

From the Rector

It's been, in matters of international affairs, a bitter start to the New Year. The earthquake in Iran left devastation in its wake throughout last month and its effects will continue to be felt for many years. For us it is fading from the news but for the citizens of Bam their lives will always be touched by the events of December 2003. So many family members were lost that survivors may feel as those returning from a war: no jubilation at being alive, only guilt for surviving and a deep loss of those whose lives were buried beneath the rubble of homes and offices. In another story, this time from the ever-depressing scene of murder and retaliation in the Israel/Palestine conflict, we saw the contrasting means of death of the second woman Palestine suicide bomber and the young British protester, Tom Hurndall. Tom died nine months after being shot trying to protect a Palestinian child from an Israeli bullet. In his act of courage and dedication he testified to the best in the human spirit – standing up against injustice, yet not giving way to the murderous lusts of hate and bitterness. In stark contrast the suicide bomber, who left behind two children and a husband (who did not support with her actions), vent her rage through the senseless death of herself and four others. Her testimony was to one of despair, hatred and bloody retribution. While there are others ready to give their lives for a quick kill we hear precious little of the many compassionate Jews and Muslims in Israel and Palestine who work hard for peace. The problem is that so much toil for peace is undone by one instant of barbarism. What we must hold on to is the quiet, unseen efforts of so many to find a way forward to make a lasting peace between people of different creeds and ethnic backgrounds. Our own efforts to find peace at home may seem insignificant in comparison, yet peace is needed in our locality. Even within the community of the church there is not common accord, as we know only too well. Every time the church appears in the headlines it's because of an internal dispute or apparent scandal. If we can learn to manage our own differences better – by airing our views confidently as well as listening to those of others, we may model something worthwhile. What we need to learn is that difference is not wrong, but inevitable. Often it is the consequences of holding on to a repressed conviction that leads to dangerous, even evil, actions. If only the conviction could be aired and heard! But we must be grateful for the freedom we have. The beginning of February sees the feast of Candlemas, when we turn away from the season of Epiphany and the revealing of Christ to the events of Lent and Easter. It is a bitter, sweet time as we still savour the delights of the Lord amongst us, and yet feel the pang of his impending sacrifice and horrible death. *"In the midst of life we are in death"*, the Prayer book funeral rite says. It is not a mere morbid fascination that draws us into an awareness of suffering around us, but a desire to enter more fully the depths of our human existence. The real hope that Christ came to bring was not one of separation from pain, but of its embrace, and the liberation that such an embrace brings.

Fr. David

About The Parish

I have just finished reading a book I have had many years called "*A Study in Southsea*" by Geoffrey Stavert, chronicling the time (1884- 1890) Arthur Conan Doyle spent in Southsea as a Doctor. It is an extraordinary book, telling of Doyle's early literary works, notably the first Sherlock Holmes book ("*A Study in Scarlet*"), his dabbling in the occult, his practice in Southsea and his prowess at cricket and football. It gives a most revealing picture of life in Victorian Southsea including the Church, which was served at that time by some remarkable priests. Take for example The Reverend Henry Lindsay Young, Vicar of St John's, Portsea, described as a no-fun-on-Sunday-or-any-other-day preacher. In 1884, he took on the local branch of the Young Men's Christian Association for having the effrontery to engage the services of a Mrs Billington, who he believed to be an actress, to give a dramatic recital to raise funds to establish a Portsmouth scholarship at the Royal College of Music. The Reverend Young was so incensed that he wrote to the "*Evening News*" saying that he thought that this "*heinous*" crime required the Association to drop the word "*Christian*" from its title. The Editor labelled him a "*clerical firebrand*" and attacked the Reverend Young in his editorial, which started a furious exchange of letters in the "*Evening News*", including a defence of the clergyman from Conan Doyle. Look at the life style of The Reverend Charles Russell Tompkins who was an Assistant Curate at St Judes Church. The book states that, "*Not content with a wife and seven daughters to minister to his creature comforts, the Rev Tomkins also maintained a cook, a housemaid and a nurse*". This establishment was in a Thomas Owen (the great architect of Southsea) house named "*Elmwood*", described as pleasantly commodious, with lawns and hedges on three sides, and situated on the corner of Elm Grove, where Telephone House is now. The author suggests that St Jude's was a comfortable parish in 1883! I can hear Charles Keay and David Williams banging on the Rectory door any time now! There are many outstanding priests of this period including, of course, Father Dolling, who engaged the services of one of Doyle's friends, a distinguished architect named Henry Ball to design the magnificent St Agatha's Church. Another priest of great renown of this period was the Reverend Reginald N Shute, Vicar of St Michael's, North End. He campaigned against prostitution in Portsea with all the vigour of Dolling, setting up a mission for "fallen women" in the worst district of the town. He was described as a Ritualist of the old school, a stickler for ceremony, who even segregated the sexes in his congregation! Did you know that one priest played with Conan Doyle for both the Portsmouth Football Club and the Portsmouth Cricket Club? For that and much more, you must wait for next month's "*Faith Matters*".

Roger Bryant

Parochial Church Council Reports

Building Management Committee Meeting 8 January

Minor repairs had been undertaken to the fencing at No 1 Churchfields and extra gravel put down in the driveway to avoid flooding. The windows of No 2 were still leaking and discussions continued with contractors. Mr Terry Roberts, Architect, gave a progress report on the proposed development of the site. There was no further news about the painting of St Nicholas Chapel. No further expenditure would be undertaken on the fencing at Christ Church Centre because of constant vandalism. The central heating system in the bungalow had been repaired. A new contractor had been found to regularly service the gas boiler in church. Bill Skilleter had access to cast iron guttering and would be repairing the broken gutter. There were a number of problems in church, with blocked radiators, damp patches in the roof etc. Also there was obsolete equipment and rubbish to clear from the boiler room. The Men's Group was hoping to deal with some of this work. The first phase on the work to upgrade our electrical system, involving emergency lighting for the Tower and safety work in the church, was about to start.

PCC Meeting 12 January

The meeting considered a document, "From Vision ...To Mission", which the Rector had written as a mission statement which brought together the results of the six Vision Groups. The meeting agreed that it provided a suitable basis to move forward to the next stage of reconvening these groups to devise plans to implement the Mission Strategy. Their plans would then go to the PCC for consideration and implementation. A Health and Safety policy in the form of a Manual had now been implemented. Vickie Mockford and Ann Plater had been appointed Health and Safety Officers for St Faith's Church and St Nicholas Chapel respectively. A new Accident Book was in place and a practice fire drill would take place during a forthcoming 9.30am Sunday service. The church accounts had now been fully computerised and manual accounts were no longer used. Michael Laird was now our representative on Churches Together and would attend its next meeting on 26 January.

From Church Magazines

On Sunday the Vicar officiated and preached his farewell sermon. The Choir then sang the anthem 'O clap your hands together'.

The Vicar will start his annual holiday on June 13th. He therefore asks that the missionary boxes be returned to him by June 10th.

"Southsea's Box of Delights"

Last month we wrote in "*Faith Matters*" of the King's Theatre and by chance a superb local book has just been published about this great theatre with the title "*Southsea's Box of Delights*". It is by Lesley Buxton and is priced at just £4.95, with all the proceeds going to the King's Theatre Trust. There is a forward by the distinguished actress of screen, television and theatre, Kate O'Mara, who has given very loyal support to the King's which was the inspiration of her Great Grandfather, John Walters Broughton, about whom we read last month. The book is an excellent read and features all the greats who have appeared at the King's over the years. Did you know that Margaret Lockwood appeared there as Peter Pan, with her young daughter Julia as Wendy. Margaret in a harness swung out above the audience in a manner, which would have been considered too dangerous in these safety conscious times! Noel Coward appeared in three of his own plays including "*Blithe Spirit*" in 1943, John Le Mesurier appeared there in 1947 many years before "*Dad's Army*", Paul Schofield appeared as Alexander the Great in Terence Rattigan's play "*Adventure Story*" in 1950, and in the same year Rex Harrison appeared in T S Elliot's "*Cocktail Party*", years before "*My Fair Lady*". Sean Connery played an American marine in the 1951 production of the musical "*South Pacific*", years before James Bond and 007, and so it goes on, complete with a host of wonderful photographs including one of the Student Prince John Hanson, without his pension book! However I leave the best to last. Details are given of a concert on 1 November 1942 by the Orchestra of the Royal Marines conducted by the famous Captain F Vivian Dunn, Director of Music RM. In the Horns is Musician D W Guest - yes, Shirley Caunter's father, Don Guest. When he left the Royal Marines, Don worked as a civilian for the Police in Portsmouth. He told me that on one occasion a distinguished visitor was introduced to him with the words "*Mr Guest was a Bandsman in the Royal Marines.*" Don replied, "*Oh no! I was not a Bandsman; I was a Musician!*" As Peter Thomas will tell you, a member of the Royal Marine Band is a Musician, not, as in other military bands, a Bandsman!" Do enjoy the book. **RHB**

These Appeared in Newspaper Announcements!

Wm. P. Mackay gave an illustrated lecture on '*The Romance of Coffee*'. Afterwards tea was served by the hostesses.

It is also hoped that the new machine will prove useful in clearing snow from the track. It is expected to be ready for use in this country in the summer.

Mrs Kathleen Jones RIP

It was with great sadness that we learnt after Christmas that Tom's beloved Kathleen had passed away. Those of us who have seen them at St Faith's will have this picture of Tom quietly leading Kathleen by the hand up to the Altar to receive Communion. They went through life hand in hand from their first meeting in 1942, when they were stationed in the Armed Forces at Ilsley, near Ringwood, in the New Forest. Kathleen was born in Warsash during the First World War, when her father was a soldier. She moved around during her childhood, living in Gloucester, Bristol and Southsea before moving to Westbourne in 1920, then to Havant in 1938. She and Tom had a wartime romance, becoming engaged in 1943 and married in 1944. They had 59 years of married life, which brought them a daughter, Anne, a son, Alan and grandchildren Darren, James, Nina and Jemma. Kathleen was very proud of her lovely family and they were very proud of her. For many years she worked in St Faith's helping with the flowers, the Parish Harvest Dinner and the many social activities. In recent years she has battled against illness, winning the affection and respect of the little community of Granville Close, friends in St Faith's and all who came into contact with her. She was a lovely and serene lady. Our thoughts and prayers are with dear Tom and his family at this sad time.



The Vanishing Congregation

This article appeared in the 'Daily Mail' on Tuesday 13 January 2004:

The Church of England lost one in eight members in a single year, it emerged yesterday. The register of names on its membership rolls fell by 12 per cent after the lists were brought up to date in 2002. The 166,000 names removed included those of dead parishioners and of others who had simply deserted the CofE. News of the drop in membership came as last year's attendance figures showed the numbers going to Sunday services down 2 per cent to 916,000. The Church's electoral rolls, which record the names of those entitled to vote for parish officials, are seen as the best guide to membership. Unlike recent changes to the methods of measuring attendance, they cannot be revised to improve figures. The audit of the rolls in 2002 saw the list of 1,372,000 names reduced to 1,206,000. One Church official said yesterday, however: *'There are signs of growth in church attendance in many dioceses among children and young people under 16 despite a decline in overall attendance'*.

We Might As Well Dance

An 83-year-old woman wrote this to her friend. The last line says it all.

Dear Bertha,

I'm reading more and dusting less. I'm sitting in the yard and admiring the view without fussing about the weeds in the garden. I'm spending more time with my family and friends and less time working. Whenever possible, life should be a pattern of experiences to savour, not to endure. I'm trying to recognise these moments now and cherish them. I'm not "saving" anything; we use our good China and crystal for every special event such as losing a pound, getting the sink unstopped, or the first Amaryllis blossom. I wear my good blazer to the market. My theory is if I look prosperous, I can shell out £28.49 for one small bag of groceries. I'm not saving my good perfume for special parties, but wearing it for clerks in the hardware store and tellers at the bank. "Someday" and "one of these days" are losing their grip on my vocabulary. If it's worth seeing or hearing or doing, I want to see and hear and do it now. I'm not sure what others would've done had they known they wouldn't be here for the tomorrow that we all take for granted. I think they would have called family members and a few close friends. They might have called a few former friends to apologise and mend fences for past squabbles. I like to think they would have gone out for a Chinese dinner or for whatever their favourite food was. I'm guessing; I'll never know. It's those little things left undone that would make me angry if I knew my hours were limited. Angry because I hadn't written certain letters that I intended to write one of these days. Angry and sorry that I didn't tell my husband and parents often enough how much I truly love them. I'm trying very hard not to put off, hold back, or save anything that would add laughter and lustre to our lives. And every morning when I open my eyes, tell myself that it is special. Every day, every minute, every breath truly is a gift from God. If you received this, it is because someone cares for you. If you're too busy to take the few minutes that it takes right now to forward this, would it be the first time you didn't do the little thing that would make a difference in your relationships? I can tell you it certainly won't be the last. Take a few minutes to send this to a few people you care about, just to let them know that you're thinking of them. People say true friends must always hold hands, but true friends don't need to hold hands because they know the other hand will always be there. I don't believe in Miracles. I rely on them. Life may not be the party we hoped for, but while we are here we might as well dance.

General Synod News

A Church of England report, produced by a team led by the Bishop of Maidstone, the Rt. Rev. Graham Cray, noted that fewer than one British child in four is now baptised in the CofE. It recommended that the Church stop trying to bring people into services on Sunday and instead attempt to rebuild itself by setting up new, less formal churches that meet at other times. It asked the Church's leaders: *'Is it important for a church to meet on Sunday?'* And it added: *'many in Britain now have minimal knowledge of the Christian faith. The Christian story is no longer at the heart of the nation. Although people may identify themselves as Christian in the national census, for the majority that does not involve belonging to a worshipping community or any inclination that it should. During the 20th century, Sunday school attendance dropped from 55% to 4% of children, meaning that even the rudiments of the Christian story and Christian experience are lacking in most young people.'* It concluded: *'The consequences for a national church, used to operating among people and institutions on the assumptions of Christendom, are acute.'* The report recommended an end to the ancient parish system by which each locality has its own church. Instead, it suggested introducing *'network churches'* to try to attract worshippers in different ways. *'Venues and meeting days are getting more diverse,'* it said. *'This is a response to the sense that Sunday is no longer a church day for our society, but rather a family day or DIY day or sports club day or whatever people choose to do.'* Rising divorce and family break-up rates mean that, rather than go to church, many children visit their absent fathers at weekends, it added. *'The reality is that mainstream culture no longer brings people to the church door.'* The report is to be discussed by Church leaders at the meeting of its parliament, the General Synod, this month. The Synod will be told that the Church of England should give its blessing to unmarried cohabiting relationships and gay *'civil partnerships'*. Legal contracts for cohabitantes would end *'a potential cause of injustice and misery'*, according to a motion set down by the Diocese of York. The CofE has resisted pressure over recent years to give its approval to cohabitation. Its bishops have backed the idea that marriage remains the only proper background for sex and having children, and attempts to recognise cohabitation have been rejected. But the advance of the homosexual lobby in the Church of England – which has in recent months been divided by rows over gay bishops – may have blurred the traditional lines of doctrine for many Synod members. The York motion said that legal contracts other than marriage between two cohabiting adults is *'socially desirable.'* The Government is currently legislating to give status akin to marriage to gay couples who declare themselves in a *'civil partnership'*. The Synod will be urged to declare racism the eighth sin. Church leaders will debate a motion that such prejudice should be elevated to the level of a sin. It would join the seven sins of lust, anger, envy, gluttony, sloth, pride and greed.

Cosmo Gordon Lang and the Miracle of "Turning Water into Wine"

Many of you will remember a bookshop, "Bookends", at 2 North Street, which moved to Emsworth some years ago. Last March, I had the great good fortune to purchase a book, which I now value above any other with the exception of the Bible. The title

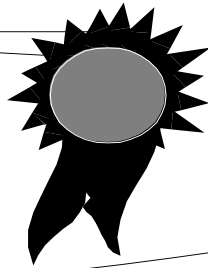
is "*The Miracles of Jesus*" by Cosmo Gordon Lang and it was first published in October 1900, when Lang was Vicar of St Mary's, Portsea. As we know, he went on to be Archbishop of York and then Canterbury. My book was the fourth reprint in October 1902 and is in mint condition. Astonishingly, it cost me just £4! Subject to space and the demands on our excellent Editor, Colin, I thought I would write about the miracles, one by one, expressing the views of Lang and quoting from his excellent prose. In his forward from "*The Vicarage, Portsea*" in October 1900, Lang stated that (the book) "*assumes the substantial accuracy of the Gospel narratives. It does not attempt to deal with the philosophy or the evidences of the Miracles.*" I start with the miracle of "*Turning Water into Wine*". The first striking thing about this miracle is that we have the blend of two apparently opposite concepts - Jesus as man and Jesus as God - the natural and the supernatural blended together in the simplicity of the story of the marriage feast at Cana. Jesus was invited to the wedding because he was known to the families. They were inviting Jesus, the man. He had been in their midst for most of his 30 years; a neighbour and friend, one presumes. When the wine runs out, the Blessed Mary turns to Jesus as a mother to her son for help but he gently rebukes her. "*Woman, what have I to do with you? My hour is not yet come!*" We must presume that she was used to turning to her son for help; perhaps there is a presumption in her manner. Suddenly, Jesus reveals his independence and the gulf between mother and son. In Lang's words, "*The Blessed Mary learns that her son is her Lord.*" The act of turning water into wine is deeply symbolic. In Lang's words, "*He took the water of our human life, and turned it into the wine of the divine life. The wine did not simply come; the water became it. That is the divine method.*" Jesus did not come as another being. He came in flesh as a man and He made his human nature divine. We take the water of our earthly experience and turn it into the wine of Christianity. The artist paints what he sees, he does not change the scene. In Lang's words, "*The Christian is the true artist of life. He takes what he finds in the lot he shares with ordinary men - of sorrow and joy, of labour and rest, of success and failure, of capacities and incapacities. He does not quarrel with it; he does not change it. It is not too much to say that the main business of a Christian life is to go through the world turning its water into wine.*" And what of the words, "*You have kept the best wine to last*"? Is not this the great testimony of our Faith? We had the wine of our youth, the wine of family and friends, but the best is yet to come in the Kingdom of God. Amen!

Roger Bryant



From the Registers

- 9th Funeral of Kathleen Jones
(at Portchester Crematorium)
- 13th Memorial Service for Denise Davies
- 21st Funeral of Mary Annie Ferre
- 23rd Funeral of Victor Noakes
- 25th Baptism of Jack Daniel Shepherd



Murder Mystery Dinner – 21 February – St. Faith’s Church Hall



QUENTIN DE BORGHE
PRESENTS...

a Murder Mystery Dinner
St Faiths Church Hall
on 21 February



CLOAK & DAGGER

The famous actor-manager Quentin de Borghe is touring with his troupe of Has-been and Wannabe actors, the glamorous and the hopeless, promoting his unique theory on the origins of William Shakespeare’s plays. But is there complete harmony in the company? It seems not. Bitter undercurrents of jealousy and hatred emerge as the evening progresses until finally it all boils over in dramatic murder. Can you discover who would do such a thing? Can you win the prize?

Come to St. Faith’s Church Hall on Saturday 21st February at 7pm for 7.30pm. The cost which includes a fiendishly puzzling Murder Mystery and a delicious three course dinner is just £15 per person. For tickets see Sandra Haggan.

“Better than excellent”

(Mr H, Havant)



Location courtesy of Stansted House, Rowlands Castle



CO-OPERATIVE Funeral Directors

224 Dunsbury Way, Havant (023) 9248 4499



**Funeral plans at affordable prices.
Take out an Inflation-proof, Co-operative Funeral
Bond today and relieve your family of tomorrow's
Funeral costs and emotional strain.**

B GROVES **Brickwork & Plastering** for

all your home and garden improvements

Tel: 023 9234 7326
Mobile: 07752 679060

Thank you to our printers, MERCURY GRAPHICS 1A Brockhampton Lane, HAVANT
Telephone: 023 9249 9162 for all your printing needs

B S Care Limited

www.bs-care.co.uk

Tailored services to enable elderly and disabled people to live in their own homes. Help and support with daily living, from one hour a week to 24 hours a day. The full expected range of help in the home including:-

- bathing and personal care
- shopping, domestic support
- escort duties and sitting service for those carers who are in need of a break

Our caring staff are fully trained in all aspects of care.
Hampshire County Council Accredited



42 East Street
Havant
PO9 1AQ

FOR ALL YOUR CARE NEEDS, HAVANT 023 9236 2222

Fax: 023 9236 3333 email: caring@bs-care.co.uk

We would like to hear from caring individuals seeking rewarding and flexible employment. No experience necessary as full training is given.

BATHS
JACUZZI

*Your Guide to
Beautiful Bathrooms*

BIDETS
TOILETS

B.J.K BATHROOMS

QUALITY WORKMANSHIP
THE COMPLETE SERVICE
PLUMBING, HEATING, TILING,
ELECTRICS
FLOORING & FINE DETAIL
WORK

For a Friendly &
Professional Service
Call
Barry & June Myall

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED
NO OBLIGATION CONSULTATION
ESTIMATING SERVICE
INSURANCE BACKED GUARANTEE

60 DRAYTON LANE, DRAYTON, PORTSMOUTH PO6 1HG
Tel: 023 9264 4216 or 023 9237 9814



Hugh Stary

Plumbing and Heating Services

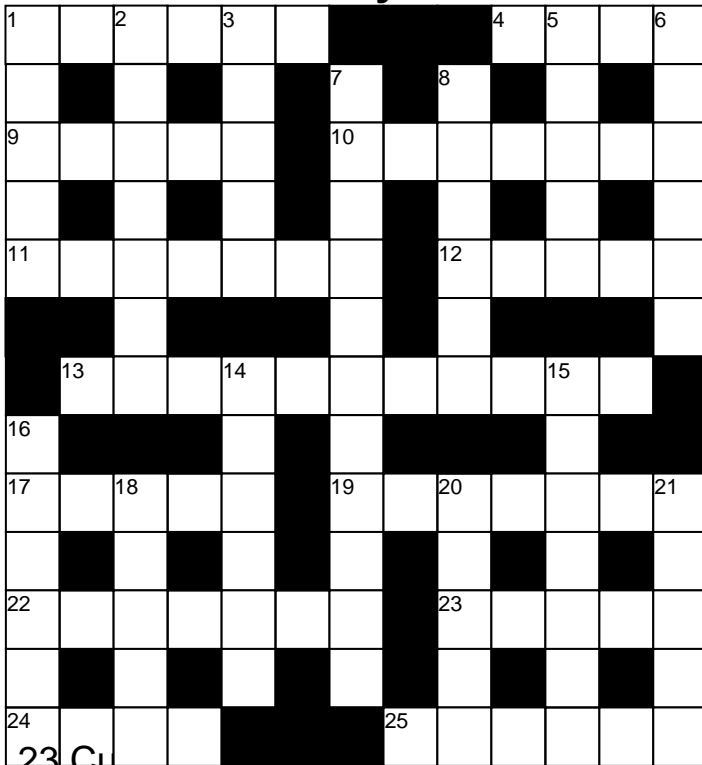
Installations Repairs Maintenance

tel: 023 9242 3473

mobile: 07977 216932

email: hugh_stary@hotmail.com

St Faith's February 2004 Crossword Puzzle



Across

1. Graduate 'in the money' found in North African town (6)
4. State of mind about terrible fate (4)
9. Symbol of authority at side of road (5)
10. Artist secures a boat (7)
11. Singer provides melody for wind instrument (7)
12. Plans, in mid-March, a solution (5)
13. Informer steals back bird (5,6)
17. Measure a type of cable (5)
19. MP tries desperately for advance payment (7)
22. Wise men not following French line (7)
25. What a chore finding an edible plant (6)

Down

1. Numbers of Romans deployed about the city (5)
3. In the morning about ten, found hanging on a tree (5)
7. Steal fitting (11)
14. One upset, another one abandoned by Paris (6)
16. Good judgment, but man got cue wrong (6)
20. Makes use of 11 across in his performances (5)
2. Public one seen in many offices (7)
5. Outer, unusual and way-out (5)
6. Doctor got up looking miserable (6)
8. Greet ruler out walking (6)
15. Awake? No Eric I was confused and dreamy (7)
18. A bit of a prophet we hear (5)
21. Sample of angry state (5)

Compiled for St Faith's by *Sisyphus*

Answers to the editor by 15th February please!

Answers to January 2004 Crossword

Across: 1. Comity, 4. Coda, 9. Baron, 10. Aborted, 11. Setback, 12. Prone, 13. Alternative, 17. Muses, 19. Journey, 22. Own Goal, 23. Awake, 24. Test, 25. Leased.

Down: 1. Cubes, 2. Marital, 3. Tonga, 5. Outdo, 6. Andrew, 7. Jack and Jill, 8. Poppet, 14. Euston, 15. Vandals, 16. Import, 18. Sings, 20. Usage, 21. Yield.

The first correct answer out of the hat this month was from Ann Slade with other correct entries from Angela Collyer, Mary Harfield, and Ruth Tunks. Was January difficult?

Word Search – Names in the Old Testament

Can you find the names in the Old Testament? Words may be read forwards, backwards, up, down or diagonal and are in straight lines. **Colin Carter**

AARON
ABLE
ABRAHAM
ADAM
CAIN
DANIEL
DAVID
DELILAH
ESAU

ESTHER
EVE
GOLIATH
HAM
JACOB
JONAH
JOSEPH
JOSHUA
MOSES

NAOMI
NOAH
PHARAOH
RUTH
SAMSON
SAMUEL
SAUL
SHEBA
SOLOMON

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

From the Editor

On the evening of Friday 16th January, Jan and I, together with around 50 parish magazine editors attended a reception given by the Bishop of Portsmouth, the Rt. Rev. Kenneth Stevenson and Mrs Sarah Stevenson at Bishops Grove in Fareham, for the presentation of prizes to the winners of the '**Most Improved Parish Magazine**' competition for 2003. The December 2002 magazine was compared to the December 2003 to see which had **improved** the most. *No, we didn't get a prize! Should there be another competition we shall have to do better!* First prize of £200 went to *Carisbrook* which has a circulation of 3,300 copies for church and the community; second prize of £100 went to *Farlington* which produced some colour pictures in their 2003 magazine; and third prize of £50 went to St. John's Church, Newport, who had a children's colour supplement, produced by the children of the Church. *It was very interesting, talking to other editors and viewing magazines from the different parishes, each with their own purpose and readership.* The Ministry Vision group has been asked to consider the '*Role of the Parish Magazine*' within the PCC's Communications Strategy. **Colin Carter**

Correspondence Column

In view of recent events and correspondence may I recommend some light New Year reading? C S Lewis's "*The Screwtape Letters*" is in Havant Library and the quotations he uses are well worth pondering. The letters themselves do have a datedness about them but that is not to detract from their eternal truths. The quotations are: "*The best way to drive out the devil, if he will not yield to texts from Scripture, is to jeer and flout him, for he cannot bear scorn.*" Luther. "*The devil ... the prowde spirit ... cannot endure to be mocked.*" Thos. More. **S.L.**

The issue of homosexual priests is a matter of concern for many, if not most, of the clergy and laity of the Church of England. The Rector has expressed (*Faith Matters November 2003*), what was to my mind, a somewhat equivocal view tending towards acceptance – but I accept I might have misconstrued his remarks; others have given definite opinions which admit no ambiguity (*Faith Matters October 2003, November 2003, December 2003*). When the issue of women priests was a matter of concern and debate in the Church, the PCC carried a resolution which read, "*That this Parochial Church Council would not accept a woman as Incumbent or Priest-in-Charge of the Benefice or as a team Vicar for the Benefice*". Perhaps the PCC would now consider making known its view on the issue of homosexual priests. **John Bradey**

For Your Diary

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Where/Cost</u>
Wednesday 4 February	7.30pm	Growing a Healing Ministry	St. Faith's Church
Saturday 7 February	9am – 4pm	First Aid Course	Church Hall
Monday 9 February	8pm	Standing Committee Meeting	Rectory
Monday 16 February	7.45pm	PCC Meeting	Church House
Wednesday 11 February	7.30pm	Growing a Healing Ministry	St. Faith's Church
Saturday 21 February	7.30pm	Murder, Mystery Evening	Church Hall/£15
Wednesday 24 February	7.30pm	Growing a Healing Ministry	St. Faith's Church
Saturday 28 February	10am – 3.30pm	Quiet Day	Portsmouth Cathedral
Thursday 4 March	7.30pm	Buildings Management Committee Meeting	4 Pine Grove
Monday 8 March	8pm	Standing Committee Meeting	Rectory
Monday 15 March	7.45pm	PCC Meeting	Church House
Saturday 13 March	7.30pm	Church Quiz	Church Hall
Sunday 28 March	11am	Annual Parochial Church Meeting	Church Hall
Monday 29 March	7.45pm	PCC Meeting (only to form committees)	Church House
Fri 16 - Sun 18 April	-	Walsingham Pilgrimage	£85
Sat 24 & Sun 25 April	-	Havant Remembered	St. Faith's Church
Monday 12 July	7.30pm	Concert with an American Choir	St. Faith's Church /tba
Saturday 2 October	7.30pm	Annual Cancer Research UK Quiz	St. Faith's Church Hall/tba
Saturday 9 October	7.30pm	Hampshire Police Choir (Male Voice) Concert	St. Faith's Church /£6
Saturday 27 November	7.30pm	Bell ringers Christmas Dinner	St. Faith's Church Hall/tba

“Places of the Passion” – A Course for Lent 2004

This course, designed by the clergy of the Anglican parishes of Leigh Park, West Leigh and Havant, has a broad appeal for all to enjoy. Set amongst the places of prayer, judgement, uncertainty, death and resurrection of Holy Week, there is a

chance to relate our experience of Christ's passion to our own lives. For all of us there is the place of uncertainty or judgement, which we know only too well, but there is also death and resurrection – the chance to live again after the dark nights of the soul. The course also gives us a chance to appreciate something of the other Anglican churches of the area, because each week of the course will be accompanied by a sermon at the Sunday morning Eucharist given by one of the Assistant Clergy or Reader from the four churches: David Williams, Charles Keay, Wendy Kennedy and Mary Close. The sermon will reflect the material set for that week of the course. It is hoped that there will be a number of groups in each parish, so please look out for the list of groups so you can sign up for the time that fits you best. Please join in and make the most of this opportunity for fellowship and an experience of Christ's places of the Passion.

Vision to Mission

As you will have seen by now copies of the Rector's vision to Mission document has been placed in church for you to read. The findings of the six Vision groups have been co-ordinated and re-arranged in priority order. The Vision groups are being asked to meet again to take the proposals for Phase I and produce specific plans for their implementation. These plans will be reviewed by the PCC in May. If you should like to be involved please approach one of the group leaders, who are:

Church Administration	Alan Hakim	9247 1681
Education	Michael Laird	9247 2489
Ministry	Paul Utting	9248 3984
Outreach	Rosemary Thomas	9248 3836
Worship	David Gibbons	9248 3485
Buildings Management Strategic Planning	Lisa Roonan	9245 5966

St. Faith's Christmas Dinner

The Christmas Dinner was held on the evening of Tuesday 6th January at the Bear Hotel, following the Epiphany Eucharist in the Church. This is the second year it has been held and, like last year, it was a great success. 42 parishioners attended and thoroughly enjoyed the good food, good wine and above all the atmosphere of friendship and fellowship. So, a big thank you to *Sandra Haggan*, who with her indefatigable energy and commitment once again enabled us to enjoy a memorable occasion. The raffle was drawn at the end of the evening and the winner of the limited edition print of St. Faith's by Sarah Butterfield



was won by *Mrs. Petit*. Other winners were: Red Wine – *Judy Glenister*; White Wine – *Miss Phillips*; Tin Biscuits – *Mrs Johnson*; Books – *Michael Laird*; Christmas Table Decoration – *Beryl Carter*; Jigsaw Puzzle – *Christine Wright* and Basket of Flowers – *C. Westaway*.

For Football Lovers (*Roger & Sandra please note!*)

A footballer asked the Vicar “*do they play football in heaven?*” The Vicar said he did not know but would pray and let him know. A week later the Vicar saw the footballer and said, “*I have some good news and some bad news. Yes, they do play football in heaven, but you are in the team in 3 weeks time!*”

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll of St. Faith's Church will be revised between the 1st-14th March 2004. This is not the year for a completely new Roll. If you wish to be included on the Roll and your name is not already on, please obtain an Application Form from Audrey Currie prior to the 1st March. Being on the Electoral Roll enables you to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and also to be considered to be a member of the Parochial Church Council.

Audrey Currie Electoral Roll Officer

MEMBERS OF PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

Reverend David Gibbons (*Chairman & Incumbent*)

Fr. Charles Keay (*Curate*)

Dr Colin Warlow (*Churchwarden*)

Mrs Pam Bowley (*Hon. Treasurer*)

Dr Chris Churcher-Brown **Mrs Anne Plater**

Mrs Carmen Stuart

Mr Robert Wilson

Fr. David Williams (*Curate*)

Mrs Sandra Haggan (*Churchwarden*)

Mr Roger Bryant (*Hon. Secretary*)

Miss Peggy Sparks

Deanery Synod Representatives: Prof Jan Stuart & Mrs Shirley Caunter

St. Faith's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has responsibility for the Church and Church Hall of St. Faith's, St. Nicholas Chapel, Christ Church Centre and bungalow, Church House, Coach House, Nos. 1 & 2 Churchfields and via the Church Institute, Nos. 2 & 4 North Street. The PCC operates through a number of committees that meet between full meetings of the PCC.

Standing Committee is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. Members: **Rector, Churchwardens, Treasurer, Secretary.**

Finance Committee oversees the general financial affairs of St. Faith's by monitoring income and expenditure, budgeting and co-ordinating the annual review of the Christian Stewardship of money through planned giving. Members: **Standing Committee & Alan Hakim** (*co-opted*).

Buildings Management Committee attends to the use, repair and development of all parish buildings, including St. Faith's church. Members: **Jan Stuart** (*Chairman*), **Robert Wilson** (*Deputy Chairman*), **Peter Appleby** (*co-opted Secretary*), **Sandra Haggan, Anne Plater, Peggy Sparks, Barry Hudson** (*co-opted*), **Lisa Roonan** (*co-opted*), **Paul Utting** (*co-opted*).

Structural Planning and Restoration Committee oversees the implementation of the Quinquennial Report and improvements to the church. It is also responsible for the organ. Members: **Chris Churcher-Brown** (*Chairman*), **Carmen Stuart, Colin Warlow, Robert Wilson, Peter Appleby** (*co-opted Secretary*), **Derek Freeston** (*co-opted*).

Restoration Appeal Committee. Members: **Paul Utting** (*Chairman*), **Ken Bracher, Mary Bracher, Ann Buckley, Joan Burrows, Kevin Edwards, Sara Freeston** (*Secretary*), **Sandra Haggan, Fr. Charles Keay, Anne Plater, Martin Poliszczuk, Roger Simmons** (*Treasurer*), **Joy Utting.**

Parish Office: - Church House, The Pallant, Havant, PO9 1BE.

Telephone: 023 9249 2129

Office Open:- Monday & Friday 9am - 12 noon

WHO'S WHO

Rector	Rev. David Gibbons	023 9248 3485
	<i>The Rectory, 5 Meadowlands, Havant, PO9 2RP</i>	
Curates	Fr. Charles Keay	023 9247 0817
	Fr. David Williams	023 9246 7597
Lay Deacon	Dr Trevor Hopkinson	023 9246 2350
Verger, Sacristan & Hall Mgr	Mrs Vickie Mockford	023 9247 1398
	<i>2 Churchfields, South Street, Havant, PO9 1BY</i>	
Organist	Mrs Judith Williams	023 9234 3020
Parish Office Administrator	Ms Georgie Black	023 9249 2129
Churchwardens	Dr Colin Warlow	023 9247 5447
	Mrs Sandra Haggan	023 9245 5161
Hon. Secretary PCC	Mr Roger Bryant	01243 376863
Hon. Treasurer PCC	Mrs Pam Bowley	023 9248 3524
St Nicholas Wardens	Mr Edward Manning	023 9248 3500
	Mrs Anne Plater	023 9245 1075
Child Protection Officer	Mrs Fiona Hedley	023 2949 8229
Stewardship Secretary	Mr Alan Hakim	023 9247 1681
Captain of Bellringers	Mrs Barbara Skilleter	023 9225 3802
Church Shop	Mrs Edna Gomersall	023 9248 4104
Social Activities	Mrs Sandra Haggan	023 9245 5161
Bible Reading Fellowship	Mrs Hilary Deadman	023 9247 1241
Flowers for High Altar	Mrs Rosemary Thomas	023 9248 3836
Missions to Seafarers Sec.	Miss Peggy Sparks	023 9245 0309
Mother's Union Advisor	Mrs Liz Gilbert	023 9245 2321
Children's Society Boxes	Mrs Shirley Caunter	023 9248 1231
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs Audrey Currie	023 9247 9937

Confessions, Baptisms and Marriages

Contact the Rector

Bookings for St. Faith's Hall & Church House

Contact the Verger

Prayers for the Sick

Please notify the Rector, any member of the PCC or Parish Office Administrator

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

Editor Colin Carter (**Email:** editor@stfaith.com) 023 9248 6739

Assistant Jan Stuart (**Email:** jan@stfaith.com) 023 9247 0335

Distribution and Advertising: Mr Peter Appleby

023 9247 8499

*Articles, notices, letters or other items for inclusion in our magazine are always welcome and should be sent to the Editor, 'faith matters', Parish Office, Church House, The Pallant, or **Email:** editor@stfaith.com. The magazine is published on the 1st of each month, with a print deadline 15th of previous month.*

St. Faith's Web-site: <http://www.stfaith.com> (**Email:** webmaster@stfaith.com)

SERVICES

Sunday 1st February	8.00am	Eucharist
CANDLEMAS	8.00am	Eucharist at St. Nicholas, Langstone
	9.30am	FAMILY EUCHARIST
	12.00pm	Holy Baptism
	6.30pm	Evensong
Sunday 8th February	8.00am	Eucharist
THIRD BEFORE LENT	9.15am	Children's Sunday Club in Church House
	9.30am	PARISH EUCHARIST
	11.30am	Holy Baptism
	6.30pm	Evensong
Sunday 15th February	8.00am	Eucharist
SECOND BEFORE LENT	9.15am	Children's Sunday Club in Church House
	9.30am	PARISH EUCHARIST
	6.30pm	Evensong
Sunday 22nd February	8.00am	Eucharist
SUNDAY BEFORE LENT	9.15am	Children's Sunday Club in Church House
	9.30am	PARISH EUCHARIST with the theme of ANIMAL WELFARE
	12.00pm	Holy Baptism
	6.30pm	Evensong
Wednesday 25th February		
ASH WEDNESDAY	7.30pm	Eucharist
Sunday 29th February	8.00am	Eucharist
LENT I	9.15am	Children's Sunday Club in Church House
	9.30am	PARISH EUCHARIST
	6.30pm	Evensong
Tuesday 2nd March	7.00pm	Stations of the Cross and Eucharist
Sunday 7th March	8.00am	Eucharist
LENT II	8.00am	Eucharist at St. Nicholas, Langstone
	9.30am	FAMILY EUCHARIST
	6.30pm	Evensong

MIDWEEK SERVICES:

Monday	9.15am	Morning Prayer & Eucharist
Tue., Wed., & Fri.	9.15am	Morning Prayer
Thursday	9.45am	Morning Prayer
Thursday	10.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)
Saturday	9.00am	Eucharist

For changes or additions to the services on this page, please see the church notice board, the weekly bulletin or our web-site (<http://www.stfaith.com>).