

NewsLite

Issue 12
March 2022

An occasional publication of happenings at
St Faith's Great Crosby



The Way of The Cross

The Stations of the Cross

An edited version of an article by Chris Price entitled ("What we do in Church - and why")

The name denotes both fourteen selected representations of incidents in the last journey of Christ and the devotion which consists in pausing at them in sequence for prayer and meditation.

The devotion probably arose out of the practice recorded from early times of pilgrims to Jerusalem following the 'way of the cross' from Pilate's house to Calvary, and wishing to re-enact it when they returned home.

The first record of this pilgrim practice, comes from the Spanish pilgrim Egeria. In 381 and 384 AD she made a Good Friday pilgrimage from the Mount of Olives to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. This church, built over the site of Christ's crucifixion and burial, was already the Christian focal point in Jerusalem during Holy Week that it is today. On Good Friday, during Egeria's two visits, everyone spent three hours in the church, hearing the Psalms and readings from the Epistles, the Acts, the Gospels, and other prophetic words connected with the Passion. Such outdoor processions did not thrive in the subsequent non-Christian Jerusalem.

Still, six liturgical stations on a processional route from the Mount of Olives to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre were described in tenth-century Holy Week records. The processional cross would then be carried within the church, from the Calvary site on the mezzanine floor to a small cave in the ancient stone quarry pit below, a cave known as the 'holy prison'. When the European Crusaders reached Jerusalem, in the eleventh century, they found the Passion honoured only as a Good Friday ceremony in a partially rebuilt Church of the Holy Sepulchre whose original had been destroyed in 1009.

The Crusaders enthusiastically rebuilt the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and added others between it and the Mount of Olives, including one in Gethsemane, where the Church of All Nations now stands. The Crusaders focused on the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, however, because they preferred the story of Christ's death and resurrection to his Passion. Devotion to the holy places and to Christ's passion received an extra fillip with the return of the Crusaders, who often erected tableaux of places they had visited in the Holy Land. And when the Franciscans were given custody of the holy places in 1342, they saw it as part of their mission to promote the devotion and to encourage the erection of series of such tableaux. From their own churches the practice spread widely into parish churches too. The subjects of these 'Stations' varied widely, as did the number (anything from five to over thirty). The number fourteen seems to

have appeared first in the sixteenth century in the Low Countries, and when the devotion was regulated by Clement XII in 1731 it stabilised at this number, comprising nine gospel scenes and five from popular tradition. By the nineteenth century virtually all Roman Catholic churches tended to have a set of fourteen ranged around the internal walls (or occasionally out of doors in the church grounds).

Lord Jesus, our Saviour, be our guide as we follow in the steps of your Passion; be our strength in our sorrow for having offended you; be our joy in whatever sufferings await us in this life, that we may come to share eternal joy with you. For you are Lord, for ever and ever. Amen.

St. Mary's Building News.

At his interview in 2017 Fr. John was reassured the disused Church building would be sold by the time he started. After a long time extended further by the pandemic the building was finally sold in January 2022. Work is going on now to redevelop the building into a number of luxury flats. The beautiful stained glass windows are being incorporated into the flats.

The vestry, the boiler room and the car park area were sold. Money from the sale was given to St. Mary's PCC to make necessary changes to the building so worship and community activities can continue unimpeded in the hall and annex. Over the next month or so you will notice some big changes inside and out

Thank you -

- to the congregation and all involved at St. Faith's.

I would like to thank you all for providing such a wonderful funeral service for my lovely Mum, Muriel Harrison.

The community that is St. Faith's has been a constant in Mums life and was always in her thoughts when it proved difficult for her to attend in person.

The day truly was everything she would have wished for.

I would also like to say how much I appreciate the support, comfort and kindness shown to me by everyone at St Faith's throughout this sad and difficult time.

With love and prayers, Izzy.

The Annual Parish Council Meeting (APCM)

On Sunday 20th of March we will be holding the APCM following on from the morning service. This is your chance to hear about the past year, help shape the next year and most importantly elect members to represent you over the next few years.

This is an important part of your membership of St Faith's and should be taken very seriously - please ask yourself whether you could join the PCC or one of the working parties who keep things going. We need volunteers to support all aspects of church life from the choir and the cleaning to the planning of events. Perhaps you could assist with reading during services, 'phoning those at home, looking after the 100 club, welcoming visitors - there are lots of things for us all to do and they are all part of the team that makes St Faith's a special place.

Next time you are in church

. . . . Ask for a form to join the 100 club. You will hear from our treasurer at the APCM that the club raises about £2,000 for church funds and a similar amount in prizes for the participants. A great way to support the church!

Services at St Faith's during the next few months:

Please note that there is normally a weekly celebration of the Eucharist on Thursdays at 12.00 noon

March:-6th Parish Eucharist & Parade at 11.00

6th Short PCC meeting at 12.15 followed by the Lent Lunch

6th Stations of the Cross followed by Compline at 6.30

13th Parish Eucharist at 11.00

13th Stations of the Cross followed by Compline at 6.30

20th Parish Eucharist at 11.00

20th Annual Parish Meeting 12.30

20th Stations of the Cross followed by Compline 6.30

27th Mothering Sunday Parish Eucharist at 11.00

27th Stations of the Cross followed by Compline 6.30

April:- 3rd Parish Eucharist at 11.00

3rd Crosby Symphony Orchestra at 7.00

10th Palm Sunday Procession of Palms & Parish Eucharist at 11.00

10th Stations of the Cross with Compline at 6.30

For Lent meetings and Easter Week Services see separate sheets