who are working to improve the life of our namesake community in Sierra Leone. Last year the money raised went towards completing a well, building a bridge and educating children – and there are dozens more projects just waiting for our help.

Tickets will cost the same as last year - £10 – (Sorry, no concessions – we need the money!) but will include nibbles and a drink. They will be available from mid August.

Parish Weekend at Noddfa: 12 - 14 October

A Parish Weekend in the beautiful and peaceful centre – Noddfa - situated in North Wales, is planned for Fri 12th - Sun 14th October 2012. You can read more about the place and see pictures at www.noddfa.org.uk

Noddfa is a Welsh word meaning haven or refuge - a place of peace and welcome a place where you can regain energy. It is the name of the centre run by the sisters of the Sacred Heart of Mary in Penmaenmawr, on the North Wales coast.

Fr. Colin Oxenforth (who has recently retired to the Waterloo area where he grew up) will lead the weekend which will include liturgy, Bible studies, space for personal prayer, a free Saturday afternoon and a less-serious 'after dinner talk' (Fr. Colin recently gave a talk to the Barbara Pym Society!) and, needless to say, plenty of time to socialise..!

Noddfa is well situated for visiting the spectacular Snowdonia National Park, the historic town of Conwy and its castle, the seaside town of Llandudno, Anglesey and many more places of interest.

At Noddfa there is not just one garden, but many different gardens joined harmoniously into an oasis of peace in the middle of a bustling world. Near the house are the more formal gardens with flower beds, lawns and tree-shaded paths. Behind the buildings are shrub gardens that blend naturally into the woodland that spreads away towards the mountain. On the edge of the woodland there are vegetable gardens, that supply some of the food for the house, and an orchard.

You can play croquet on the lawn, sit and gaze at the fountain, wander the paths that meander through the woods, or just relax on an easy chair. Splashes of colour abound around the grounds at the moment.

We invite you to come and walk one of the two labyrinths. In walking the labyrinth, you simply follow the path to the centre. There are no choices to make and you do not get lost. At the centre, you can stop and reflect and then turn around and retrace your steps.

The return is as important as going in and what you experience at the centre. As well as the grass labyrinth, there is another labyrinth, originally designed and made by the Prince's Trust, with beautifully scented lavender bushes. This has recently been renewed with golden coloured stones, which make for easier upkeep and are very attractive.

There is a limit of 25 (or a few more if couples come along) for this so please let Geoff Dunn know as soon as possible if you are interested. The cost is likely to be in the region of £50 per person per night (full board) plus the travel costs.

Joint PCCs' Away Day 2012



The joint PCCs' Away Day on 26th May was held at the Seafarers Centre in Waterloo. The day was well attended, with 26 people present.

Fr Neil opened the meeting with prayer and stayed until the coffee break, before he left to allow the other attendees to examine priorities for a year which will contain an interregnum.

How have we done over the past 12 months? The whole group looked back at last year's goals and achievements:

For 2011/12, we formed three groups to review all suggestions and take action:

Youth Development

Public Appearance/Publicity

Financial Well Being (including buildings & land)

It was agreed that out of necessity, most progress was made in the Financial Well Being group, notably the stewardship campaign. However, the other two groups did meet on a number of occasions and progress/discussions included:

Young persons only service(s)

Greater involvement of ministry team with young people

Recruitment of more youngsters into the choir

Possible re-organisation of Sunday School at St Faith's

A survey on the websites and magazines was conducted

New signage outside St Mary's annexe (sponsored by Paula O'Shaughnessy)

On the financial front (including buildings and land), the following was achieved:

Fund raising and further works on St Faith's Hall

Coffee lounge refurbishment at St Mary's

Newer and safer heaters in the annexe at St Mary's

Agreement that no building or land sales appropriate at this time

• **Stewardship Campaign**

The stewardship campaign was a huge team effort, involving members of the PCC, the ministry team and others. A prayerful and thoughtful approach to giving encouraged throughout the campaign which ran from November through to Lent

The campaign produced a very positive position with increased weekly and monthly giving and many more people paying via standing order, which facilitates more accurate financial planning for the PCCs.

In summary, it was agreed that the main focus for the year had been the Stewardship Campaign. Whilst some good progress had been made in other areas, it was not possible to have achieved all that was set out due to the focus on this initiative.

• **How are we doing now?**

The attendees broke into four groups and talked through the eight marks of a healthy church. Each mark was then scored for comparison to last year.

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1	<i>Energized by faith</i>	2011										
	2012											
2	<i>Outward-looking focus</i>	2011										
	2012											
3	<i>Seeks to find out what God wants</i>	2011										
	2012											
4	<i>Faces the cost of change and growth</i>	2011										
	2012											
5	<i>Operates as a community</i>	2011										
	2012											
6	<i>Makes room for all</i>	2011										
	2012											
7	<i>Does a few things and does them well</i>	2011										
	2012											
8	<i>Is financially self-supporting</i>	2011										
	2012											

Two marks remained the same, scoring 7/10: “Energized by Faith” and “Does a few things and does them well”. All other scores showed either a one point or two point improvement.

Low scores at 6/10 are “Outward Looking Focus” and “Seeks to find out what God wants”.

High scores at 8/10 are “Operates as a Community”, “Makes Room for All” and “Financially self-supporting”.

- **What Next?**

To prepare for a year with an interregnum: the same four groups talked through what we should be doing for the next 12 months taking into account that we will have a significantly reduced capacity within the ministry team for most if not all of the coming 12 months.

The following suggestions will be reviewed for action by one of:

- The Ministry Team
- PCCs
- Youth Development Group
- Public Appearance/Publicity Group
- Financial Well Being (including buildings & land) Group

• Suggestions

Keep existing groups (each to call their own meetings):

Financial Well Being (including buildings & land)
Public Appearance & Publicity
Youth Development

Concentrate on Youth Development & Publicity

Maintain Liturgy & Lunch

Keep existing activities & services going e.g. Liturgy & lunch, children's/family services, Christmas Tree festival, recitals etc.

Move towards a Unified Parish

Maintain momentum both liturgically & pastorally; Spiritual life continues in both churches as we are used to.

Must keep the Benefice on the map – publicity is important!

More joint services during the interregnum to ease the burden on clergy.

Intelligent planning for coming year with representatives from every group e.g. Catering, Ministry, Music, Uniformed Orgs.

Stay enthusiastic, committed to our spiritual life, growth, and mission.

Good communication (no decisions made by groups in corners).

Look at aspects of pre-baptism and pre-weddings.

Progress will be monitored and reported on throughout the year.

The away day closed: Revd Denise closed the event with a short service and by thanking all of those who took part and so willingly gave up their Saturday for the event.

A more detailed document of the above has been issued to those attending the Away Day and those who formally presented apologies via Fr Neil.

Geoff Dunn

Registering the Past



A few months ago I delved into the first service register of St Faith's in search of references to the 'Titanic' anniversary, and found myself absorbed in the book as an archive and a social record. I decided to amplify the relatively brief extracts from our service books that were published in my 1975 church history (out of print but online via the church website) and dig further for buried historical treasure. The story thus continues from spring 1901, after the first anniversary of the church's consecration.

June 2nd saw the first confirmation at our church, with 44 candidates from us and St Luke's confirmed by the Bishop of Liverpool. On August 4th, the preacher at Evensong was, intriguingly, the chaplain of the prison at Castletown in the Isle of Man. On September 15th it is recorded that at morning and evening services a 'Dead March' was played to mark the assassination of President McKinley. More cheerfully, a few days later we read 'Illuminated address presented to the Founder in Waterloo Town Hall by Canon Armour (Headmaster of Merchant Taylors)' from parish and congregation of S.Faith.'

October 4th saw the first funeral at St Faith's ('S.H.Lewis: full choir') and on October 6th St Faith's Day, falling on a Sunday is celebrated for the first time ('Very stormy and wet!') Then at what was obviously a special Evensong on Tuesday, October 15th it was a case of 'Whole Nave filled', the Te Deum sung, the Bishop of Liverpool in the pulpit and 'The Founder of the Church was present.' The collection that day came to £20.1.5, and on Christmas Day of the same year the total was £4.16.3 – for the 'Food and Betterment' Association, reported as 'supplying halfpenny dinners to poor children.' What would these sums be worth in 2012, one wonders.

There was a Watch Night Service at 11.15 pm on New Year's Eve, and a sombre start to 1902, with the death on January 27th of the Rural Dean, Rev. C. De B. Winslow. His successor, Rev S.F.G.Smithwick, vicar of Seaforth, was soon appointed.

Then on Monday February 24th we hear 'Gas left on in church – church full if it Monday 8 am.' This may refer to the gaslight chandeliers, evidence of which can still be seen in the chancel today, and which some hapless churchwarden or sidesman had perhaps extinguished but failed to turn off properly at Evensong the previous day...

On Good Friday the Three Hours Service was led by C.C.Elcum, no longer identified but obviously the priest who featured in the 1900 consecration and after whom Douglas Horsfall's son was named.

Easter Day saw 197 communicants between the 7.30 am, 8.30 am and 11.45 am communions – and the day also featured Mattins, a Children's Service and Evensong.

Then , in close juxtaposition in Mr Baxter's neat, tiny writing, we read 'Anthem ' &
21

Behold there was a gt. Earthquake’, followed by ‘Vestry Meeting. Wardens Appointed’ (!) Having come through these critical times, Mr Baxter records April 20th as being ‘Kept as 2nd Anniversary of Consecration.’

June 2th has, in larger letters than any feast day is recorded, ‘Coronation of King Edward VII. 9.0 am Litany and Holy Communion: Service of Holy Communion with special intercessions for the King.’ Nothing much happened then until Sunday, November 2nd, when the subject of the sermon at Mattins, recorded in minuscule lettering, was ‘The State of the Blessed dead.’ This innocent-sounding topic may hide something of the controversy between ‘high’ and ‘low’ wings of the C.of E. concerning prayers for the departed – one of the causes of real conflict in the early years of the Oxford Movement Catholic revival.

Tucked away in the pages of the old register is a printed letter from the vicar, which begins ‘There are many who attend St Faith’s Church who are not known to me personally, and I am most anxious to make their acquaintance.’ He goes on to ‘earnestly invite’ all such to a ‘SOCIAL GATHERING to be held in the Waterloo Town Hall’ on Wednesday, December 3rd.’ He is at pains to stress that in this venture he has ‘the hearty co-operation of the Church Council.’ Sadly, history does not record the success or otherwise of this grand gesture.

Interestingly, Ash Wednesday of 1902 featured, at 8.30 (presumably a.m.) a Communion Service. I must look that word up. The following Easter Day the total of communicants had risen to 203, and the Easter Offering, traditionally in those days given to the incumbent, came to £17.9.0. Holy Week and Easter were clearly celebrated in grand style in those early years, yet Maundy Thursday was marked by just one morning communion service, with just 10 communicants.

On June 24th there is a lot squeezed into the margins of the book. ‘The Rural Dean – Rev. R.J.G.Smithwick, visited St Faith’s Church & recommended (1) that a table of marriage Fees be fixed in the Vestry (2) that an Inventory of the goods and furniture of the Church be made, signed by the Vicar and Wardens and placed in the Church Safe. (3) That a statement as to the position and number of Free Seats be put in the church.’ Three days later, a ‘Memorial Window dedicated at Morning Prayer – special prayers being sanctioned by the Bishop - in memory of Ferdinand Anderton Latham’.

Lest we should think that the current wet summer was a modern phenomenon, on three separate occasions of August, 1902, Mr Baxter was moved to provide meteorological annotations to the services: ‘Very Wet’ ... ‘Stormy’ ... ‘Very Wet.’ One line below the last of these gloomy records we read ‘Rev W.A. Reeves’ last Sunday at St Faith’s’. He was doubtless seeking drier climes.

More to follow, should you have read this far.

Chris Price

The Parish Directory and Church Organisations



VICAR

Vacancy

PARISH OFFICE

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

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

ASSISTANT PRIESTS

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

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

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

READERS

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

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

Mrs Cynthia Johnson, 30 Willow 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

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

TREASURER

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

PCC SECRETARY

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

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Mr Daniel Rathbone. Tel: 07759 695683

GIFT AID SECRETARY

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

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

Mrs Lynda Dixon, 928 7330

BAPTISM BOOKINGS

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

SACRISTANS

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

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

SENIOR SERVER

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

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

(restarting as usual in September!)

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

CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER

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

CHURCH CENTRE

1, Warren Court, Warren Road, Blundellsands

UNITED BENEFICE MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

James Roderick 474 6162

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

BEAVERS

Thursday 5.00 - 6.15 pm Mike Carr 293 3416

CHOIR PRACTICE

Friday 7.15 pm - 8.30 pm.

MAGAZINE EDITOR and WEBSITE MANAGER

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



The **October 'Newslink'** will be distributed on or before **Sunday, September 23rd**. Copy by **Sunday, September 9th**, please - but all contributions are welcome at any time.

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

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

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