



NEWSLINK

St Faith's Church, Great Crosby

SEPTEMBER 2015

Worship at Saint Faith's



Autumn Schedule from September 1st

SUNDAY SERVICES

11.00 am SUNG EUCHARIST and Children's Church
Holy Baptism by arrangement
6.30 pm 1st Sunday: Evensong

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Morning Prayer:

Monday-Wednesday and Friday-Sunday: 9am; Thursday 8am

Evening Prayer:

Monday at Christ Church 5pm

Tuesday 6.30pm; Wednesday-Thursday 5pm; Friday 6pm

The Eucharist

Tuesday 7pm; Thursday (Term Time only, from 10th September) 7.30am;

Friday 6.30pm

In September, because of unavoidable circumstances, Eucharists on 11th and 18th September only; Evening Prayer on 4th and 25th

Around Waterloo: The Eucharist:

2nd and 5th Mondays & Feast Days as announced - Liverpool Seafarers' Centre 10am;

Wednesdays 10am - St Mary's; Wednesdays 7pm - Christ Church

See the weekly online bulletin for full details of and any variations.

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 3342/07976 901389 to arrange this, or to arrange a visit to someone in hospital or at home.

IN A PASTORAL EMERGENCY

Please telephone as for home visits, or a member of the ministry team.



From the Ministry Team : September 2015

Dear Friends in Christ,

I'm writing this looking through the study window at pouring rain! It's not been much of a summer, though it's possibly been a very typical British one – whilst others have climate, so the saying goes, we have weather! The Lucas family did manage to get three reasonably clement weeks as usual in Scotland – the East Neuk of Fife is a microclimate that often defies weather forecasts in satisfying ways, and equally satisfyingly, England have won the Ashes (though the final test is not shaping up quite so promisingly).

Late summer, the end of August, is, for me, a time to take stock, to look back and to begin to plan for the future. This coming year is an exciting, if challenging, one in St Faith's history, with pastoral reorganisation on the horizon. I have told you everything that I know so far, and I hope to be able to give the PCC further information when it meets in September and shortly thereafter the congregation – for now, it's just a question of 'watch this space'! There are some general observations to be made, however.

The first is that there is one big change to the Diocese that affects all of us – and I think in a very positive way, the redrawing of Archdiaconal boundaries, and the appointment of three new Archdeacons Designate. There is an interview with each of them on the Diocesan website and this is reproduced in full in the online version of this issue, with a shorter introduction on page 18 of the printed issue. Our own Archdeacon from November will be Pete Spiers, currently Vicar of our neighbouring parish of St Luke's, so he is very familiar to many of us. Whilst Archdeacons Ricky and Peter work hard – and believe me, they work very hard indeed – they have, of necessity had to be to some extent 'troubleshooters.' The new appointments should mean that the role of Archdeacon becomes a much more creative, positive, relational and supportive one. So, I would ask your prayers for the three new appointees, for Archdeacon Ricky, as his role changes somewhat, and of course, for a happy and fulfilling retirement for Archdeacon Peter.

The second is that, revisiting my letter to you this time last year, things have moved on, in very constructive ways; the roof has been repaired, and paid for; and we have

had a bit of a deep clean in preparation for the Deanery Service and the Merchant Taylors' CCF Centenary in June – Rick Walker writes about the latter elsewhere in this edition. We still need to begin to think about the building and its best use for the mission of God in the future – and in particular, to revisit the plans we began to discuss just before the lead went from the roof – for some kitchen and toilet facilities in church. Our building has a great location – literally and metaphorically at a crossroads between Crosby and Waterloo, and our Quinquennial inspection showed it to be basically in good condition. But there are challenges too: we are fewer in numbers, and of a certain age. More and more jobs fall on the shoulders of the same people. We are not alone in this! This is something that we are facing not just at St Faith's, not just in Liverpool, but in the national church. The best way I have heard it put is that these are challenges we need to face not with undue haste or panic, but with a combination of faith in God, prayer, and a proper sense of urgency. It starts with prayer: the church is not the building – it is God's people: and what is God calling us to do here, at St Faith's, as we are now, for the immediate future, and as we potentially might be for the next decade and for the next 115 years? That is a question of discernment – and we all need to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in this: so please, first of all, start with prayer about it.

Third, we need to focus on two things that are related, but are also distinct: one is to carry on thinking about pastoral reorganisation positively, as a vocation that expresses our quite proper relation to the other Anglican Churches in this area in terms of mission and ministry, so renewing what it means to be 'holy, catholic and apostolic'. I've said it before and I'm sure I'll say it again – catholic means 'according to the whole.' We can't claim to be catholic without considering our way of belonging to the whole church of God – not just globally, but also locally. Alongside this, we need to think about what it means to be a parish church. St Faith's, like many churches with a distinct way of worshipping has, to some extent, been a gathered congregation; and the risk of that is we become a gathering of the like-minded. We need to think about what our catholic witness means in terms of our parish – those who never darken our doors, or who come to recitals, or events in the Hall, or who want us to be there for the Occasional Offices – baptisms, funerals and weddings – what is our task in drawing them into the joy and hope of the Gospel through the life and worship of the Church?

There is then work to be done of rebuilding, and reenergising, and reconnecting the practical and the prayerful. As ever, a new schedule of services begins on September 1st for the Autumn. This includes a regular slot for Compline on late Friday evenings, aimed primarily, but not exclusively, at Choir Members. This is the initiative of our Director of Music, Robert. In addition to (BCP) Choral Evensong on the first Sunday of each month, there will be Common Worship Evensong with Benediction on the third Sunday. In Term Time, starting on Thursday 10th September, there will be an early morning Eucharist at 7.30am, which we will advertise with Merchant Taylors' Staff, and also in local businesses, in addition to Tuesday and Friday evenings. A new series of 'formation' after the Eucharist on Tuesday evenings will be announced

shortly, and late September through to Christmas will be a ‘Season of Invitation,’ in which we set out purposely to draw others into our worshipping life by inviting them to particular services (Harvest, Patronal, Annual Memorial Service, Remembrance Day, Toy Service, Christingle, Midnight Mass) Watch this space! I will continue to do some assemblies in Merchants’ Boys’ School and hopefully to build on and strengthen our links there.

And I’m going to end this letter in exactly the same way as I ended my letter to you just a year ago: much has changed, much has moved on: but, curiously, the following words are still just as apposite, including the words of Timothy Dudley-Smith at the end:

We need always to be confident that God is at work – in this place, in our hearts and lives, in the Church throughout the world; sometimes mysteriously and hidden; sometimes very evidently and clearly. And our task is what it always is, in a way: prayerfully to discern what God is getting up to – and joining in!

Lord for the years your love has kept and guided
Urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way
Sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord for ourselves, in living power remake us –
Self on the cross and Christ upon the throne.
Past put behind us, for the future take us
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

Sue



Ebola: they think it's all over...

A report from the Waterloo Partnership

Ebola virus disease (EVD) arrived in Sierra Leone in May 2014, and reached Waterloo SL on 25th August, almost exactly a year ago. By early September the disease was spreading rapidly: 21 cases had been confirmed in Waterloo, with six deaths. All schools were closed, food prices rocketed, and there were road blocks and travel restrictions. Many people had little understanding of the virus and continued with risky behaviour, ranging from handshaking to the ritual washing of dead bodies and the concealment of deaths. Unfortunately Waterloo was particularly vulnerable to the influx of people suffering from or incubating Ebola because of its geography. The town straddles the main highway to Freetown, and has a busy daily market. Both

factors encouraged the spread of infection and it was soon declared an Ebola ‘hotspot’.

By early October there had been over 150 Ebola deaths in Waterloo SL, a figure which rose to about 300 by the end of the month. James Jimmy Jajua, the Community Health Officer, was among those who died. He had contracted the disease while treating the sick in the Health Centre and acting as a Surveillance Officer for the detection and reporting of new Ebola cases.

As the number of cases and deaths doubled every 2-3 weeks, the number of people in quarantine also rose. By early November 500 Waterloo families were confined to their homes for 21 days. In a single week the Waterloo Partnership supplied 80 of these families with a 21-day supply of bottled water, basic food, and cooking fuel; the third such delivery we had made. We funded further health education events, and provided hand hygiene equipment for all families supplied with food.

In December 2014 we became increasingly aware of the plight of Ebola orphans. Aminata Mansaray, wife of our Chair in SL, was already providing food for 40 vulnerable children. She quickly identified a new group of 20 children (soon to become 30) orphaned or made vulnerable by Ebola. With the help of WP she began feeding all 70 children twice a week, providing bottled water, bread, sardines, sugar, milk powder, biscuits and cassava. The food distribution was not without its problems and heartache. Aminata told us: ‘For every new food distribution, more children come and look enviously as the lucky ones collect their packages. Pathetic indeed, but we cannot help.’

Thanks to a continuous publicity drive, vigorous contact tracing, and a three day ‘lock down’, in January 2015 the numbers of new Ebola cases nationally and in Waterloo began to fall. Nevertheless a patient’s contacts invariably lived in large compounds, so 40 or more people could be involved. The Waterloo Partnership continued to supply these families with essential food, fuel and water during their 21 day period of enforced quarantine: this reduced the risk of contacts ‘absconding’ and potentially spreading the virus. After suffering six months of fear and unimaginable social disruption, ‘Saloneans’ were at last becoming more optimistic, with some road-blocks lifted to allow goods and people to get to market, and plans being made for the schools to reopen.

As the epidemic began to wane, we and our friends in the ‘other Waterloo’ began considering how we might best assist this traumatised community, whether in education, health care, farming, or ‘livelihood recovery’. Normality will not return quickly and the future is very uncertain indeed for SL, its economy reduced, its fragile health service battered, numerous families bereaved and traumatised, and thousands of Ebola orphans abandoned or vulnerable.

Since March 2015 we have been implementing a ‘Waterloo Plan’ for post-Ebola reconstruction:

Eight new groups of women farmers have been supplied with seeds, tools and fertilizer. As a result of family deaths due to Ebola, other women have tragically been left unsupported, with dependants to care for. WP provided modest start-up grants to ten of the most vulnerable of these epidemic survivors, so that they can buy what supplies they need to earn some money from traditional ‘petty-trading’.

We have completed an emergency feeding programme for 50 vulnerable adults and their dependents. Four further health education events have been organised and funded.

Safe drinking water is essential for the health of the community; so at the request of our partners WP built another well.

It has recently emerged that up to 50% of Ebola survivors complain of deteriorating vision. This is caused by a stubborn and often painful eye condition called ‘uveitis’, which can be triggered by a number of virus infections, including Ebola. Unless it is diagnosed and treated promptly, uveitis can cause blindness. WP has responded quickly to this challenge, teaming up with the nearby Kissy Eye Hospital, so that Ebola survivors who have symptoms can be seen by a specialist and given appropriate treatment.

WP has provided 30 Ebola orphans with food and water since November 2014. Fifteen more orphans were identified following a health education meeting in May. To date the guardians of all 45 orphans have received food supplies until September, plus a cash grant of approx. £40 and groundnut seeds for planting on donated land. At the last trustees meeting in July, funding was approved for the education of the 45 orphans for the year 2015-2016.

What of the future? Although Waterloo has had only two new cases of Ebola since the end of March, elsewhere in Sierra Leone local outbreaks continue in Freetown, Port Loko, and Kambia on the Guinea border. Some are still caused by unsafe funeral practices. There is concern that sometimes the chain of transmission cannot be identified. Although some of the big NGOs are packing up and going home, Ebola has not gone away, and is still at risk of becoming entrenched in Sierra Leone.

Following a presentation on Ebola at the Waterloo Partnership AGM in September 2014, a group of six local schools, which had over the years formed links with partner schools in Waterloo SL, all worked together to raise funds for WP’s Ebola relief activities. Their efforts bore fruit in a most remarkable way, and within a few months a total of 38 schools in Merseyside and beyond had raised a substantial sum to support our work during the epidemic. Without this extraordinarily generous donation our support for the victims of EVD would not have been possible.

Fred and Linda Nye

From the Papers: my own Social Media

Sir.

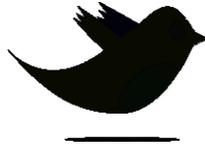
I haven't got a computer, but I was told about Facebook and Twitter and am trying to make friends outside Facebook and Twitter while applying the same principles.

Every day, I walk down the street and tell passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel, what I have done the night before and what I will do for the rest of the day. I give them pictures of my wife, my daughter, my dog and me gardening and on holiday, spending time by the pool. I also listen to their conversations, tell them I "like" them and give them my opinion on every subject that interests me... whether it interests them or not.

And it works. I already have four people following me: two police officers, a social worker and a psychiatrist.

Peter White

Holbrook, Derbyshire



After 115 years of waiting . . .

Or: one day my Prince will come...

St Faith's has always been a 'gathered' congregation, attracting congregations from a large area rather than from just within the parish, to a style of liturgy that our founder set in the very stones of the building. Over the years St Faith's has attracted laity, priests, archbishops, civic and religious leaders from far and wide, but never until now, a member of the Royal Family.

It was some months ago while I was sitting in a governors' meeting at Merchant Taylors', that the Headmaster casually mentioned that as the school's Combined Cadet Force, the CCF, was nearing its centenary, he had enquired from the authorities whether the occasion could be marked by a visit from a member of the Royal Family. Although Prince Andrew's name was mentioned, we were all sworn to secrecy until just two weeks before the event. (Prince Andrew had in fact visited Merchants in 1988 when he opened the Centenary Hall at the Girls' School, when Margaret Davies was Headmistress)

Having seen action as a member of the armed forces, HRH Prince Andrew was an ideal visitor for the celebrations, but his schedule restricted his time with us to just over one hour in the morning, before his helicopter would fly him to another

engagement elsewhere. That was our good fortune, as the school was planning a very large service or remembrance and dedication at St Faith's.

So without giving much away publicly because of the two-week rule, the process of organising began for an invasion of over 600 pupils, staff, VIPs, and hangers on, to say nothing of security people, equerries and personal assistants. Plans were laid for all sorts of eventualities, including having to change the plans! At the two-week point we were delighted to be able to 'go public' and start the hard work.

At St Faith's we sorted out the cleaning of the ever-present efflorescence, and with help from the school and a large team of volunteers from our congregation, floors were polished, pews dusted, carpets and windows cleaned, flowers arranged - the church really looked at its best!

At Merchants, members of the CCF were drilled, young boys from the Prep were schooled in flag waving, hundreds of chairs were taken to church and glossy service sheets were printed.

The final schedule was agreed with 'The Palace' - Prince Andrew would fly in by helicopter at 10.15, be greeted by the Headmaster and Headmistress, the Lord Lieutenant, Chairman of Governors, assorted civic leaders and other VIPs. His official car would then take him the 100 yards to St Faith's where he would be welcomed by our vicar, and where he would take part in a service of remembrance of all the former pupils who gave their lives in two World Wars. New colours were to be dedicated for the CCF, and the Prince would be airborne again at 11.30.

The day before the visit, rehearsals were held and final arrangements sorted out. A last minute panic occurred when it was realized that the trees overhanging the Queensway corner entrance were too low for the official car to drive through!

So at last the great day dawned! St Faith's was given a final polish, chairs and pews were filled and all was ready when we heard the sound of a helicopter circling over the school and landing near (but not on!) the cricket square. HRH Prince Andrew talked to those in the reception party including several young pupils, and his car managed to navigate through the newly pruned gateway.

After signing our visitors book (go on have a look, it's there) Prince Andrew followed a very proud Vicar down the aisle to his seat by the nave altar. The service was splendid and well up to St Faith's standards. Prince Andrew read a lesson, a choir from the girls' school sang their very best, the new Colours were dedicated, and finally music from some members of the boys school orchestra confirmed what had been a respectful and memorable joint school and church service.

With the clock approaching 11.30, cars arrived' Prince Andrew said goodbye, and the helicopter whisked him off to his next engagement.

So there we have it - Thursday 25th of June 2015, the day when Royalty finally found its way to St Faith's! Photographic highlights are on the centre pages.

Rick Walker



'Don't Drop the Baby!'

'As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.'

Advice given to new priests and deacons at the point of ordination is often threefold: 'Don't drop the baby! Don't fall in the grave! And if you're going to err, err on the side of compassion!'

It's good advice, easy to re-imagine for other contexts. At the supermarket checkout desk: 'Don't drop the eggs! Don't fall off the chair! And if you're going to err, err on the side of profit.' Or the football pitch: 'Don't handle the ball! Don't kick an opponent! And if you're going to err, err on the blind side of the referee!'

Returning to the ordination scene it is, of course, the third part in that trinity of advice which comes closest to the truth of what ministry really is. And remember, dog-collared or not, we are all called to minister, to serve, in one way or another.

'If you're going to err, err on the side of compassion!' Compassion isn't so much something you talk about as something you feel. But that isn't all it is. A whisper of a prayer. A cry. A hand held out to help. A listening ear. Compassion must, if it's to mean anything, lead to action.

It is almost two years since a police helicopter quite literally fell from the sky over the city of Glasgow. People watched, not quite believing, as it dropped on to the Clutha Bar, a pub in the city's centre. Ten people lost their lives that night; there were many others for whom life would never be the same again. Jim Murphy, an M.P. at the time, was having a drink with a colleague in an establishment nearby. When he heard the terrible sounds of the collision, he rushed to his feet and ran in their direction, right into the burning wreck that now was the Clutha Bar.

Murphy is reported to have said afterwards: 'I saw smoke coming out of the door and it was obvious something bloody awful had happened. People were clambering out.' Later, in an interview about what he had seen and felt, a BBC reporter broke off the conversation to point out to the M.P. that he seemed to have blood on his shirt. Murphy, looking the length of himself, spoke the three words that told, with terrible

eloquence, the tale of what had happened. ‘It isn’t mine,’ he said. ‘It isn’t mine.’ He would say, after the dust had settled, that it was instinct which had sent him running towards the Clutha Bar night. But we could be forgiven for wondering about that.

Is it really instinct that makes a man run into a burning building when other folk are clambering to get out of it? Perhaps the thing he called ‘instinct’ others would call ‘compassion’. It is the desire to try to do something - anything - to help, when someone, in this case several someones, is sore and suffering. Some of us seem to stand rigidly on the sidelines of another’s sorrow. Others of us rush to help. Which, I wonder, are we? Maybe, if we are honest, we can admit that we are neither one nor the other. We are both.

Few of us will, thank God, ever be in such a situation. But opportunities for us to exercise compassion toward others in the everyday of our lives are in no short supply. For, as one aphorism neatly puts it: ‘Be kind. Always. Everyone you know is fighting a battle you know nothing about’. Such as in this true story, which is in many ways an everyday tale and yet is the story of a moment when a little bit of the world - a supermarket checkout to be precise - became suddenly a ‘thin’ place and earth seemed kissed by heaven.

It began with a boy who has Down’s Syndrome – this fact is important only in that it plays a key part in this particular story. The boy was at the self-scanner checkout, trying to pay for his shopping. But he was getting flustered over money and was all too aware of the collective impatience of the queue forming behind him.

The checkout assistant, sensing what was happening, went to the boy. She tried to slow him down, offered to help him sort coins one from the other. And soon enough all was well. At the end of it all the boy, relieved that it was over and glad to have found a friend in that particular moment said, ‘Thank you for helping me. Not everyone does. When they look at this’ - the assistant watched as the boy circled his own face with an accusatory finger - ‘they just think I’m stupid.’

The assistant looked at the boy. Chose her words carefully and meant them. ‘Well,’ she said, ‘when I look at our face I see a boy just like any other. And besides, it’s what’s on the inside that really counts.’

We don’t need to run into burning buildings to save people from their sorrows. The supermarket, the bus stop, the pew in front of us: there are hurting people everywhere. And how we respond can make a very big difference. Sometimes we stand on the sidelines of another’s sorrow. Other times we cannot keep from helping. What is it? What is it that nudges us towards action?

For Jesus that day on the shore it was a crowd: an exposed and vulnerable people needing shelter, someone to carry them when they were weary from wandering, someone to revive their flagging spirits and nourish their hungry souls. Never mind that it was difficult sometimes for them to find a quiet place to eat, never mind rest.

Jesus saw them. Really saw them. Jesus felt compassion for them. And he began to teach them. What did he teach them? That there is a home for their restlessness, a love that reaches out to claim them.

Jesus had compassion for the crowd, and it was not a one-off. There would be other times to feel this way too. Like on the outskirts of Jerusalem. Jesus knows he is already on a collision course with the powers that be. He stands with his friends, watching all the people going about their business, tears rolling down his face. But Jesus isn't crying for himself. 'If only they had known,' his friends will hear him say. 'If only they had known what makes for peace.'

And days later, on the cross, a question from a dying soul, a promise from this dying Saviour: 'I tell you, this day you will be with me in paradise.' Compassion. Compassion. Compassion.

Sometimes we stand on the sidelines. Other times we cannot hold back our help. Which are we today and which will we be tomorrow? What is our instinct?

Let others see it. And let them call it compassion.

Fro Dennis



Music Bulletin

'The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end'

From September the choir will begin to regularly sing the office of compline on the **third Friday of the month at 8:45pm**, following choir practice. I'm sure many of you will know the service, however I'm sure there are those who do not yet know.

The office of compline is the final church service of the day in the Christian tradition of canonical hours. The word compline is derived from the Latin word *completorium* as it is the completion of the working day. In many monasteries who still regularly sing the canonical hours it is the custom to begin the 'Great Silence' after compline, during which the whole community observes silence throughout the night until the morning service the next day.

Why bother? Well, this is a question I have had to ask myself a few times, but answers have always come quickly to me.

- We come together to worship God, even if it is late on a Friday evening; even if we are few in number, God himself is there.
- Plainsong is a great way of developing tuning, communicating and singing among both choir members and congregation. For those who feel uncomfortable about singing, this is a great way of gaining confidence and experience!

- Tradition has always been an important identity to many, including myself. I was always drawn to God through the simple power of this short sung service (around 12 minutes!)

The singing of compline will add to the choir's other regularly sung services: for those who do not know the choir now regularly sings evensong on the first Sunday of the month at 6:30pm. If you would like to become more involved with either the choir, or as a congregation member with an interest in music and music choices, my contact details can be found on the website. We always welcome new members and ideas of how we can develop our worship together!

Robert Woods

A Notable Quote

“I’m sorry we’re late, we misread the timetables. But there - nobody’s infallible.”

Geoffrey Fisher to Pope John XXIII, Dec 1960, at the first meeting for 500 years between a Pope and an Archbishop of Canterbury.

From the magazine of St Peter's Formby



Music on Saturdays

Our own Ian Dunning gave the 2015 season of Saturday Lunchtime Recitals a big send-off on Saturday, 8 August, with the excellent accompaniment of Ann Dickinson. It was another varied programme of sixteen recitals, starting at the end of April (later than usual), welcoming back some familiar faces as well as some new ones.

Attendances this year were slightly down on last year but income was better. A special ‘thank you’ to the catering teams who look after everyone so well each week of the season. Unfortunately, we did not have any feedback sheets ready in time for the final concert but please let us know what you did like - or didn’t like - by emailing the Parish Office or via the website. Please let us have your views so that we can try to reflect your wishes in next year’s series.

The figures for the 2015 season are:

Total income (net): £1,538 (2014 - £1,376)

Total attendances: 780 (2014 – 794)

The income of £1,500+ is a very welcome addition to our church coffers, made up of donations and the sale of refreshments. We are very grateful to those who had a part in
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‘One Day my Prince will come...’

A gallery of official photos of the special service on the morning of Thursday, June 25th, when Merchant Taylors’ Combined Cadet Force celebrated its centenary, in the presence of HRH Prince Andrew, who read a lesson. Rick Walker’s article on page 7 tells the full story.





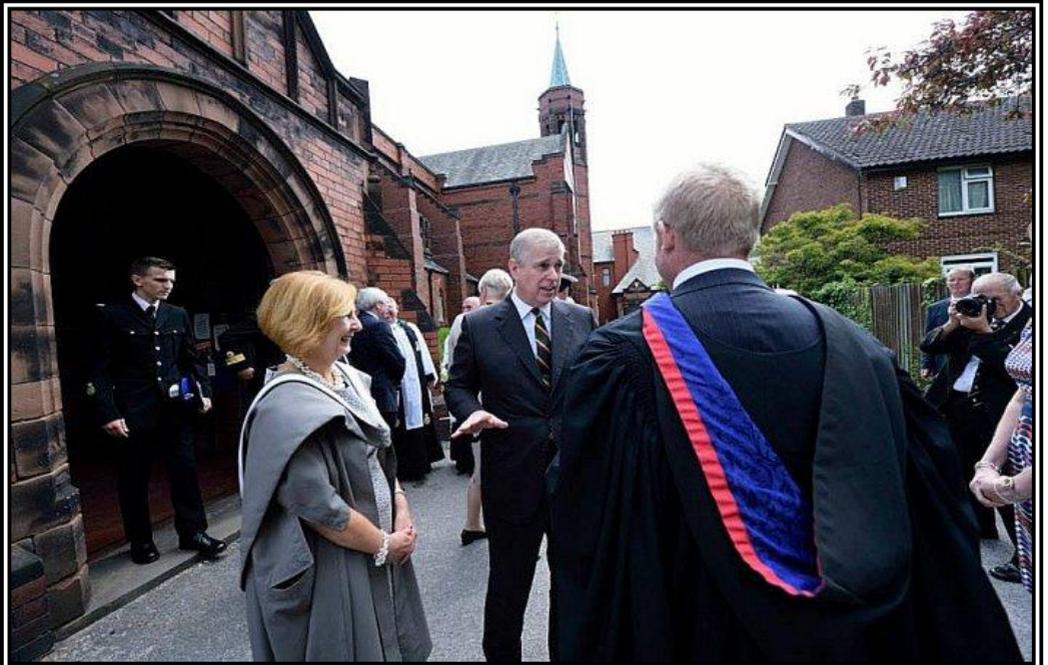


During the course of the service new Cadet Force Colours were brought forward and dedicated at the altar.





Vicar and Prince head out of church at the conclusion of the service. Outside the church, farewells are swiftly said, before H.R.H. is whisked away by whirlybird to his next port of call.



organising the recitals and making sure that everyone is welcomed and looked after. Thank you!

We very much appreciate the support of all our performers, who generously give their time to entertain us week by week with some lovely music. Without your support, these recitals simply would not happen, so thank you very much!

Next year, the recitals will start on or soon after Easter Saturday (2 April) and run through to early August. Please look out on our website for information about other musical events at St Faith's during the year. A list of the 2016 Recitals will be published on the website in the New Year.

Please tell your friends about the recitals and encourage them to come along. It's a great social occasion too! Thank you all for your support and we look forward to welcoming you back very soon.

David Jones

Treasurer



From the Registers

Our last delvings into the church registers recorded the departure of vicar John Schofield, after a period of ill health. From Wednesday, October 1st, 1947, the interregnum will have begun, with Rev Sidney Singer, the curate, shouldering the daily burden of services, assisted regularly by retired priest Revd H.J.Graham. The first Sunday in this limbo saw no figures recorded for any service, apart from 40 at the early celebration. Evensong is written in red, since it was the eve of St Faith's Day.

'SS' presided at the 6.30 am Sung Eucharist on the Patronal Day following, administering to 37 people then and another 24 over two later said eucharists. Thereafter the steady pattern of daily and weekly worship continues. Over the next few Sundays the communicants at the 8.00 am are 70; 52; 37; 44, 99 and 39, averaging 56. Interestingly, at nearly all the faithfully sustained daily eucharists (all at 8 am except Thursday, which is at 7 am) there are one or two more shown as attending than as communicating - a phenomenon which is hard to explain and certainly not typical of later years.

H.J.G. (Graham) and E.S.U. (Urwin) continue to do sterling service at the altar and in the pulpit. Weekday attendances range from 2 to 8, and the pattern is unchanged as the year draws to a close, apart from the scheduling of some Advent Wednesday evening offerings of Compline, one taken by Paul Nichols.

As has been the case for some years now, there are rarely any 'Remarks' made in the register, not even meteorological ones, and your scribe is reduced to spotting such trivia as the recording of 'Sung Charist' one Sunday (later with the missing 'Eu' squeezed in above). Of such things are the researcher's life made...

Christmas Eve, a Wednesday, sees Festal Evensong celebrated, and 230 communicating a few hours later at the 'Midnight'. The Christmas morning Sung Eucharist sees 3 communicating rather than the usual one: whether the other one or two had fasted since Christmas Eve or had slipped in under the ropes we may never know. Unsurprisingly, after the rush at the Nativity services, there are but 26 taking the Blessed Sacrament on the 1st Sunday after Christmas: together with 2 at the 10.45 that morning. We suspect that this may well be the lowest number recorded on a Sunday since records began.

1947 ended quietly a few days later, with the pencilled total of communicants for the year shown as 5,365. The contrast with the 6,328 logged for 1946 is clear evidence that this has been a difficult year for St Faith's, and all credit is due to the faithful priests who sustained the daily worship during these months of decline.

The register has but two pages to run before it closes, and they cover the month of January 1948. Nothing of note is to be seen, apart from the signature of one-time vicar John Brierley, who returns once again to celebrate and preach on January 18th, the second Sunday after the Epiphany. What turns out to be the penultimate service of a mercifully brief interregnum was on Friday 30th of the month, when H.J.G. gives communion to 3 of the faithful while one extra seemingly looks on.

The last page turns and on January 31st H.J.G. communicates 7 of the 9 present for the early communion. Below is inscribed, at 3 pm of that same day **INSTITUTION OF THE REV. WILLIAM HASSALL L.T.H.** A new register and a new era are about to open for St Faith's.

Chris Price



Sefton Pensioners Advocacy Centre

The Centre is holding a Crosby Older Persons' Forum meeting on the second Monday of every month at Crosby Library. All older people are welcome to come. We have information and speakers and take part in consultations and local planning. Our next meeting will be on September 14th from 11am-1pm. We have speakers from Healthwatch, Sefton Home Improvements and Falls Prevention. We will also hear about Crosby Foodbank.

Crosby Older Persons' Forum meeting is part of a network of five forums which meet
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across Sefton, aiming to make sure that the voice of older people is heard in our Borough. Please contact Justine on 01704 538411 or justine@spacadvocacy.org.uk if you would like more information.

Justine Shenton

Older Persons' Forum Co-ordinator
Sefton Pensioners' Advocacy Centre
Shakespeare Centre, 4th Floor, Shakespeare Street
Southport. PR8 5AB
Justine@spacadvocacy.org.uk
01704 538411

100 Club Winners: August

1	184	Corinne Hedgecock
2	107	Ann Dickinson
3	24	Cathy Taylor



My Ordination Journey

A near neighbour from Grosvenor Avenue accosted my mother one day and said “Mrs Oxenforth, that child should go to Sunday School!” and so the next week I was taken. It must have been around Easter, since when asked what it was like by a keen Auntie Nuttall, I replied “We had Alleluias, Alleluias and more Alleluias!” I never looked back, loving Sunday School and was in awe of the marvellous Mona Turner, very glamorous indeed. I also remember the dreadful ditty of “pennies dropping, pennies dropping” for the collection, and a pantomime of ‘Babes in the Wood’ with Miss Brinton and Miss Owen as the hapless children.

It wasn't long before I wanted to go to the Sung Eucharist, which filled me with awe and delight. The choir sang “this is the house of prayer, wherein thy servants meet, and Thou O Lord are there, thy chosen flock to greet” from the vestry - a disembodied sound of great mystery. Thus began the liturgy I grew to love and which became a central part of my life.

I look back on myself as a very odd and pious child. I joined the choir at eight and came under the good influence of George Houldin who looked after us, and Ernie Pratt who taught me to love music in a new way. I read the first lesson at the Carol Service, sang the odd solo and later became responsible for putting the music out. I developed a knack for opening the hymn book to within two or three numerals. I

loved the settings of Ley in B flat and Ireland in F (?). George Houldin used to take the choir for lessons and told us stories. I well remember hearing all about Fr. Potter of Peckham – the first of many coincidences in my life as I did my second curacy at St. Anthony's Nunhead and heard many more stories about this remarkable man.

I joined the Cubs and later the Scouts, enjoying going to Tawd Vale, Cheshire and North Wales for Summer Camps as well as Bob-a-Job week. Thank you to George Goodwin, Ken Clawson et al for their encouragement. And then there was the Pantomime! I was a scullion one year in "Humpty Dumpty" with a huge cast, including a wonderful Pat Clawson and Raymond Clark as her father. The Sunday School was run by Miss Mountfield, whom I seem to remember retiring several times, and receiving a black handbag at each ending. She was wonderful, though mocked by some, including my brother. She taught me so much about the real worldwide nature of the Church and interesting people like Fr Damian, Charles de Foucoud, Nicholas Ferrar and his community at Little Gidding. She was so well informed and a model of the devoted life. She also managed to get us to see the Albert Dock years before it was rediscovered. (Her brother was the general Secretary of Mersey Docks and Harbour Board.) Many years later I was looking at the parish at Pemberton and the vicarage had the name "Mountfield" which I took as a sign!

The clergy were of course a major influence. Fr Hassall was centred on the liturgy and expected the highest standards from everyone and was a great model. I do though treasure a few moments when his weaknesses showed. The Youth Club, tired of having to go the 8.00am Holy Communion, went up in significant numbers to the altar at the Sung Eucharist. Up until this moment only a few elderly and infirm ladies were expected to go up. Fr. Hassall's face was a picture! The only time I saw him angry was after the death of Miss Henderson - a retired missionary who rode a sit-up-and-beg bike and wore incredibly darned lisle stockings. She left a lot of money, mainly to missionary societies I think and a few hundred to St. Faith's. Fr. Hassall was shocked and was very angry she hadn't left more to her parish church so that a good window could be put in. "I'll see that women in Hell!" was a response I did not forget. Nevertheless I revered him and still do as a good and encouraging parish priest, and enjoyed serving during the week and on Sundays.

Tom Stange was another great example and help to me as a teenager. He brought great life to many young people at the Youth Club and was very good at producing events for us. I well remember being in a play where I was Satan, and Denise McDougall was also in it. I also remember a holiday in North Wales staying in the property of Mr Williams, and an excessive number of bats invading the air in the evening as soon as it was dark.

Schools were also an influence in the formation: Homewood Kindergarten, Forefield Lane Infants and Junior and finally Merchants. Apart from academic life, a sense of duty and service were instilled into us. Every year we had the Patriarchal sagas read at assembly and sang vigorously. Famous visitors came and talked to us. I can well

remember a black American woman taking to us about racism years before it was a topic of thought or conversation. Ralph Rolls was a good teacher of RE and I was pleased when he became a worshipper at St. Faith's. Chris Price was also a very good teacher of English and a rather quietly subversive presence, teaching some of us that a complete indifference to sport didn't mean we could not contribute, and so began the magazine "Image" and the beginning of Image Press.

St. Chad's College, Durham called - another Horsfall foundation, and years of training for the priesthood. And also a lot of drama with the religious drama group "The King's Men". Apart from "Murder in the Cathedral" in the Galilee Chapel of the most wonderful cathedral in the country, I was in some rather obscure plays by Anouilh, Strindberg, Byron and Dorothy Sayers: all a good training for leading the liturgy and having a real sense of the drama of the Mass. We also had training about how to deal with almost impossible acoustics by visiting the six worst churches in the diocese. Thank you Nessie.

Learning about the Bible, Church History, liturgy, sermons and pastoralia was the purpose of our training and of course saying the daily office (BCP) and going to mass on a sliding scale until you went six days a week. We started being trained in group dynamics and I went on a course at a mental hospital. It was very different what happens today, but was still an excellent training in the sort of faithfulness I had learned at St. Faith's. St. Chad's had the lowest drop-out rate of clergy of any Theological College.

Finally the aim of all these years - Ordination. The beginning of my diocese-hopping started in Rochester and St. Andrew's, Bromley with plenty of visiting, youth club and a fine dramatic society. Then Southwark Diocese and St. Anthony's, Nunhead and my first real encounter with a multiracial population. I soon learned how important it was to know which island the West Indians has come from, and also how to enjoy and cook so many varieties of food. I also trained with the Richmond Fellowship in Pastoral Care and Counselling - a very demanding course. The orientation week was so disorientating, I fell down the stairs at Holland Park Tube station and hobbled round with two sticks for weeks.

Then it was back to Liverpool and St. Margaret's, Princes Road in what became called Toxteth after the riots. David Sheppard had known me in Peckham and thought I might be the right person to go there. George Goodwin brought a group from St Faith's to visit, which was appreciated. Here I learned how a whole community had been ignored and badly labelled, just like St. Margaret's itself - it had been under the bishop's ban for many years, simply because it was too catholic. (Even the scouse tram ticket collector had been known in ages past to proclaim "All change for Rome!" at the stop outside the church.) Of course Liverpool generally was reviled in the press. We were always too rebellious. The mixture of Lancashire, Wales, Ireland, West Africa, Somalia, China and many others who came here on the way to America from Eastern Europe and stayed, is too much for many people. And of course our self-mockery is second to none, and we don't take prisoners.

I returned to Brixton in Southwark diocese for a ten year stint, where apart from St. Matthew's, I was very involved in pastoral care and counselling groups for the diocese, and being the trainer from Victim Support, Lambeth. As in Toxteth, there were enough daily dramas for me to forgo any stage productions, though I did do a spot of cabaret of operatic pastiche, utilizing my major hobby - opera. Then it was back to this diocese and Wigan, just a few hundred yards from where my mother's father was born. Another very distinct culture, and miles away from anything I had known before. As in Brixton, Church alterations were a large part of life, as well as coping with a four thousand plot churchyard constantly messed about by vandals. An annual pantomime reinvigorated my desire to tread the boards, and I played a series of loud and heavy characters. It was surprising to learn how important it was in funeral but we do enjoy you in the pantos." As in everywhere else I studied local history, especially ecclesiastical, to discover the roots of both good and bad practice.

Finally I retired to within yards of where I was born – Park House. I do reflect on that strange day when a three and a half pound baby, two months premature came into the world, and my mother was told I would be very strong if I survived. The sisters fed me on brandy and glucose from a pen filler, and kept me in an oxygen tent. I don't think I ever looked back and give thanks for a life full of riches, but above all for a good start to help me survive all the ups and downs, some very severe, in the ministry of a priest. I give thanks for the many people who helped me become who I am, and with God's help will continue to serve his Kingdom of Justice and Righteousness.

Colin Oxenforth



Meet our New Archdeacons Designate

This month, Bishop Paul announced the first stage in the proposals of his paper 'Fit for Mission' being implemented – the appointment of three new Archdeacons Designate. Diocesan Synod unanimously endorsed *Fit for Mission* earlier this year, with the proviso that the new Archdeacon appointments are done in a way that is budget-neutral – i.e. that it does not mean an overall increase in the Diocesan budget. The Pastoral Scheme to make them full Archdeacons will begin its process soon. In the meantime, for all practical purposes, the three will function as Archdeacons alongside Archdeacon Ricky, who will continue as Archdeacon of Liverpool. The three, who will be licensed at the beginning of November are Jennifer Mackenzie (West Lancs and Wigan), joining us from our US Link Diocese of Virginia, Roger Preece (St Helens and Warrington), joining us from the Chester Diocese.

We are in the Sefton and Knowsley Archdeaconry, which means we have a new Archdeacon who is nevertheless very well known to us – our near-neighbour Pete Spiers takes up this post, alongside Jennifer Mackenzie and Roger Preece. We keep them all in our prayers, but particularly Pete and Annie as they prepare to leave St Luke's after a good number of years.

The Tale of Two Tablecloths



The recent emergence of two embroidered tablecloths serve to remind us of the vibrant, energetic life and fund raising at St. Faith's a generation ago.

It was just a few weeks ago that Mother Sue received a mysterious package with a covering letter from a well wisher. The package contained two tablecloths, each covered with a multitude of carefully embroidered signatures of parishioners and local people. The tablecloths had evidently been created to celebrate fund raising events in 1952 and 1955.

The cloths had been discovered by Kate Bolland in a local charity shop in Ross-on-Wye and, being involved in her local parish, recognised the importance of the cloths to the history of St. Faith's and felt that they should be returned to our church. She purchased them and then very kindly posted them to Mother Sue.

The 1950's marked an important time in the life of St. Faith's and for post-war Britain. In 1950, St. Faith's celebrated its Golden Jubilee and, under the energetic leadership of Fr. William Hassall, the following years brought several improvements and developments to the church fabric, including oil powered heating; redecoration of the Salviati reredos and upgraded lighting. Great Britain was just beginning to emerge from the rigours of rationing caused by World War II and by 1957 Harold McMillan was to declare that Britons had 'never had it so good'. My mother, a faithful and regular St. Faith's worshipper from childhood, would record daily life through her personal diary. With the benefit of this and the invaluable archives of the 'Crosby Herald', I was able to find out a little more of the events surrounding the tablecloths.

The tablecloth for 1952 would seem to celebrate a bazaar held on Friday and Saturday the 26th and 27th of September of that year. The weather over that weekend featured prominently in my mother's diary. It was clear that Crosby and Waterloo had been enduring stormy weather, so much so a marquee blew down – my mother wrote: *A simply shocking morning. A continuation of last night's storm. The wind lashed round and tore the marquee down. The weather couldn't possibly be worse.*

On the Friday morning my mother made sandwiches for the bazaar and took them to the parish hall, returning later that evening to help serve refreshments. She recalled getting home a little after 10pm. The Saturday morning was spent making jam tarts, a sponge cake and some drop scones for the bazaar. There was a model railway display on the green (presumably where the vicarage now

stands). My mother wrote on the Sunday, *The bazaar realised nearly £700 which was quite good considering the terrible weather.* (£700 would be the equivalent to approximately £19,500 today).

The Crosby Herald's coverage of the bazaar featured a photograph of the event with the Mayoress (Miss Muriel Jamieson) of Crosby admiring articles for sale on the food stall accompanied by the Mayor (Alderman A. G. Jamieson) who opened the bazaar.

The production of the tablecloth must have taken place at a later date. I would imagine that bazaar-goers, friends and family might have been invited to sign the cloth with a contribution of perhaps sixpence or a shilling to church funds. The cloth would have been embroidered later by a team of dedicated needleworkers.

The 1955 tablecloth also celebrates a bazaar held at St. Faith's. It would appear that this was a larger affair, again held over two days, commencing on Friday 21st October and continuing on the Saturday. This was to have the specific purpose, as the Crosby Herald headline declared - "St. Faith's two-day bazaar - Proceeds for New Church Lighting".

There was no shortage of dignitaries keen to be involved with the bazaar. Friday's events were opened by Lady Staples of Formby, while on Saturday, the local M.P., Graham Page and his wife, opened proceedings.

The theme of light ran consistently on the two days; Lady Staples gave a short address on the importance of light. "It was a matter, not of sacrilege but of common sense. Light was symbolic of our Christian Faith." Graham Page also drew upon the theme of light. "Lighten our Darkness" was a good foundation from which to work. In referring to ways of praying he said there were two ways; "One was to pray and then sit back and wait for a miracle to happen. The other method was to pray and then set about seeing that it did happen. You have taken the latter course."

According to the 'Herald', the hall presented a fascinating picture, with each stall being smartly canopied, and carrying a selection of inviting articles. There were several stalls, including the Vicarage stall; the Mothers' Union; the café; the sweets stall and several run by members of the youth club, Girl Guides, Brownies and an enterprising 'fun-fair' run by the Wolf Cubs.

On the Thursday my mother wrote of making 'coconut ice' for the sweet stall and taking it to the Parish Hall ready for the bazaar the following day. On the Friday my mother reported that Lady Staples of Formby opened the bazaar. Returning in the evening she noted that there was little variety left on the sweet stall!

On the Saturday, my mother hurried to the hall for 2.45pm, to help out at the bazaar. She recorded that all the sweets were sold out and that she spent the rest of the afternoon there with family and friends.

The final total raised at the bazaar, according to the cloth, was £1000 - equivalent to approximately £24,500 today.

How the tablecloths got to be in a charity shop some 60 years later and 150 miles away is uncertain. The sister of William Hassall retired to live in Herefordshire and so it is possible that they went with her.

A future task is to decipher the names on the cloths and then to consider how best to preserve and present the cloths in order that future generations may enjoy them and recall those glorious fun filled days of the 1950's.

John Woodley



Reg Williamson, RIP

Those at St Faith's with long memories may well recall the time when Reg's wife, Amy, worshipped with us and was an enthusiastic members of the ladies' Horsfall Club in the 1950's.

It was in the wake of Amy's death and the pastoral ministrations of Fr. Richard Capper, that Reg began to worship with us and soon became a regular and reliable sidesman.

Having moved to Liverpool from Stafford, to take up a senior position with English Electric, Reg and Amy were married at Brougham Terrace Registry Office and moved to a new home in Myers Road East. At weekends they would often drive up to their boat on Lake Windermere and enjoy relaxing in the delightful scenery of the Lake District.

At Reg's funeral at Thornton Crematorium on June 5th I spoke of how dependable and helpful Reg had been over many years in assuming responsibility for tidying up St Faith's after the building had been used for school end of term services. With a few of the other church retirees, I could always rely on Reg and his team to return St. Faith's to ship-shape order.

In the years following Amy's death, Reg struck up a great friendship with Margaret Hesketh Roberts, (of blessed memory). The two enjoyed years of wonderful

companionship, often going out for day trips and coach excursions as well as eating out in pubs and restaurants in the local area. With her death in 2007, Reg was again plunged into grief and now in his mid nineties was finding it very difficult to get to church.

It was at this time that four of us from St. Faith's became regular monthly visitors to Reg. Unable to leave his Sandalwood flat Reg was only too pleased to see his friends from St. Faith's – Fred Nye, Angela Price, Ann Hartley and myself, to enjoy conversation and hear any news and gossip!

On March 4th 2014, Reg celebrated his one hundredth birthday. His step-daughter, Val brought six large cakes and the residents of Sandalwood, of which Reg was one of the first occupants. To mark this special occasion, Rosie Walker was kind enough to bake Reg a cake, which I gave him and for which he was most grateful.

For the last six years of his long life, Reg enjoyed the support of Amy's daughter, Val, and the care and attention of two ladies, Eileen and Shirley, who helped him with his baths and did his washing, ironing, cleaning and shopping.

Wonderfully and remarkably Reg's mental state remained as sharp as ever. He read numerous books provided by the Central and Sandalwood libraries, engaged his mind with countless puzzles and loved the challenge of crosswords. He had a large music collection, didn't often listen to the radio and watched less and less television in recent years, but kept abreast of all the news by enjoying reading his daily newspaper. The motor racing from Silverstone to which, in his earlier years he had been a regular visitor, the Grand Prix's and both the Christmas and Easter Carol Services televised from King's College Cambridge were Reg's favourite programmes.

Reg was deeply appreciative of Fred's monthly visit in which he would receive the Blessed Sacrament. He had a love for St. Faith's, knowing that in his hour of need he had found there much solace and support and friends in whose company he would enjoy laughter and delight.

Reg had for some years feared and loathed the prospect of being in hospital. It was, therefore, a great blessing that his sudden death came, as he would have wished, in the safe and secure haven of his home. Those of us who had the pleasure and privilege of visiting him these past years will miss him. At the age of 101, on that Friday morning at Thornton, Reg was commended and entrusted to God our maker and redeemer, with the sure and confident hope that our dear and much loved brother in Christ would enter into the fullness and joy of Eternity.

Fp Dennis

(Editorial apologies for this belated posting)

ONLINE EXTRAS!

Meet our New Archdeacons Designate

This month, Bishop Paul announced the first stage in the proposals of his paper 'Fit for Mission' being implemented – the appointment of three new Archdeacons Designate. Diocesan Synod unanimously endorsed *Fit for Mission* earlier this year, with the proviso that the new Archdeacon appointments are done in a way that is budget-neutral – i.e. that it does not mean an overall increase in the Diocesan budget. The Pastoral Scheme to make them full Archdeacons will begin its process soon. In the meantime, for all practical purposes, the three will function as Archdeacons alongside Archdeacon Ricky, who will continue as Archdeacon of Liverpool.

We are in the Sefton and Knowsley Archdeaconry, which means we have a new Archdeacon who is nevertheless very well known to us – our near-neighbour Pete Spiers takes up this post, alongside Jennifer Mackenzie and Roger Preece. We keep them all in our prayers, but particularly Pete and Annie as they prepare to leave St Luke's after a good number of years.

Jennifer Mackenzie West Lancashire and Wigan



Coming all the way from our link diocese Virginia, Jennifer brings a strong background in ministry development, pastoral care, conflict resolution and adaptive use of building space. She has served on bishops Task Forces for Affordable Housing and Congregational Development and actively advocates for broadening lay leadership and

ministry. She is also a tireless advocate for improved services to those living with mental illness.

Why do you feel called to this role?

I must admit that when I was first told about this position becoming available, I hesitated for quite some time before finally deciding to apply. In the US Episcopal Church there really is no equivalent to an Archdeacon in the Church of England, so I had to do a quick study and some real soul-searching.

The more I learned, the more I came to believe that everything I had done in ministry—both lay and ordained—up to this point had been preparing me for this role. That realization has been affirmed many times over in the last few weeks and I am both delighted and humbled to have been called to serve the Diocese of Liverpool in this capacity.

What are your first priorities?

Of course there is a great deal to do in preparation for my move from the US to the UK. Besides all of the temporal concerns, I am meeting with my spiritual director and going on retreat to prepare spiritually for this move.

Once I'm settled into my new home and am "boots on the ground" in the Wigan and West Lancashire area, my top priorities will be to meet and get to know the clergy and lay leadership of the parishes, churches, and ministries in my care.

The role of Archdeacon as Bishop Paul envisions it is a highly relational one—and so building those relationships in order to establish trust and a good mutual working relationship will be key. Also important will be learning all of the ins and outs of being an Archdeacon—the canons, the traditions, and the expectations I have yet to learn.

What are your impressions of our diocese?

I am fortunate to have visited The Diocese of Liverpool three times over the past five years because of the twinning relationship with The Diocese of Virginia; and I also have been delighted to meet and host some members of this diocese in my home in Virginia.

During that time I have had a growing positive impression and do believe that Liverpool is leading the way for all of us in terms of Evangelism, Growth, and Health of the Church. The biggest challenges are A-B-C: Ageing Money, Broken Buildings, and Clergy Retiring. Naming those challenges is key to tackling them; however, the bigger challenge is always 'the unknown.' I trust God to lead us through whatever may come, so if we aspire to listen and look for the Holy Spirit's leading, then I am confident that we shall meet challenges known and unknown head on and successfully accomplish all that God has purposed for us to do.

Roger Preece

St Helens and Warrington

Roger joins us from the Diocese of Chester where he is currently Vicar of Bowdon, a church that has been held up as a model of good practice by the Church Growth Team of the Church of England.



With a number of congregations that worship in different ways, from formal cathedral-style choral evensong through to "cafe church". It also has invested in youth and children's work with over 200 teenagers connecting to different parts of church life.

Roger has a strong interest in leadership and has worked with Revd. Dr Simon Walker's teaching material on "Undefended Leadership" nationally and internationally. This stems from a business career that spanned senior roles in a range of international banks as well as being one of the founders of international management consultancy firm Capco.

Inspired by Fit for Mission and our diocesan growth agenda saying "There are many challenges in being a parish priest and I want to do all I can to help clergy in their roles as leaders in their local communities. I also want to help encourage really good ideas to spread across parishes.

"Because of the pressures of parish life, we often end up reinventing the wheel, because we don't have time to find the resources we need. I am also interested in the way in which church communities make a real contribution to their local areas through providing services such as youth work, children's work, food banks and care for the elderly."

Roger achieved local and national fame as the ["roller skating vicar"](#) following his first Easter all age worship at Bowdon where he roller bladed in the

church. His unusual approach, designed to stimulate thinking about the importance of the witness accounts of the Resurrection, gave him the opportunity to talk about his faith on ITV's This Morning.

He is excited by the challenges the new role offers saying "I am looking forward to getting to know the clergy and parishioners of the proposed Archdiaconal area around St Helen's, Widnes and Warrington. I was born in the North East and as a child lived in Lancashire, but have not yet spent much time in what is the north of historic Cheshire. I am also looking forward to learning about the Diocese of Liverpool and its strategy to encourage growth in all areas of church life."

Peter Spiers

Sefton and Knowsley



Revd Canon Pete Spiers is well known to many in our diocese having served as vicar at St Lukes, Crosby for ten years having held a number of roles across our diocese.

Pete is currently Area Dean of Sefton and, among a number of roles, he has served as a diocesan representative on General Synod and sat on the Crown Nominations Commission the national body which selects Diocesan Bishops including the current Archbishop of Canterbury.

Within the local community Pete's been heavily involved in the production of the Crosby Investment strategy that seeks to set out a framework by which Crosby village can be re-developed to become a thriving centre once again.

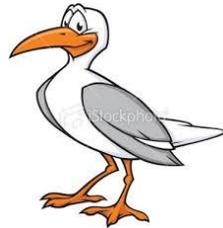
Pete told us "I am someone who likes to make a difference and this new role is all about growing a bigger church so that we can make a bigger difference. It builds on what I have learnt through my time at St. Luke's when we have sought to do exactly that. It will also be quite a challenge as it will need to bring everyone together to work together and seek God's guidance as to how

this can be done.

There is already a lot of great work going on within and through our churches in Sefton and Knowsley when life is very difficult for so many people in the community and I look forward to getting to know people right across the boroughs, listening to them and seeing how I can support them as they participate in the mission that God is giving them in their local communities.

We have thoroughly enjoyed being at St. Luke's and are immensely grateful for all that the congregation, in particular, have given to us and we will be very sad to leave but confident that God is calling us. However, having lived and worked in the Diocese of Liverpool all my life, I am honoured and thrilled to be joining the Bishop of Liverpool's staff team along with Jennifer and Roger. I look forward to learning more about God and His church and how I can help her to continue to share Christ's love to all sections of our community."

Religious rights spare seagulls



A CRACKDOWN on feeding seagulls was blocked recently - in case it offends people's religious rights.

The birds have been known to attack holidaymakers for their food in Llandudno, North Wales, and council chiefs wanted to introduce fixed penalty fines for people who feed the gulls. But they were warned that it could offend followers of religions including Judaism and Hinduism, whose believers are encouraged to take care of animals.

Jim Jones, the head of tourism and leisure for Conwy council, said: "We looked at the issue of fines, but were told it's the right to feed birds within some religions."

Some residents were angered that the issue could not be tackled. Urban gulls are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and culling can only be carried out in extreme circumstances.

Dai Evans, 57, said: "The seagulls are a total menace, I can't believe they're being protected by human rights. It seems like nothing can be done to get rid of these birds."



The Parish Directory and Church Organisations

VICAR

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Tel 0151 928 3342; 07976 901389. Email revsue85@icloud.com

PARISH OFFICE

32 Brooklands Avenue, Waterloo. L22 3XZ. 0151 928 9913
Parish Administrator: Wendy Trussell; email: sfsmparishoffice@btinternet.com

ASSISTANT PRIESTS

Fr. Dennis Smith, 16 Fir Road, Waterloo. L22 4QL. 928 5065
Revd Denise McDougall, 27 Mayfair Avenue, Crosby L23 2TL. 924 8870

READERS

Mrs Jacqueline Parry, 21 Grosvenor Avenue, Crosby. L23 0SB. 928 0726
Miss Paula O'Shaughnessy, 30 Curzon Rd, L22 0NL. 286 2764 / 075823 19440

READER EMERITUS

Dr Fred Nye, 23 Bonnington Ave, Crosby L23 7YJ Tel 924 2813

CHURCHWARDENS

Ms Brenda Cottarel, 6 Lawton Road, Waterloo. L22 9QL. 928 4275
Mr Rick Walker, 17 Mayfair Avenue, Crosby. L23 2TL. 924 6267

ASSISTANT CHURCH WARDENS

Mr Bill Dagnall, 14 Duddingston Ave, Crosby. L23 0SH. 928 4997
Mrs Christine Spence, 52 Molyneux Road, Waterloo. L22 4QZ. 284 9325

TREASURER

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

PCC SECRETARY

Mrs Lillie Wilmot, Flat 7, 3 Bramhall Rd, Waterloo L23 3XA. 920 5563

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Mr Robert Woods, robertwoods1986@hotmail.co.uk. 07847 251315

GIFT AID SECRETARY

Mr Rick Walker, 17 Mayfair Avenue, Crosby. L23 2TL. 924 6267

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

Mrs Lynda Dixon, 928 7330

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

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

VULNERABLE ADULTS OFFICER

Mr Gareth Griffiths, 6 Lawton Road, Waterloo. L22 9QL. 928 4275

CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER

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

BAPTISM BOOKINGS

Mrs Jackie Parry. 928 0726

Mrs Brenda Cottarel. 928 4275

BEAVER SCOUTS

Thursday 5.00 – 6.15 pm Mike Carr. 293 3416

CUB SCOUTS

Thursday 6.30 – 8.00 pm. Mike Carr. 293 3416

SCOUTS

Thursday 8.00 - 9.30 pm. Mike Carr. 293 3416

RAINBOWS

Monday 4.45 - 5.45 pm. Geraldine Forshaw. 928 5204

BROWNIE GUIDES

Monday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Mary McFadyen. 284 0104

CHOIR PRACTICE

Friday 7.30 pm - 8.45 pm.

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