

*The* **Parish Church**  
*of* **St Faith Great Crosby**

**Choral Evensong** *and* **Te Deum**  
*and*  
**Farewell to Revd Dr Sue Lucas**

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2016 6.30pm



*The liturgy that follows takes its inspiration from the following words of Sam Wells from his book 'God's Companions.':*

*The fulfilment of blessing ... reminds the church of its purpose – to be a blessing [and that blessing is to be carried out] by making the whole world a Eucharist. The dismissal after the Eucharist is a commission to discover those who are not against Christ, and ways in which such people may turn out to be for him. Christians learn what it means to be salt and light, the discipline of co-operating with people of very different principles and stories, of resolving conflict without violence and standing beside the weak and afflicted.*

*In one church, when the time had come for the priest to leave, she finally walked to the door of the church and turned to face the people she had served and loved. Much was unfinished; some were unreconciled; ... fragility still reigned despite the glory that shone out. Yet, these had been her companions; with them, she had seen the abundance of God. She had received a blessing, everything she needed to worship God, be God's friend and eat with him. And so she departed, resolved to make elsewhere the Eucharist she had found there.*

*Adapted from Sam Wells: God's Companions (Oxford, Blackwell 2006) pp 221- 224: Being Sent Out*

*The Te Deum Laudamus is sung as the procession enters.*

*Setting: Stanford in B flat*

We praise thee, O God, we acknowledge thee to be the Lord. All the earth doth worship thee the Father everlasting. To thee all Angels cry aloud, the Heavens, and all the Powers therein. To thee Cherubim and Seraphim continually do cry: 'Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full of the Majesty of thy glory.'

The glorious company of the Apostles praise thee. The goodly fellowship of the Prophets praise thee. The noble army of Martyrs praise thee. The holy Church throughout all the world doth acknowledge thee: the Father of an infinite Majesty, thine honourable, true and only Son, also the Holy Ghost, the Comforter.

Thou art the King of Glory, O Christ. Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father. When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man, thou didst not abhor the Virgin's womb. When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death, thou didst open the Kingdom of Heaven to all believers. Thou sittest at the right hand of God in the glory of the Father. We believe that thou shalt come to be our Judge.

We therefore pray thee, help thy servants whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood. Make them to be numbered with thy Saints in glory everlasting. O Lord, save thy people and bless thine heritage. Govern them and lift them up for ever.

Day by day we magnify thee, and we worship thy Name ever world without end. Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin. O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us. O Lord, let thy mercy lighten upon us, as our trust is in thee. O Lord, in thee have I trusted, let me never be confounded.

### *Introduction*

Dearly beloved, the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness;

and that we should not dissemble nor cloak them before the face of almighty God our heavenly Father; but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent and obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same by his infinite goodness and mercy. And although we ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before God; yet ought we most chiefly so to do, when we assemble and meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as for the soul. Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present, to accompany me with a pure heart, and humble voice, unto the throne of the heavenly grace, saying:

**Almighty and most merciful Father,  
we have erred, and strayed from thy ways  
like lost sheep.**

**We have followed too much  
the devices and desires of our own hearts.**

**We have offended against thy holy laws.**

**We have left undone those things  
which we ought to have done;**

**and we have done those things  
which we ought not to have done;  
and there is no health in us.**

**But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,  
miserable offenders.**

**Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults.**

**Restore thou them that are penitent;  
according to thy promises declared unto mankind  
in Christ Jesu our Lord.**

**And grant, O most merciful Father,  
for his sake, that we may hereafter  
live a godly, righteous, and sober life,  
to the glory of his name. Amen.**

*Absolution:*

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness and live; and hath given power, and commandment, to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins:

he pardoneth and +absolveth all them that truly repent and unfeignedly believe his holy gospel. Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance, and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do at this present; and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Our Father, which art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive them that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

*The Responses (Setting: Sanders)*

○ Lord, open thou our lips  
and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

○ God, make speed to save us.

○ Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord.  
The Lord's name be praised.

*Psalmody – Psalm 85*

*Benedixisti, Domine*

Lord, thou art become gracious unto thy land:  
thou hast turned away the captivity of Jacob.

Thou hast forgiven the offence of thy people :  
and covered all their sins.

Thou hast taken away all thy displeasure :  
and turned thyself from thy wrathful indignation.

Turn us then, O God our Saviour :  
and let thine anger cease from us.

Wilt thou be displeased at us for ever :  
and wilt thou stretch out thy wrath from one generation to another?

Wilt thou not turn again, and quicken us :  
that thy people may rejoice in thee?

Shew us thy mercy, O Lord : and grant us thy salvation.

I will hearken what the Lord God will say concerning me :  
for he shall speak peace unto his people, and to his saints,  
that they turn not again.

For his salvation is nigh them that fear him :  
that glory may dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth are met together :  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Truth shall flourish out of the earth :  
and righteousness hath looked down from heaven.

Yea, the Lord shall shew loving-kindness :  
and our land shall give her increase.

Righteousness shall go before him :  
and he shall direct his going in the way.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without  
end. Amen.

*Old Testament Reading: Exodus 13.21-22*  
*Read by: Chris Price*

The Lord went in front of them in a pillar of cloud by day, to lead  
them along the way, and in a pillar of fire by night, to give them light,  
so that they might travel by day and by night. Neither the pillar of  
cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the  
people.

Here ends the first lesson.

*Magnificat (Luke 1.46-55) Setting: Stanford in B flat*

My soul doth magnify the Lord:  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.  
For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his handmaiden.  
For behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed  
For he that is mighty hath magnified me and holy is his Name.  
And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout all generations.  
He hath shewed strength with his arm:  
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
He hath put down the mighty from their seat:  
and hath exalted the humble and meek.  
He hath filled the hungry with good things:  
and the rich he hath sent empty away.  
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel:  
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

*New Testament Reading: Philippians 1.3-9*

*Read by: Brenda Cottarel*

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight.

Here ends the second lesson.

*Nunc dimittis (Luke 2.29-32) Setting: Stanford in B flat*

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace:  
according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen: thy salvation;  
Which thou hast prepared: before the face of all people;  
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles:  
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father...

*The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth:  
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried.  
He descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand  
of God the Father almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge  
the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
the holy catholic Church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

*Prayers Setting: Sanders*

The Lord be with you.  
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Our Father, which art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive them that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil. Amen.**

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.  
And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the Queen.  
And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness.  
And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people.  
And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.  
Because there is none other that fighteth for us,  
but only thou, O God.

O God, make clean our hearts within us.  
And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

*The Collect of the Day*

Almighty Father,  
who hast given thine only Son to die for our sins,  
and to rise again for our justification:  
Grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness,  
that we may always serve thee in pureness of living and truth;  
through the merits of the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Collect for Peace:*

O God, from whom all holy desires,  
all good counsels, and all just works do proceed;  
give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give;  
that both, our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments,  
and also that, by thee,  
we being defended from the fear of our enemies  
may pass our time in rest and quietness;  
through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

*The Collect for Aid against all Perils:*

Lighten our darkness,  
we beseech thee, O Lord;  
and by thy great mercy defend us  
from all perils and dangers of this night;  
for the love of thine only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Anthem: Ascribe unto the Lord*

*Words: Ps 96:2-3, 5, 7-10; 115:3-8, 12-15*

*Music: S.S. Wesley*

Ascribe unto the Lord, O ye kindreds of the people. Ascribe unto the Lord worship and power. Ascribe unto the Lord the honour due unto his Name. Let the whole earth stand in awe of him. Tell it out among the heathen that the Lord is King and that he shall judge the people righteously. Let the whole earth stand in awe of him.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. Sing to the Lord and praise his Name. Be telling of his salvation from day to day and his wonders unto all people.

As for the gods of the heathen, they are but idols. Their idols are silver and gold, even the work of men's hands. They have mouths, and speak not; eyes have they, and see not. They have ears, and hear not; noses have they, and smell not. They have hands, and handle not; feet have they, and walk not. Neither speak they through their throats.

They that make them are like unto them, and so are all such as put their trust in them. As for our God, he is in Heaven. He hath done whatsoever pleased him.

The Lord hath been mindful of us, and he shall bless us. He shall bless the house of Israel, he shall bless the house of Aaron. He shall bless them that fear the Lord, both small and great. Ye are the blessed of the Lord, you and your children. Ye are the blessed of the Lord who made Heaven and earth.

*Sermon: Revd Dr Sue Lucas*

*Hymn: Jesus calls us here to meet him*

*Words: John Bell*

*Tune: Abbots Leigh*

**Jesus calls us here to meet him  
As, through word and song and prayer.  
We affirm God's promised presence  
Where his people live and care.  
Praise the God who keeps his promise;  
Praise the God who calls us friends,  
Praise the Spirit who, among us,  
To our hopes and fears attends.**

**Jesus calls us to confess him  
Word of life and Lord of all,  
Sharer of our flesh and frailness,  
Saving all who fail or fall.  
Tell his holy human story;  
Tell his tales that all may hear;  
Tell the world that Christ in glory  
Came to earth to meet us here.**

**Jesus calls us to each other,  
Vastly different though we are;  
Creed and colour, class and gender  
Neither limit nor debar.  
Join the hand of friend and stranger;  
Join the hands of age and youth;  
Join the faithful and the doubter  
In their common search for truth.**

**Jesus calls us to his table  
Rooted firm in time and space,  
Where the Church in earth and heaven  
Finds a common meeting place.  
Share the bread and wine, his body;  
Share the love of which we sing;  
Share the feast for saints and sinners  
Hosted by our Lord and King.**

*Liturgy of Farewell*

*The Wardens receive the keys to the Church from Sue.*

*Sue removes her cope and stole. The Ministry Team receive the stole from Sue, and place it on the altar. Sue faces the people.*

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you**

For the gift of your presence  
**Thanks be to God**

**For the gift of your presence**  
Thanks be to God

For the times I got in God's way  
**We forgive you**

**For the times we got in God's way**

I forgive you

For all that God had done

**We give thanks**

**For all that God has yet to do**

let us be open

The Bread

**We have received it**

The Gospel

**We shall live it**

The Love

**We shall give it**

The Cross

**We shall bear it**

The Church

**We shall build it**

On our heads and on our house

**The blessing of God**

In our arriving and in our leaving

**The peace of God**

In our life and believing

**The love of God**

At our end and new beginnings

**The arms of God to welcome us and lead us on**

Christ, whose insistent call  
disturbs our settled lives,  
give us discernment to hear your word,  
grace to relinquish our tasks,  
and courage to follow you empty handed  
wherever you may lead;  
that the voice of your Gospel  
may reach the ends of the earth. **Amen.**

**God of our beginnings and endings,  
we celebrate all that we have shared,  
and ask your blessing  
as we continue on our journey.  
May the love that is in our hearts  
be a bond that unites us forever,  
wherever we may be.  
May the power of your presence  
bless this moment of leave-taking;  
this we ask for the sake  
of Jesus Christ our Redeemer.  
Amen.**

*The Choir sings Forth in the Peace of Christ as Sue walks alone to the font.*  
Forth in the peace of Christ we go,  
Christ to the World with joy we bring  
Christ in our minds, Christ on our lips,  
Christ in our hearts, the world's true king. Amen.

*Hymn: Now thank we all our God*

*Words: Martin Rinkart trs. Catherine Winkworth  
Tune: Nun danket alle Gott*

**Now thank we all our God,  
with heart and hands and voices,**

**who wondrous things hath done,  
in whom his world rejoices;  
who from our mother's arms  
hath blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love,  
and still is ours today.**

**O may this bounteous God  
through all our life be near us,  
with ever-joyful hearts  
and blessed peace to cheer us;  
and keep us in his grace,  
and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all ills  
in this world and the next.**

**All praise and thanks to God  
the Father now be given,  
the Son, and him who reigns,  
with them in highest heaven,  
the one eternal God,  
whom earth and heaven adore;  
for thus it was, is now,  
and shall be evermore.**

*The service concludes with The Grace:*

**The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all,  
evermore. Amen.**

*Please give as generously as you can. The retiring collection will be shared  
between the Waterloo Partnership, Medic Malawi and Christian Aid.*

*Please join us for fellowship and refreshments in the Hall after the service.*