

SERVICES

SUNDAYS:	8.00 am	Eucharist (said)
(unless	9.15 am	Children's Sunday Club in Church House
otherwise	9.30 am	Sung Eucharist
stated)	The service is followed by refreshments in the Church Hall, on the Pallant.	
	6.30 pm	Sung Evensong

Eucharist is generally celebrated at St Nicholas, Langstone at 8.00 am on the first Sunday in the month.

WEEKDAYS:

Eucharist : 9.00 am Monday & Saturday

Holy Communion (BCP) 10.30 am Thursday

Morning Prayer: 9.00 am Monday, Tuesday & Friday.

For all other services, please see dates in this magazine, on the church notice board, or on our web-site.

Confessions, Baptisms and Marriages:

By arrangement with the Rector - Telephone 023 9248 3485.

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2 Churchfields, South Street
Havant, PO9 1BY
Telephone: 023 9247 1398

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Please notify the Rector, one of the Churchwardens or the PCC secretary.

Parish Magazine of St Faith, Havant with St Nicholas, Langstone

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Articles, notices, letters or other items for inclusion in our magazine are always welcome and should be sent to the Editor, 'faith matters' c/o the Parish Office. Published on the 1st of each month, print deadline 15th of previous month.

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Telephone: 023 9249 2129 or 023 9248 3485

Office Open:- Monday's 9am - 12 noon

Friday's 9am - 12 noon

From the Rector **Readying ourselves for Christ**

December is, and there's no getting away from it, the time of preparation for Christmas. In the church's calendar, however, the emphasis of Advent is upon preparation for the coming of Christ in his decisive and final form at the end of time, rather than as the baby of Bethlehem. Preparing for Christmas makes us focus upon turkey and presents, but the former is more about preparing the heart, mind and soul so that we be found not wanting when He comes.

I like the idea of 'readying' oneself for the coming of Jesus – the one who transforms, judges, heals and restores, and who may come at any time. All of one's life is a process of learning and preparing oneself for this coming of perfect love and the fulfilment of creation. I think we have gone past believing in this as a literal event, but it is the ultimate end for the hope given to us in the first coming of Christ – that all the struggle is not only worthwhile on a human scale but is somehow all bound up in the eternal plan laid down by God.

It is all the more important, then that we strive to put ourselves into a state of readiness. Advent becomes the symbol of our life's work – the season of preparation. On my recent trip to the States to visit Trinity Lutheran Church in Manhattan beach, LA, I was impressed to see a church that pulled in a regular attendance of some 160 people, had thriving adult and children's groups, strong teaching programmes for new members to the church and yet did not consider themselves to be the finished article. At all times there is a questioning of what more needs to be done and how can this be done better – not, I hasten to say, in a self depreciating manner, but in the sense of joyful learning. At a deeper level the really pertinent question needs to be asked: is this the way the Lord really wants us to be getting ready for his coming?

This is exactly the question we are asking ourselves now as we attempt to set out our vision. How are we busy in preparation for his coming? Vision is about focus and an agreement within the church in this particular location about how it operates and what it is here to do. It is vitally important that as many voices as possible are raised in unison to proclaim such a vision. Unfortunately it appears that my intended date of 5th December is most inconvenient to many, and others are reluctant to venture out on a dark winter's night. To be realistic, then, and to appeal to as large a group as possible I am re-scheduling the vision launch until February – now Saturday 22nd in the early afternoon. Please put this date in your diary!

In this season of preparation let us be inspired to make ourselves ready for him, inspired by his first coming, that we may be found in the process of joyfully readying ourselves as the church. God bless you and may you know the peace of Christ our Saviour this Christmas time.

Fr. David

About The Parish

As a young boy, Christmas was all about presents, good food and football. Oh yes, football, because there would be a full programme of league matches on Christmas Day, kicking off at 11 am. All the men and boys were at the football, while their wives, mothers and sisters were home preparing the Christmas dinner. Sorry ladies but that's how it was in those wonderful days! One year, my Christmas was destroyed by a full back named Joe Bacuzzi, playing for Fulham, who volleyed a goal kick from the slightly built Portsmouth goalkeeper, Harry Walker straight back passed him for the only goal of the match! At that time, I played football for Twyford Methodists Youth Club. John Bradey remembers the club, although, if you ask him about football, he will want to tell you about Kingston Old Boys! Sorry Colin (Warlow) but that's enough about football. But what has all this to do with Christmas? One year, we were told that there was criticism from the Minister and members of Twyford Methodist Church that, although we used their hall and took the name of the church, none of us actually went to services. So we were all ordered to attend the Christmas Eve service on penalty of being dropped from the team. I moaned to my mother that it would not happen to Stanley Matthews but nevertheless found myself on the bus to Twyford Avenue, Stamshaw. I enjoyed the service, so there you are Father David, when you allow me to miss a meeting on the understanding that I am representing St Faith's Church at Fratton Park, you can now see the connection between football and the Church. I must finish by telling you about the St Cross Mission in Eastney Road, which belonged to St James Church, Milton. I attended the Mission during the war and sang in the choir. The young priest at the mission was a curate from St James named Jeffrey Maples. He was married to Isobel Wren in St James Church on the Feast of the Epiphany, 6 January 1945, and our choir sang at his wedding. Many years later he returned to become the Vicar of St James Church. In 1974, I was manager of the DHSS (social security) office at Kennington, London, close to the Oval (There you are, Colin (Warlow)...cricket!), and covering most of Lambeth.

I was asked to take a young man named Maples for work experience during his summer vacation from university. Looking at his personal details, I noticed that his next of kin was his father, whose address was given as the Vicarage, Milton Road, Portsmouth. When he came to see me, I opened the interview by saying, "I sang at your father's wedding!" The look on his face was a picture!

Do have a lovely Christmas. I will be at most of the services; otherwise I shall be dropped from the football team! Likewise, Colin will be there otherwise his golf clubs will be confiscated and given to Derek Freeston. We all like the traditional Christmas, so ladies, listen to Derek Bowley's cooking hints, and go to it!! Merry Christmas to everyone and don't be surprised if Joy throws me out!

Roger Bryant

Japan

In August 2001, we were visited by Rod and Glenda Thomas, who are missionaries in Japan. Fr David recently received this communication from them:

Dear Friends

Body Art loses its Lustre

May be you know someone who has a tattoo. It is probably a small anchor, cross etc on their forearm that after a few years begins to look like a bruise. Traditional Japanese tattoos extend from the neck to the knees and depict Japanese folk tales and kabuki themes of dragons, demons and samurai. They are detailed, gaudy, very expensive ... and usually kept well hidden. In the Edo period many labourers, rickshaw drivers and carpenters sported this body art, which became associated with hard physical labour and muscular men with strong community spirit and bravery among volunteer fire fighters. 'When they died in a blaze, their tattoos provided a way to identify them' says one. But now thanks to samurai and gangster movies where the villains are often heavily tattooed, modern Japanese now shun body art. Gangsters would threaten their victims just by rolling up their sleeves. The social stigma extends to notices on swimming pools and onsens (spas), which forbid entry to tattoos, so tattooed people keep themselves well covered. Japanese Christians too have a tendency to hide their faith when they should boldly express it. Let's all pray 'to be able to speak the word with all boldness' Acts 4:29

Our church

One never likes to hear of churches closing especially in Japan where the gospel has hardly taken root. But recently the South Sendai Baptist Church has closed. After the pastor left the 3 remaining members went to other churches. They contacted us to offer us the use of their building so the bright side of this tragic event is that we can use their church at a nominal 20,000 yen a month (our last rented property was 180,000 yen/mo). We have signed a lease for a year but have been told that we will probably be able to extend it longer. So at last we have a visible meeting place that we can use on weekdays, for Bible studies, English classes etc. Also the low rent will not hinder us saving for our own building. We have used it already for two weeks and it seems that all the inquirers have made the transition to the new place, lets pray that they'll enter the Kingdom. Needless to say the believers and we ourselves are encouraged by the development as we see it as the Lord's clear leading. (We are now praying that we'll be able to buy it very cheaply!)

Outreach

The new venue is only a few minutes walk from our previous building and the Sports Hall where we had been meeting. Please pray for us to effectively reach the area with the gospel. We intend to produce our own tract and distribute it to every home and to have English classes in the church. Please pray for the Lord's guidance and blessing so that we'll be effective.

Progress?

Our tract distribution in June brought one young lady who came to hear the seminar on Creation Science vs Evolution. Although she was completely new to 'church', she has been regular at the services ever since. Another lady has just moved from near Tokyo and was introduced by a believer from the church she had been attending there. She is also regular with her two young daughters. A young man with mental problems also attends most services. One of the children of the Christian families also wants to be baptised and we

think if we start baptismal preparation with him some of the other youngsters will want to join in. On the negative side, one lady has quit coming due to difficulties at home and some have become less regular. Please pray for us

Family

We had a great 2-week summer holiday at the coast near Sendai. The waves were sometimes enormous due to a couple of typhoons, which was fun and the weather mostly very hot and humid. Andrew played a lot of table tennis with some friends he made and all of the children earned pocket money by cutting grass etc. Amy and Andrew were with us for 6 weeks and have now gone back to Hebron School, India. Amy did well in her IGSCes garnering 7As and 2Bs. She's now doing A'levels. Andrew has settled down after a year with some difficulties. Esther and Christine continue at the Tohoku International School, which they enjoy. Please pray for them to all follow the Lord and to grow in grace.

In brief

1. Praise for our new venue and the new people coming to church.
2. Praise for God's protection of our children in India, Japan and in all their travelling.
3. Pray for revival in Sendai and boldness among Christians.
4. Pray for growth in our church in grace and numbers and for real conversions
5. Pray for us to be 100% supported.
6. Pray for our children to all follow the Lord and to grow in grace

God's richest blessings

Rod and Glenda Thomas

Kathleen Madgwick RIP

We were all sad to hear that Kathleen Madgwick had died. To many of us who did not know her, she was a lady who was spoken of in reverence and respect but to those who knew her she was a link with an age that has passed.

She moved to Havant from Emsworth in the 1930s to live in Orchard Road. She was a remarkable lady. For example, at that time she was the only woman working for the council. In fact, she was the secretary to the Borough Engineer, Mr Hibberd, husband of Lilian and a former churchwarden of St Faith's.

She involved herself enthusiastically, not in the Brownies and Guides, but in the Cubs and Scouts, rising to a very senior rank in the movement. She was a lady before her time. She was a quiet, mannered and dignified lady who graced St Faith's for some 70 years, worshipping here until her health failed her and she moved into Orchard House. We shall seldom see her like again.

"Don't Touch the Holy Joe" Part 1

Some years ago I wrote a book about an extraordinary priest. The book put me in touch with his great niece, Mrs Mary Brown who keeps urging me to do a rewrite to incorporate her knowledge of a man she calls Father Bob. I may just do that but until then I thought you might like to learn something of him in the pages of "Faith Matters", so here goes!

"Don't touch the Holy Joe" said the sailor to his drunken shipmate. The scene was Chance Street in Portsmouth's Landport and the year 1885. The Holy Joe was a tough, 15 stone priest, Father Robert Radclyffe Dolling. He was a man before his time; unconventional and with great compassion and conviction. He was a very high churchman and a member of the influential Anglo Catholic movement. Steadfast in his faith and forceful in character, he quite literally pulled no punches in those harsh Victorian days. Many should have heeded the words of that sailor; brewers, brothel-keepers, the civic, army and naval authorities, and even his own Bishops. He took them all on in his campaign to change Landport from a cesspool of vice, evil and depravation.

In his ten years, Father Dolling's achievements in Landport were without parallel. Campaigns were fought against poverty, slum housing, prostitution and drinking and yet his hardest battle was with his own Bishops, one he was ultimately to lose. As he wrote in his book ("Ten Years in a Portsmouth Slum"), "It has been easy to write of our battles with the brewers and brothel-keepers, for their attacks were in the open; but of our battles with our Bishops, it is much more difficult to write."

His home was a haven for the unemployed, the homeless, thieves and prostitutes and social outcasts of all types. He offered them hope and help; raising over £50,000 (a colossal sum in those days) for his work, of which less than £800 came from the diocesan funds of the Bishop of Winchester. He wrote, "Oh, that the bishops had the energy of the brewers! Oh, that the clergy had the persistency of the publicans! For what had the Church of England done for this district? Literally nothing!"

Father Dolling was born on 10 February 1851 in the Old Rectory, Magheralin, County Down. He had a younger brother (Mary's grandfather) and seven sisters, two of whom worked with him throughout his ministry including his time in Landport. He showed an interest in the Church from an early age. At the age of four, he astonished his father's dinner guests by saying to one of them who had a problem understanding the Holy Trinity, "I've got meat and potatoes and gravy on my plate. That's three things. But it's only one dinner. That's like the Trinity."

He came to England in 1861 at the tender age of ten to attend a preparatory school in Stevenage. He left in 1864 to go to Harrow where he remained until going to Trinity College, Cambridge in 1869. This was not a success and he left after a year without taking a degree. After leaving Cambridge, he spent his early youth travelling to England on business for his father and he became involved with working for the poor in the Parish of St Alban's, Holborn, London, where he was called Brother Bob. Here he came under the influence of a charismatic priest Father Stanton and the Oxford Movement.

After the death of his father, he attended the Salisbury Theological College in 1882 but had little interest in study, preferring to do practical missionary work. Surprisingly, he was not ordained until he was 34, this being on Trinity Sunday 1885 in St Paul's Cathedral. For two years, he was in charge of the St Martin's Mission in the Holy Trinity parish of

Stepney, London, where he was outstandingly successful. He learnt a great deal from this experience which ended suddenly with his resignation because he felt that he was not getting a free enough hand; shades of Landport to come.

Shoppers in Portsmouth's "Cascades Shopping Centre" may notice that the lanes of shops are given names. On the west side appears the name St Agatha's Way. Motorists entering the car park cannot miss seeing on their right the large red brick and imposing Victorian church of St Agatha's ; a church forever linked with Father Dolling. He raised the £10,250 needed to build it, a considerable sum in those days, and still owed £3,090 when he resigned over a matter of Church ritual and left Landport in 1896, just five months after its opening. This did not stop him from raising the rest of the money to pay for St Agatha's.

Father Dolling was not a parish priest as such; he was appointed by Winchester College to run their Mission in Landport, which was started in 1882 when it was founded by Bishop Ridding through the generosity of the men of Winchester College. This generosity continued over the years; generosity not just in money, vitally important though this was, but in the time and labour spent working in Landport by the men of Winchester. To run it, a Mission Committee was set up in the College but its role was not to direct the form of worship or the day to day running of the Mission. It was there to support the Mission leader, to authorise appeals made in the name of the College and to sanction major expenditure on buildings. The rest of this tale of how the Mission Leader, Father Dolling, set about reforming Landport must await next month's "Faith Matters". Roger Bryant

The Wrong Way

Hearing a radio report of a car going the wrong way down a motorway, a man telephoned his wife because she was on the same motorway. "Only one", she said. "There are hundreds where I am!"

Monty's Way

On one occasion at a parade in India, when Field Marshal Montgomery was a colonel, the general called out to him that he was two paces too forward of the rest of the parade. Monty stood still and shouted the command, "Parade! Two paces forward. March!"

From the Registers

12th Nov Funeral of Kathleen
Madgwick
14th Nov Funeral of Arthur Jones

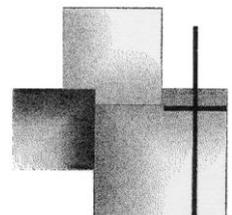
Baptisms:
17th Nov Thomas and Caroline
Rabbetts



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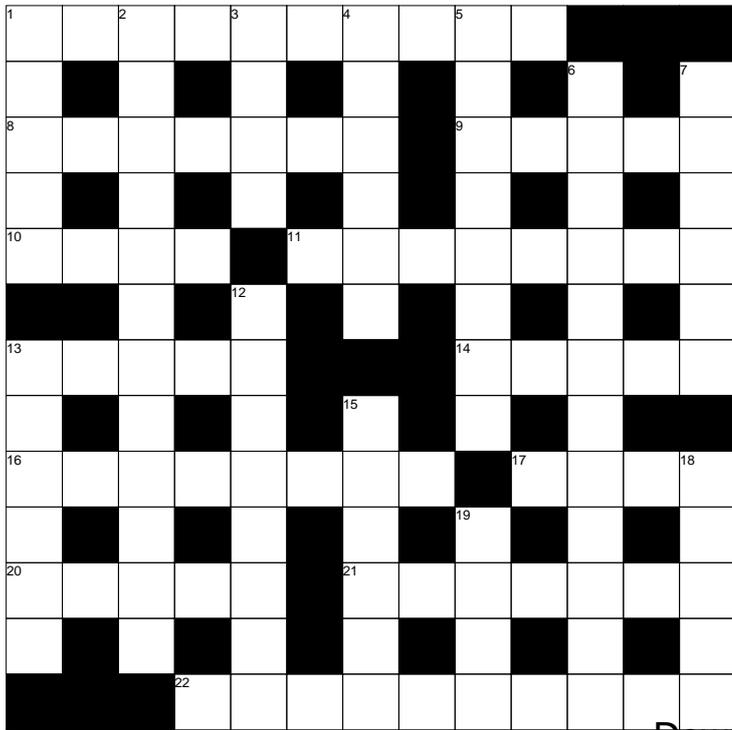
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St Faith's December 2002 Crossword Puzzle



Across

1. Place of prayer and betrayal (10)
8. NATO is one, for example (7)
9. "Of his bones are ----- made" (5)
10. French Christmas (4)
11. Something to keep you awake (8)
13. Unpleasant sounding brothers told tales (5)
14. Looking glass girl (5)
16. Honourable and retired (8)
17. Summit came to be disturbed (4)
20. Ancient Britons had warrior queen (5)
21. Golden condition (7)
22. Ten dear men made affectionate utterance (10)

Down

1. Easier to go with it (5)
3. Old ones cast long shadows (4)
4. Measurable force for brief period (6)
6. Nativity gift (12)
12. "Let not ----- mock their useful toil" (8)
18. Choose the elite (5)
2. Eremites when converted became bearers of gifts (5,4,3)
5. Saint has his day in December (8)
7. Split, or cling to (6)
13. Language for kind of football (6)
15. Familiar one from down under (6)
19. Indistinct sound of nasty remark (4)

Compiled for St Faith's by *Sisyphus*.

Answers to the editors by 15th Decmber please!

Answers to November 2002 Crossword

Across: 1. Debt, 3. Admired, 8. Adamant, 9. Fatal, 10. Onset, 11. Trinket, 13. Arachnoid, 17. Redskin, 19. Shady, 20. Trace, 22. In depth, 23. Resolve, 24. Eden.

Down: 1. Dragon, 2. Brass Band, 3. A stitch in time, 4. Mufti, 5. Rat, 6. Dilate, 7. Tantra, 12. Kidnapped, 14. On side, 15. Prater, 16. Hyphen, 18. Knell, 21. Ass.

Oh dear, time for the Editor (Jan) to apologise again, as I omitted Sisyphus's clue 9 ac last month - nevertheless, the first out of the hat this month was **Ruth Tunks** who not only got the answer right, but also supplied 2 alternative clues! A further 5 entries managed with or without the missing clue, these being Derek Bowley, Mary Harfield, Ann Slade, Marion Simmons and Angela Collyer - well done all who tried! I rather hope that the crossword is a little easier for Christmas!

Parochial Church Council Reports

Fabric Committee Meeting 2 November

Restoration work was proceeding to schedule. Photographs of the damaged stonework were to be displayed in church. The lighting system was to be checked out again. The security of the sound system was to be improved. The access of disabled persons was to be reviewed in the light of new regulations.

Building Committee Meeting 7 November

The drainage of St Nicholas chapel had been checked and a blocked drain cleared. The walls of Room 2 in Church House had been repaired and Marian Howe had paid for the room to be redecorated. The Yew Tree in front of Coach House would be cut back in late November and alterations to the rear door would be undertaken next Spring. A letter had been sent by the Hall Manager, Ivan Morley, to Ward Councillors seeking financial support to fund improvements to Church House and the Hall.

The room behind the Hall stage had been cleared ready for redecoration. Quotes from contractors were being obtained to have the flat roof replaced. A further meeting of the committee would take place to finalise the fire and safety arrangements required for the complex. It was decided not to increase charges for the hire of premises but a modest charge would be made to organisations storing equipment.

The cutting back of the trees at Nos. 1 & 2 Churchfields would be done by Christmas by Neil Mockford. Quotes were being obtained for new kitchens, new boilers and bathroom improvements for both properties. The outcome of the rent review of Christ Church Centre was that the rent had increased from £8,750 to £15,000 per annum from 8 June 2002. A specialist survey had revealed that there was no asbestos in the loft of the Centre.

PCC Meeting 14 November

Reports were taken from the Building and Fabric Committees, Churches Together, Hall Manager (Ivan Morley) and Treasurer (Pam Bowley). The Extra Parochial Giving was agreed for this year (see details below). The Child Protection Officer (Fiona Hedley) gave a report on the legal requirements for registration of individuals and a small working party of Fiona, Carmen Stuart and Shirley Caunter was set up to do the necessary research and documentation. The main business of the evening was to discuss a Stewardship Campaign with Gordon Uphill, the Diocesan Advisor.

Extra Parochial Giving for 2003

£50	St Lukes Hospital, Biblelands, Church Mission Society, Jerusalem and M E Association, SPCK, Leprosy Mission, Mission to Seafarers, St Helena Diocesan Association, The Samaritans, All Saints Refuge
£75	Church Army, Sight Savers International, Barnardos, Save The Children, NSPCC, St Lukes School
£100	Children's Society, USPG, Christian Aid
£150	International Children's Trust,
	Total: £1400

Do you enjoy singing?

An adult choir has been formed to sing at Evensong on Sundays. Currently we have four ladies and two gentlemen. We would like a few more members, so if you enjoy singing, please think about joining us. Ability to read music is not essential. We practice in Church on Sunday evening at 5:30 prior to Evensong. Further details from Judith Williams or Paul Utting.

Smiling

Smiling is infectious, you catch it like the flu. When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too. I passed around the corner and someone saw my grin. When he smiled I realised I'd passed it on to him. I thought about that smile then I realised its wish. A single smile just like mine could travel round the earth. So, if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected. Let's start an epidemic quick and get the world infected. Keep the smile going by sending this on to a friend. Everyone needs a smile!

Copied from a poster on the wall in St. Mary's Hospital by Ruth Tunks

Millennium Yews

You may remember reading in "Faith Matters" last year about the Millennium Yews. As part of the millennium celebration, there was a national scheme to plant Yew Trees in churchyards throughout the country, which had the blessing of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Havant Borough Council was able to secure a Yew tree for our churchyard and David Sawyer of the Havant Parks Department planted it on 20 February 2001. He explained to us that in medieval England, Yew trees were very valuable to the community because they provided wood for the long bows. To stop them being stolen, they were planted in the walled enclosure of a churchyard. A month after David planted ours, it was stolen! So much for tradition!

However, there is good news because in August this year David planted another Yew Tree in our churchyard and it can be seen in the centre of the grassed area facing the Robin Hood public house. It is protected by a black metal cover. We are very grateful to David and to Havant Borough Council for their generosity.

"I'm not offended by all the dumb blonde jokes, because I know I'm not dumb ... and I'm also not blonde!"
Dolly Parton

Did you hear that Frank Carson joke? What's the difference between Outlaws and In-laws? Outlaws are wanted!

The Last of the Red Marines

The article by Roger Bryant in the September edition about Portsmouth during the war brings to mind the story of a friend at whose funeral I was privileged to give the eulogy. George Mann joined the Royal Marine Light Infantry at its Forton Barracks (now St Vincent School), Gosport in October 1922 as a 14 year old boy bugler. In 1923 when the red tunic wearing RMLI amalgamated with the Royal Marine Artillery they marched (via the vehicle ferry) to Eastney Barracks. George, being considered too young to march, rode round sitting on a sack of onions in the ration truck.

Later George, who retired as Captain with an MBE, had a distinguished career initially as a PTI and spoke of the feeling of power standing on K Turret of the mighty battleship HMS HOOD taking the ship's company to PT. He left just before she was sunk leaving just three survivors. He also served in HMS CURACOA; another ship lost with great loss of life. After he retired he was visited by a member of the Naval Historical Branch who asked him "Mr Mann, in all your long service what was the hardest time ?" expecting him to speak of his sea service or in Korea. To his surprise George said it was at Portsmouth. Apparently during the blitz he had been



in an anti aircraft gun detachment on Southsea Common with
Clear sounded he was to take his gun's crew in his 15cwt
truck to where the bombs had been dropped. Helping pull the dead and injured out
of the rubble and ferrying survivors to a collecting point at Hilsea must indeed have
been a harrowing experience. During the bombing 930 Portsmouth civilians were
killed and 1,216 seriously injured. PRT

Camelot! 12 November 2002

There we were gathered at the old Post Office in Havant for a visit to Camelot. No! Not to David and Susan in the Rectory! We were boarding a coach to take us on one of Sandra Haggan's outings to the Kings Theatre. Off we went on a damp evening but mercifully, the rain had stopped. Along the motorway we go, down the Eastern Road, through Velder Avenue and passing by the Theatre of Dreams (Fratton Park! Where else?). Through Eastney, along Highland Road, catching a glimpse of Sara Freeston spending her pocket money in the Cabin. Yes, it is still there, Sara, which is more than we can say of the three cinemas - Odeon, Gaiety and, next to the Kings, Apollo. I remember taking Joy, soon after we met, to the Apollo to see her then favourite, Mario Lanza, in "Flame of New Orleans". (Which reminds me, she still owes me for her cinema ticket!) We see a superb production of Camelot, ice creams courtesy of Sandra during the interval, and then the 20 of us are on our way home with memories of a lovely evening. Do all come next time! Our grateful thanks to the very special Sandra.
Roger Bryant

Threads

Father Brown read the following poem at the funeral of Reg Wallis:

*"My life is but a weaving between my Lord and me,
I cannot choose the colours, He worketh steadily.
Oft times He weaves sorrow, and I in foolish pride
Forget He sees the upper and I the underside.
Not till the loom is silent and the shuttles cease to fly,
Will my Lord unroll the canvas and explain the reason why.
The dark threads are as needful in the skilful weaver's hand,
As the threads of gold and silver in the pattern He has planned".*



Reading the Bible with the Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF)

The Bible Reading Fellowship declares that it has a passion for making the Bible come alive for people. I wondered how true this was and asked two of the BRF readers at St Faith's what they felt about the scheme.

I am grateful to Alan Hakim and Rosemary Thomas for sharing their feelings with me. Alan was introduced to the daily readings by his mother and has been a reader (but not completely continuously) since he was at school. Rosemary, on the other hand, joined only two years ago although she had used Scripture Union notes before that time.

Both of them are agreed about the importance of reading the Bible. Alan says 'If you don't read the Bible you are missing a major part of worship'. BRF gives you a guide through both familiar and little-known areas of the Bible. Some months you are with old friends, sometimes dodging the curses of little-known Minor Prophets. Always there is food for thought.'

Rosemary feels that 'the more you read the Bible the more the TRUTH of it blazes out at you. If we believe that the Bible is the Word of God, it will surely encourage us and strengthen us in our faith. Although the circumstances and scientific knowledge of those days were different, the people were just like us!'

I have samples of the series of BRF booklets if anyone should like to see them. The new series of readings starts in January. Why not make a New Year Resolution to join us? My telephone number is 023 9247 1241.

Hilary Deadman

Arthur Jones RIP

Arthur was many things to many people, but all are saddened by his death

He was a sailor, lawyer and churchman. He had a distinguished war service in the Royal Navy including the hazardous Arctic Convoys to Russia and saw action in the Mediterranean including the Malta convoys. His ship was sunk in one engagement and he clung to driftwood in the sea until rescued.

In civilian life, Arthur was a lawyer and many people in this area, not just parishioners of St Faith's, had cause to be grateful to him for the guidance he gave them on matters of law. He gave valued service to the Citizen's Advice Bureau in Havant. We often say of someone that they give freely of their time and talent but this has seldom been truer of anyone than of Arthur.

He was particularly kind to blind people and we have all witnessed the help he gave to Judy and Phyllis. Many will know of a blind lady at St Joseph's named Marian Hookin. Olive Andrews occasionally looks after her dog and Marian would tell her how Arthur would read her mail for her almost daily, looking after any problems it might bring. She said, "He was not only a helper but a very good friend."

He was a former churchwarden at St Faith's and served on the PCC for some 40 years. He served on the Diocesan Board of Finance and the Bishop's Council. He was our representative on the Deanery and Diocesan Synods and on Churches Together, and was a lay Canon of the Cathedral.

We cannot in these pages do justice to all he did in Havant. He was a remarkable churchman, a loving husband, father and grandfather, and to very many, a helper and a friend. He will be sadly missed.

The Holly and the Ivy

As we all know, our Christmas traditions owe much to the Victorian era, although we can trace many of them back much further. Did you know that in medieval time's holly, ivy, mistletoe and even Christmas trees were thought to offer protection against evil spirits? Christians of that period regarded holly leaves as Christ's crown of thorns and the berries as his blood. Of good news to some at this festive time, ivy was considered a good cure for a hangover. Holly was said to bring fertility and mistletoe was considered a powerful aphrodisiac. So take care when you are decorating the parlour!

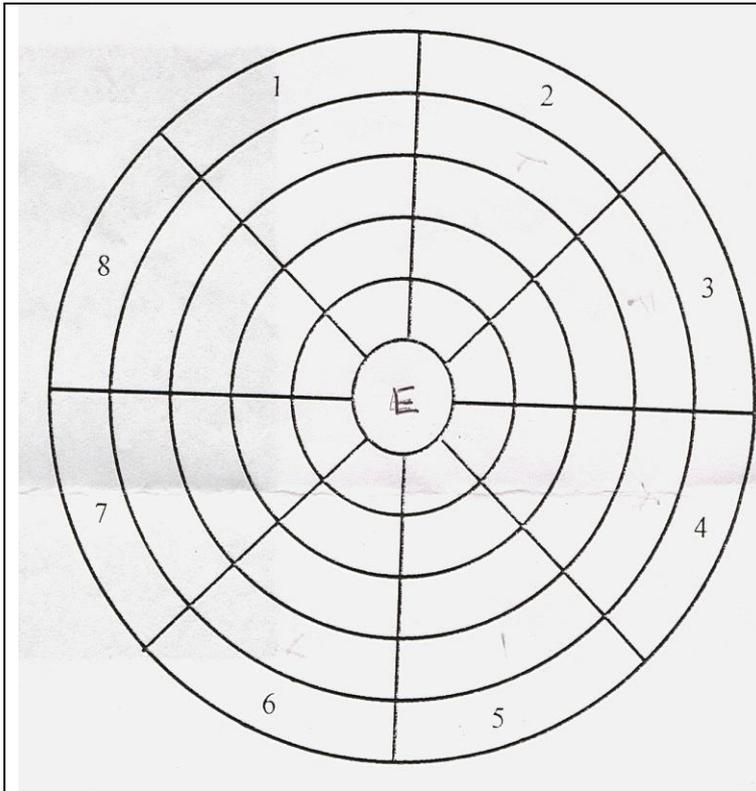
"I am a marvellous housekeeper. Every time I leave a man I keep his house!"

Zsa Zsa Gabor

One For The Sunday Club

Here is a puzzle for members of the Sunday Club, and for older readers.

Compiled by Sisyphus



CLUES:

1. Tall and Pointed
2. Tenth Part
3. Myth
4. Proverb
5. Angry
6. Name
7. Abode
8. Happy Look

Answers to the clues are five letter words ending with 'E' in the centre, starting from the second circle from the numbers and working inwards. Puzzle solution reads clockwise from 1 to 8 on outside of the second circle.

A Parish Priest

If the priest preaches for more than ten minutes, he's too long-winded.

If his sermon is short, he's too easy-going and lazy in his preparation.

If his parish funds are low, he's financially inept.

If he keeps mentioning money, he's too grasping, and concerned for wrong things.

If he visits his parishioners, he's never at home.

If he doesn't, he's stand-offish.

If he runs bazaars and fund-raising events, he's bleeding his people.

If he doesn't, his parish is lacking social life.

If he starts a service on time, his watch must be fast.

If he's a bit late, he's holding up the congregation.

If he decorates the church, he's spending too much.

If he doesn't, he's letting everything run down.

If he's young, he's inexperienced.

If he's old, he should have retired.

If he dies, well, he was a potential Archbishop!

And we'll never see his like!

"When women are depressed they either eat or go shopping. Men invade another country!"

Elayne Boosler.

Word Search – Christmas

Can you find the 24 words associated with Christmas that are shown in the grid? Words may be read forwards, backwards, up, down or diagonal and are in straight lines. Where a “/” is shown the words are not contiguous in the grid. *Congratulations to Peggy for spotting my ‘deliberate mistake’ in last month’s word search! In the grid I incorrectly spelt ‘HAGGAI’ as ‘HAGGI’.*

Colin Carter

ANGEL/GABRIEL

ANIMALS

BABY/JESUS

BETHLEHEM

CAROLS

CHRISTMAS/TREE

DONKEY

FRANKINCENSE

GIFTS

GOLD

HEROD

INNKEEPER

IVY

JERUSALEM

JOSEPH

MANGER

MARY

MISTLETOE

MYRRH

SHEPHERDS

STABLE

STAR

THREE/WISE/MEN

WENCESLAS

A	N	G	E	Y	E	K	N	O	D	H	R	R	Y	M
M	E	H	E	L	H	T	E	B	T	H	E	E	R	S
J	O	S	T	A	R	H	A	C	H	P	A	J	A	D
F	R	T	N	W	E	B	S	R	E	G	N	A	M	R
G	S	F	G	E	Y	T	R	E	E	S	I	N	W	E
O	A	I	N	S	C	A	K	G	E	F	M	G	T	H
L	M	G	A	Y	N	N	V	M	H	D	A	E	H	P
D	T	J	M	V	N	I	I	M	S	M	L	L	P	E
O	S	E	E	I	G	S	Y	K	A	U	S	W	E	H
R	I	E	C	O	T	F	N	R	N	T	S	I	S	S
E	R	R	N	L	R	A	N	N	A	A	C	E	O	T
H	H	H	E	A	M	E	L	A	S	U	R	E	J	E
E	C	T	W	G	M	S	L	O	R	A	C	F	M	S
R	O	E	K	N	O	D	L	E	I	R	B	A	G	I
E	L	B	A	T	S	S	A	L	S	E	C	N	E	W

Children Say the Funniest Things

When Abigail was four years old, we all went to Warblington Church to see the crib and decorations ready for Christmas. Abigail looked at the old ruined castle there and said “What a beautiful castle granny”. “But it’s not, it’s an old ruin now” I said. “No it’s not, it’s a beautiful fairy castle and if painted pink it would be really lovely” said Abigail. What a lovely mind, I thought.

Jennifer Trodd

From the Editors

The web site is now up and running. If you do not have access to the Internet, perhaps you know a friend or somebody that does, and they may let you have a look at our site at '<http://www.stfaith.com>' – let me know what you think of it and what you would like to be included on it. The pages you see form the basis of our site - they will be refined and improved on over the coming weeks and months. The 'Groups/Clubs' page has details on the Art Group, Bell Ringers, Sunday Club and Women's Group from information that I have gleaned from other sources. I have not had any material from the chairperson of the various group/clubs/committees that I requested last month - perhaps they do not read the magazine or skip the editorial! Readers may like to know that Molly Whitenstall who died in February of this year made a bequest of £1,000 to the church. A big thank you to our Social Secretary, Sandra, for organising, inter alia, last month's outing to see 'Camelot' at the King's Theatre, the flower arranging demonstration and the social evening. All those attending had a most enjoyable time. Finally, a very happy and peaceful Christmas to all our readers.

Colin Carter

My special thanks to Colin Carter, who has kindly prepared for printing almost all of the magazine this month, as well as persuading our web site. He has, however, left it to me to break the news that we are going to have to raise the price of the magazine from January next. The price hasn't changed for many years (the firemen taught me that one!) and I note that many local church magazines sell for prices up to 60p per month! The main reason, though, is that printing costs have steadily risen and we do need to cover these costs, so we plan to raise the price to 30p from next month. We may also have to raise the price a further 5p to 35p later in the year, but not for those who order it in advance and have it delivered (speak to Peter Appleby) - they will benefit from a fixed price for the whole year! Perhaps you know someone who would like a year's subscription to Faith Matters as a Christmas Present!

I have heard that Doris Colliver has now moved back to the Lodge, Lower Road, Bedhampton and would appreciate any visitors who would like to call. Also, we have heard from Roy Clark's daughters, Diana and Bunty, who wrote to say "*So very kind of you to send us the parish magazine. The piece about dear Roy is touching and well written. It is a good read altogether - Roy would have enjoyed it. Thank you and our very best wishes.*"

We have been using up a lot of our store of articles for the magazine, as both November and this month have been 20 page issues, so if you would care to put pen to paper or finger to computer, we would be delighted to hear from you. May you all have a wonderfully peaceful, happy and Christ-full Christmas.

Jan Stuart

SERVICES

Sunday 1st Dec. ADVENT	8.00am	Eucharist
	8.00am	Eucharist at St Nicholas, Langstone
	9.15am	Sunday Club in Church House
	9.30am	PARISH EUCHARIST
		Presiding: The Revd Canon Derek Brown Preaching: The Revd Canon Owen Beament
	6.00pm	Advent Carol Service at St. Alban, West Leigh
Sunday 8th Dec. ADVENT II	8.00am	Eucharist
	9.15am	Sunday Club in Church House
	9.30am	PARISH EUCHARIST
		Preacher: The Revd Anne Leonard
Sunday 15th Dec. ADVENT III	6.30pm	Evensong
	8.00am	Eucharist
	9.15am	Sunday Club in Church House
	9.30am	PARISH EUCHARIST & Toy Service
	6.30pm	Evensong
Sunday 22nd Dec. ADVENT IV	8.00am	Eucharist
	9.15am	Sunday Club in Church House
	9.30am	PARISH EUCHARIST
	6.30pm	Evensong
Tuesday 24th Dec. CHRISTMAS EVE	6.00pm	Candlelight Service
	11.30pm	Midnight Eucharist
Wednesday 25TH Dec. CHRISTMAS DAY	8.00am	Eucharist
	8.00am	Eucharist at St Nicholas, Langstone
	9.30am	FAMILY EUCHARIST
Sunday 29th Dec. CHRISTMAS I	8.00am	Eucharist
	9.15am	Sunday Club in Church House
	9.30am	PARISH EUCHARIST
	6.30pm	Evensong
Sunday 5th Jan. CHRISTMAS II	8.00	Eucharist
	9.15am	Sunday Club in Church House
	9.30am	PARISH EUCHARIST
	6.30pm	Evensong
Monday 6th Jan. EPIPHANY	6.30pm	Said Eucharist

Midweek Services: See page 1

STAFF

Rector

Rev David Gibbons

023 9248 3485

The Rectory, 5 Meadowlands, Havant, PO9 2RP

Verger & Sacristan 2 Churchfields South Street, Havant, PO9 1BY	Mrs Vickie Mockford,	023 9247 1398
Organist	Mrs J Williams	023 9234 3020
Parish Office Administrator	Mrs J Morley (Home)	023 9249 2129 023 9248 2430

WHO'S WHO

Churchwardens	Mr R Bryant	01243 376863
	Dr C Warlow	023 9247 5447
Hon. Secretary PCC 3 Lower Grove Road, Havant, PO9 1AS	Mrs A M Currie	023 9247 9937
Hon. Treasurer PCC 17 Berkeley Square, Havant, PO9 2RT	Mrs P Bowley	023 9248 3524
St Nicholas, Langstone Wardens	Mr E Manning	023 9248 3500
	Mrs A Plater	023 9245 1075
Child Protection Officer	Mrs F Hedley	023 2949 8229
Hall Manager	Mr I Morley	023 9248 2430
Stewardship Secretary	Mr A Hakin	023 9247 1681
Captain of Bellringers	Mrs B Skilleter	023 9225 3802
Church Shop	Mrs E Gomersall	023 9248 4104
Social Activities	Mrs S Haggan	023 9245 5161
Bible Reading Fellowship	Mrs H Deadman	023 9247 1241
Flowers for High Altar	Mrs R Thomas	023 9248 3836
Missions to Seafarers Sec.	Miss P Sparks	023 9245 0309
Mother's Union Advisor	Mrs E A Gilbert	023 9245 2321
Children's Society Boxes	Mrs S Caunter	023 9248 1231

MEMBERS OF PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Rev David Gibbons (Chairman)

Dr C Warlow (Churchwarden)	Mr R Bryant (Churchwarden)	
Mrs P Bowley (Hon. Treasurer)	Mrs A M Currie (Hon. Secretary)	
Mrs S Caunter	Dr C Churcher-Brown	Mr D Freeston
Mrs A Plater	Mrs S Robson	Miss P Sparks
Mrs C Stuart	Mr R Wilson	
Mr I Morley (Deanery Synod Rep)	Prof J Stuart (Deanery Synod Rep)	