

## *From the Editor*

Last month I attended a presentation of prizes for the “Most Improved Parish Magazine 2003-2005” competition with other editors at the Cathedral. Details are on page 19. No, we didn’t win anything as our magazine was as good in 2003 as it was in 2005 and to improve it would require going to colour which would make the price exorbitant!

This month there is a lively Correspondence Column with letters from parishioners on the “Altar Trial” and the “Cost of Properties and Income Received” commencing on page 7. **Perhaps members of the Standing Committee and the PCC would like to take note. Keep your letters coming.**

*. Colin Carter*

## *For Your Diary*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Where/Cost</u>
Saturday 4 March	10am-noon	Coffee Morning	St. Faith’s Church
Monday 6 March	8pm	SC Meeting	Rectory
13 March-15 April	9am-4pm	Parish Shop Open	Coach House
Saturday 18 March	7.30pm	Quiz Night	Church Hall
Monday 20 March	7.45pm	PCC Meeting	Church House
Saturday 1 April	10am-noon	Coffee Morning	St. Faith’s Church
Thursday 6 April	7.30pm	BMC Meeting	5 Longmead Gdns
Saturday 15 April	6pm	Sedar Meal	Church Hall
Tuesday 18 April	7.30pm	Restoration Meeting	15 Langbrook Cl.
Sunday 30 April	11.15am	APCM	Church Hall
22 May-26 June	9am-4pm	Parish Shop Open	Coach House
Saturday 3 June	10am-noon	Coffee Morning	St. Faith’s Church
Saturday 17 June	7.30pm	Concert – Youth Choir	St. Faith’s Church
Sunday 25 June	4pm	Strawberry Tea	Churchyard
Saturday 1 July	10am-noon	Coffee Morning	St. Faith’s Church
Saturday 15 July	7.30pm	Windcliffe Singers	St. Faith’
Saturday 5 August	10am-noon	Coffee Morning	St. Faith’s Church
Saturday 26 August	10am	Town Fair	St. Faith’s Church
29 Aug-23 Sep	9am-4pm	Parish Shop Open	Coach House
Saturday 23 Sep	7.30pm	Harvest Supper	Church Hall
Sunday 24 Sep	9.30am	Harvest Festival	St. Faith’s Church
Saturday 7 October	10am-noon	Coffee Morning	St. Faith’s Church
Sunday 8 October	9.30am	Patronal Festival	St. Faith’s Church
23 Oct-18 Nov	9am-4pm	Parish Shop Open	Coach House
Saturday 25 Nov.	7pm	Bell Ringers Dinner	Church Hall

*Please note that the **Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)** has been moved to **Sunday 30 April** to avoid clashing with the Walsingham Pilgrimage.*

## *The Development of the Church and its Properties for Mission in Havant*

Recently I have received a flurry of enquiries asking why we haven't invested in the Church Hall by carrying out the plans proposed last year. To answer this I need to share with you the workings of the Property Development Group (PDG). This group was set up in the summer of 2004 to build on the excellent work done by the Properties group within the Vision process. You may recall that the Vision had six groups making investigations about the life of the church and reporting to the Parochial Church Council (PCC). The proposals of the Properties group were so far ranging that they needed to be taken on by a PCC sub-committee – thus the PDG. The group consists of Jan and Sandra, our Churchwardens, PCC members Colin Carter (Secretary) and Martin Poliszczuk (Chair) as well as Sybel Laird, Colin Hedley, David Williams, Susan Gibbons and me.

The key question facing the PDG is: *How do we align our suite of properties to best facilitate the mission of the Church for the next 25 years?*

The question assumes we know what our mission is. Although the Vision groups did much to further our ability to reach out to the community we still lacked a clear and uniform mission plan. We looked to the diocesan strategy, *Kairos*, to help us with this. Much time and effort was invested in the *Kairos* process to analyze our potential for the benefit of this

community. In working with the parishes of Warblington with Emsworth and the Hayling Island group of churches we devised a four-point plan:

1. To invest in Children's and Youth work, especially with schools and colleges. This includes the development of the Godly Play room and its usage to interest and train youth leaders from churches throughout the diocese. Running Children's workshops with other churches locally also falls into this area, but it was also an attempt to pool resources and to share good practise.
2. To improve communications between the church and local authorities, voluntary organisations and the surrounding community. Often people approach us looking for help when all we have to do is point them in the right direction. Other agencies are equally unaware of the resources we have to offer.
3. A programme of pastoral support for the lonely, housebound, bereaved and mentally distressed of our area, starting with a visiting team and looking to expand the provision through a variety of means.
4. The need to dramatically improve the accessibility of churches to make them more welcoming and vital to visitors and faith seekers. St Faith's is unusual in being open as much as it is but it could do much more.

This section seeks to recognise what and how, and then to make it available.

All this information was then used to determine the best way to utilise the assets available to strengthen St. Faith's mission and vitality in the community of Havant.

From the Kairos process a newly adopted Mission Statement for St. Faith's was developed and approved by the PCC. This mission statement was used to focus the Property Development Group on what St. Faith's Church priorities are within the wider church and community.

*Our mission is to represent and convey the justice, truth and love of God for all people that Jesus came to share. We will do this by engaging with the community through a variety of projects that express the unique value of each person and the importance of relationship with other people and with Christ. We will develop St. Faith's Church in Havant as our centre for communion from which we can reach out to our neighbours, and into which all can find a place.*

Thus we established ourselves as a church that seeks to reach out to the people of Havant rather than to be restricted by a narrow understanding of church that defines church as that which happens on a Sunday morning. The church, then, is the pilgrim people seeking God in the ordinary, equipping people for discipleship and reaching out to people in their need. It was wholeheartedly agreed that the main focus of the PDG's efforts should be on the church building and surrounding land. Although the argument for raising the profile of the church would be established through the development and restoration of the

church hall because of its versatility and community use, it was believed that this would be a distraction from the mission of the church and that the capital outlay necessary for the hall would significantly delay improvements to the church building. To conclude, the mission of the church clearly makes St. Faith's Church building the heart of the Church and a sacred focal point in the Havant community; and therefore, the primary focus for development.

At present, many of the properties and the church building are in need of repair. In order to restore the church and meet the current needs of the congregation and community, a thorough investigation into the property portfolio of St. Faith's was undertaken. First, the Diocesan Registrar provided the PDG with an evaluation of all the deeds for each of the buildings. Second, a valuation is underway to determine the net worth of each property as well as the costs involved in repairing or restoring the properties. This information will enable the PDG to determine how to best utilise the assets available to achieve St. Faith's mission. At the same time the PDG has been putting together a comprehensive Project Plan for the church's development in four stages:

### **Project 1/Phase 1: Church Vestry & Toilet**

Target Completion Date: December 2006

- a. *The Toilet will be retiled and decorated and the floor relaid thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor,*

- b. *The Choir and clergy vestry will be redesigned to remove the damp problem to the east wall of the north transept, improve access for the bell ringers and provide a more suitable space for choir, clergy, servers and all who use the vestry.*

### **Project 1/Phase 1: Interior of Church**

Target Completion Date: December 2007

The areas for improvement in the interior of the Church are:

- a. *Space: reordering (layout), flooring, furniture & decorating,*
- b. *Improving facilities: toilets, storage, catering, flower arrangement, security,*
- c. *Heating/Lighting/Sound,*
- d. *Effective utilisation (no wasted space – best use),*
- e. *Solar Panels,*
- f. *Theme of Sustainability.*

### **Project 2/Phase 2: Churchyard**

Target Completion Date: December 2009

The Churchyard will be made more inviting and more accessible. The changes will take into consideration that the Churchyard is a sacred space.

- a. *Labyrinth,*
- b. *Sitting area memorial – Dr. Michael Dewhurst,*
- c. *Gravestones,*
- d. *Theme of sustainability,*
- e. *Theme of holding both the ancient and the current in harmony.*

### **Project 3/Phase 3: Chapter House Addition**

Target Completion Date: December 2009

The following, listed in the order of priority, will be provided:

- a. *Sunday Club room,*
- b. *Toilets,*
- c. *Catering Facilities/Coffee Shop,*
- d. *Parish Office,*
- e. *Meeting rooms (for 20 & for 60 people)/Youth Club/Crèche,*
- f. *Parish Shop plus storage facilities,*
- g. *Theme of Sustainability.*

Parking facilities will be provided and liaison with the Havant Borough Council will be required.

As you can see these plans are highly ambitious and there are many difficult decisions still to be made. Before the PDG brings its proposals to the PCC it is conducting a feasibility survey in the community to assess the reaction to these ideas. We need to make sure we are *scratching where the community is itching*, so we are recruiting a consultant to conduct the survey, commissioned by the PDG and financed by a grant from “Awards for All” (Lottery) fund.

I hope this clarifies where we are up to and why it is taking so long to get our plans together. However I can assure you that the plans are proceeding well and that you will be consulted before any firm proposals are brought to the PCC. Most importantly of all our plans for our buildings are based upon the desire to best serve the community according to our mission statement.

God we believe, inspires this work and so I beseech you to hold the work of the PDG in your prayers.

*David*

### *Baptismal Visits*

We here at St. Faith's Church are lucky to have a team of ladies who visit the parents of the children who they would like to bring to church for baptism.

On contact with the parents, a visit is arranged and in pairs off we go to have a few moments of chat, offer a couple of pamphlets about baptism and godparents. We show them the service and answer if we can any queries regarding the contents of the service, some parents like to have baptism not within the 9.30am service and it is their choice. On the day at least one of the team aims to be in church to welcome everyone and to

hand out service sheets and to show them to their seats. We give the candidate a card from St. Faith's.

When the magazine announces the baptism, a copy is sent to the parents with a covering letter about the magazine, when it is available, and where to obtain it and how much it would cost.

We then send an anniversary card on the 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the baptism.

Our team is led by Carmen Stuart with Daphne Rowden, Valentine Searle and Jenny Sagrott.

*Jenny Sagrott*



### *From the Registers - February*

19<sup>th</sup> Baptism of Jamie David Davage

26<sup>th</sup> Baptism of Charlie Aaron Richard Mansbridge

## *About The Parish*

In the August 2004 edition of "*Faith Matters*" I wrote about the exploits of a Battle of Britain pilot named Peter Parrott. This was the story recounted. After surviving the battle for France, Peter Parrott on patrol over the coast line of the Pas de Calais engaged a German Heinkel bomber. The radiator of Peter's Hurricane was damaged by a burst of fire from the Heinkel and his cockpit was soon full of water vapour from a hole in his glycol tank. He could only see one instrument - the temperature gauge which was dangerously high. He turned for home, wondering how far he would get before the coolant ran out and the engine seized. It happened just as he crossed the coastline near Deal. He glided down from four thousand feet, looking for a suitable field in which to land. He spotted a field with an upward slope and landed, expecting to bounce along the turf. Instead, he came to a sudden halt but in the process killed two sheep which were grazing.

Soon casual walkers arrived on the scene, together with an irate farmer and his wife in a pony and trap who demanded to know of the shaken pilot who was going to pay for his dead sheep. With great presence of mind, Peter said "*The Air Ministry!*" Many were giving their lives but the farmer was not prepared to pay with two sheep, never mind his life! A policeman arrived on the scene and took the pilot to a neighbouring farmhouse so he could telephone his base. When they arrived, Peter found it was the same farmer and his wife. No rationing for them because they were having high tea, tucking into a large ham but Peter

was not offered so much as a cup of tea by this appalling couple. He telephoned his base, RAF Manston, and a car was sent for him, with a guard for the Hurricane.

Out of the blue (now that's an appropriate phrase), Father David received the following in January from Peter's son Tim. "*I occasionally check the internet for reference to my father and noted that he was mentioned in your Faith Matters of 2004. I think he would have been very surprised and delighted to find himself referred to. Unfortunately he died in late August 2003. I would have to advise you that his attendance at church was rare, mainly once a year at Westminster Abbey for the Battle of Britain Remembrance Service, however he had a strong Christian ethic in his actions. He did help many other fellow RAF colleagues to get their due disablement pensions and found respite care for two less fortunate aircrew, as they came to the end of their lives. He also received money for signing prints and photographs which he always sent on to RAF charities. Best regards. Tim Parrott.*"

When we gather at the War Memorial for our Remembrance Day service in November and think of the courage and sacrifice of so many, we now have another name to remember in Peter Parrott. We owe so much to the likes of Peter and our own Battle of Britain pilot, the late Hugh Elliott, together with all the other servicemen and civilians who gave so much in the defence of this country. A few months ago the Government finally decided in the face of a national campaign to award an

Arctic Medal to the Royal Navy men who during the Second World War took convoys through to Russia in appalling conditions, when men leaving sinking ships would survive just seconds in the freezing seas. A former churchwarden of this church would have received an

Arctic Medal had he not died a few years ago, so together with Peter and Hugh, please also remember Commander Arthur Jones. *Roger Bryant*

## *Correspondence Column*

### *Altar Trial*

*Dear Colin,*

It is accepted that custom and ritual can change with the passing of time, but in changes made solely, or even partly, in order to conform with some contemporary trend, much or part of what was of cherished significance and value can be diminished or lost.

I much prefer the altar/pews arrangement as it was before the

recent change. My overall feeling is a sense of loss; difficult to explain exactly, or perhaps even approximately, but loss it is. Loss in the sense of occasion, loss in the gravitas and uniqueness of the Eucharist.

Perhaps I am not alone in my view – perhaps the PCC will think again.

Yours sincerely, *John Bradey*

*(From conversations I have had with parishioners, John is not alone in his views. Many of those I have spoken to have been attending church for years and feel that having a nave altar will not enhance the views of the newcomer or uninitiated. Indeed, the present arrangements have changed the orderly way of receiving the sacraments at the high altar to one that gives the impression of being totally disorganised around the nave altar.)*

*Dear Editor,*

With reference to the trial of the nave altar, my preference is to revert to the status quo of the high altar. If a decision is made to stay with the nave altar I would prefer to see the following changes:

1. The nave altar to be placed on some kind of platform level with the chancel so that the celebrant is more clearly visible from the rear,

particularly when the congregation are standing.

2. Candles to be lit in the high altar as at present it appears barren.
3. The Eucharist to be taken for distribution to the main altar in solemn procession. The present distribution around the nave altar is shambolic and crowded.

In addition has thought been given for

where the Mayor and Mace will be situated at ceremonies when necessary? Also when funerals are scheduled where will the coffin be

*Dear Father David,*

With all due respect I have to say, as a plain speaking Yorkshirewoman, that the Altar in its present position is wrong. I was shocked by my own reaction when I saw it. I have attended churches where this has been done in medieval churches but the altar was just put in front of the chancel steps. It was soon found that it did not work. In those days I was less aware of the symbolism of a medieval cruciform church. In hundreds of years, even in single cell churches the Altar was at the east end facing Jerusalem, as you rightly say. If through the centuries the hierarchy had thought the centre of the church was the right place they would have put it there long ago. It is not *"theatre in the round"* (what happened to that experiment I wonder?). Nor are those in the nave *"second class citizens"*. They are the body and heart of it.

The cruciform plan of the church is no coincidence. You must be aware that in a medieval church it is the

placed?

Yours,

*Colin Warlow*

cross facing the people. The altar is Christ's Head, and the font His Feet, the transepts His Arms on the cross so babies and newcomers to the faith entered the church at His Feet, where the font is. As their faith and knowledge grew they moved to the centre of the church and when confirmed they were able to move to His Head in the sanctuary and receive the Holy Sacraments.

I felt, and feel, so strongly that an ancient monument had in some way been desecrated, that a valuable antique had/had its centre torn out and a cheap substitute put in its place, that the souls resting the churchyard were turning in their graves, that I no longer wanted to belong to such an insensitive church where Christ's Head has been cut off and the choir left looking at the clergy's backs.

I hope you will reconsider what has been done and restore St. Faith's to the church it has always been for many generations in Havant. As Psalm 46 says *"Be still and know that I am God"*.

*Sheilah*

*Legg*



Dear Editor,

In response to your request for our views on the present arrangements in church, Bob and I both feel that the experiment of moving the altar is a total shambles when taking communion, and we do not like it at all.

It seems that the church has lost a lot of its dignity and that special feeling of

going up to the High Altar to receive our communion. We know of several people with the same sentiments who are also not taking their communion in church on Sundays at the moment.

In my opinion it should go back to the original arrangement as soon as possible and definitely not made permanent.

*Ally Wilson*

*(Please note that I have only received the four letters above regarding the Altar Trial. I have not received any letters from parishioners who would like the trial to become permanent.)*

### *Cost of Properties and Income Received*

Dear Colin,

Regarding the publication of "Properties: Income and Costs" in "Faith Matters"; as the Editor pointed out (FM Feb), this was done last year in response to parishioners' wishes as expressed in replies to a questionnaire – surely there is no valid reason why it should not be done every year. The

Standing Committee consider that such information is "commercially sensitive" – I doubt very much that publication of it in "Faith Matters" would cause any great upheaval in the property market or adverse effect on St. Faith's finances.

Yours sincerely, *John Bradley*

Dear Editor,

I disagree with the Standing Committee statement as regards "Cost of Properties and Income Received" ("Faith Matters" February 2006). I agree that the annual accounts are necessary and require approval by the auditors for the annual general meeting, but I see no reason for any secrecy during the rest of the year and any sensitive

material could be lumped together as rents received without giving a breakdown of individual properties. One realises that an unofficial statement is no replacement for the annual accounts but surely parishioners are entitled to know where their money is going the rest of the year. To some people the annual accounts are difficult to decipher.

Yours aye, *Colin Warlow*

Dear Colin,

I regret the decision of the Standing Committee on 9 January 2006 to not repeat the information you produced in "Faith Matters" - February 2005 for income and expenses of our properties during 2004.

Although the Standing Committee is correct to protect commercially sensitive information about individual property rents, I see no harm in indicating the total figure for rental income. Indeed we are most fortunate as a parish that previous parishioners have generously donated property that now provides us with income. We would be in dire straits without that income.

I am sure that the PCC and the Standing Committee are keeping a close watch on expenses on our behalf, but nevertheless for example, have the heating bills increased in 2005? Have we made a profit on the Church Hall in 2005? – in 2004 it cost us £5,012 against an income of £4,423. Is it really necessary to have a telephone in Church (costing £158 in 2004), in these days of mobile phones?

I feel all the parishioners should have access to this type of information without burdening our treasurer Sue Casey with ad hoc requests.

Sincerely,

*Paul Utting*

*(Please note that a number of parishioners have expressed the same sentiments as those in the above letters. No parishioner has informed me that they agree with the Standing Committee's statement. **As a result perhaps the Standing Committee will re-consider its statement at the next meeting.**)*

### *Electoral Roll*

The revision of the Electoral Roll will take place between the 26<sup>th</sup> March 2006 and the 9<sup>th</sup> April 2006. Persons wishing their names to be included on the Roll may obtain an Application Form from the undersigned. Please note the completed Forms must be returned to me by the 9<sup>th</sup> April 2006 to enable the name and address to be added to the Revised Roll. Names already on the Roll do not need to be renewed. *Audrey Currie, Electoral Roll Officer*

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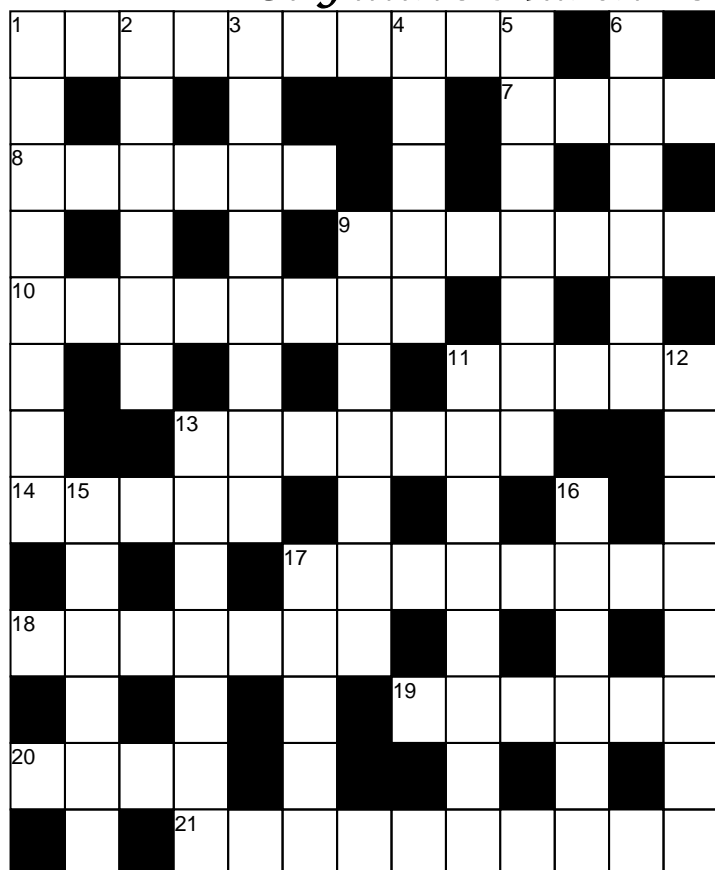
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## St Faith's March 2006 Crossword Puzzle



### Across

1. Place of pleasure and frivolity delayed pilgrims (6,4)
7. Running this way could endanger others (4)
8. Old Scottish outlaw was man of title (3,3)
9. Kane was a cinematic one (7)
10. Now you see it – now you don't! (8)
11. Fruits for romantic occasions? (5)
13. Moving slowly before the Gospel (7)
14. Floating flower position (5)
17. Man of a golden treasury (8)
18. Bookies' friend? (7)
19. Standing legal position (6)
20. Unusual code of art style (4)
21. Gentle measure for inexperience beginner (10)

### Down

1. Instrument for young girl, a learner (8)
3. One garment made from a pair (8)
5. Mathematical root is fundamental (7)
9. Low temperature conflict could have been heated (4,3)
12. Rambling roses met with here (8)
15. No rage disturbed ancient stone thrower (6)
17. This duck sounds a bit Chinese (5)
2. Negative object seen on pitch (2-4)
4. Profit perhaps once more (5)
6. Company at this place stick together (6)
11. "They say the owl was the baker's ----" (8)
13. Adhesive foot cover useful in wet conditions (7)
16. Personal decoration for military occasion (6)

*Compiled for St Faith's by Sisyphus*

### **Answers to the editor by 15<sup>th</sup> March please!**

*Answers to February 2006 Crossword*

Across: 1. Graveyard, 7. Iron, 8. Best Foot, 9. Elders, 10. Esse, 12. Salamander, 13. Paramnesia, 16. Reel, 17. Pawpaw, 18. Odometer, 20. Vain, 21. Demitasse.

Down: 1. Gneiss, 2. At The Sharp End, 3. Ego, 4. Aftermost, 5. Died in Harness, 6. Cowrie, 11. Blindworm, 14. Ararat, 15. Red Eye, 19. Opt.

The first correct answer out of the hat this month was from Joy Utting, with other correct entries from Marion Simmons, Ann Slade, Ruth Tunks and Colin Warlow

The confusion in the bottom left corner of the January crossword was due to a mix up of two clues and two solutions – *mea culpa*.

There will now be a cessation of cruciverbal compilation and cognitive processes will be reviewed.

Trust some of you might have had some moments of diversionary amusement with my simple puzzles.

Salaam Shalom Peace

*Sisyphus*

*Sisyphus*, after producing 63 crosswords for parishioners, has left the bolder at the bottom of the hill after 5 years and 3 months producing around 1,638 clues, with the answers having to fit correctly in the grid. It is very time consuming to produce. Apart from the regular “cross words”, they have given much pleasure to many parishioners who do the crossword each month but do not hand it in. So let’s have a good “turn out” this month and will all those who do the crossword please hand them in to me. Let’s hope that the bolder will be moving again in the not too distant future.

### *House in Tavernelle to Rent*

Situated in NW Tuscany, in Apennine Mountains. House forms part of medieval historic centre of Tavernelle, nearest main town Aulla. Sleeps up to six comfortably. Two bedrooms upstairs (one with TV), one bedroom downstairs. One main bathroom with bath, sink, WC and washing-machine downstairs, other with walk-in shower, WC and basin (upstairs). Shared courtyard. Fitted kitchen with gas hob

and electric oven, fridge, immersion heater. River runs through village. Ideal for those who love walking in the countryside amidst peaceful, unspoilt surroundings.

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### *Chairman Buildings Management Committee*

Bob Wilson will be standing down as Chairman of the Buildings Management Committee (BMC) at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in April. Being chairman of the BMC is not time consuming and is

mainly managerial. Should you be interested in taking on this important post in the parish please contact Bob on 023 9248 2614 for details and go along to the BMC meetings before the APCM in April.

## *Word Search - Lent*

Are you giving up anything for Lent? Here are some of the things that you might consider!! Can you find the names of the food and condiments in the grid? Words may be read forwards, backwards, up, down or diagonal and are in straight lines. Where there are two words, they are not split. *Colin Carter*

BAKED BEANS	CRISPS	RICE
BISCUITS	FLOUR	SALT
BOVRIL	GARLIC	SOUP
BREAD	JAM	SPAGHETTI
CAKE	MACARONI	SUGAR
CARROTS	MARMALADE	TEA
CHUTNEY	MARMITE	TOMATO SAUCE
COCOA	MUSTARD	VANILLA
COFFEE	ONIONS	VINEGAR
CORNFLAKES		

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



## *"War of the Worlds - The Crusades"*

With the death of Saladin and Richard, the Moslem and Christian worlds had lost their two great champions. In 1202, with the blessing of Pope Innocent III, a large army of Crusaders sailed from Venice in a huge armada of Venetian ships. As part of the agreement for the use of the ships, the Crusaders captured the Hungarian city of Zara, which they sacked and pillaged. After a long winter break, they set out in 1203 for Constantinople with the intention of deposing the current Emperor Alexius, who in turn had deposed and thrown into a dungeon his own brother. However, with the Crusaders camped outside the city walls, the citizens decided to revolt against Alexius, who was strangled by the mob. The Crusaders were not going to allow the revolt to interfere with their plans. They proceeded to storm the city. There then occurred atrocities on a scale never seen before even in those violent times. Some 20,000 Crusaders, fuelled by drink, went on a drunken rampage of raping, pillaging, killing and looting. They sacked and destroyed the great churches, priceless and irreplaceable works of art were destroyed, residences and public buildings were torched, women including nuns were violated and abused; nothing and no one were spared. Pope Innocent offered his congratulations for the great victory! However, he was horrified when he subsequently heard of the sack of the city and apologised publicly for the crimes committed but by then the damage had been done. The Byzantines now had a hatred of the West which was to continue through the

centuries.

Minor skirmishes occurred until an extraordinary sequence of events set off another wave of religious fervour to ignite Christendom. A 12 year old shepherd boy named Stephen from Cloyes in France took a group of children to King Philip Augustus who was holding court in the Abbey of Sait-Denis. Stephen said that he had a letter from Christ ordering him to preach a crusade! From the Abbey he went around the country preaching that our Lord had said that unless we became as little children we would not enter the Kingdom of Heaven, so therefore Jerusalem would only be captured by an army of children! Astonishingly, contemporary records say that Stephen converged on Marseilles with 30,000 children to embark to the Holy Land. This figure is thought to be grossly exaggerated but even the more likely total of 10,000 is still astonishing. The children had to beg for food and some died on the journey to Marseilles but arriving in the seaport they found that seven ships had been provided by merchants to take them to the Holy Land. For 18 years, nothing was heard of them but in 1230, a priest arrived in France with a harrowing account of the arrival of the children in the East. They had been rounded up and either killed or sold into slavery. Around the same time, a German boy named Nicholas, fired by the example of Stephen, gathered up a similar number of children and took them on a hazardous journey through Switzerland to Rome. Almost two-thirds of the children died from the privations of the journey and the remainder were received by the

Pope, who with great kindness gently persuaded them to return home. Sadly only a pitiful few finally made it back to their families.

However we are getting ahead of ourselves. In 1216, Pope Innocent died suddenly but his successor Pope Honorius took over his plans to launch another Crusade; this time led by King Andrew of Hungary and Duke Leopold VI of Austria. They landed in the Holy Land in 1217 with a small army and achieved virtual nothing in a campaign almost without engagement with the enemy. About the only success was the capture by King Andrew of an earthenware jar believed to have been used by Jesus at the wedding feast in Cana in Galilee when the miracle of the turning of water into wine occurred. In 1218, a large Crusader army of Dutch and Germans arrived led by one John of Brienne, King of Jerusalem, and they were joined by a large French army and Leopold of Austria with a strong force. Their mission was to capture Egypt, which was now the Moslem super power in the region. They set off from Acre on Ascension Day to capture the

Egyptian seaport of Damietta which was protected by a massive chain across the Nile and a castle dominated by a strongly fortified tower. With great ingenuity, the attackers produced a floating castle of two galleys lashed together and protected by copper sheets. The attackers prevailed and the citadel was captured. The way was clear to advance and capture Damietta but the Crusaders, fatally decided to wait until reinforcements arrived. The weeks went by and the opportunity was lost. Bickering broke out between the leaders and the Crusaders were decimated by dysentery. Moral was low but the Crusaders were able to beat off and inflict heavy casualties on a Moslem army seeking to drive them out of Egypt. A stalemate lasted some 18 months until in 1221, following flooding; the Crusaders agreed a peace with the Moslems and returned to Acre with nothing to show for their campaign. Next month we conclude our narrative with the Sixth and final Crusade led by King Louis IX of France.

*Roger Bryant*

### *Women's World Day of Prayer*

The service this year is at St. Joseph's at 2pm on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March; everyone, including men folk, is welcome. The service is followed by tea when Fair Trade goods will be on sale.

## *Most Improved Parish Magazine Competition*

The Choral Evensong at the Cathedral on Sunday 5 February was dedicated to the editors of Parish Magazines in the diocese. The Preacher was the Dean – David Brindley, who also gave the prizes. The competition was for the **most improved**, not the best, magazine over the two years from December 2003 and December 2005. The decision was purely subjective. The winners were:

**1<sup>st</sup>** and a cheque for £200 – “*Village News*” which covers three villages in the Isle of Wight – Calbourne, Newtown and Shalfleet. It is an A5 production with a colour front cover, and is circulated, free of charge, to 1,200 homes in the villages. It is a joint effort between all three churches and the civic parish council. It replaced a church-only magazine.

**2<sup>nd</sup>** and a cheque for £100 – “*Trinity Times*” (Holy Trinity, Gosport). It is an A5 production and is circulated free to 1,200 households in the parish and 160 shops in the town centre. It was launched in May 2004.

**3<sup>rd</sup>** and a cheque for £50 – “*Faithworks*” (St. Faith’s, Lee-on Solent). This is an A4 production with 4 pages only. It is produced periodically for all 3,000 homes in the area, and is anecdotally very effective.

Four other parish magazines were on the short list. They were:

“*Connections*” which covers Niton and Whitwell in the Isle of Wight. This is an A5 magazine that joined forces with other local churches for an ecumenical edition circulated to 1,000 homes.

“*Curdrige Parish Magazine*”. This is an A5 magazine focused on the village of Curdrige with a colour cover.

“*Vision*” which is the United Anglican and Methodist Church in Hart Plain. The magazine was edited by the Vicar and its re-design was part of a communications strategy package for the parish.

“*Wickham Parish Magazine*”. It is an A4 production with a circulation of 1,750. Its improvements were initiated by a questionnaire circulated as part of the parish’s Kairos project.

*Colin Carter*

## *Church Shop*

During the period 4 January – 3 February the shop banked £1,672.72. Well done to Sheila Warlow and all her helpers. The shop will open again on

13 March. All offers of help are welcome. Please contact Sheila on 023 9247 5447.

## *Building Management Committee Meeting 12 January*

We were waiting for a second quote for the repair of the Hall flat roof. Quotes were awaited for the electrics in Church House. The wall had been repaired at the front of Church House and proposals had gone to Bosmere 100 for improvements to the paved area. If agreed, work needed to be completed by this Spring. A quote of £19,840 +

VAT had been received from Wills for repairs to the organ. Further quotes were being obtained. The Restoration and Redevelopment Appeal Committee would be asked to give priority to this work in their fundraising. The Faculty for the vestry toilet had been received and work should be completed by the end of February.

## *PCC Meeting 23 January*

There was a full discussion of communications in the parish including welcome packs, visits to families before Baptism, magazines, noticeboards, etc. A committee, with suitable terms of reference, was to be set up to plan a communications strategy for the parish. The progress with plans for improvements to the church and hall complex was reviewed. The Rector would be writing an article in "*Faith*

*Matters*" to tell parishioners what was planned. Our finances were in good shape and our income in 2005 exceeded expenditure by £14,397. The Restoration Appeal fundraising had realised £13,931 in 2005. To a round of applause, it was reported that Jenny Sagrott had raised £314 from her jam making. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting had been put back to Sunday 30 April.

## *Property Development Group Meetings*

Two meetings were held on 25 January and 9 February. We have been awarded a £5,000 grant from the "*Awards for All*" Lottery Fund for a Feasibility Study to find out what facilities and services are desirable and needed by the community, where the preferred locations for these facilities should be, and what reactions can be expected from any plan to develop the existing churchyard. The Medical Team has been given approval

and funding for a new medical centre and expects to vacate the Christ Church Centre during 2007. The possibilities for the centre are to sell and put the money into Phase 1 of the Church, to develop with partners to maintain our annual income or to restore as a church. Essential upgrading to the Church Hall is required to meet Health and Safety requirements.

## *Child Protection at St Faith's*

In light of what has been in the media

in recent weeks with regard to Child

Protection issues I was asked to submit this article to inform parishioners what measures are taken to ensure the children in our parish are protected. The Church recognises the measures needed to protect children from abuse and provides policies and procedures for each parish to follow.

St Faiths has a thriving Sunday Club, Youth Group and Junior Choir so to keep them developing we need to safeguard the welfare of these children.

As the parish Child Protection Representative I ensure that procedures are followed so that leaders and helpers within these groups are safe to work with children. This is achieved by having those that work or wish to work with children filling in declaration forms, obtaining references and having CRB (Criminal Record Bureau) checks done. Then documentation has to be checked by myself before sending it to the Diocese who then sends the relevant form to the CRB. Once checked the Diocese and the person are informed. If there is a concern then the Diocese takes

### *Langstone Cutters Rowing Club*

The Cutters will be starting their new rowing season on Sunday 19 March at 1315 with the traditional Blessing of the Boats ceremony conducted by the Revd David Gibbons on the foreshore

the necessary steps and the Incumbent is informed and procedures followed. So far we have never had a problem or concern. It is also the job of the Representative to advise on issues of Health and Safety.

The Diocese also provides workshops on Child Protection Awareness which Leaders and helpers of groups involving children are encouraged to go on. Quite a few of Sunday Club and Youth Group leaders/helpers have been to them and have come back feeling it has been worth while.

I believe that Portsmouth Diocese works hard to provide the policies procedures and recommended good practice for us to follow to help protect our children as much as possible. Also these procedures are there to protect the leaders and helpers who give their time generously enabling our youth to grow in their Christian faith and be involved in church life.

If anyone has any queries please feel free to discuss them with me.

*Fiona Hedley (Child Protection Representative)*

by the Royal Oak, Langstone. All parishioners are welcome to take part in this customary opening event of the rowers.

## *MEMBERS OF PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)*

**Reverend David Gibbons** (*Chairman & Incumbent*)

**Fr. Charles Keay** (*Curate*)

**Fr. David Williams** (*Curate*)

**Prof. Jan Stuart** (*Churchwarden*)

**Mrs Sandra Haggan** (*Churchwarden*)

**Mrs Sue Casey** (*Hon. Treasurer*)

**Mr Roger Bryant** (*Hon. Secretary*)

**Mr Colin Carter**

**Mrs Fiona Hedley**

**Mr Barry Hudson**

**Mrs Joan Medley**

**Mrs Anne Plater**

**Mr Martin Poliszczuk**

**Mrs Jenny Sagrott**

**Miss Peggy Sparks**

**Mrs Jackie Udy**

**Mr Robert Wilson**

*Deanery Synod Representative:* **Mrs Shirley Caunter**

**Dr Michael Fluck**

**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, and Secretary.**

**Buildings Management Committee (BMC)** attends to the use, repair and development of all parish buildings. Members: **Robert Wilson** (*Chairman*)(1&2 Churchfields), **Peter Appleby** (*Secretary*)(Christchurch Bungalow), **Sandra Haggan** (*Hall Complex*), **Anne Plater** (*St. Nicholas Chapel*), **Jenny Sagrott** (*St. Faith's Church*), **Peggy Sparks** (*2-4 North Street*), and **Paul Utting** (*Christchurch Centre*).

**Fabric Sub-Committee to the BMC.** Oversees the implementation of the Quinquennial Report. Members: **Carmen Stuart, Jenny Sagrott** and **Paul Utting.**

**Property Development Group (PDG)** oversees the production of a plan for the development of the church properties. Members: **Martin Poliszczuk** (*Chairman*), **Rector, Churchwardens, Colin Carter** (*Secretary*), **Susan Gibbons, Colin Hedley, Sybel Laird** and **Fr. David Williams.**

**Restoration & Redevelopment Appeal Committee.** Members: **Paul Utting** (*Chairman*), **Ken Bracher, Mary Bracher, Ann Buckley, Joan Burrows, Kevin Edwards, Sara Freeston** (*Secretary*), **Sandra Haggan, Fr. Charles Keay, Joan Medley, Roger Simmons** (*Treasurer*), **Joy Utting** and **Fr. David Williams.**

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

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9am – 12-noon

Email: office@stfaith.com

## WHO'S WHO

<b>Rector</b>	Rev. David Gibbons	023 9248 3485
	<i>The Rectory, 5 Meadowlands, Havant, PO9 2RP</i>	
<b>Curates</b>	Fr. Charles Keay	023 9247 0817
	Fr. David Williams	023 9246 7597
<b>Lay Deacon</b>	Dr Trevor Hopkinson	023 9246 2350
<b>Verger, Sacristan &amp; Hall Mgr</b>	Mrs Vicki Mockford	023 9247 1398
	<i>2 Churchfields, South Street, Havant, PO9 1BY</i>	
<b>Organist</b>	Mrs Sylvia Willey	023 9248 3485
<b>Parish Office Administrator</b>	Ms Georgie Black	023 9249 2129
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Prof. Jan Stuart	023 9247 0335
	Mrs Sandra Haggan	023 9245 5161
<b>Hon. Secretary PCC</b>	Mr Roger Bryant	01243 376863
<b>Hon. Treasurer PCC</b>	Mrs Sue Casey	023 9278 1203
<b>St Nicholas Wardens</b>	Mrs Anne Plater	023 9245 1075
	Mrs Gill Falconer	023 9247 0255
<b>Child Protection Officer</b>	Mrs Fiona Hedley	023 2949 8229
<b>Stewardship Secretary</b>	Mr Alan Hakim	023 9247 1681
<b>Captain of Bellringers</b>	Mrs Barbara Skilleter	023 9225 3802
<b>Social Activities</b>	Mrs Sandra Haggan	023 9245 5161
<b>Bible Reading Fellowship</b>	Mrs Hilary Deadman	023 9247 1241
<b>Church Flowers</b>	Mrs Rosemary Thomas	023 9248 3836
<b>Missions to Seafarers Sec.</b>	Miss Peggy Sparks	023 9245 0309
<b>Mother's Union Advisor</b>	Mrs Liz Gilbert	023 9245 2321
<b>Children's Society Boxes</b>	Mrs Shirley Caunter	023 9248 1231
<b>Electoral Roll Officer</b>	Mrs Audrey Currie	023 9247 9937
<b>Sunday Club</b>	Mrs Deborah Creasy	023 9249 8828
<b>Church Shop</b>	Mrs Sheila Warlow	023 9247 5447

**Baptisms and Marriages**

*Contact the Parish Office*

**Bookings for St. Faith's Hall & Church House**

*Contact the Verger*

**Prayers for the Sick**

*Please notify the Rector, Parish Office or use the Intention Cards in the Church*

**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', Parish Office, Church House, The Pallant, or Email: editor@stfaith.com. The magazine is published on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month, with a print deadline 15<sup>th</sup> of previous month.*

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

## *SERVICES*

<b>Ash Wed. 1<sup>st</sup> March</b>	7.30pm	Parish Eucharist
<b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	<b>2.00pm</b>	<b>Women's World Day of Prayer</b> Service at St. Joseph's, Bedhampton
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March</b>	8.00am	Eucharist
<b>FIRST SUNDAY</b>	8.00am	Eucharist at St. Nicholas, Langstone
<b>OF LENT</b>	9.30am	<b>FAMILY EUCHARIST</b> led by Youth Club
	6.30pm	Evensong
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March</b>	8.00am	Eucharist
<b>SECOND SUNDAY</b>	9.15am	Sunday Club in Church House
<b>OF LENT</b>	9.30am	<b>PARISH EUCHARIST</b>
	6.30pm	Joint Service at Havant URC
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March</b>	8.00am	Eucharist
<b>THIRD SUNDAY</b>	9.15am	Sunday Club in Church House
<b>OF LENT</b>	9.30am	<b>PARISH EUCHARIST</b>
	6.30pm	Evensong
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March</b>	8.00am	Eucharist
<b>MOTHERING SUNDAY</b>	9.30am	<b>FAMILY SERVICE for Mothering Sunday</b>
	6.30pm	Evensong
<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	8.00am	Eucharist
<b>FIFTH SUNDAY</b>	8.00am	Eucharist at St. Nicholas, Langstone
<b>OF LENT</b>	9.15am	Sunday Club in Church House
	9.30am	<b>PARISH EUCHARIST</b>
		Preacher, The Revd Gerald Reddington
	6.30pm	Evensong

## *MIDWEEK SERVICES*

<b>Monday</b>	9.15am	Eucharist, including Prayers for Healing
<b>Tue., Wed., &amp; Fri.</b>	9.15am	Morning Prayer
<b>Thursday</b>	10.30am	Eucharist (Book of Common Prayer)
<b>Saturday</b>	9.00am	Eucharist, including Prayers for Healing

*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>).*