

## God Bless our Thief!

As most of you will know by now, St Faith's was the subject of a burglary this week. The thieves broke a window (behind the organ) and then used a crow-bar to destroy the Vestry door, and thereby gain access to the rest of church and the Bell Tower. Nothing of any great value was taken - and it can all be easily replaced. The real pity has been the hours and hours of extra work that the actions of our thieves have generated - dealing with insurers, the police, builders, claims assessors, the Diocese, and the many concerned messages of support.

We can be grateful, however, that the thieves were not as destructive as some I have known. On occasions such as these, some thieves have been known to wantonly destroy buildings - breaking everything in sight and vandalising, or even defecating on holy ground.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of the week has been the many messages of outrage. The acts of vandalism (especially of the door) have been greeted with gasps of disbelief, and by insults thrown at the thieves - calling them 'scum of the earth' and other such phrases. I have particularly noticed how many of the cries of horror have come from people who are not church members, but nevertheless deeply feel the injury to this building.

My task, it seems, has been to remind many of the call to understanding and forgiveness, and to help people to try not to leap too easily to judgement. To some, I have re-told the story of a dear, grace-full woman whom I met when I was a curate. She had been the victim of a scam, involving many hundreds of pounds. It was my unenviable task to tell her what had happened to her. I'll never forget her response. She said "Oh well, its only money. I wonder how desperate that scammer must have been to take my money". My dear old friend (now deceased) taught me much that day.

The other observation I would make is to note the high value that so many of us place on *things* over people. The items that were stolen were only *things*. Even the beautiful oak door and broken stained-glass window can both be repaired. They are only things. Yes, their loss was 'disgusting' (to quote an oft-used word this week). But how much more disgusting is it that two-thirds of the world's population scratches out a living on less than a dollar a day?

Have a great week - and don't forget to value people over things and love over hate.

Canon Tom

### Liturgy for Life

**Living Sunday's words all week**

A five-session programme of discussions, exploring how familiar words can equip and inspire our daily Christian lives.

*Introduced by Revd David Morgan.*

Week 1: Why Liturgy?  
Week 2: "Glory to God in the highest..."  
Week 3: "We believe in one God..."  
Week 4: "Holy, holy, holy Lord..."  
Week 5: "Lamb of God..."

**In the 'Upper Room' at the Pallant Centre**  
**Starts Monday 16th October**

**7.30pm**

st. faiths havant

### Ballads, Brews & Blues

**SATURDAY 14TH OCTOBER**  
**at THE PALLANT**  
**(Formerly St Faith's Church Hall)**  
**FROM 7.30pm**

A cafe-style evening of live folk & blues music from local performers including John Gleadall, Bill Jones, John Gomersall, The Stringers, and Rector, Tom Kennar

- all washed down with lashings of local ale and other beverages from the licensed-bar.  
*(Only drinks and snacks sold on the premises may be consumed)*

Tickets: £6 (£5 concessions) available in advance from the Parish Office (office@stfaith.com / 023 9249 2129) or from volunteers on Sundays at church or £7 on the door

st. faiths havant  
THE BIG BUILD CAMPAIGN

**SUNDAY 24 SEPTEMBER**  
**HARVEST FESTIVAL**  
**9.30AM**

**PLEASE BRING ALONG DONATIONS OF FOOD WHICH WILL GO TO THE BEACON FOODBANK**

**TOWN FAIR FINAL TOTAL**  
**£2712.61**

**Thank you!**

**to all those that made this total possible.**

**PSD PSC PSC**  
PORTSMOUTH & SOUTH DOWNS  
PALESTINE SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN FREE PALESTINE

### THE BALFOUR DECLARATION

and its consequences:

Who promised what to whom in Palestine 100 years ago?

**Film and talk**  
by  
Historian Peter Shambrook

**TUESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER**  
**7.45 - 9.20 pm**

St Withuns Church Hall, 105 Waverley Road, Southsea PO5 2PL

Car park at rear, access from Albert Road via Collingwood Road.  
For further info tel 023 9248 6064 or email flintoftjenifer@yahoo.co.uk

## Forthcoming SERVICES

### SUNDAY 17 September Trinity 14

#### 8.00 am COMMUNION

President and Preacher .....Rev'd Richard Acworth

#### 9.30 am PARISH COMMUNION SERVICE

President and Preacher .....Canon Tom

Readings: Genesis 50.15-21 , Romans 14.1-12

Matthew 18.21-35

#### 6.00 pm TAIZÉ EVENING PRAYER

Led by .....Dr Mike Fluck

### THURSDAY 21 September

#### 10.30 am HOLY COMMUNION (TRADITIONAL)

President .....Rev'd Richard Acworth

Preacher .....Rev David Morgan

### SATURDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

#### 1pm WEDDING OF CHARLOTTE DALLAMORE AND RIKKI NEWNAM

### SUNDAY 24 September Harvest

#### 8.00 am COMMUNION

President ..... Rev'd Richard Acworth

Preacher .....Rev'd David Morgan

#### 9.30 am PARISH COMMUNION SERVICE

President .....Canon Tom

Preacher .....Rev'd David Morgan

Deacon .....Rev'd Vickie Morgan

Readings:

#### 6.00 pm EVENSONG

Led by .....Rev'd Vickie Morgan

### THURSDAY 28 September

#### 10.30 am HOLY COMMUNION (TRADITIONAL)

### FLOWER FESTIVAL 2018

There will be a meeting in church on Tuesday 26 September 2017 at 7pm, for anyone interested in taking part in the Flower Festival next year. If you would like a lift to this meeting, please speak to Sandra or Clare.



#### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

##### The World

Including St John  
the Divine, Nsawam  
Ghana

Rod & Glenda  
Thomas & Sendai  
Church Japan.

##### The Diocese

& Bishop  
Christopher

##### Our Parish & Deanery

##### Those in Urgent Need:

Margaret Ward  
Joyce Shuttleworth

##### The Departed:

Donna Young  
Beryl Miller  
Irma Standford

##### Anniversaries of Departed:

21st Stanley Jones  
22nd Margaret  
Manning  
23rd Valentine  
Searle  
Albert Elmes

## HAVE YOUR SAY

Consultation Forms about the re-ordering of St Faith's are available near the North Door. Closing date today.

### CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES

If you have a box for the Children's Society Collection, please let Sandra know.

## ORGAN RECITAL

Saturday, 7th October 7.30 at St Peter's Church North Hayling.  
by Peter Gould the retired Master of Music at Derby Cathedral.

The recital will be followed by light refreshments and tickets are £10 each.

## Dolce String Quartet

at  
St Faith's Church Havant



Sunday 5 November 2017

at 3.30pm

Haydn

String Quartet Op. 76 No.2 in D minor

Beethoven

String Quartet Op. 18 No. 4 in C min

Refreshments will be offered at the end of the performance

Retiring collection and donations in aid of  
St Faith's Church 'Big Build' Fund



Café open from 8.45am to 4.30pm  
Monday to Friday, from 8.45am to  
2.30pm on Saturday.

## FUTURE EVENTS..

- Sat 23 Sept 7pm ~~Harvest Supper~~—please note that the Harvest Supper is cancelled because of the volume of other parish events.
- Sun 8 October 9.30am Patronal Festival - with a play about St Faith of Aquitaine
- Sat 14 October 7.30pm Ballads, Brews and Blues
- Tues 17 Oct 12.30 pm. Series of Lunchtime Musical Half-Hours begins.**
- Sun 5 November 3.30pm Concert by Dolce String Quartet
- Sat 25 November 7pm Bell Ringers' Dinner in the Pallant Centre

## CONTACT INFORMATION...

...can be found on the Monthly Information Sheet.