

From the Editor

"The Greatest Show on Earth!" was held at the Portsmouth Cathedral 23-26 July. It was a festival of flowers depicting themes from the circus. Four of our flower arrangers, Anne Buckley, Vanessa Davies, Joyce Harvey and Jeanne Morgan contributed a "swags" theme. It was amazing all the creative talents and the colourful flower arrangements that were on display.

Canon Derek Brown who was Rector of St. Faith's from 1969 until 2000 passed away peacefully at the Springfield Nursing Home in Emsworth on 22 July 2009. A Requiem Mass was held at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Havant on 7 August 2009 and was attended by many parishioners, including Fr. Peter.

Eulogies were given by Canon Brown's nephew – Derek Brown – and by Penny Moss a former Mayor of Havant. Canon Brown on his retirement lived in the bungalow at Christ Church Centre until moving into Springfield's in 2008. An obituary is on page 9. An interview Fr Brown gave to Jacki Gould in 2003 for the magazine Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals for a story of a man who has always been accompanied by a dog – not from choice in one case! - is published on page 17 as a tribute to a man who loved dogs. It was first published with Father Brown's permission in the July 2006 edition of "Faith Matters".

Colin Carter

For Your Diary

Saturday 5 September	10am-4pm	Town Fair	Churchyard
Monday 7 September	7pm	BMC Meeting	29 Hamilton Close
Saturday 12 September	9am-4pm	Round Churches Ride & Stride	Historic Churches
Monday 14 September	7.30pm	SC Meeting	Church House
Monday 28 September	7.30pm	PCC Meeting	Church House
Saturday 3 October	10am-noon	Coffee Morning	Church
Monday 5 October	7.30pm	SC Meeting	Church House
Monday 19 October	7.30pm	PCC Meeting	Church House
26 Oct.-20 Nov.	9am-4pm	Church Shop	Coach House
Saturday 7 November	10am-noon	Coffee Morning	Church
Monday 9 November	7.30pm	SC Meeting	Church House
Monday 23 November	7.30pm	PCC Meeting	Church House
Saturday 28 November	7pm	Bell Ringers' Dinner	Church Hall
Saturday 5 December	10am-noon	Coffee Morning	Church

Don't Forget

Saturday 5 September: The Town Fair

Saturday 12 September: The Round Churches Ride & Stride

From the Rector - Purdy v. Morris

As schools return we think of fresh starts and new life with perhaps a fleeting backward glimpse of happy, if not altogether dry, holidays. But to beat editorial deadlines I write on the feast day of St. Oswald, King and Martyr (5th August) which was the dedication of one of my former parishes in Cleveland. It also happens to be the day before the funeral of the famous Harry Patch whose passing severs our physical link with the Great War. One among many memorial acts has been that offered by 'Radiohead' a pop group who have taken Harry's warnings about war seriously enough to set some of his final thoughts to music aptly coinciding with the same day's commemoration of, and lessons emerging from, Hiroshima and Nagasaki. August 6th is also the Christian Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord offering us the scope to hope for the transformations from death to glory about which we constantly dream in our private and public lives.

These deaths by martyrdom, bombing and old age are in a sense completed by yet another common cause of death, the succumbing to long-term illness which finally drew a former renowned Rector of Havant, Father Derek Brown to God's mercy seat. His requiem mass took place on 7th August.

This coincidental cluster commemorates deaths which could be regarded as having taken place 'at the hand of God' by which we mean not under our own control.

As such they may help our community reflect deeply on the proposals that are emerging about possible changes in the law on suicide recently triggered by Debbie Purdy's success in causing the Law Lord's to ask the director of Public Prosecutions to provide guidance to those contemplating aiding the suicide of another person.

One of the key issues seems to be about the degree of control our society may now be expecting when it comes to the timing and the conditions that surround our physical end. David Morris may not be as celebrated as Debbie Purdy but he does share with her the prospect of a life dominated by a struggle against the progressive impairment that disease or severe disability can inflict. But from the confines of his own wheelchair David does not share Debbie's legal aims or right to choices about death. Like Debbie he doesn't know whether or when his disability will render life unbearable. But faced with admittedly different but comparable pain and inconvenience to him and to his carers for the rest of his life he is evidently committed to evaluating the challenges ahead by trusting that whatever life holds for him in future it is worth approaching without the control that suicide provides. On the other hand Debbie is about securing for her partner and for herself a future which has a built-in guarantee about when and how she dies. These two courageous people are facing the inevitability of death in diametrically opposed ways. The arguments they each deployed on television (notably very powerfully, compassionately and

courteously) represent the positions of the opposing camps in this serious matter. Whilst we can quite easily opt out of political debate it would seem that by the very nature of the issues in this matter we are obliged to take a view.

When legislators become especially nervous they inevitably advance their call for a public debate! In this case we must have a debate which is not reduced to a snap opinion poll that cynically exploits widespread and increasing inability to cope with natural processes of death and dying at precisely the moment in our history when we have the ability and the huge resources (if we so choose) to develop means of controlling ever increasing kinds of pain. At the same time there is a very real need for the churches, among others, to challenge society's aversion to death and dying.

Whatever the outcome of the particular legal and moral debates from most spiritual perspectives the art of dying and confronting death itself are stages in life to be prepared for very thoroughly as they confront us and those around us, paradoxically, with questions about the very meaning of life before death. Our dying is as much a gift to us as life itself. It can also be argued that it can also be a gift to those who have the responsibility to help us die with dignity. Debbie Purdy and others similarly convinced that this dignity is best secured through '*Dignitas*' are at least equalled by the David Morrises of this world who see dignity lying elsewhere.

When the church upholds the argument that it believes that assisted suicide does not fall within the purpose

that God has for our lives as human beings it must take the opportunity to facilitate as well as contribute to the debate. It is vital that a widespread and deeply reflective debate must precede legislation. This is particularly important as much current legislation is based on concepts of '*rights*', '*choices*' and '*quality of life*' that almost inevitably suffer from the value deficiencies of our particularly fearful, consumerist and individualistic society.

St. Oswald, like a plethora of other Christian saints committed his life and death to God and is celebrated for having done so. Harry Patch emerged from the trenches relatively physically unscathed but was a self-confessed victim of mental and emotional pain. He chose to live with the torment, controlling when and to whom he did and didn't divulge his thoughts and feelings: he was apparently content to leave the '*how much*' and '*for how long*' to powers beyond himself. Derek Brown offered his last days to God and to those who cared for and visited him no doubt hoping that in death as much as in life the purpose of the gospel of Christ might be served.

What we might gain by wresting that control of death unto ourselves is by no means certain to say the very least. When St. Paul, himself martyred, says: '*For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain*' he well understood that it is to '*the giver of life*' that we offer control over both life and death. Faced too with the prospect of the most unjust of deaths Jesus saw the wresting of control at that point as the very opposite of what God required of him. For Christians, at least, this should

indicate from where exactly we might begin the argument.

Peter Jones

The Peace

Geoff Porter sent in this little ditty "*Reflections on Diocesan Recommendations regarding the Swine Flu and Passing the Peace*":

You pat me and I'll pat you,
And then we shan't do wrong.
Pat yourself and neighbour too,
And pass the pat along.

Flattery each one adores
This is a maxim sound,
You pat my back and I'll pat your back
And then we'll smile all round.

By George Dance (1901) as used in the musical comedy, "*A Chinese Honeymoon*"

Bell Ringers Tribute to Canon Brown

A quarter peal was rung on 7 August when 1260 plain bob triples were rung half muffled to the memory of Canon Derek Brown, aged 81, whose funeral took place at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Canon Brown was a good friend to the ringers at St. Faith's where he was for 31 years Rector until October 2000.

The Sunday school teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt. Young George was most interested. "*My dad looked back once,*" he said, "*while he was driving, and he turned into a lamp-post!*"

South Korean Peace Camp

The South Koreans have always been very grateful to the 30 or so members of the United Nations who in 1950 committed forces to expel the Communists from their country during the Korean War. Second only to United States the British Commonwealth lost 1,263 killed whilst the South Koreans themselves suffered at least a million killed. The Republic of Korea Government recently invited 20 grandchildren each from the British, Canadian, Australian, New Zealand and Colombian Korean Veterans Associations to attend a Teenager Peace Camp with all expenses paid from 1st to 7th July. Esther Thomas, the daughter of Rod Thomas, the missionary in Sendai which St Faith's supports was selected from the 80 British applicants. This is her account of the memorable event.

The 1st Peace Camp for Youth - Celebrating 59 years of Friendship since the Korean War

On the 1st July this year 115 youths from the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Thailand, Korea, Australia, Canada and Colombia gathered in Busan for the opening of the 1st Peace Camp for Youth. We were greeted at the airport by a very friendly member of the South Korean Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs who bought us a very expensive meal in the airport and then escorted us to our buses which took us to the hostel. The hostel in which we stayed seemed more like a 4 star hotel to me and the food offered was very interesting but also very delicious. On our first morning in Busan we had an orientation ceremony in the Nurimaru APEC house. We listened to a very touching speech by the Minister of the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs in which he said, regarding our grandparents, *"Their efforts, blood, sweat and tears laid the foundation for modern-day Korea. Their bravery and commitment bore out in the extreme dangers of terrible war. They risked their lives. I would like to ask all of you to remember the legacy your ancestors have handed down through their blood: freedom is not free."* It

was with this impacting realisation that we started the Camp. Most of us now looked upon the Camp as an opportunity to learn more about the sacrifices our grandparents had made rather than just a chance to have fun. After lunch at a traditional Korean restaurant we travelled to the UN Memorial Cemetery and took part in the laying of a wreath donated by the Ministry of Patriots and Veteran Affairs. After the ceremony we were free to walk around the cemetery and pay our respects to loved ones or family members who had died in the war. I took this opportunity to lay a wreath of poppies at the Wall of Remembrance on which were inscribed the names of Royal Marines who gave their lives during the Korean War but whose graves are unknown. The wreath was sent to me by my Grandfather, Peter Thomas, who was a Royal Marine Lieutenant in the Korean War.



The wreath bears the motto "*Per Mare Per Terrain*" - By Sea By Land. The wording on the message card affixed to the wreath reads: **IN MEMORY OF THE 31 ROYAL NAVY AND ROYAL MARINES OF 41 INDEPENDENT COMMANDO WHO WERE KILLED IN ACTION, DIED OF WOUNDS OR IN CAPTIVITY.**



I found this experience incredibly moving and I thought it an honour to lay a wreath in remembrance of these courageous men who willingly

sacrificed their lives on behalf of South Korea.

After leaving the cemetery we were transported back to our hostel where we listened to a lecture on the Korean War and its historical meaning by the Professor of the Military Academy. It was interesting to learn about the different tactics used in the war and about where the division between North and South Korea was drawn. Later on in the camp we went to the POW camps, to the national cemetery and also to the Demilitarized Zone. The tour of the Demilitarized Zone was particularly interesting because they showed us one out of 4 tunnels they have found that was dug by the North Koreans and led into South Korea. It was a little unnerving to find out that there were 40 more suspected tunnels. During our stay in South Korea, we were taken to cultural restaurants and performances and we even learned how to make Korean good-luck charms. My experience in Korea was exhilarating because I had the opportunity to experience a completely new culture in which you could see the stark contrast between new and old. We were all incredibly well looked-after, with incredible meals and sights to see. The main thing that I have gained from this Peace Camp is a deeper understanding of the sacrifices made by my grandfather and his family and countless others and their families.

Esther Thomas

PCC Meeting 20 July 2009

Verger. The duties of verger would be covered by staff and volunteers for a trial period of six months.

Electoral Roll. The Electoral Roll Officer, Hilary Deadman, had notified five additions to the Roll, bringing the total to 159 names.

Child Protection Policy. The meeting approved the Child Protection Policy statement produced by Fiona Hedley.

Treasurer's Report. Helen Faulkner reported that for the period up to 30 June, our income had been £71,429 and expenditure £73,411. The latter reflected some large bills including £10,500 for the fire precaution work in the Hall and Church House.

Extra Parochial Giving. The meeting decided to restrict our Extra Parochial Giving (EPG) to £2,300 for the current year in view of our current financial difficulties. However, the PCC would

fix our EPG for payment in January 2010 at our November meeting.

Finance Committee. The meeting approved the Terms of Reference, with operational detail, for a Finance Committee which Helen as Treasurer would chair and which would include Colin Carter as the PCC representative. The new committee was charged with providing the core around which a larger Stewardship Committee would coalesce. The operation of the Finance Committee and the proposed Stewardship Campaign would be revisited at the September PCC meeting.

Hall Complex. Negotiations continued with the Dynamo Youth Theatre for them leasing the Hall. Bill Skilleter, BMC Chairman, was congratulated by the meeting for the work done in Church House to facilitate the issue of a Fire Certificate.

Property Development Group - 27 July 2009

Statement for Debate by the Rector. The Rector's initial views after 8 weeks in the job is that after all the work carried out in the period 2003-2007 with "*A Vision for the Future*", "*From Vision to Mission*" and "*Kairos*," and producing a "*Property Development Plan*", that due to the economic downturn, we are not fully in control of our mission to determine the validity of our decisions. Some decisions had been made before the Rector joined and he has been cautious in "*nodding*" through decisions. Since arriving, three events have occurred, namely, the resignation of the verger thereby

freeing up No.2 Churchfields; being nominated as a training parish from 2010 and the issue of providing housing and paying expenses for a Curate; and the opening of the URC development which changes what we can offer. In consideration of our mission, our location and the community, we may need a different model of working. In reviewing the whole property complex we can get assistance from the diocese as it has allocated funds for the "*Rapid Parish Development Scheme*" and will identify partners.

It was pointed out that the PDG had tried to make Christchurch a community centre but there was no support from the council or local residents; Church House is a listed building and structurally needs a lot of work; to upgrade and maintain the Church Hall would need to raise income from letting or take money from other funds whereas should we lease it to the Dynamo Youth Theatre (DYT) they will maintain it internally; and we had decided to concentrate on re-ordering of the Church and put the new Parish Hall on hold for a long time.

There is a need for a Property Manager to control all of our properties. Once the Verger moves out of No.2 Churchfields, a programme is required to bring the property up to a standard for letting.

The Rector had put forward his vision and theology on people and places in his first letter to parishioners and will be followed up with another letter on what we should do.

It was agreed that the “*way forward*” was to have a Parish Development Consultancy day with the diocese “*Rapid Parish Development Scheme*” personnel in September.

A little girl had just finished her first week of school... “*I'm just wasting my time,*” she said to her mother. “*I can't read, I can't write, and they won't let me talk!*”

Church Hall – Dynamo Youth Theatre (DYT) Update. A meeting was held with DYT on 22 July and the points raised by DYT were discussed. DYT is expecting a response from us after the PCC meeting on 28 September, but they would appreciate a meeting with the Rector before that date.

Church House – Update on Nursery Lease & Work to Meet the Fire Regulations. The broad terms of a lease have been agreed and Hughes Ellard is negotiating a rent on our behalf.

The Fire Regulations work is now complete and has the approval of the Fire Officer.

Church House Store. A copy of the schedule of works prepared and a copy of the architect's plan taken from the planning consent was sent to four builders - Responses are due Friday 31 July.

Update on Proposal to Review the Operation of the PDG & BMC. This will come out of the strategic review and parish development which has to be carried out as it comes down to a management issue.

The Reverend Canon Derek Frederick Brown RIP

The contribution to St Faith's of Father Brown in the 20th Century was remarkable by any standards. We have very few facts about his early life and I can only assemble an outline of it from the various anecdotes he told me over the years.

The facts are that he was born and brought up in Dover with his mother and elder brother. He told me once that his mother had been a governess at Buckingham Palace and that King Edward VIII had visited her in Dover before going to Portsmouth to board the destroyer which took him to exile in France. Father remained a staunch royalist all his life. He started work during the Second World War at the age of 15 as a clerk employed in Whitehall by the Egyptian Government. Although underage, he joined the Home Guard and used to take his rifle back each night to his lodgings in London

In about 1945, he was called up and joined the RAF at Padgate, near Warrington, where I also started my national service in 1952. He met a girl who invited the young recruit to her home for dinner. To his horror, he discovered that her father was an Air Commodore who very kindly drove him back to Padgate in his RAF car which flew a pennant. As they drove through the gates, the sentries saluted the car with the raw young recruit sat sheepishly in the back! To make matters worse, the girl had taken some of his laundry home and this was duly delivered to Padgate. Perhaps the only recruit to have had his laundry done at an Air Commodore's home!

After recruit training, Father was sent to India where he was appalled at the poverty. He joined a church on the RAF camp and was involved in helping the young families in the vicinity. At the end of the war, he studied for the priesthood in Canterbury and was accepted as a Bush Brother to serve in the outback of Australia which required him to take a vow not to marry. Although some Bush Brethren allowed this vow to lapse, Father kept his vow throughout his remarkable life. His adventures in the outback were legendary and he became a national figure in Australia. He once told the story of how Field Marshal Sir William Slim, Hero of Burma in the Second World War, opened a camp in the outback which Father Brown had raised money to build to give holidays for the children of poor city families. Slim was a bluff character and when a microphone was put in front of him, he pushed it away, bellowing out "*I don't need that thing!*"

Father Brown's return to England attracted radio and newspaper headlines in Australia because his brother and sister-in-law in England had committed suicide leaving a young son, also named Derek. Father returned to take care of his nephew and became Rector of Deptford in a tough part of East London. He soon became a force in the district, winning the respect of the local criminals and setting up one of the first hostels for young drug addicts. He also set up a refuge in the crypt of St Paul's Deptford which was formally opened by Princess Margaret. She paid several visits and to Father's

amusement a famous Fleet Street diarist, Nigel Dempsey, suggested in his column that there was a romantic link between them. (I think Father was quite flattered!) At this time, Father served on a Home Office Committee looking at drug addiction in the East End. Two young priests he trained at Deptford were Father Owen Beament and Father Dudley Gummer who remained his lifelong friends and admirers.

In 1969, Father Brown came to St Faith's to succeed Canon Ralph Bassett as Rector. Father set about with great energy changing things, mostly for the good. He quickly established an excellent boy's choir and a most successful church youth club. He ran a one man "*meals on wheels*" service in Havant, delivering light meals which he had prepared for elderly parishioners. He organised an annual Havant Festival in the Park, the forerunner of our present Town Fair. He reordered Church House with the help of an enthusiastic Building Committee and then turned a virtual garage into what we now know as Coach House. He went to see Edna Gomersall and asked her to open a church shop in the new premises which she did with admirable skill and dedication raising over £300,000 in the next thirty years. Father loved dogs and one named Sam was a particular

favourite. He would walk Sam through Havant and be constantly stopped by people and children who would make a fuss of the dog. His last dog was originally called Bob but because he followed Father everywhere, he would say "*Me and my Shadow!*" so Shadow became his name. Sadly he died some while ago. Father became a patron, along with Sir Alec and Dorothy Lady Rose, of the RSPCA Ark at Stubbington to whom he asked donations to be sent rather than flowers for his funeral.

One of Father's greatest achievements was to build Christ Church Centre and Bungalow in the 1970s which are still valued assets to St Faith's to this day. He established St Faith's Church in the community with the annual Remembrance Day and Civic Sunday services. His great friend, Father Tom Grufferty of St Joseph's once said at a Remembrance Day service, "*I cannot imagine Havant without Father Brown.*" There is no need because he will live on in our hearts and minds. A remarkable man of steadfast courage, conviction and Faith. We will seldom see his like again. Our love and thoughts are with Dominic and Becky James, who Father helped bring up, and, of course, his nephew Derek, the boy who brought him back from Australia.

Roger Bryant

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Diary of Events 2009

We hope you can join us for some of our forthcoming Events. There's something to tempt everyone!!!
Call in for a copy of our Events Diary – not to be missed...!!

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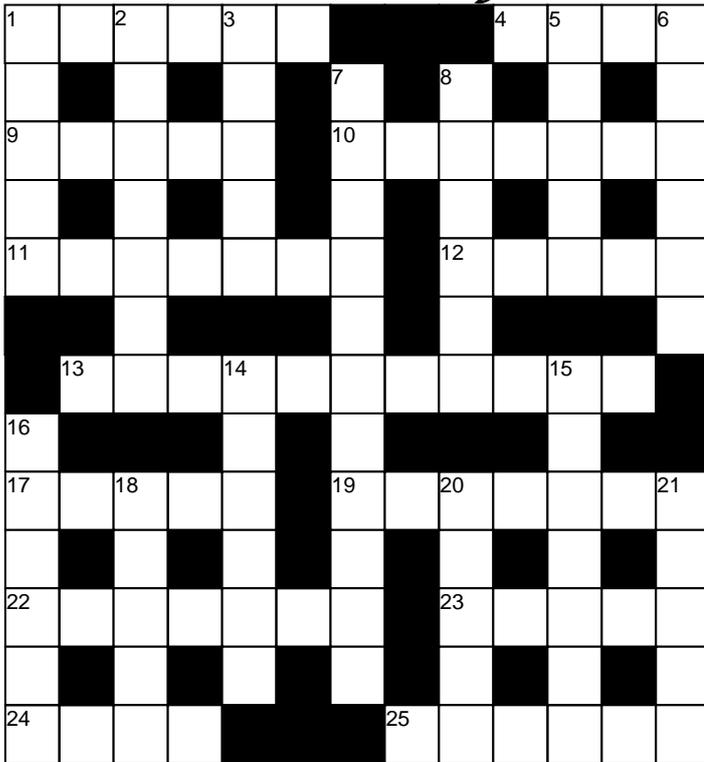
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St Faith's September 2009 Crossword Puzzle



Across

1. Noble in verse but always wild (6)
4. Party is a big hit (4)
9. Sunbathe then depart for the dance (5)
10. A pressing affair for many (7)
11. Controversy about a thousand police in disorder (7)
12. Holds up artist's work in progress (5)
13. Could be precarious existence for worker to speak out (4,2,5)
17. Boy comes back to me for award (5)
19. Novel part perhaps for ecclesiastical body (7)
22. For keeping record of timber reserve? (7)
24. Harvest unusual pear (4)
25. Popular rules for relatives (2,4)

23. Hoist flag maybe before main event (3,2)

Down

1. Two points put up to make arrangement (3,2)
3. Old fashioned attendant found in dressing room (5)
7. Quite easy to get a tasty morsel (5,2,4)
15. "Ill met by moonlight proud -----" (7)
18. Follow mother for set of principles (5)
21. Jack feared this end (5)
2. Article kept in house is tropical plant of particular flavour (7)
5. Inappropriate for young lady (5)
6. Bargain say in the market place (6)
8. Take short jacket for the dance (6)
14. Portion of cream perhaps (6)
16. Learner caught by warning signal is a slow mover (6)
20. Worn for protection at front of stage (5)

Compiled for St Faith's by Sisyphus

Please note that answers are not required by the editor for this crossword

Answers to August 2009 Crossword

Across: 1. Mohock, 4. Apse, 9. Recur, 10. Odyssey, 11. Tyndale, 12. Attar, 13. Dylan Thomas, 17. Eliot, 19. Ulysses, 22. Sassoon, 23. Annie, 24. Nana, 25. Esther.

Down: 1. Marat, 2. Hackney, 3. Circa, 5. Posit, 6. Eeyore, 7. Robert Burns, 8. Dynamo, 14. Author, 15. Absinth, 16. Reason, 18. Ibsen, 20. Yeats, 21. Steer.

Word Search - 3 September 1939

On 3 September 1939, Britain, France and the Dominions declared war on Germany following the invasion of Poland on 1 September 1939. Can you find the words associated with that event 70 years ago that are shown in the grid? Words may be read forwards, backwards, up, down or diagonal and are in straight lines. Where a “/” is shown the words are not contiguous in the grid.

AIR/RAID	EVACUATION	LORD/HANKEY
AMBASSADOR	FRANCE	NEW/ZEALAND
ANTHONY/EDEN	GAS/MASKS	POLAND
AUSTRALIA	GERMANY	ROBERT/MENZIES
BRITAIN	GOVERNMENT	SOUTH/AFRICA
CANADA	HITLER	WAR/CABINET
CHAMBERLAIN	INDIA	WARSAW
CONSCRIPTION	KING/GEORGE	WINSTON/CHURCHILL

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

Canon Derek Brown - The Priest Who Loves All Creatures Great and Small and Especially Dogs



When the air raids on London began in the forties the National Air Raid Precautions for Animals Committee (NARPAC) was set up to rescue and care for the animal victims of the Blitz. One of NARPAC's members was Derek's mother who was also in the WVS and responsible for rehousing and blanket distribution for families who had been made homeless in Deptford. Derek was 13 when bereaved pets were brought to his home to be cared for until they could be rehoused. Having been in the Home Guard from the age of 14, he joined the RAFVR and served in the Far East. Whilst in India he befriended a "pariah" dog and found the cruelty to animals heartbreaking.

Derek began his training for the priesthood at St. Augustine's College and acted as Assistant Scoutmaster at the King's School, Canterbury. He got to know Archbishop Fisher, Hewlett Johnson (the Red Dean) and also Dorothy Sayers: he took part in "The Man Born to Be King" which was performed in the Cathedral and supervised by Miss Sayers. In 1949

he finished his training at St. Francis College in Brisbane before joining the Bush Brotherhood of St. Andrew. Father Brown served in the far outback of Queensland. His "parish" was 800 miles west of Rockhampton: his main church was at Winton with a daughter "church" at Boulia (260 miles west of Winton). He travelled some 20,000 miles a year to celebrate mass in homes, cattle stations, cowsheds and wherever needed. Quite often the tail of his international truck served as his altar with the "congregation" kneeling on the desert sand. Four Bush Brothers were supposed to be in post but, due to shortage, he was on his own. Father Brown had to fly to Brisbane to collect a new truck and a family visited him to stay with them for the night. Their young son Ifan asked if he would go with him to a dog rescue centre. Whilst there it transpired that a dog (half dingo) was to be put down because no one would have him. Ifan said to Father Brown "You have to take him – if not you'll be a murderer, you are his only chance". Eventually, after many protests from Father Brown about the travelling he had to do, Ifan won. "What shall I call him?" Ifan replied "Ishmael, because he was an outcast". So back Father Brown and Ishmael went to Winton. Ishmael only survived for a year but he was a great companion and was loved by all. One day Father Brown found Ishmael in agony under the altar – some lunatic had put down steaks filled with ground glass and Ishmael had eaten one. Father Brown had no choice; he had to shoot him. Ishmael was buried by the

side of the church and even 25 years later flowers were being placed on his grave. Shortly afterwards, Father Brown was given a prize kelpie (sheepdog). He, too, accompanied his "boss" everywhere. Kelpie took his duties seriously. One day Father Brown was surprised to find an unusually large number of children waiting for the service to begin. He discovered that Kelpie had rounded them up as they were going to the Roman Catholic and Methodist churches and pushed them through the gate to "his" church. During holiday camps at Yeppoon on the Queensland coast Kelpie was appointed to swim to and fro at a designated distance from the shore, so that any boy venturing further out would be quickly shepherded back by a hefty paw-smack on his shoulders. There were, of course, boys on a wooden tower on shark watch. These camps delighted the boys: "Gee, Father, the water's salty!" A pineapple grower then gave land so that a permanent holiday centre for boys and girls could be built, with the blessing of the then Governor General Field Marshall Sir William Slim. Funds were raised and the centre was built. The Bishop of Rockhampton appointed Father Brown as his commissioner (this he did not like for he was too young and was resented by some of the older clergy). He then joined the Bush Brotherhood in North Queensland and was Chaplain and Housemaster at All Soul's School, Charter Towers. Naturally Kelpie went with him. All Soul's School was a Brotherhood boarding school for boys who came from far and wide, i.e., Ceylon, New Guinea, Hong Kong and so on. For most it was the first time

that they had left their Mums and Dads and some understandably became homesick. Most evenings Kelpie was absent and Father Brown, when he inspected the dormitories, would see a bulge under a sheet (and under the mosquito net). Sometimes a good housemaster has to close his eyes if it means happiness for a child! Could that happen now, with Health and Safety Regulations? But it worked wonders, and when the boy was happily asleep the dog would return to his quarters. In 1958 Father Brown had to return to England for family reasons. Kelpie was adopted by one of his priest friends, who subsequently became a Bishop. Kelpie had a good life. Father Brown became Rector of Deptford, where he adopted "Sam" a black labrador from a rescue centre. Sam became an excellent friend to all. St. Paul's had a large crypt, which had not been used for 100 years. Father Brown converted this into a community centre having had to remove over 400 coffins; these were placed in two tunnels leading into the crypt which had been used by grave robbers who came from the Thames just down the road. One evening he had a call from his youth leader saying that a gang of hooligans were in the crypt turning over the wheelchairs of the young members of the disabled club. Sam was very fast and raced from the clergy house (which was in the grounds) to the crypt. He recognised the hooligans and leaping over the chairs chased them out before Father Brown or the police arrived. The culprits climbed over the tall iron railings but many of them lost bits of their trousers to Sam's powerful teeth. Needless to say, they never returned! In 1969 Father Brown was appointed

Rector of Havant (he retired in 2000). Again Sam proved himself a friend and protector of all, so much so that when he died the people of Havant raised some £500 and a statue of St. Francis was placed in the RSPCA Ark at Stubbington Hampshire where Sam was buried in their small animal cemetery. At the dedication the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth and many other Hampshire mayors were present. Father Brown adopted Tessa, another black labrador who died shortly before he retired. Now "*Shadow*" a rescue labrador from the Ark lives with him, so named because he never leaves his side, and he's black. Father Brown continues to reach out to children and animals above and beyond his pastoral duties. I know that he is loved and visited by many, now grown men and women, from around the world. In London he was Vice-Chairman of the London Youth Committee. In the early sixties he founded the first hostel in the country for young drug addict offenders. Later in Havant his Boys' Choir made a number of trips to the Continent singing at Roman Catholic and Lutheran churches. Father Brown pays great tribute to the late Princess Margaret, whom he met on many

occasions, because of her lifelong commitment to children's welfare. During his time in Havant he has been associated with the Police Liaison Committee and only retired as Chairman in 2000; he and his police friends have together helped many people. As a chaplain in the RNVR and the Royal British Legion he has officiated at some special occasions, and I think he is very proud to be an Honorary Canon of St. Paul's Cathedral in the Diocese of St. Helena in the South Atlantic! Let the animals have the last word... as a patron of Stubbington Ark and an indefatigable fundraiser for the RSPCA and the Chichester Dog Rescue Centre. Father Brown hopes Parish Priests will help those unfortunate animals who have suffered at human hands by maintaining a collection box for gifts of food for animal charities in their area. A large RSPCA "*Spaniel*" box outside St. Faith's Havant has been generously supported for many years and there has always been a bowl of water for the town dogs. Dogs were welcome at the services and his own labrador would be at the altar with him for daily mass and always present for Matins and Evensong.

Prime of Lifer's Ladies Group

(St. Alban's, St. Clare's, St. Faith's, St. Francis, St. John's)

We recently went on a day trip to Bath; there were seven of us from St. Faith's and the rest of the coach were filled from the other churches; we had a very good time, the weather apart from a shower was lovely. At a cost of £15 it was good value and good company. On arrival we split up into small groups, pair's, etc., according to what everyone wanted to do. Six of us decided to find *Sally Lunn's* the oldest house in Bath. I believe dating back to the 1800's; it is now a cafe and shop where Sally Lunn first made these buns all that time ago. These buns measure about eight inches across and half an inch deep and so due to the size you are served just half each toasted; these come in a variety of topping's both sweet and savoury. So at 11 o'clock we were tucking into these delicious Sally Lunn's with clotted cream, jam and coffee or tea, a must on a visit to Bath. Some of us chose to go on the open top sightseeing buses which did two tours, some to the famous Baths, Abbey or Museum's. The day started at 8am and we arrived back at 8pm, tired but with lots of memories.

As a group we try to arrange about 5 or 6 events a year and within each church we have two or three people who organise and advertise each event. So far this year we have had a

Burn's Night Supper, a Flower arranging Demonstration, a day visit to Wintershall for *'The Life of Christ'* and Bath; all these have been well attended.

On Saturday 10th October we are holding a Fair-trade Fashion Show at 7pm in St. Faith's Church Hall for £5 with a ploughman's supper and raffle. Both men and ladies will model the latest fashions down the catwalk plus fashion jewellery; food and drink to tempt the discerning palate, children's clothes and handbags to die for. Tickets will be available from 20th September so even if you haven't been to our events before, come along and bring the gents for a good evening. Just remember to bring your own drinks. All clothing will be available to purchase later in the evening. See Val Rose, Sandra Haggan or Jackie Martin for more info please.

Another date for your diary is the Craft Day at St. John's Church Centre, on Saturday 21st November where we will be making unusual Christmas decorations. The day will cost £5 to include most materials - fairy lights are an added extra but look good. We are including a bowl of soup and roll. Places for this are limited to 20 on a first come basis from 17th October.

Val Rose

The Parting

A poem which I have often read and which always stirs my imagination is, "*The Haystack in the Floods*" by William Morris. It begins: "*Had she come all the way for this / To part at last without a kiss?*" It tells of Robert and Jehane fleeing Paris on horseback making for the Gascon frontier. Then they find that the way is barred by "*that Judas*" Godmar and his men ranged in line behind the pennon of the three red running lions. Robert and his small band of supporters are defeated, with Robert captured and bound by Godmar. Godmar, who lusted after Jehane, said that if Jehane did not yield to him as his paramour, Robert would be killed before the rain ceased. Jehane could not yield to Godmar. Even if he were to take her forcibly, she said she would find a way to kill him whilst he slept. Godmar threatened Jehane with "*life or death*"; she fell to the ground in a faint, but recovered and said "*I will not*". Godmar took hold of Robert's hair, bent back Robert's head and with his sword struck off Robert's head and tossed it to the ground. He turned to Jehane and said, "*Your way lies backward to the Chatelet*". Jehane

stood "*gazed at her cold hands as if this thing had made her mad*".

"That was the parting that they had Beside the haystack in the floods".

I feel that there is more behind these lines of verse, that there is a story – a history – of these three people. Who was Robert? Who was Jehane? Why were they fleeing Paris? Why did the people in Paris cry, "*Jehane the brown, give us Jehane to burn or drown*"? Who was Godmar with his pennon of three red running lions? Finally, why would Jehane, if she had returned to Paris, been imprisoned in the Chatelet?

Perhaps there is someone among the readers of "*Faith Matters*" who could enlighten me on what lies behind or beyond this poem; or if not, perhaps someone could make up a story appropriate to the lines about Jehane, Robert and Godmar.

Meanwhile I shall, from time to time, sit a while, contemplate on these three intertwined people and dream up my own scenarios.

John Bradley

Where now?

A teacher was finishing up a lesson on the joys of discovery and the importance of curiosity. "*Where would we be today,*" she asked, "*if no one had ever been curious?*"

One child quietly spoke up from the back of the room. "*In the garden of Eden?*"

MEMBERS OF PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)
(Registered Charity No. 1128278)

Canon Peter Jones (*Chairman & Incumbent*)

Prof. Jan Stuart (*Churchwarden*)

Dr Graham Frost (*Churchwarden*)

Mrs Helen Faulkner (*Hon. Treasurer*)

Mr Roger Bryant (*Hon. Secretary*)

Mr Colin Carter

Mrs Shirley Caunter

Mrs Fiona Hedley

Mr Andrew Peacock

Mrs Anne Plater

Mr Martin Poliszczuk

Mrs Jenny Sagrott

Mr Bill Skilleter

Mrs Rosemary Thomas

Mr Jeremy Toole

Deanery Synod Representatives: **Dr Michael Fluck**

Mrs Sandra Haggan

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, Colin Carter.**

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

Fabric Sub-Committee to the BMC. Oversees the implementation of the Quinquennial Report. **Carmen Stuart, Jenny Sagrott, Bob Wilson.**

Property Development Group (PDG) oversees the production of a plan for the development of the church properties. Members: **Jan Stuart** (*Chairman*), **Colin Carter** (*Secretary*), **Andrew Grant, Sandra Haggan, Sybel Laird, Rector.**

Worship Group. Advises the Rector about detailed issues affecting worship in St Faith's. Members: **Penny Britt, Alan Hakim, Trevor Hopkinson, Michael Laird, Rector, Bruce Strugnell, Carmen Stuart, Jan Stuart, Peter Thomas, Sylvia Willey.**

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WHO'S WHO

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Organist & Choir Director	Mrs Sylvia Willey	01243 370290
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	Dr Graham Frost	023 9249 2440
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Hon. Treasurer PCC	Helen Faulkner	023 9248 3501
St Nicholas Wardens	Mrs Anne Plater	023 9245 1075
	Mrs Gill Falconer	023 9247 0255
Child Protection Officer	Mrs Fiona Hedley	023 9249 8229
Stewardship Secretary	Mr Alan Hakim	023 9247 1681
Captain of Bellringers	Mrs Barbara Skilleter	023 9225 3802
Bible Reading Fellowship	Mrs Hilary Deadman	023 9247 1241
Church Flowers	Mrs Rosemary Thomas	023 9248 3836
Mother's Union Advisor	Mrs Liz Gilbert	023 9245 2321
Children's Society Boxes	Mrs Shirley Caunter	023 9248 1231
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs Hilary Deadman	023 9247 1241
Sunday Club	Mrs Penny Britt	023 9247 2054
Young Believers	Mr Martin Poliszczuk	023 9247 6001
Disability Issues & Pastoral		
Visiting Co-ordinator	Mrs Rosemary Thomas	023 9248 3836
Church Shop		023 9247 8098
Women's Group	Mrs Carmen Stuart	023 9247 0335
Events Co-ordinator	Mr Martin Poliszczuk	023 9247 6001
Youth Church	Claire & Jeremy Toole	023 9245 3565
Baptisms and Marriages		<i>Contact the Parish Office</i>
Bookings for St. Faith's Hall & Church House		<i>Contact the Verger</i>
Prayers for the Sick		<i>Please notify the Rector, Parish Office or use the Intention Cards in the Church</i>
Parish Magazine of St Faith, Havant with St Nicholas, Langstone -		
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<i>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.</i>		
St. Faith's Web-site: http://www.stfaith.com (Email: webmaster@stfaith.com)		

SERVICES

Sunday 6th September	8.00am	Eucharist
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY	8.00am	Eucharist at St. Nicholas, Langstone
AFTER TRINITY	9.30am	FAMILY EUCHARIST
	6.30pm	Evensong
Sunday 13th September	8.00am	Eucharist
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY	9.15am	Sunday Club at Church House
AFTER TRINITY	9.15am	Youth Church at 9 Brunswick Gardens
	9.30am	PARISH EUCHARIST
	6.30pm	United Service at the Methodist Church
Sunday 20th September	8.00am	Eucharist
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY	9.30am	PARISH EUCHARIST
AFTER TRINITY	6.30pm	Evensong
Sunday 27th September	8.00am	Eucharist
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY	9.30am	PARISH EUCHARIST
AFTER TRINITY	6.30pm	Evensong
Sunday 4th October	8.00am	Eucharist
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY	8.00am	Eucharist at St. Nicholas, Langstone
AFTER TRINITY	9.30am	FAMILY EUCHARIST
	6.30pm	Evensong

Midweek Services

Monday-Thursday	8.15am	Morning Prayer
Tuesday	12.15pm	Eucharist
Thursday	10.30am	Eucharist (Book of Common Prayer):
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>)

From the Registers

2nd August – Baptism of Star Paris
30th August – Baptism of Ruby Susan Maslin