

From the Editor

Another year has flown past that has kept parishioners busy – some enjoying visits to Indonesia, Dubrovnik and the Croatian Coast and cruising in the Queen Victoria – whilst we have had reports on activities in Cambodia, Japan and Afghanistan – all reported in “*Faith Matters*”. Others have written on their reflections of the 70th anniversary of Dunkirk and the Battle of Britain, on the Korean War, Royal Air Force Commanders, Albert Schweitzer, St. Hilda, Archbishop Trevor Huddleston, Billy Graham, Harold Larwood, Chopin, Lord Haw Haw, on Scottish tales and train trips, and what choristers have to do to be awarded their ribbon – for which I am most grateful and has helped make the magazine interesting with these diverse articles.

The Dynamo Youth Theatre (DYT) presented “The Pirates of Penzance” in the Church Hall – it was the week when we had plenty of snow! – and seems ages since we started negotiations with DYT on a hiring agreement for the Hall – perhaps next year it will become a reality! Our properties continue to require a lot of money to be spent on them just for maintenance so other ways of utilising them to bring in some income needs to be found.

This year saw the Rapid Parish Development (RPD) with seminars, presentations from Portsmouth University, and the formation of the

Parish Development Committee (PDC) to continue the work of the RPD. We also saw a different setting for the Pentecost service when the pews were arranged in a semi circle to make it more distinctive by our sitting together around the Lord’s Table in one place. After three years of intensive training, Sandra Haggan was licensed as a Reader.

The weather could have been kinder, but many people rallied together to put on another successful Town Fair. The Choir, Youth Club, Youth Church and Sunday Club continued their activities enthusiastically.

Sadly, we said farewell to Mary Bracher, John Freestone, Molly Griffiths, Pam Le Goaziou and Mary Robson, who were long standing members of the congregation.

Due to printing deadlines over the Christmas period, articles and crosswords are required by 12 December.

Prize Crossword. As this is the Christmas crossword puzzle, the first all-correct solution drawn out of the hat after the closing date of 12 December will receive a book token for £15 kindly donated by Logograph.

A very Happy Christmas to all our readers.

Colin Carter

From the Rector - Christmas Presence

The danger of shopping for seasonal gifts is that we panic buy and end up with pointless junk. It's difficult to find and then give something that will be of lasting value. Churches offer what they regard as the greatest gift to everyone, namely, abundant life in Christ. The gift of Jesus Christ to the world which the church celebrates on 25th December is not a 'one day wonder'; Christ is for life not just for Christmas. But it's sometimes a puzzle as to how best to offer this present of eternal meaning to everyone and on every day.

One of the most important gifts churches can give every day to their communities is space. Welcoming space that provides a reception which can signpost other significant places within the church which can be used for sanctuary and celebration is important to faith communities as they make their offer to the communities they serve. Our sister church, the United Reformed, has achieved this beautifully with its recent re-build.

At St .Faith's we have many daily visitors who are drawn by all kinds of needs ranging from quenching curiosity to finding peace for prayer and reflection. Most would welcome some assistance from someone who could provide information about the building, what happens in it or to signpost other parish resources beyond the building.

It is in pursuit of providing this kind of daily presence that our Pastoral Team are branching out from their present

duties of supporting individuals in their homes to coordinate a voluntary scheme by which pairs of volunteers might spend a couple of hours in church either regularly or only occasionally. These 'stewards' would provide a personal welcome to visitors and be prepared to indicate where to find what they might be looking for.

We envisage that the north transept of the church will be arranged in order that a welcome area can provide a base for the volunteer stewards and a place where information and resources can be better displayed.

It has long been felt that a human presence in our parish church would both enhance what we have to offer already and lead, through conversation with visitors, to a better understanding of what we might develop in order to meet the needs of different groups.

So if you feel that you would like to know more about this scheme or would like to offer a little of your time to it then please contact the convenor of our Pastoral Team, Rosemary Thomas on 023 9248 3836. There are already a few individuals who have undertaken to operate a rota which already provides this presence in the church albeit for a very limited time. It would be a wonderful Christmas present from St. Faith's to our town and borough if this presence could be made a permanent feature of our life.

May I wish all our readers a blessed and peaceful Christmas.

Peter Jones

Proposed Changes to the North Transept

In my *'From the Rector'* article I referred to the need to re-organise the space immediately on the left inside the north door of St. Faith's Church (north transept) in order to accommodate a reception area for visitors. There are in fact other reasons for releasing this area of our church. On Sunday mornings our Sunday Club regularly meets in Church House for their Godly Play and other activities. Some great work goes on in nurturing our children but it is, by definition, out of sight and therefore mostly out of mind. There are occasions when our children need to be visibly included in our main worship. A clear space in the north transept would ensure that on appropriate occasions they could be engaging in their activities right alongside our worship in a way that contributes to the worship and makes sense of their coming for a blessing at the time of administration of Holy Communion.

It is also patently obvious that we need a more conducive space to gather for coffee after the Parish Communion on Sunday morning. The current location is cramped. Again the north transept lends itself to this. It may be that after further adaptation the offer of coffee from within the envisaged weekday reception area may, in time, become a reality?

The final benefit to be derived from this arrangement would be that we would be able to implement our plan to experiment with an altar situated at the east end of the nave. The success of such experiments depends very heavily on how people approach and return from the new sanctuary area. At St. Faith's communicants would need

to approach a north side communion rail (and once the temporary vestry is removed, the south side) from outside the great pillars beneath the tower.

It is hoped that our delayed experiment will be able to take place in the spring once we have identified the right kind of plinth capable of supporting a portable altar and providing performance space for orchestras and the like. All these features need to be portable in order that we can continue to use the high altar in the Chancel when the theme of our worship demands. Flexibility is what we wish to achieve rather than any permanent re-ordering in the first instance.

The fate of the rooms at the north east-corner of the church which have served, rather unsatisfactorily, as vestries will be determined at the outcome of the work that the Parish Development Committee will be doing under the auspices of the Parochial Church Council. Once we have decided what facilities we need to support activity inside the church we shall then be looking to see what we need from those spaces which are adjacent to the north transept.

A naturally warmer and drier vestry could be housed in the significant space on the south east corner of the church currently filled with the organ. The church lost this space when our predecessors chose it to locate the organ. The ultimate aim would be to relocate the console in an alternative position while moving the pipes out into an elevated position either towards or even within the main body of the church where their true quality could be fully appreciated. We just need the funds!

Peter Jones

Youth Group News

We have been having a busy time of late so we thought a report would be of interest.

On Friday 22nd October we had a fundraising event for "Children in Need" which our Youth have wanted to do for a while. The theme this year was "Wear Spots to Raise Lots" so they all got into the spirit and were spotty! The evening took place in church and the aim for the teams was to complete as many challenges which included skipping/ cycling (on exercise bikes) in 15 minutes. Also we had chime challenges when they heard the bells ring, one of which was to find sweets hidden around the building. It really was a fun filled evening and there was no time to spare so everyone did well to achieve as much as they did and were ready for bed at midnight. It was a great opportunity to see the church being used in this way and by the moving of pews (thanks to our few strong men) it proved again that by having space the church can be a versatile place. We will keep you posted as to how much we raised.

A week later a few of us attended the 24-hour worship event at the Cathedral – not the whole event I hasten to add.

Parochial Church Council Meeting - 1 November 2010

Treasurer's Report. Helen Faulkner reported that our income to 30 September was £98,929 (75% of budget of £131,866). Our income from stewardship, collections, fees for weddings and other services had increased but, without a tenant, we had loss of income from 2 North Street

We went to a drumming workshop and then a worship session with the 'psalm drummers'. It was a different experience and amazing to feel a sense of peace amongst the noise of approximately 30 people drumming! It was something all ages could participate and needed no skill but enabled us all to unite and drum while praying and singing.

Then on our last meeting on Sunday 31st October we walked down the Hayling Billy in torchlight to the Hedley's farm for a bonfire and firework night. The Bonfire was huge and the fireworks were spectacular (courtesy of the Roonans). It was a great evening and a good way to finish half term.

Our next meeting is Sunday 14th November when we will be opening our 'Chill out' room which we look forward to using. Then on 5th December we will be having an evening of games and for those who wish to we will be making decorations for the Christmas tree in Church.

If anyone wants any further details as to what we do please contact Fiona Hedley – 023 9249 8229.

and from the closure of the Church Shop. Expenditure to 30 September was £81,827 (66% of budget of £124,511). Expenditure had been less than expected on repairs and salaries. Helen reported that because of pressure of work she would be resigning as Treasurer in March 2011.

2011 Budget. The meeting reviewed the factors affecting our 2011 Budget. It was vital that we first established our Mission and then the work needed to implement it. Although we had not appointed a Parish Project Officer in 2010, it was essential that we budgeted for one in 2011 to undertake the work arising out of our Mission. We could no longer rely on our buildings to provide income from rents and hiring's. We needed a new Business Plan to translate our Mission into outreach activities including goods and services.

Extra Parochial Giving (EPG). The EPG for 2010 would be fixed as in previous years but for 2011 would be on the basis of a percentage of income in line with Stewardship. *An extract of the meeting is also on page 20 after the article "A Missionary's Wife in Japan".* Following a request at the last PCC meeting, Michael Fluck reported

on the research he had undertaken about Boys Town in India. He explained that the first Boys Town had been started in the United States (USA) in 1920 and had spread to other countries, notably India. It was difficult to establish how individual Boys Towns operated and how our aid was used.

Buildings Management. A new cleaner had been engaged and would be contracted but self-employed. The meeting authorized work to start to repoint the west wall and lime wash the window surround of St Nicholas Chapel.

Parish Development Committee. The PDC had produced a Mission Statement and a Vision Statement.

Increase in Fees. The meeting authorised the following revised fees for special services from 1 January 2011 - Choir £80, Bells £100 and Organist £125.

"Follow me sir, it will be alright" - Albert Pierrepoint

These compassionate words said by Albert Pierrepoint to William Joyce at the latter's execution made me wonder how someone like Albert became an Official Executioner.

Let me say at the outset that I am against Capital Punishment, principally on the grounds that there is always an element of doubt in most verdicts. I always remember the case of the mentally retarded Timothy Evans who was hung for the murder of his wife. He was posthumously pardoned when it was subsequently discovered that he was innocent, the crime having been committed by their landlord, Christie who was a serial murderer. Albert was born in Bradford, Yorkshire. His father and Uncle Tom were Official Executioners and this fascinated him as a boy, so much so that his Aunt allowed him as a child to read his uncle's diaries with their detailed accounts of executions. Albert worked in a grocery shop and on 19 April 1931, following an interview; he was accepted by the Prison Commissioners to serve as an Official Executioner. This was not a fulltime job, so he continued working in the shop for several years. For each execution he was paid £1.57 with a further payment of the same amount two weeks later.

At first he worked as an Assistant and his first execution on his own was not until 17 October 1941. He hung a gangster named Tony Mancini who called out "*cheerio*" as the trap door was sprung! On 29 August 1943, he married Anne Fletcher who worked in a sweet shop two doors away from the grocery shop. The couple set up home in East Street, Manchester but it was

not until he was summoned to go to Gibraltar for a double execution in January 1944 that she discovered that he was an Official Executioner. In 1945, Albert went to Germany to execute 11 war criminals for crimes at the Belsen concentration camp plus two others who had murdered an RAF pilot. In the next four years he executed a further 200 war criminals in Germany. His earnings enabled him to leave the grocery business and open, with his wife Anne, a public house near Oldham with the unusual name "*Help the Poor Struggler*". Later, he moved to another public house near Preston with the more conventional name "*The Rose and Crown*".

In his career, Albert executed 433 men and 17 women including the last woman to be hung in this country, Ruth Ellis on 13 July 1955. This execution caused something of a public outcry which led to a film being made of her life. However, for once Albert spoke out in public about the execution saying that he felt she deserved no less. Albert resigned from his post in 1956 over a dispute about a fee. Unusually, the Prison Commission went to great lengths to try and persuade him to stay but he was adamant. The character Pierrepoint was featured in several films about true crimes and in 2005 a film was made of Albert's life, with the appropriate title "*Pierrepoint*". In 1974, Albert published his autobiography "*Executioner Pierrepoint*". In his book he had this to say about capital punishment. "*I came to the conclusion that executions solved nothing and are only an antiquated relic of a primitive*

desire for revenge which takes the easy way and hands over the responsibility for revenge to other people. The trouble with the death penalty has always been that nobody wanted it for everybody but everybody

differed about who should get off.” Albert, so long the harbinger of death, himself died on 10 July 1992.

Roger Bryant

Christmas Greetings from Judy and Innis

My Christmas card to you all is a landscape picture of a village church. The background is a deep blue late afternoon sky with a rosy sunset. The picture is dominated by a Christmas tree. It has white lights and gold stars! Maybe the stars have messages and prayers written on the back. At the top of the tree is a silver foil star that seems brighter than the others. The base of the tree is surrounded by brightly coloured boxes and packages with a few toys unwrapped; a brown teddy and a white rabbit and a pink duck.

On the extreme right of the picture stands a tall man in a grey suit a walking stick with a silver top in his left hand. His black smiley face is beaming down at a little boy with his back to us. We can see his little shoes and he is all in red. We can see his curly black hair and his arm is reaching out to place a parcel amongst the others under the tree. I think Grandad

knows that it is costing the little boy a lot to part with his gift.

At the left hand side of the picture we can see part of the Church porch and the wall and the first few members of the Choir and the little girl from last year's picture with her fair hair and the cheeky boy in his green jacket. Between the side of the Church and the Christmas tree we can see the procession, all dressed in brightly coloured winter clothes, everyone carrying a gift. They are processing round behind the tree. The ground is sparkly, not with snow but with frost. High in the sky, by the corner of the Church, we can see a nearly full moon.

God gave His Son at Christmas

To Bethlehem He came

So let us give our hearts and gifts

And do it in His Name.

*Transcribed by Rosemary
Thomas*



Christmas Greetings



Wishing everyone at St Faith's a very Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year, from David, Teresa, Lydia, Amelia and Esther Atchison.



Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Pam and Derek Bowley



A very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year to all our readers and friends at St. Faith's & St. Nicholas. Thank you to those who advertise, write articles, deliver "Faith Matters" and help in the Pastoral Centre.

Beryl & Colin Carter



Hilary & David wish everyone a Happy and Peaceful Christmas.



Wishing all at St. Faith's and St. Nicholas a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year with love from
Sandra Haggan



Wishing everyone a very happy Christmas and our best wishes for 2011 from
Fiona Colin Louise and Ruth Hedley



Wishing everyone at St. Faith's a very blessed Christmas and a happy New Year.
Val and Melvyn Rose



Wishing all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Valentine Searle



A very Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year to all our friends in St. Faith's.

Roger and Marion Simmons



Happy Christmas to all our friends at St Faith's and especial thanks to all who work so hard and give so generously of their time to beautify the Church within their flower arrangements; Peter & Rosemary

Colin and Sheila Warlow wish all their friends at St. Faith's a very happy and peaceful Christmas and best wishes for 2011.



To all our dear friends who are no longer able to attend the services at St. Faith's and St. Nicholas we wish you a Happy Christmas and a healthy 2011.



From the Registers

- 18 October – Funeral of George Wilson Bell
- 22 October – Funeral of Alec Graham Kirby
- 7 November – Baptism of Amelie Ruby May Gilbert-Burke
- 11 November – Funeral of Ethel Lilian Maude Nancollis
- 12 November – Funeral of Alastair James Thynne
- 15 November – Funeral of Joyce Easton
- 21 November – Baptism of Erin Jean Ellie Arstall
- 21 November – Baptism of Amelia Rose Graham

Life without Mary

My object in publishing this note is primarily to express my sincere thanks to many people – members of St. Faith's Church and some wonderful neighbours. Without all this help and kindness I doubt if I would have survived. This help goes back to the time when Mary first became seriously ill and we both needed that love and companionship. I do not intend to name any individuals as they will be well aware of whom I am thinking. Also, I am sure all will appreciate how difficult this first Christmas will be for me and my daughter, Sharon.

We take this opportunity to wish all these friends a very happy Christmas

and a peaceful New Year. To write to everyone concerned would be an almost impossible task and I trust all concerned can and will appreciate this. The main loss of Mary, as I am sure many will appreciate, is loneliness especially in the early and late hours of the day. Without the support of St. Faith's friends and the neighbours already mentioned life would have become extremely hard. Please continue with your prayers, visits and phone calls.

Once again, every good wish and blessings to you all.

Ken Bracher

While I'm away from you....

I asked the Lord to bless you as I prayed for you today.

To guide you and protect you as you go along your way....

His love is always with you, His promises are true,

And when we give him all our cares you know He'll see us through.

So when the road you're travelling on seems difficult at best,

Just remember - I'm here praying,

and God will do the rest.

Even in those days

A Sunday school teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem.

A small child replied: *'They couldn't get a baby sitter.'*

Come and go

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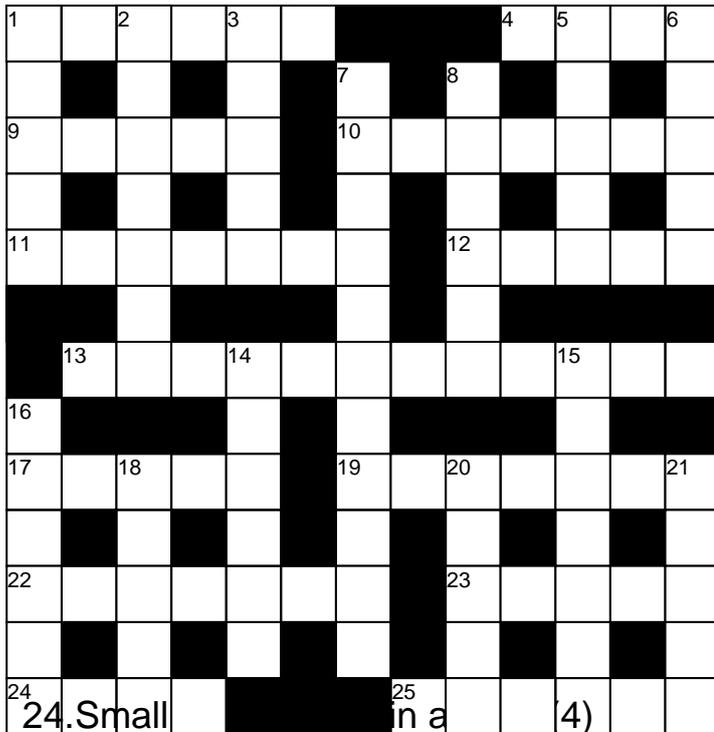
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Bible Knowledge

A minister was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I finally figured out what the Bible means!" The minister thought of his extensive theological library and smiled indulgently. He asked his young son what he thought the Bible meant.

"It's easy, Daddy," the young boy replied excitedly. "It means 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'"

St Faith's December 2010 Crossword Puzzle



Across

1. Clutter found when Jack is at work? (6)
4. Iron perhaps at the 19th (4)
9. March animal with a million in women's quarters (5)
10. Plaster mix for the psalmist (7)
11. His measuring device comes into use after a shaky experience (7)
12. Feudal type found in Belgium? (5)
13. Musical point for a peaceful setting (5,7)
17. I'm in bed seeing a heavenly body! (5)
19. Reporter defines his job with confidence (7)
22. Biting comment sounds melodic (7)
23. Dog collar in uniform? (5)

24. Small in a (4)

25. Holy man ends the prayer with part of flower (6)

Down

1. Composer who had Shakespearean King put in hospital (5)
2. More or less has two small counties back to back in the country (7)
3. Worker initially finds early morning mist ensures tailback (5)
5. The French and English implement (5)
6. More than a nudge on the canal (5)
7. Take a most suitable step (11)
8. Pungent bulb almost a Celtic tongue (6)
14. Artist is with me in giant shape (6)
15. Scottish kingdom sounds like land for feudal service (7)
16. So be it using copper for discernment (6)
18. TV detective who was a cruciverbalist (5)
20. 3.1415 x 2 with tip top bird (5)
21. Wool using Nike's products (5)

*Compiled for St Faith's by **Logogrìph***

Answers to the editor by 12th December please! – A book token for £15 for the first all-correct solution drawn out of the hat after the closing date of 12th December – note change of date due to printer's deadline for Christmas period.

Answers to November 2010 Crossword

Across: 1. Fiddle, 4. Calf, 9. Villa, 10. Apostle, 11. Rampart, 12. Mired, 13. Hand-Knitted, 17. Rebut, 18. Shipped, 22. Allegro, 23. Leave, 24. Ebay, 25. Stoned.

Down: 1. Fever, 2. Dilemma, 3. Lhasa, 5. Astir, 6. Fiends, 7. Parting Shot, 8. Format, 14. Dotage, 15. Explain, 16. Crease, 18. Balsa, 20. Inlet, 21. Dread.

Four entries were received, all correct, from Rosemary Dale, Marion Simmons, Ann Slade and Colin Warlow.

Word Search - Marsupials

Can you find all the different marsupials listed below? Please note that one of the words listed does not appear in the grid. Words may be read forwards, backwards, up, down or diagonal and are in straight lines.

ANTECHINUS	KOALA	POTOROO
BANDICOOT	KULTARR	QUOKKA
BETTONG	MARSUPIALRAT	RINGTAIL
BILBY	MULGARA	SMINTHOPSIS
BRUSHTAIL	NUMBAT	TASMANIANDEVIL
DASYURE	PADEMELON	THYLACINE
DIBBLER	PHALANGER	WALLABY
DUNNART	PHASCOGALE	WALLAROO
GLIDER	PLANIGALE	WOMBAT
KANGAROO	POSSUM	

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

Taken from Puzzler Media Ltd (www.puzzler.com)

The missing word in last month's word search was "PAINTEDLADY"

A Missionary's Wife in Japan

Japan is a country of spectacular natural beauty. The Japanese have a deep reverence for nature and all things beautiful; hence the creation is worshipped rather than the creator. Shintoism worships the spirit of a beautiful tree, water fall, mountain, flower, etc. Even though “*God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen*” (Rom 1), they still do not recognise Jesus Christ as their Creator and the only Saviour of the world. Many Japanese are very tolerant of different religions and believe that, “*All roads up the mountain lead to the same beautiful view of the moon*”. As missionaries we have easy entrance on missionary visas but so do the thousands of cults and isms many of which give religion a bad name.

At first, as foreigners living in a small country town, we were often stared at as a curiosity. Children would call out to us their newly learnt questions ‘*Harro! How old are you? What is your name?*’ Teenagers would giggle when approached and even shopkeepers would throw up their hands in panic and say that they don't speak English, even though we'd approached them with our best practised Japanese.

One English class introduced us to some skills they had been studying for over 20 years. The in-depth demonstrations of ikebana, kimono-dressing, doll-making, tea ceremony and dancing gave me an insight into, and a deep appreciation, of the people and their culture which is admirable, yet my heart went out to them for the spiritual darkness in which they live. They are without hope because they

are without Christ.

Usually one measures a person by the way they behave in relation to ones cultural norms. We are watched and weighed and probably found wanting in many areas. Sincere efforts made to fit in are applauded and appreciated. The language of Christian love and respect transcends many barriers.

We have lived in many different neighbourhoods in small wood and paper houses and made life-long friends. The Japanese can be very considerate and polite. They have been especially kind, gentle and generous to our children. When they feel angry or, displeased, they conceal these feelings so you rarely see an unpleasant scene in public.

Each season offers something different to enjoy, cherry blossoms to view in the spring, mountain walks for the change of colours in the autumn, swimming in hot humid summers and skiing and snow-shovelling in the freezing winters. There are various seasonal dishes to enjoy and yes, you can eat anything with chopsticks, including jelly, fried eggs, peas, cream cakes and soups! Slurping while eating hot soup and noodles is to avoid scalding the tongue and is ‘*good manners*’.

Our lives revolve around the church and neighbourhood, making new friends and contacts. The church is friendly and warm to new people. Green tea with home-made cakes, monthly potlucks and ‘*rice-ball*’ days help the church to be hospitable. We offer English classes, cooking classes, marriage and child-rearing classes,

Bible studies and cottage meetings to make new contacts, always praying that those who come are whom the Lord is drawing in. Friendship evangelism is the most effective way of building relationships.

Mrs. T was one such person:

“When I was a child, there was a Bible in my house since my mother was baptized when she was single. So I was often told that God was always watching me. I also had chances to learn about the Bible at the Christian school I attended. Even though I hadn't had any trouble in my marriage, sometimes I felt empty inside. So I thought that I would like to study the Bible someday if I had the chance. In 2006, I had a disagreement with one of my sisters-in-law over taking care of my aging father-in-law. I couldn't have regular communication with my husband in those days because he was in Vietnam for his job. So I often felt depressed. Moreover, I started to have some doubts about the value of observing Buddhist religious rites. Though I had often passed by it before without noticing it, one day I noticed the sign of Sendai Evangelical Christian Church on my way to the train station. So I started to attend a women's Bible study class. I learnt that worshipping idols didn't have any meaning. Through Isaiah 53:6, 7 I realized my sins. And I could know that Jesus saved me! Now I have peace when I pray to Jesus. I will follow Him.”

Japanese housewives are the heartbeat of the home as the husbands are absent for most of the day and sometimes months at a time as they live and work in other towns and are moved around by their companies every 3 years. The wife manages the home, the children, their discipline and schooling with all its committees and stressful entrance exams, bills and part-time jobs. Her husband is often treated as an honoured guest when he returns and still she finds time to better herself through cultural or language classes. They are perfectionists and I have heard it said *“we take the best from all over the world and perfect it”*. This probably means that they adapt the best to suit their own taste. But for all the humble expressions the Japanese use their hearts are proud of their homogenous society. The greatest natural resource the Japanese have is their people and they willingly sacrificed themselves at the end of WWII to rebuild their country. That mentality hasn't changed much.

Japan as the largest unreached people group is an exciting place to be as we wait for the Lord to send a revival and breakthrough. It is our hearts desire to finish the work the Lord has given us to do. *“The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it”* (Ps 24:1).

Glenda Thomas

(The PCC decided not to continue structural funding in respect of Sendai, but actively offered the opportunity to private members of the congregation to hold fundraising activities in support of Rod and Glenda Thomas as a way of respecting this tradition within the parish. However, the SC confirmed that this applied from

2011 and that a donation would be made to the OMF in 2010.)

Rachel's Own Parish

Long-term readers of "*Faith Matters*" may remember that my niece Rachel Phillips sent us a series of newsletters when she was training for the Priesthood, culminating in Ordination at St Paul's Cathedral in June 2007. She served for three years as Curate at St Lawrence's, Eastcote, and now has just been installed as Priest-in-Charge of the Parish of Northaw and Cuffley in Hertfordshire.

Behind this there is a remarkable story. Last year, when the completion of her Curacy was in sight, she asked her Bishop about applying for a Parish. His advice was to wait until after Christmas. However, one night last October she had a dream, that she was at the party after her Installation – but she had no idea where it was. So she asked somebody, who said it was Cuffley. "*So she awoke, and behold it was a dream.*" At which point the story moves sharply from the Old Testament (and *The Pilgrim's Progress*) to the 21st Century. She looked up Cuffley on the Internet, and found they had a vacancy. This seemed bad news, but she contacted the Churchwarden, who said they didn't intend to advertise until the New Year, which fitted her timetable exactly.

The short list was drawn up for the Suffragan Bishop of Hertford to choose – none other than Christopher Foster, now our own Bishop of Portsmouth. The Parish appeared to have the characteristics she would have wished for, so she was delighted to be appointed, on the day before Mothering Sunday.

Cuffley and Northaw are outer suburban villages north of London, each with its own church. Northaw is handsome Victorian Gothic, while Cuffley is quite new, not unlike a large version of our own Christ Church Centre. This time it was Cuffley's turn to hold the Installation service, so we made our way there in very good time on 22nd September, to find the church already nearly full, and a coach with 60 parishioners from Eastcote just unloading. As family of the Incumbent, we were shown into the front pew, and had a fine view of the proceedings.

Since Rachel is Priest-in-Charge rather than Rector, the service was rather different from ours last year for Peter Jones. It was the week before the new Bishop of Hertford took up his duties, so it was conducted by the Diocesan Bishop of St Alban's.

We began by welcoming the Bishop and many clergy, including Rachel, who processed in from the West door (which is, confusingly, in the East) and started with "*The Dedication of the People of God*". This was led by the Rural Dean and Deanery Lay Chairman with members of the congregation. First, a Bible was placed on the lectern, then water was poured into the font, and to complete the symbolism, bread and wine were placed on the altar. At each phase, the significance was announced by the leaders, and we joined in the responses.

Finally, we had an excellent sermon from the Bishop, emphasising the three duties of her work: a deeper

understanding of God, the power to transform lives and to spread the word.

All through this, Rachel was sitting with us in the front pew. She was beside the Patron, who only then presented her to the Bishop for Licensing. At this point, the service became more like our own of last year. She affirmed adherence to the formal declaration of assent to the "*historic formularies of the Church of England*", and took the Oaths of Allegiance to the Queen, and Canonical Obedience to the Bishop. He read the Licence to her, blessed her, and called on the Archdeacon to install her. First she was given a map of the Parish, and then he placed her in the Minister's chair. And from that point on, she was in charge. Representatives of the key activities in the Parish welcomed her; in particular the Head Teacher of the C of E Primary School said the children were looking forward to her first visit,

especially if she brought her saxophone! Rachel responded, and looking around the packed church, said it was time for Parish Notices, and she hoped to see many of us at the Thursday morning service tomorrow. General laughter.

Finally, she led us in intercessions, the choir sang *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* by John Rutter, just as ours did for Peter, and the service ended with the Blessing from the Bishop.

And then we all trooped down to the Parish Hall, which is on the ground floor under the church itself, and had lavish refreshments while the parishioners had a chance to meet their new priest.

So ended a very happy evening. And as the Churchwarden said in his welcome, "*Rachel had a dream, and now it has come true.*"

Alan Hakim

MEMBERS OF PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

(Registered Charity No. 1128278)

Reverend Canon Peter Jones (*Chairman & Incumbent*)

Dr Graham Frost (*Churchwarden*)

Mrs Mary Strugnell (*Churchwarden*)

Mrs Helen Faulkner (*Hon. Treasurer*)

Mr Roger Bryant (*Hon. Secretary*)

Mr Colin Carter

Mrs Fiona Hedley

Mr Geoffrey Jones

Mrs Anne Plater

Mrs Armineh Pogosian

Mr Bill Skilleter

Mrs Jane Rowthorn

Prof. Jan Stuart

Mrs Rosemary Thomas

Co-opted Member

Mr Alistair Piper

Deanery Synod Reps:

Dr Michael Fluck

Mrs Sandra Haggan

Standing Committee is the only committee required by law. Its role is to conduct urgent business between PCC meetings and to prepare papers that would facilitate decision making by the PCC. Members: **Rector, Churchwardens, Treasurer, Secretary, Colin Carter.**

Buildings Management Committee (BMC) embraces property maintenance, hiring, rent collecting and all other aspects of property management. In particular, it considers the strategic aspects of the parish estate. It is also responsible for the Fabric of the Church. Members: **Bill Skilleter (Chairman), Alistair Piper, Anne Plater, Jenny Sagrott, Mary Strugnell, Jan Stuart (Secretary, Paul Utting.**

Parish Development Committee (PDC) continues the work in the Rapid Parish Development (RPD) report and to produce a mission statement, strategic plan and to identify mission objectives. Members: **Rector (Chairman), Michael Fluck, Graham Frost, Fiona Hedley, Geoffrey Jones, Armineh Pogosian, Jane Rowthorn, Rosemary Thomas.**

Worship Committee. Advises the Rector and helps plan the pattern of worship in St Faith's. Members: **Rector (Chairman), Penny Britt, Trevor Hopkinson, Michael Laird, Bruce Strugnell, Carmen Stuart, Jan Stuart, Peter Thomas, Sylvia Willey.**

Pastoral Care Committee. To support those in any kind of pastoral needs. To assist in the visitation of those preparing for Holy Baptism and Holy Marriage. To offer care to the bereaved. Members: **Hilary Deadman, Sandra Haggan, Sybel Laird, Jean Morgan, Anne Plater, Rosemary Thomas (co-ordinator).**

Finance Committee produces the annual budget and monitors the parish finances. Members: **Helen Faulkner (Treasurer & Chair), Colin Carter, Roger Simmons.**

WHO'S WHO

Rector	Canon Peter Jones	023 9248 3485
Reader	Dr Trevor Hopkinson	023 9246 2350
Reader	Mrs Sandra Haggan	023 9245 5161
Organist & Choir Director	Mrs Sylvia Willey	01243 370290
Parish Office Administrator	Mrs Clare Kennar	023 9249 2129
Churchwardens	Dr Graham Frost	023 9249 2440
	Mrs Mary Strugnell	023 9248 4435
Hon. Secretary PCC	Mr Roger Bryant	01243 376863
Hon. Treasurer PCC	Mrs 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	Mrs Fiona Hedley	023 9249 8229
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
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 Parish Office</i>
Prayers for the Sick		<i>Please notify the Rector, Parish Office or use the Intention Cards in the Church</i>
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St. Faith's Web-site: http://www.stfaith.com (Email: webmaster@stfaith.com)		

SERVICES

Sunday 5th December 8.00am Eucharist
SECOND SUNDAY 8.00am Eucharist at St. Nicholas, Langstone
OF ADVENT 9.30am **PARISH EUCHARIST**
3.30pm Hampshire Recorder Orchestra Concert
6.30pm Evensong

Sunday 12th December 8.00am Eucharist
THIRD SUNDAY 9.15am Sunday Club at Church House
OF ADVENT 9.15am Youth Church at 9 Brunswick Gardens
9.30am **PARISH EUCHARIST**
3.00pm Rotary Club Community Carol Service
6.30pm Evensong

Sunday 19th December 8.00am Eucharist
FOURTH SUNDAY 9.15am Sunday Club at Church House
OF ADVENT 9.30am **PARISH EUCHARIST**
6.30pm Evensong

Friday 24th December 4.00pm Christmas Eve Crib and Carols
CHRISTMAS EVE 6.00pm Christmas Eve Crib and Carols

Saturday 25th December 8.00am Eucharist at St. Nicholas, Langstone
CHRISTMAS DAY 9.30am **FAMILY EUCHARIST**

Sunday 26th December 8.00am Eucharist
FIRST SUNDAY 9.30am **PARISH EUCHARIST**
OF CHRISTMAS

Sunday 2nd January 8.00am Eucharist
SECOND SUNDAY 8.00am Eucharist at St. Nicholas, Langstone
OF CHRISTMAS 9.30am **PARISH EUCHARIST**
6.30pm Evensong

Midweek Services

Monday-Thursday 8.30am Morning Prayer
Thursday 10.30am Eucharist (Book of Common Prayer):
Saturday 9.00am Eucharist (December only)

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