

## SERVICES

<b><u>SUNDAYS:</u></b>	8.00 am	Eucharist (said)
	9.15 am	Children's Sunday Club in Church House
	9.30 am	Sung Eucharist
		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.

#### **ALL BOOKINGS FOR ST FAITH'S HALL & CHURCH HOUSE**

Contact: Mrs Vickie Mockford  
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.

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*From the Rector* Although Christmas day is over the Christmas and Epiphany season

has really only just begun for us in the church. That may sound rather surprising, but it's the way the church year is set up: The season of Christmas begins with Christmas Day and runs until Epiphany on 6<sup>th</sup> January, which in turn runs until the 2<sup>nd</sup> February ('Candlemas' or 'the presentation of Christ in the Temple', as it is otherwise known). I recognise that in the secular celebration Christmas represents the climax of a month (or much more) of preparation to this day or two (if you include the feast of Boxing Day!), but this is not the church's tradition.

In this, as in so many things, the church runs counter culturally. The church's ways have been marginalized, at best, but more commonly completely lost to our cultural norms – even to the extent that most Christians have forgotten that the season of Christmas begins, rather than ends, with Christmas Day. It is up to the church to be realistic about this – while holding fast to the tradition recognising that society has moved on. On some issues we will want to challenge society. With regard to Christmas it has become almost the convention to see Carol Services as 'opportunities' to teach something of the faith – bearing in mind the ignorance about Christianity prevalent today.

So what is Epiphanytide about? Camels and Wise men, you say. Indeed so – but it is more than that. Essentially Epiphany is the 'making manifest' (see the hymn "Songs of thankfulness and praise") of whom the Christ really is – the nature of Jesus revealed, shown not only in the visit of the Wise men but also through his baptism by John in the river Jordan and the first miracle at the Cana wedding feast. This season relates to our sense of seeking vision because it is about the mission of the Church – making Christ known. This is the reason for the church's existence, and it is good we are reminded of that at this time as we celebrate God's presence in our world in the person of Jesus.

And while I am talking of vision – may I remind you that the proposals for the vision will be in church from the middle of next month, for you to read and digest. On Saturday 22<sup>th</sup> February there will be the opportunity to hear me explain my ideas and for you to comment and feed into the whole discussion. In relation to this a Stewardship campaign to encourage the giving of our time, talents and money to the mission of the church is to take place after Easter this year. A group, under the Chairmanship of Trevor Hopkinson, has been set up to prepare for the launch of this important scheme.

May I take this opportunity to remind you that the scaffolding is down, and that a year ago at this time we launched our restoration Appeal. We have successfully raised £26,000 towards the appeal and I would like to thank you for your generosity in helping to raise nearly half the total cost of the work (£59,000). My thanks also to the committee, under Ivan Morley's leadership for their work, especially the marvellous day on 31<sup>st</sup> August, with the excellent balloon race (are you over the balloons yet Derek and Sarah?). Their work goes on - to raise more of the expense at to help cover the costs of necessary internal work to the church that must be done.

As we look forward I wish you a happy New Year, and more pertinently a Blessed Epiphanytide!

*Fr. David*

## **About The Parish**

The start of a New Year and the time to make your new year resolutions, at least that was how it was when I was young. Joy says that her resolution is not to make any! But the New Year is not just about resolutions because it is also the time when we review the previous year. The parishioners of St Faith's can look back with pride at the support you have given to the Ministry of the Church in Havant. Our

congregation has grown, we have a thriving Children's Sunday Club, talented people have joined us to add their skill to the talents of the many stalwarts who have kept this church going for so many years. It is not easy to live with change but we have to grow as a church if we are to have something worth passing on to our successors.

Sadly, we lost some wonderful people during the year. Marie Marks, lovely and elegant; Daphne Jarvis, gentle and serene; Wyn Brooks, quiet and gracious; Mollie Whittenstall, shy and special; Mary "Bobbie" Elliott, loving and kind; Lady Dorothy Rose, a lively lady; Ron Swadling, fine Christian gentleman; Reg Wallis, gentle innocence; Roy Clark, charming and dapper; Julian Howard, courageous Langstone gentleman; Arthur Jones, distinguished and caring; Kathleen Madgwick, loyal and charming, and many others known to us. We have a music director, Judith Williams, who has contributed so much to this church; not just her beautiful playing of the organ and piano but in her encouragement and direction of our choir. We said goodbye and thanks to John Edwards for all his work as Verger, ably supported by Dot, over ten years including the interregnum, when often he was required to meet people and handle situations in the absence of an incumbent. The year saw the arrival of our new and, I think, first lady Verger in Vickie Mockford, ably supported by husband Neil and six year old Daniel, christened by Father Brown and often seen on a Sunday, after the service, sorting out the numbers from the Hymn Boards. June Morley has done a superb job in the Parish Office, handling callers and correspondence with great courtesy and efficiency. (Have you noticed that three out of our four "staff" are women)? In fact women made an incredible contribution to the work of St Faith's last year. In "Who's Who", 13 out of 19 are women, as are 7 out of 16 members of the PCC. We have two women servers - Carmen Stuart and Mary Strugnell. Apart from the Rector and churchwardens, we have only two officers on the PCC and both are women - Audrey Currie (Secretary) and Pam Bowley (Treasurer). And where would we be without Edna Gomersall and Sandra Haggan, together with their bands of helpers? Well done ladies! Finally, I pay tribute to Father David for all he has done for us in this his first full year as Rector of Havant, ably supported by Susan. He has moved us forward in so many ways and yet he has kept us all with him. He works tirelessly to promulgate the Ministry of the Church in Havant, bringing a whole range of people and organisations in contact with St Faith's. Make no mistake, the year 2003 will bring great challenges for us but, with God's help, it should hold no fears for us. A very Happy New Year to you all.

Roger Bryant

## Faith

The following poem was in a book, "Thoughts for every Day", on sale at the Chapel in St Mary's Hospital. It would seem appropriate as we embark on the New Year.

Not fear but faith  
My testament shall be -  
My faith from every fear  
Has set me free.  
For faith is believing  
And knowing its true -  
That Christ died a sinner's death  
For me and you.

Then faith reaches out  
To sustain and uphold -  
And in strengthening others  
Increases four fold.  
Faith casts out fear -  
The twain cannot meet -  
For fear has no place  
At the Saviour's feet.

## St Faith's Art Group

The Art Group continues to meet every Tuesday morning from 10am to 1pm, at St Faith's Church Hall, The Pallant, Havant. We have enjoyed a full year of painting though numbers have fluctuated from time to time. However we enjoy working together and look forward to welcoming new members to the group. During the summer we enjoyed outdoor painting though bad weather did not encourage such activity. We also exhibited some of our work in the church at the Town Fair weekend. Our work was not for sale but many people complemented the group for the standard of work on show. Many thanks to Derek Bowley and Alfred for their hard work towards this event. In the Autumn season we have been looking at tonal values as well as painting our own subjects. We have a break on Tuesday 7 January 2003. Next meeting is on Tuesday 14 January, when we will continue with colour and tone in preparation for Tuesday 4 February when Mrs Jenny King, well known artist and a tutor at Chichester College will visit us to demonstrate (talk) Interpreting Photo's to paintings. On Tuesday 4 March Mrs Rosemary Thomas has kindly agreed to give a Flower Painting demonstration in water-colour. We hope to have further news of programmes later in the year. Our thanks to Fr David Gibbons for his support of this outreach project. We also thank Vickie Mockford and Ivan Morely for their efforts in opening the Hall. And a huge thank you to Derek Bowley for laying out the tables and chairs for us and clearing up afterwards. A merry Christmas and a very happy New Year to everyone. Carmen

## Bellringers Christmas Dinner

Our new venue of our own Church Hall was a great success as was the dinner this year. Many thanks to Bill and Barbara and their helpers for all their hard work organising the event. We had 57 ringers and their guests and Peter the Chef did us proud as usual (even if Bill did have to rush out mid-afternoon to get the sprouts!) Father David gave a superb after-dinner speech, including some hilarious jokes which led one of the ringers to remark "*That new Bish - he's alright isn't he!*".

## The Story of the Font and the Lady Chapel Window

The font, and the stained glass window in the Lady Chapel deserve close inspection, as they reveal the names of several related families who were important to St. Faith's church in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. These were the Mountains, the Hinchcliffs, the Granvilles and Mrs. Pigott (nee Granville).

Elizabeth Hinchcliff and her daughter, Anne, came to live in Havant in about 1825, to be near Anne's sister, Katherine, who was married to Reverend George Mountain. Mr. Mountain was Rector of St. Faith's from 1825 to 1846 and the memorial wall tablet to his mother, Elizabeth, shows that his father was the late Lord Bishop of Quebec. According to CJ Longcroft in his 'Hundred of Bosmere', the Rector achieved an enormous amount in his time at St. Faith's. The church was re-pewed, the tower repaired, the nave rebuilt and an organ purchased. The parish and infant schools were built and the church at Red Hill was erected and endowed. The weekly services were increased and clothing clubs were established under his care. The plaque at the foot of present font states that it was *'erected by a contribution of the inhabitants of this parish, as a memorial of their affection, esteem, and veneration for the Reverend George Robert Mountain, who having for a period of 20 years with zeal and kindness, and untiring diligence, ministered to the temporal and spiritual necessities of those committed to his pastoral charge, died on the 25th June 1846, in the 57th year of his age'*.

When George Mountain died his widow moved from the Rectory to Langbrook, an eight-bedroomed flint house in Langstone (demolished 1965). This house was built on land already owned by Mrs. Mountain and was almost opposite her sister Anne's large flint house, Woodfield. From about 1865 Mrs. Mountain's nieces, the Misses Granville, were also living at Langbrook. Mrs. Mountain died there in 1877.

The Granville's recently widowed sister, Georgiana Pigott, is in the 1871 census at Woodfield with her aunt, Anne Hinchcliff, and four servants. Woodfield had been owned by the family since at least 1838 and Mrs. Elizabeth Hinchcliff died there in 1844, aged 88. The house, which has been a school, a hotel, and is now divided into flats, is situated at the top of Langstone Road, though its grounds have largely disappeared under housing. In 1881 Elizabeth's daughter, Anne Hinchcliff, died at Langstone, aged 89. Her obituary stated that she *'interested herself in every good work of the parish and was a large subscriber to the first restoration of St. Faith's in 1826 and one of the largest in 1875'*.

Georgiana Pigott died in 1889, 'late of Langbrook,' where she had lived for some years. She was described, in the Hampshire Telegraph, as having 'identified herself with most of the charities and philanthropic work of the town. She was the widow of the late Captain Pigott RN and the daughter of the late Mr. Granville, banker, of Chester. Mrs. Pigott was buried in the family vault in St. Faith's churchyard.' The mourners at her funeral included Generals Williams, Oldfield and Napier, Admiral O'Callaghan, Mr. ER Longcroft and Sir Frederick Fitzwygram MP. There were a dozen carriages in the funeral procession. Interestingly, my great-great-uncle Sir Robert George Raper, a Chichester solicitor, was one of Mrs. Pigott's executors. Georgiana Pigott is significant because she caused a large stained glass window to be erected on the south side of the Lady Chapel in St. Faith's church. Under it is a brass plate, put there by her 'sorrowing brother', Robert Creighton Granville to commemorate her death in 1889. At the bottom of the window, itself, one can just see the names of deceased members of the related families.

George Augustus Shawe and Richard Grant erected the SE chancel window, in memory of Reverend George Mountain. Mr. Shawe's daughter Eliza was living at Southbrook, Langstone, at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. She died at Hambledon in 1922, aged 98. Her obituary states that she was the last person to be buried in St. Faith's churchyard, as all the vaults were then filled.

Ann Griffiths

### **Canon Derek Brown**

At the Bellringers' Dinner on the evening of St Andrews Day, 30 November, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of Father Brown's Ordination into Holy Orders. The following morning, the anniversary was marked by him presiding over the Parish Eucharist, with two of his former curates of more than 30 years ago present - The Reverend Dudley Gummer and Canon Owen Beament, who preached - and our present Rector, Father David. In addition, Father Keith Uphill rushed from a service he had taken to join the congregation before the service ended.

A large congregation included the current Mayor of Havant, Councillor Gordon Erlebach, and two of his predecessors - Councillor Ken Moss and Honorary Alderman Penny Moss. There were many in the congregation who had known Father Brown throughout most of his Ministry in Havant, others were there because he had married or baptised them. There were other links with his past in St Faith's. His former servers and churchwardens took part in the service, their wives doing the offertory, and his former PCC Secretary, Audrey Currie, did the intercessions.

After the service, there was a gathering in the Hall for a presentation by the Rector, on behalf of the Parish, to Father Brown of a Ship's Decanter, together with a card signed by parishioners. Father Brown then cut a celebration cake and expressed his thanks to everyone for their kind words and best wishes.

### **Thanks for your generosity:**

The scheme to collect gift vouchers to give as Christmas presents to the homeless/asylum seekers in Havant, Fareham, Portsmouth & Gosport has been another staggering success. £6,300-worth of vouchers have already been collected - a 100 per cent increase on last year - and they are still coming in, from non-Anglican churches, from the Isle of Wight and further afield. The official hand-over of the vouchers to the organisations to distribute them to the homeless took place at a 'Carol Sing-In' at St Mary's Church, Fratton Road, at 11.30am Friday Dec 20th.

## "Don't Touch the Holy Joe" - Part 2

The day after Father Dolling's arrival in Landport, he took his first service in the old St Agatha's church. He was pleased to see so many children in the congregation and they soon put him to the test. Two boys took out pipes and in full view of him insolently lit them. He grabbed the pair of them by the scruff of the neck and proceeded to march them down the aisle while they screamed obscenities. (In view of your Child Protection duties, don't read the next sentence, Fiona!). Getting them to the door, he banged their heads together and threw them out! (Read on, Fiona) The tough congregation was impressed but not the parents of the two boys, who followed Father Dolling home to the parsonage, shouting obscenities at him.

One of his first acts was to raise money and buy a disused Methodist church, which he turned into a gymnasium to get youngsters off the streets and out of the pubs. He reasoned that if he could get them to the gymnasium, he had a chance of getting them to church. One of the children was a William Davey, my grandfather, who told me much about the gymnasium and church. Father Dolling had just four rules - no swearing, no gambling, no losing of temper and no annoying anybody else. (We are adopting the same rules for PCC meetings!) Early on, gangs of louts would gatecrash in and try to create havoc. (The gymnasium, not PCC meetings!) On one occasion and starting with the leader, the 15 stone Father Dolling personally threw out every member of a gang, sending them on their way with a clout. On another occasion, he threw a lout down the stairs, unfortunately breaking his leg. He soon had no trouble from hooligans.

Prostitution throughout Victorian England was widespread, particularly in garrison towns and seaports. Father Dolling was determined to stamp it out in his parish. He wrote to all the owners of properties used for prostitution, many were leading citizens and some, in fairness, were unaware of the activities in their properties. As a result many evicted their tenants and closed down their operations. Others did not; one threatened Dolling with a £10,000 liable action but soon withdrew it. Where all else failed, Dolling would get the Police to raid the establishment. Astonishingly, his campaign of sermons, letters and police action led to the closure of every immoral house in Landport, except one where the owner lived in the property. He got round this by buying the house for £250 and the last establishment in Landport closed.

Father Dolling helped the poor, the destitute, the outcasts of society. Through his gymnasium, he helped hundreds of boys to enter the Army and Navy. They would come and see him whenever their military duties brought them back. On one occasion, a boat taking young seamen ashore prompted the remark from an officer, "There goes Dolling's liberty boat!" They were proud to be called Dolling's boys. The girls were also found work and safe homes, with the help of Dolling's sisters who were as tough as he was. When Father Dolling arrived in Landport, the old red brick St Agatha's Church was large and adequate for the needs of the district but in no time he had such large congregations that people were literally standing in the aisles. When he arrived there were less than 20 communicants, when he left there were 441 people on the communicant roll.

As we read last month, the new St Agatha's was completed in 1895. Before the Bishop of Winchester could issue a licence for the new church, he suddenly died. He was succeeded by Dr Randall Davidson, who was to be Archbishop of Canterbury in 1903. He was a firm opponent of Anglo-Catholicism, as was Queen Victoria, over whom as Dean of Windsor, he

had exercised great influence to bar appointments to anyone other than low churchmen. His appointment was the worst possible news for Father Dolling at a time when his health, undermined by all he had taken out of himself in his selfless efforts in London's East End and Landport, was fast deteriorating. Desmond Morse-Boycott in his book "Lead Kindly Light" summed it up very well with the words, "Dolling, who was ill, received the shepherd's crook on his head with a sound and resounding clump."

The new Bishop sent a long letter to Father Dolling saying that he could not accept a third altar at St Agatha's because of the intention of using it for prayers for the dead. He considered that the belief that these prayers would shorten the period during which the souls of the departed were in a state of "purgation or preparation" and of hastening their admission to the Beatific state was contrary to the principles of the Church of England. In these circumstances, the Bishop could not grant a licence to St Agatha's. When he was told this, Father Dolling responded immediately by sending his resignation to Dr Fearon at Winchester College. His health was not good and he needed a complete rest and a chance to recharge his batteries for another challenge. When news got out that he proposed to leave, a petition was raised in Portsmouth with 5,000 signatures urging him to stay. Many who signed were political opponents and people of other religions.

He spent some time giving lectures and talks to raise the final money to pay for St Agatha's. He then accepted a post at St Saviour's Church, Poplar where he died from liver cancer on 15 May 1902, aged just 51. At his bedside were five of his sisters, Elise, Geraldine, Josephine, Adelaide and Nina, together with a few of his friends. As the news of his death spread, tributes to him poured in from all over the country and indeed the world. At his funeral the Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated with a packed congregation, including one hundred clergy from all over the country. Hundreds of people stood outside, unable to get in. In front of the chancel stood two soldiers with arms reversed; both had been helped by him in their youth - both were Dolling's boys! After an interval, the Bishops of London, Dr Ingram, and Stepney, Dr Lang entered the chancel and the former placed a wreath of flowers on the coffin, kneeling next to it in silent prayer. The Burial Service then commenced, conducted by the Bishop of London who gave a most moving address culminating in the words: "When everybody else had given a man up, it was always said, Dolling will take him. Thousands felt that day as if they had lost their best friend on earth, and often the only earthly friend they had. He had died, worn out by work and worry." Little Elise Gibbons may one-day read of Elise Dolling and, who knows, may seek to emulate her. She tells me that she likes being kind to

Roger Bryant

From the Registers

Baptisms:

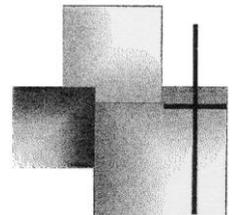
15<sup>th</sup> Dec. Owen Matthews



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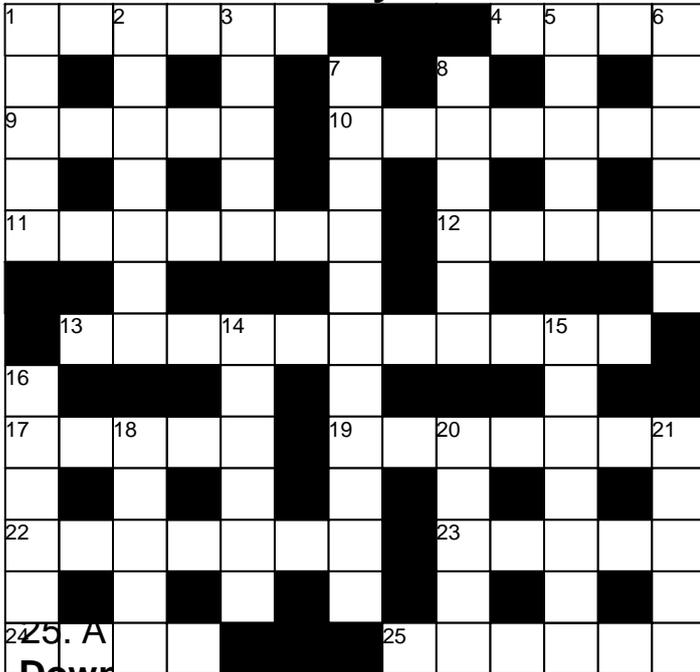
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# St Faith's January 2003 Crossword Puzzle



## Across

1. Vicious dog devoured man of the cloth (6)
4. Myself and sister briefly meet ancient goddess (4)
9. If stolen, it was said to be trash (5)
10. Set apart teas mixed with oil (7)
11. Doubting twin (7)
12. Needed for output (5)
13. A play for your preference (2,3,4,2)
17. Compete with competitor (5)
19. The first one was a serpent (7)
22. Quite a dizzy state to be in (7)
24. Needs to be driven to work (4)

## Down

1. Policeman held up by editor managed quite well (5)
2. Seen behind altar (7)
3. One of thousands produced by boiler (5)
5. Young rascal cut tail off crustacean(5)
6. Found on a bed – or on a boat (6)
7. It sounds oil needs changing before break up (11)
8. A Danish prince knew him well (6)
14. Lubricate set up found offshore (3,3)
15. Sung at entrance (7)
16. Cowardly hundred on to one bird (6)
18. Drive around to find composer (5)
20. Sketch the French tree (5)
21. Essential for each step up (5)

Compiled for St Faith's by *Sisyphus*

## Answers to the editors by 15<sup>th</sup> January please!

### Answers to December 2002 Crossword

Across: 1.Gethsemane, 8.Acronym, 9.Coral, 10.Noël, 11.Insomnia, 13.Grimm, 14.Alice, 16.Emeritus, 17.Acme, 20.Iceni, 21.Silence, 22.Endearment.

Down: 1.Grain, 2.Three wise men, 3.Sins, 4.Moment, 5.Nicholas, 6.Frankincense, 7.Cleave, 12.Ambition, 13.Gaelic, 15.Aussie, 18.Elect.

The first correct answer out of the hat this month was from Daphne Rowden, with other correct entries being sent in by Ruth Tunks, Pat Galliers, Mary Harfield, Ann Slade, Derek Bowley, Colin Warlow, Marion Simmons & Angela Collyer.

## **Correspondence Column**

*The following letter was received from Marian Dodsworth. It is intended to start a correspondence column in the magazine, but to make it viable we need your input, so please start writing.*

Dear Sir,

We don't seem to have a correspondence column in the magazine but if you are disposed to print this, perhaps we might get one going! I was interested in Fr. David's comment (December) that we may have gone past believing in the literal coming of Christ. Of course Advent is a time of preparation but it seems to me that the Baby at Bethlehem (whether to be taken literally or not) is a very meaningful spiritual renewal of hope. A new born baby brings love and a new start and that must be what the Christmas story is all about. Also do I sense David's frustration about the Vision meeting! Would it not be helpful if as a start he and/or the P.C.C. put out their agenda as points for discussion? I am thinking on the usual lines of where are we now, where do we want to get to, how are we going to get there. There might even be time for written comments in the magazine before the meeting in February.

Yours sincerely, Marian Dodsworth

## **Letter from Canon Derek Brown**

Dear Rector and Friends at St Faith's,

Thank you all very much for making my 50th Anniversary of Ordination such a happy occasion. It was very kind of the Rector to invite me to celebrate Mass, to guide me through the revised liturgy and to invite Canon Owen Beament to preach. (I was pleased to note that "young" Beament hasn't lost his touch!)

My grateful thanks for the reception following Mass, for the beautiful gift you gave me, for the cake and all the good wishes I received. It was lovely to be among old friends.

I am sure that some of you and your successors will accord the same kindness and generosity to Father David when he celebrates his 50th Anniversary in 2044 (I shall be watching either from up above or, more likely, from down below, where I may be with all my mates).

So thank you all, especially to the Rector.

Thought for the Day: I received a congratulations card from Dominic in which he wrote, "As you always used to say to me - Servire Regnare (to serve, is to reign).

Dominic (in Australia) and Becky join me in sending you all our love.

**Derek Brown and Shadow (my beautiful labrador)**

P.S. It cheers me to know that some of my boys still remember their Latin!

## **Letter from Rod and Glenda Thomas in Japan**

Thank you for your prayers. Fifteen years ago, Gentaro Ishimori was a student in Sendai and like many others he came to our church because cheap English classes were offered. He tolerated the missionary's Bible lesson but the things he learnt lodged in his mind. This month imagine my surprise when I got a letter from him saying that he was now an engineer in Kyushu, married with a Christian family and that he wanted help contacting the missionary (Noel Hamilton) who had sowed the seed in his heart so long ago. The church in this country is one big team, someone sows, someone else waters and another picks the fruit. God gives the increase: so your prayers count!

A couple of weeks ago we had a seminar on the church's values, mission and vision. I was surprised by the interest and enthusiasm that this generated. Our resulting mission statement, in Japanese of course, goes something like this, "Let's use our gifts to make disciples of Jesus in southern Sendai and build up the church". We plan to have another session early next year.

Next Saturday (7th) we are having our Christmas Charity Concert. We have invited a jazz band (who our member, Graham Nelson, plays with) and some musicians from the wedding company that I have contact with to come and play for us. None of them are Christians (yet) but they are enthusiastic to raise money for charity this way and we are happy to have this chance to tell them and all who attend the gospel. This is a first for us and we have no idea what to expect. We have distributed 3600 invitations. Please pray that the Lord brings good out of this effort.

On 22nd we'll have our main service with a children's play and party.

Andrew arrives back from India on 14th and Amy (who'll be going on an A'level field trip to Delhi, Agra and the Taj Mahal) on 21st. Please pray for safety.

I'm doing a baptismal class with Riku and Megumi - they'll probably be baptised next Easter. We are also having an inquirer's class with two housewives, Mrs K and Mrs N. Please keep praying for the weekly teaching and preaching, for the Holy Spirit's blessing.

Sending Christmas cards to you is on our To-Do list but looking at our schedule in the next few weeks may not get done. So God's richest blessings and a very happy Christmas and New Year to you all. (We are coming to the close of our Genesis study with Gen 22 next week.

Here's a Christmas thought from it. God said to Abraham "Now I know that you fear me, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." Since Christmas though we can say to God, "Now I know that you love me, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.")

Yours in the Saviour from Rod & Glenda Thomas

## **Murder Mystery Dinner**

Max's Magical Music Hall – a Murder Mystery Dinner at St. Faith's Church Hall on Saturday 8 February 2003 at 7.00pm for 7.30pm.

*For your entertainment, jollification and delight, an evening with*

***Max Davenport***

*The world-renowned illusionist, escapologist and musician.*

*Introduced by your merry host, Leonard Sochs, the evening will feature songs mirth and merriment from the whole troupe of*

***Max's Magical Music Hall !***

-----  
*But illusions and magic are so terribly dangerous.*

*An accident can so easily happen.*

*Or just as easily be arranged.*

*And if disaster strikes, who can say whether it was accident or intent for in the pressurised world of entertainment, what jealousies and quarrels may lurk beneath the glitter and the greasepaint?*

*Come to the Music Hall yourself and see if you can  
Solve the mystery.*

### **MAX'S MAGICAL MUSIC HALL**

Come with your partner or come with your friends and guests,  
But come and enjoy an unforgettable night of fun and mystery.  
A great night out with fantastic entertainment and a wonderful dinner  
For just £15.50 per head. For bookings, call 023 9245 5161

## **It's On the Cards!**

A friend of ours suddenly realised that it was his wife's birthday the following day, so he dashed out to the newsagents and grabbed the first card which caught his eye. Next morning his wife thanked him for it with the words; "It's my birthday, not our anniversary!" Susan's birthday was on Christmas Eve, so let's hope that she didn't get a Christmas Card from Father David by mistake!

## **Junior Choir Practice**

Please note that Junior Choir Practice takes place in St. Faith's Church every Friday from 6.15pm to 7.15pm.

## Word Search – Ladies in our Congregation

Can you find the first names of some of the ladies in our congregation at St. Faith's that are shown in the grid? Words may be read forwards, backwards, up, down or diagonal and are in straight lines.  
Colin Carter

ANGELA	HILARY	PAT
ANN	JENNIE	PEGGY
AUDREY	JOY	ROSEMARY
BARBARA	JUDITH	RUTH
BERYL	JUNE	SANDRA
CARMEN	LIZ	SHEILA
DAPHNE	MARION	SHIRLEY
EDNA	MARY	SUSAN
EVELYN	OLIVE	VALENTINE
FIONA	PAM	VICKIE

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

## Sunday Club Answers

The answer to the December's puzzle is **STFAITHS** as shown below:

- |                     |              |
|---------------------|--------------|
| 1. Tall and Pointed | <b>Spire</b> |
| 2. Tenth Part       | <b>Tithe</b> |
| 3. Myth             | <b>Fable</b> |
| 4. Proverb          | <b>Adage</b> |
| 5. Angry            | <b>Irate</b> |
| 6. Name             | <b>Title</b> |
| 7. Abode            | <b>House</b> |
| 8. Happy Look       | <b>Smile</b> |

## **Letter to the Congregation of St. Faith's Church, Havant**

I was delighted to hear that this year St. Faith's has held a Christingle service, the first for some time, in aid of The Children's Society. First I would like to extend my thanks to Rev'd David Gibbons for undertaking the organisation of the service and paying in the funds raised. Then it dawned on me that you might like to know what you are supporting and how The Children's Society is working with children and young people across Hampshire and the whole country to save young lives.

Saving lives may seem a rash statement, for we all too often think of saving a life as rushing heroically into some dangerous situation, to drag a trapped person to safety. And we are all guilty of likening heroic deeds to the actions of glamorous men in Hollywood films. But it is true. By helping The Children's Society to break the domino effect of destruction, which is the life of the majority of children we work with, lives are indeed being saved through our supporters' fundraising efforts. As a row of dominoes is knocked down, the first one toppling the second and so forth, a chain reaction is observed. For some of the most vulnerable children in our society, the first domino is often poverty.

Poverty often causes huge family problems. Parents find it difficult to cope. It can lead to violence and abuse. Children living in such damaging situations are often disruptive at school. They even run away from home. On the streets, children are at extreme risk. They are often lured into using drugs and into prostitution. This can lead to crime to feed drug dependency. Crime can lead to prison. Some children are so traumatized by this process that they harm themselves. Some even commit suicide.

The Children's Society works to break that destructive domino process and to stop children sliding into damaging and potentially fatal situations. The strange thing is that many of us underestimate the importance of The Children's Society and our life-saving work, and the part played by our volunteers and supporters.

Our programmes in Portsmouth work with children giving them a sense of worth in their own communities, and a voice as to what their needs are within that area. The Young Carers Project is also based in Hampshire. Working with social services all across the country, it gives some of the 50,000 young people who are a primary carer for a family member, the chance to have support, friendship and the time to be just a young person again periodically.

So thank you to everyone at St. Faiths for your support of The Children's Society Christingle service. If you would like to undertake any other fundraising events for The Children's Society, please discuss this with your Honorary Local Secretary, Shirley Gaunter on 023 924 81231.

Warmest wishes for a happy, healthy and peaceful 2003  
Community Fundraising Manager, Portsmouth and Chichester Dioceses

Diane Anthony

## Things are not always what they seem

Two travelling angels stopped to spend the night in the home of a wealthy family. The family was rude and refused to let the angels stay in the mansion's guestroom. Instead the angels were given a small space in the cold basement. As they made their bed on the hard floor, the older angel saw a hole in the wall and repaired it. When the younger angel asked why, the older angel only replied, "*Things aren't always what they seem.*"

The next night the pair came to rest at the house of a very poor, but very hospitable farmer and his wife. After sharing what little food they had the couple let the angels sleep in their own bed where they could have a good night's rest. When the sun came up the next morning the angels found the farmer and his wife in tears. Their only cow, whose milk had been their sole income, lay dead in the field. The younger angel was infuriated and asked the older angel how could you have let this happen? The first man had everything, yet you helped him, she accused. The second family had little but was willing to share everything, and you let the cow die.

"*Things aren't always what they seem,*" the older angel replied. "*When we stayed in the basement of the mansion, I noticed there was gold stored in that hole in the wall. Since the owner was so obsessed with greed and unwilling to share his good fortune, I sealed the wall so he wouldn't find it.*"

"*Then last night as we slept in the farmers bed, the angel of death came for his wife. I gave him the cow instead. Things aren't always what they seem.*" Sometimes that is exactly what happens when things don't turn out the way they should. If you have faith, you just need to trust that every outcome is always to your advantage. You just might not know it until some time later!

## Women's Group

Come and join us. We meet at 8pm, on the second Tuesday of each month at 4 Pine Grove, (off Oakland's Road), Havant, telephone number 023 9247 0335. Where we are led by Carmen Stuart in the study of a book of our choice. Next meeting on January 8 2003 we will complete our study of "The Lord's Prayer" (by Emmet Fox). On February 11 we will be starting to read "Be Still and Know" by Michael Ramsey (Archbishop of Canterbury 1961 - 1974); A Study in the Life of Prayer. You will be amazed by the far-reaching discussion that each chapter will bring forth; the thoughts that we share are quite often not entirely to do with the chapter that we had prepared! I do assure you that we enjoy our evening together and have got to know each other very well. We look forward to sharing our thoughts with new members on January 8 - please come along and sample our wisdom - you will enjoy it. Best wishes  
Ruth Tunks

## From the Editors

Another year begins – does it really seem that the years pass quicker when one gets older? Did you make any New Year resolutions? – have they already been broken? One tends to look back at year's end and review what have been the high and low points. Beryl and I had some happy and sad moments during the past year, just like most people would have had - the joy of having a second grand daughter, Holly, and the sadness at losing Beryl's mother. What will a New Year bring to us all – if we could look into the future, we would then be able to plan ahead – but then, as we are Christians it is best to leave it to our heavenly Father. What changes will we see in the coming year, for we live in a changing world? - there's already been an increase in the price of the magazine and it has a new cover! Will the suggestion for a correspondence column take off in "Faith Matters"? – it is entirely up to our readers as to whether they want one. The web site will see some enhancements. Judith, our organist, is kindly providing me with a CD with church organ music, and once I have worked out how to do it, I hope to put some background organ music on the web site. Also, there will be web pages giving information on weddings and baptisms at St. Faith's, and information for friends and relations who will be visiting Havant for the first time for these important occasions. Readers may like to know that Father Brown received a letter of congratulations from Bishop Kenneth on his 50th Anniversary of Ordination. Finally, good health and happiness for 2003.

*Colin Carter*

Happy New Year to everyone and my grateful thanks that this year Colin has been able to join me and share the editorial load. It was disappointing that we have had to raise the price a little, but we have increased the number of pages and hopefully more parishioners will take the opportunity to buy a year's subscription from Peter Appleby, which has the advantage that your copy will be delivered free!

The word search has been very popular and is probably rivalling the Crossword in popularity. Thank you to Sisyphus for his hard work in preparing the Crossword and also to Colin for his efforts in generating the word search. This month we have started a correspondence column - please write in to the editors to have your say. As long as you provide the editors with your name/address, you can even have an anonymous say!

As mentioned above, our web site is getting better and better - I know that many parishioners find the technology not to their taste, but if you have friends or relations in far off towns or countries and they are into web-sites, tell them to look at "**WWW.STFAITH.COM**" and see what we are up to! There is a copy of the magazine on there every month too!

*Jan Stuart*

## SERVICES

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> Jan.**

### **CHRISTMAS II**

8.00am Eucharist  
9.15am Sunday Club in Church House  
9.30am **PARISH EUCHARIST**  
6.30pm Evensong

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Jan.**

### **THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY**

6.30pm Festival Eucharist

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> Jan.**

### **BAPTISM OF CHRIST**

8.00am Eucharist  
9.15am Sunday Club in Church House  
9.30am **PARISH EUCHARIST**  
6.30pm Evensong

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Jan.**

### **EPIPHANY II**

8.00am Eucharist  
9.15am Sunday Club in Church House  
9.30am **PARISH EUCHARIST**  
6.30pm Start of Christian Unity week in  
Havant Methodist Church

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Jan.**

### **EPIPHANY III (HOMELESSNESS SUNDAY)**

8.00am Eucharist  
9.15am Sunday Club in Church House  
9.30am **PARISH EUCHARIST**  
6.30pm Evensong

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb.**

### **CANDLEMAS**

8.00am Eucharist  
8.00am Eucharist at St Nicholas, Langstone  
9.15am Sunday Club in Church House  
9.30am **PARISH EUCHARIST**  
President & Preacher: The Revd Chris Abbott  
6.30pm Evensong

**Midweek Services:** See page 1

## STAFF

Rector	Rev David Gibbons	023 9248 3485
The Rectory, 5 Meadowlands, Havant, PO9 2RP		
Verger & Sacristan	Mrs Vickie Mockford,	023 9247 1398
2 Churchfields South Street, Havant, PO9 1BY		
Organist	Mrs J Williams	023 9234 3020
Parish Office Administrator	Mrs J Morley	023 9249 2129
	(Home)	023 9248 2430

## WHO'S WHO

Churchwardens	Mr R Bryant	01243 376863
	Dr C Warlow	023 9247 5447
Hon. Secretary PCC	Mrs A M Currie	023 9247 9937
3 Lower Grove Road, Havant, PO9 1AS		
Hon. Treasurer PCC	Mrs P Bowley	023 9248 3524
17 Berkeley Square, Havant, PO9 2RT		
St Nicholas, Langstone	Mr E Manning	023 9248 3500
Wardens	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)	