

From the Editor

The new Bishop of Portsmouth will be the Rt Revd Christopher Foster. He's the current Bishop of Hertford in the St Albans diocese. He will become the ninth Bishop of Portsmouth later this year and succeeds the Rt Revd Dr Kenneth Stevenson, who was bishop for 14 years until he retired last autumn. The Rt Revd Foster is a Wolves football supporter!

Last month, the Archbishop of York, Dr. John Sentamu, said that Christianity is being wiped out from public life in the name of equality. He accused politicians and others of trying to sideline religion by promoting their false idea of 'tolerance' and cited Labour's equality laws as an attack on the freedoms of churches. Attempts to denigrate church schools and ban the mention of Christmas in favour of bland 'Winterval' celebrations were also part of a drive to censor Christianity, he said. Dr. Sentamu said "For all our judicial tolerance, Britain has become in many ways a less tolerant society today. One of the main areas in which we see this is in the Government's treatment of religion, which they now prefer to call 'faith communities'. The Equality Bill which is going through the House of Lords had contained a clause which would have made it very difficult for a religious group to employ someone of the religion for a position within their organisation. A church wishing to

employ a youth worker would have been unable to advertise for Christians, and priests from other parts of the world would find it increasingly difficult to preach or work in churches here unless it could be demonstrated that there were no suitable local candidates. This is symptomatic of a trend which has intensified in Britain over the past 50 years in the name of tolerance. That is, an attempt to remove religion from public life. And in the process, tolerance, which is supposed to be a tool to help us deal with difference and disagreement, has instead become a negative virtue, a means of diminishment and marginalisation." Dr. Sentamu said some people wanted to relegate the church to a place only in the private lives of its members and that public debate was discouraged on 'key areas which are seen as difficult', such as religion and immigration.

It is time for Christians to wake up and be proud.

Thank you to Sandra for organising a very pleasant evening for 15 parishioners from St. Faith's and 3 from St. Albans at the Brookfield Hotel for the postponed Epiphany dinner on 3 February after a Candlemass Eucharist in church.

Do you need a skip? We have a new advertiser on page 10.

Colin Carter

Billboard on the side of the road: *Keep your eyes on the road! Stop reading these signs!*

From the Rector - From See to Shining See

As advertised in my February article 'Lovers for Lent' the month of March takes us on into the heart of real passion: the Passion of Christ. On the last Sunday of this month the Palm Sunday Eucharist is launched by words inviting us to 'go with Christ in faith and love, so that, united with him in his sufferings, we may share his risen life'. Cue donkey!

This turns out to be a journey of discovery. A better grasp and deeper appreciation of Our Lord's final struggles and agonies, however, is not meant to depress but to impress upon us the scope and significance of the mission to which His church is called.

The day after a new diocesan bishop was introduced to the See of Portsmouth the leader of our Rapid Parish Development (RPD) programme, Leigh Rampton, handed me a draft of an interim report of where he felt we had got to in our explorations to help identify what missionary 'offer' St. Faith's can make to the community it serves.

Embedded in the provisional findings are two particularly encouraging 'findings'.

We are recognised by the author as "A community of committed and motivated people who want to develop their church." but that "We need to start living new ways of working". That last observation needs unpacking. I think it could mean at least two things. First, that the way we go about finding how we can engage with different parts of our community needs to be an inspiration to 'us' as well as to those we're trying to reach. Second I take it

to mean that there are some emerging priorities that churches in very different places are beginning to hold in common.

Our bishop designate, Christopher Foster, is on record as citing four principal activities that might form the hallmark of 'being church'. He says first that Christians are called to be compassionate in their caring for other people. They are called to share in what God is doing already in the world. They are called also to encourage discipleship, to draw other people into the love of God. And finally they are called to stand for truth, justice and peace.

So as I contemplate with our congregations the possible avenues for development down which our RPD exercise may be leading us and the possibility of a visit to our link parish within the See or diocese of Koforidua in Ghana I was intrigued to read in USPG's (United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel – Anglicans in World Mission) 'Transmission' magazine that the bishop of that country's Cape Coast diocese had recently declared that:

"Our mission is the basis of our church in Ghana. It is the mission of God and we are participating in it so that we live as light and salt. Wherever the church is it must have an impact on society – socially, physically, spiritually and morally – so that the church is a transforming agent of society and community."

Bishop Daniel concludes by saying: "We have a lot to do!" Well we at St. Faith's can echo that!

Divided by oceans and continents it may be but the church of God is on the move. It is being led by the Holy Spirit to commend the Kingdom of God through a desire by local Christians everywhere to bring the offer of love, joy and peace, to communities suffering a variety of hurts and dysfunctions. These indeed are the emerging priorities of churches in very different settings.

Behold your king comes to you, meek and lowly, sitting on an ass.

It strikes me that if the means by which we strive to serve others are any less humble than the example set by Jesus himself then we are condemned to a gradual but sure decline into obscurity. As Leigh Rampton himself may well say: There are two very different ways of sitting on your ass. I think our two bishops have chosen the donkey.

May God bless you on your ride through the remainder of Lent and Passiontide.

Peter Jones

Albert Schweitzer

I wonder how many of you recognize this name. Virtually all of you! I am impressed. When I was a young man, Schweitzer was revered and his genius compared with the great mathematician Albert Einstein. Schweitzer was a Doctor of Theology, Medicine, Music and Philosophy. He was born on 14 January 1875 in Kayserberg, Upper Alsace, then Austria but now France. He studied at the Universities of Strasbourg, Paris and Berlin. In 1900 he was ordained a Curate in the Church of St Nicholas of Strasbourg and in 1901 became Principal of the Theological Seminary. From 1905 to 1913 he returned to his studies at the University of Strasbourg.

As the years progressed, Schweitzer's fame as an organist spread and he became an authority on organ construction. I am sure Sylvia Willey is impressed! As we shall see, he was also an author of great distinction. In 1905 he wrote a definitive book in French about Johann Sebastian Bach, translated into German in 1908 and into English in 1911. In this masterful

work, Schweitzer emphasized the religious nature of Bach's music and advocated performing it in a simple undistorted style. Having read Peter Willey's superb articles on composers in "*Faith Matters*", I am sure this work would meet with his approval. In 1906 Schweitzer wrote a book "*The Quest of the Historical Jesus*" in which he examined the eschatological aspects of His life. Without asking Canon Peter, who knows what eschatology is about? Most of you! That's the last question from me. So as you all know, it is the doctrine of Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell.

In 1913 Schweitzer started his missionary work which was to bring him worldwide fame and a Nobel Peace Prize in 1952. He will always be associated with the place of his ministry – Lambarene in the then French Equatorial Africa, now Gabon. He built a hospital there and in its first year some 2000 patients were treated by him! When the First World War broke out, he remained in Africa but in 1917, as a German national, he was

interned in France until the war ended. He remained in Europe for a further six years giving organ recitals and writing two volumes of a study of civilization in which he developed a philosophy about the reverence of life. In 1924, he returned to Lambarene and rebuilt his hospital. For the rest of his long life he worked tirelessly for the sick and poor, including 300 lepers. He financed his work by regularly returning to Europe to give organ recitals. In 1930 he wrote a book called "*The Mysticism of Paul the Apostle*" and a year later an

autobiography called "*Out of My Life and Thought*". His final book "*The Kingdom of God and Primitive Christianity*" was not published until two years after his death on 4 September 1965 at the age of 90. The world lost a man of so many talents but Africa lost so much more. They lost a true saint! Canon Peter was inspired to join the priesthood by another saint who worked tirelessly in South Africa. To learn more, you must get next month's "*Faith Matters*".

Roger Bryant

St. Hilda (614-680AD) and Easter

What, you may say, has St Hilda (or Hilde) to do with Easter, and who is St. Hilda anyway? In fact she is a very important person in regard to Easter. She was born in 614AD of royal blood but at a young age her father was murdered, her mother fled the country and she was brought up at the court of her great uncle; King Edwin of Northumberland. His queen, Ethelburga, looked after her and taught her the Christian faith. She was christened at York when she was thirteen by Paulinus. It was a dangerous and turbulent time and in about 647AD when Hilda was thirty three Edwin was killed in battle and Ethelburga decided to return to her childhood home in Kent. Hilda also left with the intention of joining one of her sisters who was a nun at Celle near Paris but she only got as far as East Anglia before Aidan, the Bishop of Lindisfarne called her back and asked her to take charge of a small

religious community on the north bank of the river Wear. He was so impressed by her management of this community he made her abbess of a monastery at Hartlepool after the previous abbess had left leaving it in a total mess. She remained at Hartlepool until she left in about 657AD to found a double monastery at Whitby on the North Yorkshire coast. It was mutually beneficial to have a double monastery in those dangerous times. The nuns helped to pacify the monks and in turn the monks looked after the nuns. They had separate quarters but worshipped together and each supported the other in their religious faith. Meanwhile Edwin had been succeeded as King of Northumbria by St. Oswy (St. Oswald) and he had been baptised into the Celtic tradition of the Christian faith.

It is necessary to digress here because what had happened was that

the Romans had brought Christianity to Britain only a hundred years or so after the Crucifixion. St. Patrick (born c.373AD died 463AD) learned of it from the Romans but when they left he was enslaved by the Irish. Eventually he escaped and later returned to Ireland to spread the Christian message. Later the Britons were pushed to the fringes of our island by the Saxons, Angles and Jutes and in about 563AD missionaries left Ireland to evangelise Scotland, the north of England, Cornwall and Wales. The great abbeys of Iona and Lindisfarne were set up and Bishop Aidan was himself trained at Iona. So this was the Celtic church to which King Oswald belonged. However, in 597AD the Pope sent Augustine to southern England and he, of course, founded the church at Canterbury. King Oswald's queen was a Christian in the Roman tradition and herein was the difficulty: when Oswald was celebrating Easter his queen was still keeping her Lenten fast. We can imagine the problems and arguments! Eventually it was decided to ask Abbess Hilda to organise a Synod (a meeting of the Bishops and senior members of the Church) at Whitby to decide the matter.

In the Celtic church, unlike the Roman church, women were held in as high regard as the men and Hilda had built up a considerable reputation as an organiser, teacher and administrator. She was consulted by people both far and wide, in this country and from abroad. No less than five men who were trained at her monastery became

Bishops so it was no surprise that she was asked and in 663AD the great Synod of Whitby was held. Colman, Bishop of Lindisfarne and from the Celtic tradition argued that their tradition went back to St. Columba and to St. John the Evangelist but the Bishop of York, Wilfrid, favoured the Roman tradition. (He it was, on return from a trip to Rome, came home through Selsey and found the Manhood peninsular to be heathen and so Christianised them.) He pointed out that their (the Roman) tradition was followed throughout the Mediterranean and came from St. Peter himself.

King Oswald in summing up the Synod came down on the side of the Roman church despite Hilda's misgivings. As he said *"I will follow the way of St. Peter, holder of the keys of heaven, lest, when I come to the gates there be none to open them- he-being my adversary who is proved to have the keys."*

As to the actual date of the moveable feast and celebration of Easter I recommend those of a clever mathematical disposition consult the Book of Common Prayer which shows how, up to 2200, it may be calculated!

St Hilda died on the 17th November 680, aged sixty six after suffering what may have been malaria for several years. When she died nuns at Hackness, thirteen miles away from Whitby, saw her soul being carried away to heaven. They spent the night praying but it was only when monks arrived from Whitby with the

news that she had died that they realised the vision had occurred at the moment of her departure from this life.

Her abbey was ransacked by the Vikings in the 9th century and the present ruins at Whitby are of a later date. They are approached from the town by climbing 199 steps

In the chapel of Mary Sumner House, the headquarters of the Mothers' Union in London and not far from the Houses of Parliament, St Hilda is commemorated in a roundel window.

Sheilah Legg

Coffee Mornings

Did you know we have a coffee morning every month in church?

On the first Saturday morning of each month with the exception of January we hold a coffee morning from 10am till 12 noon. We have various things for sale including Jenny's Jams, bric-a-brac, handicrafts, jewellery and cakes along with tea or coffee and a chance for a sit down and a chat with friends. You can even buy raffle tickets for some wonderful prizes. Last year the takings for the coffee mornings were £2,000. So come along and have a coffee and support the coffee mornings. The next one will be on Saturday 6 March.

Sandra Haggan

For Your Diary

Saturday 6 March	10am-12noon	Coffee Morning	Church
Monday 8 March	7.00pm	BMC Meeting	29 Hamilton Close
Monday 22 March	7.30pm	PCC Meeting	Rectory
Sunday 25 April	11.00am	APCM	Church

Youth Church

Dates for the next meetings are Sunday 7 March and Sunday 11 April.

Youth Church meets on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 9 Brunswick Gardens, Bedhampton from 09:15am -10:30am. This gives the senior school age youth an opportunity to get together for Christian fellowship. It has given them a time to discuss subjects and they have also planned and helped run a Family Service. The highlight each time is having breakfast!

For any further details contact Claire & Jeremy Toole 023 9245 3565 or ask any of the youth at church.

The meeting in March has changed to the 1st Sunday due to Mothering Sunday falling on the 2nd Sunday this year.

Youth Group

Dates: Sunday 7 March and Sunday 21 March.

Youth Group meets at the Church Hall (at the moment) 6pm - 7:30pm alternate Sundays. This gives a time for them to 'chill out' with their friends as well as having fun & games.

There have been opportunities to meet with other local Youth Groups and hopefully this year we will be able to attend some of the events organised through the Portsmouth Diocese.

For further details contact Martin Poliszczuk 023 9247 6001 or Fiona Hedley 023 9249 8229.

Flowers in St. Faith - 18-22 May 2010

The Portsmouth Branch of the Church of England Flower Arrangers Association will be arranging flowers in St Faith's on 17 May. Do come in to see the displays from Tuesday 18 May until the end of the week.

Havant Symphony Orchestra - 27 March 2010

Saturday 27 March 2010, 7.30pm Ferneham Hall, Osborn Road, Fareham.

Tickets £7.00 - £17.50 with concessions from Ferneham Hall Box Office, 01329 231942, on-line and at the door.

Boat Blessing - 21 March 2010

Langstone Cutters Rowing Club will be holding their traditional Boat Blessing ceremony on Sunday 21 March at 2pm by the Old Mill, Langstone. Every one will be warmly welcomed to this unique event at the start of the Cutters rowing season.

Ecumenical Kirchentag - Munich 12-16 May 2010

Do you want to hear inspiring speakers on today's society and church?

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Then you might well consider a trip to Munich to take part in the 2nd Ecumenical Kirchentag! People from the whole of Germany and from all over the world will be gathering in Munich from 12th to 16th May 2010, in order to join together in promoting ecumenism, giving it a human face and advancing co-operation between Christians.

You are all invited to get involved – and not just Protestant and Catholic Christians: seeking answers to pressing political questions, joining in controversial debates about the future of our world, taking steps to come closer together through open encounter – celebrating this festival of faith. It will be colourful, looking far beyond our own borders, and thoughtful, full of the joy of life – that's what the Ecumenical Kirchentag is aiming to be when it takes place in the capital of Bavaria.

“Many visitors from the UK have enjoyed the event in the past. I would be delighted if even more would join

A Tourist Prayer

Heavenly Father, look down on these your humble, obedient servants, who

us this time!” says Rev. André Urbanczyk, commissioner for the Ecumenical Kirchentag 2010 in the UK. André is a Lutheran minister from Bavaria who has been working in Bristol since 2006. He is available to answer questions, offer help, and you can even book him for free to come to your place and do a presentation on the event.

Practicalities: An admission pass for the whole event, including public transport in and around Munich costs 89 Euros (54 reduced). Free B&B accommodation with private hosts can be arranged for a small fee of 17 Euros. You can register online at www.oekt.de. You will have to arrange your travel to Munich and take a bit of pocket money for food and souvenirs.

For more information: You can visit the official website www.oekt.de (click on the tiny Union Flag at the top right) or the British website: www.kirchentag.org.uk. For any questions or help with your registration you are welcome to get in touch with André Urbanczyk: a.urbanczyk@gmx.de or phone: 0117 904 3084

are doomed to travel this earth, taking photographs, sending postcards and buying souvenirs.

We beseech you, O Lord, to see that our plane is not hijacked, our luggage is not lost and our overweight baggage goes unnoticed. Give us this day divine guidance in our selection of cabins. We pray that everybody works and that the interpreters speak our language.

Lead us to good, inexpensive restaurants, where the wine is included in the price of the meal. Make the natives love us for what we are and not for what we can contribute to their worldly goods. Grant us the strength to visit the museums, cathedrals, palaces, and if we skip an historic

monument to take a nap after lunch, have mercy on us for our flesh is weak.

Dear God, protect our wives from bargains they don't need or can't afford. Lead them not into temptation for they know not what they do.

Almighty Father, keep our husbands from looking at foreign women and comparing them to us. Save them from making fools of themselves in nightclubs. Above all, please do not forgive them their trespasses for they know exactly what they do.

And when our voyage is over, grant us the favour of finding someone who will look at our holiday photos and listen to our stories, so our lives as tourists will not have been in vain.

AMEN

Restoration & Redevelopment Fund

The money raised for the Restoration & Redevelopment Fund during 2009, was **£9,208.10**. The breakdown was:

Town Fair, incl. Grand Draw	4,245.76	Christmas Cake Draw	30.00
Coffee Mornings	1,337.21	Christmas Quiz 2008	64.00
Lent Lunches	108.00	Parish Breakfasts	282.86
Sarah Butterfield Prints & Cards	162.40	Snohomish Choir	284.24
Recipe Books	9.00	Jenny's Jam	653.00
Historic Churches Bicycle Ride	58.75		
Cloak & Dagger Donation	550.00	Gift Aid Donations	656.50
Loose Change	7.65	Other Donations	24.00
Tax Refunds	110.01	Bank Interest	624.72

Roger Simmons

Buildings Management Committee Meeting 8 February 2010

Nos 1 & 2 Churchfields. Both tenants had agreed to the wooden fencing being replaced by wire. Our Agents, Jeffries had inspected No 2 which was in good order.

St Nicholas Chapel. The Langstone Village Association (LVA) had offered to pay for extra power points in the chapel. The BMC agreed to them going ahead, subject to them providing an “*Electrical Installation Works Certificate*” from a suitably qualified electrician. Cracks had appeared in the West wall and the big window needed painting. The Parish Architect would be asked to inspect the wall and quotes for work on these two items would be sought.

Hall Complex. A leak above the male toilets had been sealed. Negotiations with the Dynamo Youth Theatre continued. A five year contract with a two year breakpoint was being considered including full management

rights. The rent and use of the car park was still to be resolved.

Church House. Alterations which SSAFA wanted to make to their office had been agreed.

Christ Church Bungalow. Roof leaks had been repaired and the boiler checked out for the presence of carbon monoxide. (Since the BMC meeting, a new boiler had been installed.)

2A North Street. Repairs to the door were in hand.

St Faith’s Church. The recent ceiling collapse in the Lady Chapel may have been caused by 90 broken roof tiles. The new Book of Remembrance had arrived.

Happy

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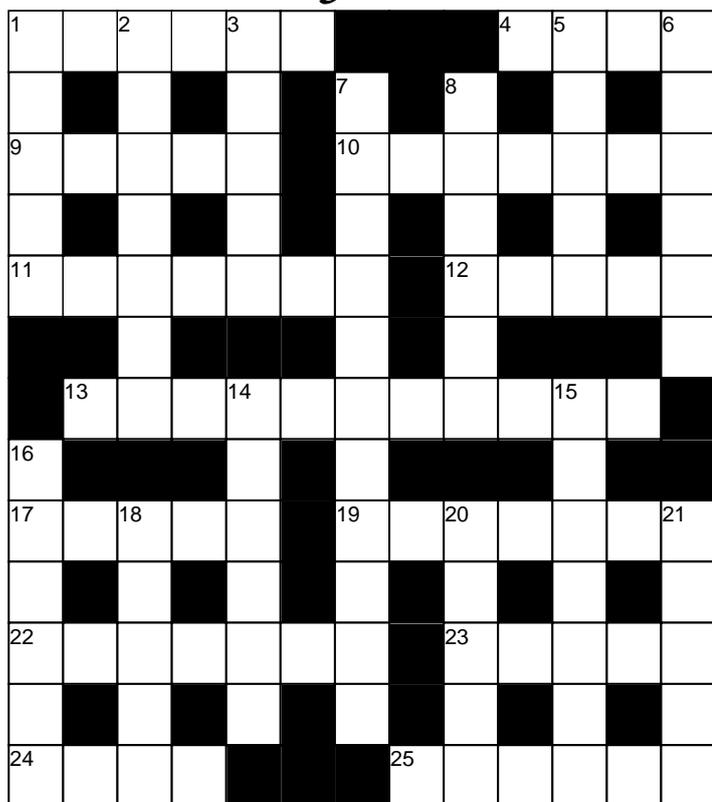
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St Faith's March 2010 Crossword Puzzle



Across

1. You can take a dip in this well (6)
4. OT character sounds competent (4)
9. A role in 'Separate Tables' perhaps?(5)
10. Car but not an open tourer (7)
11. Saying there's no need for help with the pie-diagram (7)
12. River feature in the kitchen (5)
13. He hath a way of writing his wife's maiden name (13)
17. Scent that's reportedly *Eau-de-Cologne* (5)
19. Manx race with a casual worker has a go (7)
22. Warning when using a treadle (7)
23. Riding skills could be practised here (5)
25. Officer sounds as if he's at the heart of things (6)

Down

1. Corsair when beheaded is entitled to feel angry (5)
2. Jack's nasty deed (7)
3. Not at the centre of things (5)
5. They could be Roman in Somerset (5)
6. Mainly a flower but these animals are best kept from the door (6)
7. Tank engine with Laurel's buddy following the author (6,5)
8. Boy soprano found on the dart board? (6)
14. In self-defence, Katharine is short with an artist (6)
15. Fast time in daylight hours in this month (7)
16. Laws that can be found on the floor (6)
18. I am alpha and ----- *Anthem* (5)
20. Cake recipe taught in domestic science by the sound of it (5)
21. ----- and bread makes up most of this dwarf (5)

Compiled for St Faith's by *Logogrìph*

Answers to the editor by 15th March please!

Answers to February 2010 Crossword

Across: 1.Coffee, 4.Screed, 8.Trident, 10.Voted, 11.Edam, 12.Footfall, 14.Ecru, 15.Tuna, 20.Tired Out, 22.Pawn, 24.Thing, 25.Toiling, 26.Castle, 27.Repent.

Down: 1.Cutter, 2.Frigate, 3.Eden, 5.Covetous, 6.Extra, 7.Doddle, 9.Troy, 13.Prodical, 16.Avarice, 17.Static, 18.Punt, 19.Knight, 21.Reins, 23.Dine.

Four entries were received from Marion Simmons, Ann Slade, Joy Utting and Colin Warlow.

Word Search - Names of Birds

Can you find the names of the types of birds listed in the grid? 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.

AVOCET	HAWK	PHEASANT
BLACKBIRD	JACKDAW	QUAIL
BUZZARD	KESTREL	REDKITE
CROW	KINGFISHER	REDSTART
CURLEW	LINNET	ROBIN
DIPPER	MAGPIE	SPARROW
EAGLE	MOORHEN	STARLING
FALCON	NUTHATCH	THRUSH
GREENFINCH	OWL	WAXWING
GROUSE	PARTRIDGE	YELLOWHAMMER

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

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

Cambodia Update

Esther Thomas, whose parents, Rod and Glenda, are in Sendai, Japan, is in Cambodia with the Youth with a Mission (YWAM) and wrote the first of her reports in February's "Faith Matters".

I thought it would be appropriate to write another update as we are more than half way through our outreach. Since we have passed the halfway mark, we realize that the next four weeks we have here are going to speed by! We have revisited our goals that we set for ourselves in the beginning, and have decided to really push through these next few weeks, rather than slowing down. Our aim is to *"make disciples"* as Jesus commissioned us to, and not simply *"make believers"*.

During the time we have been here we have seen 8 conversions. We are careful to follow up the people who have decided to follow Christ and to disciple them so that they will establish a firm foundation in the word of God and then also be able to disciple and teach others. There is one young man named Lam, who was one of my students and is seeking the Lord. He recently told me that he believes that God created the world, and he has apparently been praying to Jesus. Please pray that God gives him a revelation of exactly who he is, and that he gets saved!

There are 8 women that a few of us meet with in a small village 3 times a week to tell them the gospel and to pray for their sicknesses, etc. We have seen many healings among the people in the village and I feel as if God is really doing a mighty work in their hearts. Just last week, a tiny baby with TB was completely healed

by Jesus after we prayed for him! This was not only a witness to the Khmer people that our God is the one true God, it also really encouraged us in our faith. Now the mother believes that Jesus healed her baby and that our God is more powerful than Buddha. However, she has not yet made a final decision to follow Christ, so please pray for her.

In the time we have been here, we have noticed a major setback in witnessing. There is a general mindset that if you are a Cambodian you are automatically Buddhist, and therefore if you convert you are no longer worthy to be called a Cambodian. This is one thing that holds Cambodians back from accepting Christ as the only way to salvation - fear of man. However difficult it may seem, we firmly believe that the Holy Spirit has the power to overcome difficulties such as this. Please pray for the recent converts; that they will grow in faith and knowledge of Christ and his sacrifice for them. Most of the converts have Buddhist or Hindu parents and so they are frightened of what might happen to them if they were to tell their parents about their conversion. Please pray that they will be encouraged and become bold, but also wise in the way they go about doing this.

As for us, we have been praying and fasting for a revival to break out in this land. God has really answered our prayers to do with our team, and I feel as if we are more united than ever. A

“And So ...”

Sometimes, with an essay or a novel, it is not the opening paragraphs or the main body of the text which take hold of our imagination and stays with us, but the concluding lines. So it is for me with the final lines of a novel by Scott Fitzgerald: *“Gatsby believed in the green light, the orgastic future that year by year recedes before us. It eluded us then, but that’s no matter – tomorrow we will run faster, stretch out our arms farther ... And one fine morning – So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past”*.

This is not to say that we yearn for the past, but that for many of us, we did and perhaps still do, believe in that future which has eluded us and is already past. For how many of us has that future, now our present, resolved itself to be that which we stretched out our arms for? Dreams, yearning for the future for those uplands where we would dwell in confident achievement and content, remain with us even when we have accepted and settled for compromise, and if fortunate enough, the happiness that we have and enjoy.

“The Great Gatsby”, the novel which moved me to these words, is a chronicle of the Jazz Age of the 1920s – an age of heady, brittle enjoyment for some, but for others who saw the portents of disaster ahead, it was a

time of anxiety and apprehension. The end of the 1920s brought the ‘*Great Depression*’ which affected America, Europe and the rest of the world, culminating in 1939 with a war which soon engulfed Europe, USA and countries of the East. In the 1920s however, it was only the few who gave warnings, generally unheeded, of what was to come. The March of Folly gathered pace; politicians preached their platitudes and ignored reality. Most of the public believed what it wanted to believe; that aggressors could be placated and peace purchased without penalty – like Gatsby they believed in a future that eluded them and was already past.

The March of Folly goes on; we need only to reflect on wars and conflict from, say 1900 to the present day to realise that we the public, our leaders and politicians have learnt little, if anything, from the past. The past, written up by learned historians, but which, for the most part unless it confers some advantage, is ignored by Governments and politicians. Individuals may sometimes learn from the past, but Governments never.

So, what do we do? – We ‘beat on’ in the hope that somewhere that yearned for future will become the present!

John Bradey

PCC Meeting - 25 January 2010

Assistant Curate Appointment. The meeting agreed that we as a training parish should accept any offer made by the Diocese for us to have an

Assistant Curate next year. It would enable us to develop our missionary work with the educational outlets and training college in Havant. It would

also enable us to be part of any Diocesan plans for the area.

Treasurer's Report. The provisional 2009 income was £128,972 (Budget £132,010), expenditure was £121,656 (Budget £115,512) giving a net income of £7,316 (Budget £16,498). The Restoration & Redevelopment (R&R), provisional income was £10,168 (Budget £10K) and expenditure £18,164 (Budget £48K). Expenditure was less because planned improvements to the church had not been undertaken.

Buildings Management Committee Report. There was a long and full discussion of the troubled financial arrangements in respect of the Nursery in Church House. Difficulties had been experienced for many years because of irregular methods and dates of payments. The work of the nursery was valued by the PCC and every effort would be made to resolve current difficulties.

Property Development Group Report. The court hearing for rent arrears and repair costs in respect of No 2 North Street (Jewellers) would be on 9 February. The final (total) cost for the Lady Chapel repairs had been £12,140.55 and £667 for the Vestry handrail leaving £33,159 in the R & R Fund, £3,727 in the Organ Fund, £7,068 in the Lighting Fund and £230 in the CCTV Fund.

Spring Dance Company. Consideration was being given to an offer made by the Spring Dance Company to put on a programme in church about the meaning of the Eucharist, entitled "*Bread of Life*", at a cost of £850.

IDWAL. A meeting had taken place at which parishes gave details of their visits to Ghana. Michael and Anne Fluck were hoping to visit Ghana in May.

Nave Altar. The proposed Nave Altar experiment was discussed. The Dynamo Youth Theatre had offered to design and fabricate a plinth which would extend the chancel step forward to a point that would tie together the north and south westerly pillars of the crossing. This structure would suitably support a raised altar positioned beneath the tower ceiling. It would also provide a slightly raised space for performing arts events.

Rapid Parish Development. In 2003 there had been a "*Vision for the Future*" when six work groups had been formed. The notes on these could be found on the "*Archives*" page on our website and contained useful and relevant information.

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

Mrs Anne Plater
Mr Bill Skilleter

Deanery Synod Representatives: Dr Michael Fluck

Mr Martin Poliszczuk
Mrs Rosemary Thomas

Mrs Jenny Sagrott

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.**

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

Telephone: 023 9249 2129

Office Opening Hours: Monday & Thursday only 9am – 12-noon

Email: office@stfaith.com

WHO'S WHO

Rector	Canon Peter Jones	023 9248 3485
Reader	Dr Trevor Hopkinson	023 9246 2350
Reader in Training	Mrs Sandra Haggan	023 9245 5161
Organist & Choir Director	Mrs Sylvia Willey	01243 370290
Parish Office Administrator	Mrs Clare Kennar	023 9249 2129
Churchwardens	Prof. Jan Stuart	023 9247 5918
	Dr Graham Frost	023 9249 2440
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	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 Parish Office</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 -		
Editor	Colin Carter (Email: editor@stfaith.com)	023 9248 6739
Assistant	Jan Stuart (Email: jan.stuart@stfaith.com)	023 9247 5918
Distribution and Advertising:	Mrs Beryl Carter	023 9248 6739
<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 7th March THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT	8.00am	Eucharist
	8.00am	Eucharist at St. Nicholas, Langstone
	9.15am	Sunday Club at Church House
	9.15am	Youth Church at 9 Brunswick Gardens
	9.30am	PARISH EUCHARIST
	6.30pm	Evensong
Sunday 14th March FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT	8.00am	Eucharist
	9.30am	FAMILY EUCHARIST
	6.30pm	United Service at Methodist Church
Sunday 21st March FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	8.00am	Eucharist
	9.15am	Sunday Club at Church House
	9.30am	PARISH EUCHARIST
	6.30pm	Evensong
Sunday 28th March PALM SUNDAY	8.00am	Eucharist
	9.15am	Sunday Club at Church House
	9.30am	PARISH EUCHARIST
	6.30pm	Stainer's Crucifixion
Thursday 1st April MAUNDY THURSDAY	7.30pm	Sung Eucharist of the Last Supper followed by The Watch
Friday 2nd April GOOD FRIDAY	11.00am	Walk of Witness from St. Joseph's Church
	1.00pm	Reflection on The Cross
Sunday 4th April EASTER DAY	8.00am	Eucharist
	8.00am	Eucharist at St. Nicholas, Langstone
	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

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>)