

Summary of "Faith Matters" 2002-2011

From the Editor

At the APCM in April 2010, I reported that I would be retiring at the APCM in 2011. As the APCM will be held on 13 March, this is my last edition of "Faith Matters" and from the April edition I am delighted that Jane Rowthorn will be taking over the editorship.

I have been associated with "Faith Matters" since September 2002 and viewed it as a challenge, enjoying it very much, but now is the time for a younger person to take on the role. I had no difficulties on the technical side, i.e., the compiling of the magazine and its reproduction – however, the main problem for any editor is getting the content. I have been fortunate in that many people have written interesting articles. I cannot list everyone but I should like to thank Roger Bryant for writing in all 100 plus editions on local stories and beyond, Peter Willey on composers and Peter Thomas on Palestine, Korean War and trips with Rosemary around the UK and abroad. More can be read in my "Editor's Reflections" article on page 19.

I also have to thank John Bradey (aka Sisyphus) for compiling 100 crosswords before he retired and to Jack Griffiths for continuing to give cruciverbalists much pleasure and frustration.

I found being editor that you are told if somebody finds an error but very seldom are you told if people enjoy reading the magazine so it is difficult to know how you are doing!

My thanks to Beryl and the distributors of the magazine which keep up the

sales figures and to our printers Mercury Graphics. Finally, I must thank Jan Stuart for proof reading all editions of the magazine and for making constructive suggestions.

My giving up the magazine was planned to coincide with the end of my third period on the PCC and I will not be seeking re-election for another 3-year term - everyone must know when the time comes to give up things and for me the time is now. However, I shall continue as webmaster for our website, which I started in 2003, until someone is found that is willing to upgrade it to a more modern version – and more importantly, keep it up-to-date.

In January, I visited the latest Royal Navy warship the Type 45 destroyer HMS Diamond in Portsmouth Naval Base– see page 6.

At the meeting on 24 January, the PCC approved a balanced 2011 budget by a majority – see page 3.

Don't forget the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in church on Sunday 13 March at 11am when you will have the opportunity to ask any questions.

Colin Carter

Diamonds



I joined my first ship in the Royal Navy, *HMS Diamond*, in September 1952 after 16 months training in communications at *HMS Ganges*, the training establishment for boys at Shotley, near Ipswich, having joined at the tender age of 15 as I did not want an academic career or a 9 to 5 job and wanted to serve King (George VI – have you seen the film “*The King’s Speech*”?) and country and to see the world! In those days the Communications Branch was the “*crème de la crème*”. Naval communications was by the Morse code and everything transmitted was insecure so messages had to be manually coded/decoded – similar to the *Enigma* machine if you have seen it. The Royal Navy had a number of radio stations around the world to communicate to – Gibraltar, Malta, South Africa, Ceylon, Mauritius, Singapore, Hong Kong, Bermuda, Canada, Australia and New Zealand – all being linked back to the UK. There were no satellites or cell phone technology that provides instant communications today.

HMS Diamond, in 1952, was the Royal Navy’s newest destroyer and I remember being excited and apprehensive when I caught the train

with my kit bag and hammock (you took, your bed with you then!) from Ipswich to Glasgow changing at Newcastle. I arrived onboard at 9pm and was shown to the communications mess deck (that accommodated 30 sailors), and to my locker and where to sling my hammock – this was to become my home. By the way, a hammock is the most comfortable way of sleeping when a ship is rolling around in rough weather – much more comfortable than sleeping in a bunk as the hammock remains stationary with the roll.

In Coronation year, 1953, the ship provided the Royal escort and street lining in Cardiff, Glasgow and Belfast when Her Majesty visited the cities and *Diamond* was also at the Spithead Review of the Fleet.

I started to see the world when the ship went to Gibraltar, into the Mediterranean and around the European countries.

On one major exercise in the Denmark Straits, when all ships were darkened, the *Diamond* collided with the *Swiftsure* and when the Admiral asked our Captain “*What do you intend to do now?*” he replied “*Buy a Farm!*” I was very fortunate and felt that someone was watching over us for if the cruiser *Swiftsure* had hit the much smaller destroyer *Diamond* we would have gone to the bottom of the sea.

After 20 months in *Diamond* I was sent to the radio station in South Africa, just outside Cape Town and saw more of the world. Although Beryl lived there at the time, we only met in London the day after I returned to the UK, which

was a shame as the 18 months there would have been much more interesting!

When the latest *HMS Diamond* arrived in Portsmouth in September 2010, I wrote to the Captain (Commander Ian Clarke) to see whether there would be an opportunity to visit the ship, and I was delighted when he invited me onboard on 25 January with other ex-*Diamond* shipmates.



As you can see in the pictures, and as one would expect, the external design of ships has changed over the past 58 years – and so it has internally too.

In the *Diamond* I served in, food was collected from the galley, dished up in the mess and then hot water collected to wash up. In the latest *Diamond* there is a dining room, recreation room and the crew accommodation is outstanding with mess decks accommodating no more than six ratings in bunks with CD players, I-pod charging points, fitted radio and internet access available! There is also a modern laundry with two large washing machines, two dryers and a presser.

The ship is controlled by a number of integrated computer systems and is powered by two gas turbines with

diesel generators as backup, that provide the electrical power.

During the tour of the ship, all the people I met were very enthusiastic and proud to be explaining their particular field to us "old salts" - in fact they were very professional and it is encouraging to know that the Royal Navy is in safe hands in the younger generation.

A very enjoyable lunch was served in the wardroom with refreshments in the ante-room.

Apart from the technology, the organisation and structure of personnel has changed to meet the electronic challenges that are faced in a modern warship.

The *Diamond* I served in was affiliated to De Beers which is the world's leading rough diamond company. De Beers provided the ship with books, magazines and newspapers and hosted a dance in London every Christmas. The latest *Diamond* is also affiliated to De Beers and to two cities – Aberdeen and Coventry.

To modify the song, "*Diamonds are a sailor's best friend*".

Colin Carter

Editor's Reflections

It was interesting to look back and reflect over the 100 plus editions that I have produced for "*Faith Matters*" and in comparing the first and last editions I was pleased to see that the presentation of the magazine had improved – so the experience has been a good one.

The PCC made "*Faith Matters*" the focal publication for disseminating information about the parish soon after I became editor but this has not always been achieved and the communications between the leaders of groups and the various committees needs to be improved and the editor informed on the various activities – only then will readers know what is happening.

Throughout the nine years, the PCC, PDG and BMC meetings have been published and hopefully the PDC and Worship Group meetings will also now be reported.

The "*Correspondence Column*" needs to get going again with readers sending in their views for publication to the editor. We had some lively discussions on "*Credimus or Credo – Contemporary Language Services*" and on the Nave Altar trial in 2006 when, by the letters received, it was split 50-50 for those for and against – there will be an opportunity to write again when the Nave Altar experiment takes place again this year.

There was a lively questions and answers space about the church when readers asked the question as to '*why are there different colours at different times of the year*'; and '*why do we ring*

the bell during communion?' among many others.

There were articles on the Flower Festivals in 2003, when there were two pages in colour to do the beautiful arrangements justice (but at an additional £60 to the printing cost) and 2008; Havant Remembers in 2004; Havant during WWII in 2005 and V-E Day/WWII Memories.



The annual coach outings, which have since stopped, to Compton Acres Gardens in Poole and the New Forest; the Royal Horticultural Society Garden at Wisley; Wilton House and Salisbury Cathedral; and Leonardslee Gardens were all reported; together with the coach trips to the King's Theatre to see a show once a year – these have also now stopped.

The annual events, the Town Fair, Epiphany dinner, the Historic Churches Bike Ride & Stroll, the Walsingham Pilgrimage, the *HMS Havant* memorial service, Remembrance Day service and the social events which included the Royal Marine Training Band and other concerts in St. Faith's; the Mamma Mia 70s Disco, Burns Night, Bellingers Dinner, the Farm Walks and

the Dynamo Youth Theatre exploits in the hall, all featured.



There have been some interesting trips that parishioners have shared with us, visiting WWI & WWII battlefields; Isles of Mull & Iona; California; Tripoli; China; the Wadi Rum (Jordan); the Holy Land; cruises to Scandinavia & the Baltic and in the Queen Elizabeth2, the Queen Mary2 and the Queen Victoria; sites associated with St. Benedict in Italy; New Zealand; Australia; the Mbele region of Uganda; to Armenia (its history and the oldest Christian church – the Armenian Apostolic Church); a tour around Lincolnshire visiting the home of the RAF 617 Squadron (the Dambusters); a South American adventure from the Amazon to Argentina; Dubrovnik & the Croatian Coast, a reflection on Taizé in France, Indonesia; the Eden Project; Life on the Nile; Llandaff Cathedral; Barrington Hills & Chicago; a trip on Scottish Steam Trains, a boat trip around the Plymouth area; a visit to the Armed Forces Memorial at the National Arboretum at Alrewas in Staffordshire and a Welsh cruise. We also had a feature from Port Elizabeth, South Africa, and articles on St. Hilda, Northumbria, and the BUPA Great

South Run when in 2005 four parishioners took part.

There were first hand reports from readers on the conditions in a Japanese concentration camp in the 1940s; Dunkirk (including the 70th anniversary and *HMS Havant*); on the last 7-months of the British Mandate in Palestine in 1948; the Korean War 1950-1953; Borneo in the 1960s; Iraq from the eyes of an RNR Wren Officer; and memories of a Royal Marine and from a Wren in Afghanistan.

There has been a crossword and word search in most of the editions, and even tips for Cruciverbalists.

The establishment of 'Godly Play' for the Sunday Club, the choir and the chorister's badge awards (light blue, dark blue & red ribbons) were reported.

We learned about the composers Handel, Chopin, Elgar, Ralph Vaughan Williams and George Butterworth.

Our IDWAL link to the Parish of St John the Divine, Nsawam, Ghana, covered the visits by Pam LeGoaziou to the country in 2004 and 2005, and the visits by Ann & Michael Fluck in 2006 and 2007 for its 90th anniversary; plus the visits to St. Faith's by Fr. Felix Annancy in 2005 and the church wardens, Nana and Jeanette, in 2008.

Our overseas missionaries in Sendai, Japan, Rod & Glenda Thomas, have featured regularly including their visits to St. Faith's in 2004 and 2010. Their daughter Esther also wrote about her trips to South Korea and to Cambodia; and their eldest daughter Amy was married in St. Faith's in 2008.

Anniversaries (silver, ruby, golden and diamond) were recorded and appreciations on those who died.

We had a series of newsletters from Alan Hakim's niece Rachel Phillips when she was training for the Priesthood, culminating in her Ordination at St. Paul's Cathedral in 2007. Rachel also preached in St. Faith's.

During this period we said farewell to our Rector David Gibbons and his family



and we welcomed our new Rector Peter Jones and his wife Tricia.



We said farewell to our verger John Edwards, and we also welcomed and said farewell to two curates, Charles Keay and David Williams, and our verger Vicki Mockford.

We reported that the 2001 Census in Havant recorded 85,982 persons as Christian, 29,756 with no religion and 1,121 as other. What will the figures be for 2011?

I am sure there are many things I have left out and that somebody will tell me! – but it has been fun and I have enjoyed being editor - thank you Jan for talking me into it!

My good wishes to Jane – please make her job easy by giving her plenty of material.

Colin Carter

The magazine “Faith Matters” continued for another two years – the last edition April/May 2013 was the last to be published.