

CONTACT



OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS
PARISH MAGAZINE

AUTUMN 2012



FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Parishioners

Welcome to this Autumn edition of **CONTACT**. I have endeavoured to include a variety of subjects for your interest, both with internal news within the Parish and articles of a general nature. Here is a list of a selection of the contents:

- When the 'little ones' leave the Mass at 10.30 on Sundays – what happens? Olein Webster, the group leader, provides the answer.
- In this October month, an interesting explanation of the origins of the Rosary.
- A report on the inauguration of our new Bishop, Philip Egan.
- Details of a series of seminars due to take place in October at our church entitled 'Life in the Spirit'.
- Articles of general interest: Visit of Pope Benedict to the Lebanon, Visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury to Zimbabwe, and Divisions in the European Community.
- Report on CWL activities from Margaret Tabbener
- Also from Margaret, a report on the recent pilgrimage to Italy with Fr Dan and other Parish members.
- School News from St Patrick's, Farnborough Hill & Salesian College.

My thanks to those parishioners who have contributed to this edition, to *Philip Hanson* who provided the front cover and to *Fr Dan* and my assistants for their invaluable help to bring it all to publication.

My best wishes to you all, and Happy Reading !

Robert Eeckelaers, Editor

THE LITTLE CHURCH

Every Sunday in term-time, apart from special occasions and school masses, the children are invited to join Father Dan at the altar before moving into the hall for their own liturgy. Ever wondered what happens in the hall during these 15-20 minutes? Thought you might like to join those of us who lead or help during this time?

We start each session with prayers, lighting a candle and reminding the children about why we're in church each week. We then read the gospel – often inviting one of the children to read it. Some of us also act out the gospel to try and bring it to life for the children. A short discussion about the gospel then follows. If there are a lot of younger children, we take them into a corner and read bible stories.

The children then have colouring pages (for the younger ones) and quizzes/crosswords etc for the older ones. Occasionally we get very creative and make things! Some children are chosen to take part in the offertory procession before all the children go back as quietly as possible into the church. Depending on who is leading the class, we may also sing a hymn!

At Christmas, the group also organise the short play during the Christmas Eve Mass. We always have lots of shepherds and angels!

So more volunteers always welcome! Just ask one of the team on Sundays.

Olein Webster



Life in the Spirit Seminars led by Gabriel & Pam Chevalier

Starting in October, Our Lady Help of Christians will host the seven sessions that make up *Life in the Spirit Seminars*.

What are Life in the Spirit Seminars all about?

There are many courses on various aspects of Christian Life, what makes this so very different is that it is life changing. It is not a question of just becoming more pious or trying to pull ourselves up by our own boot-straps, it is about allowing the Holy Spirit to work in us.

In his discourse at the Last Supper, Jesus made a promise to his disciples; “I will pray to the Father and he will give you another Counsellor, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of Trust, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him; you know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.” (Jn 14:16-17)

We read in Acts how the lives of the disciples were radically transformed by the Holy Spirit, they were able to preach the Gospel of Jesus in boldness and power. Today, Christians are rediscovering the power that Jesus gives his people through the Holy Spirit. They are discovering the power to live together in love and peace, to heal the sick and comfort the afflicted, and to worship God with new and abundant praise. Above all, they are discovering a deeper and more personal relationship with Jesus Christ as their very own Lord and Saviour. The power of the Holy Spirit has made such a vital and tangible change in their lives that more and more people can see that power at work and begin to desire this new life for themselves. Everywhere, people are coming alive to the new life in the Spirit, and they want to find out more about that life, they want to discover a new relationship with Jesus.

Life in the Spirit Seminars are designed as an introduction to a life lived in the power of the Holy Spirit. They provide an opportunity for people to find out more about that life, and to be helped in taking the first steps of a new relationship with the Lord. For those who are not Christians at all, they can serve as an introduction to Christianity and a time to make a first commitment to Jesus Christ. For those who are already Christians, they offer help in finding a fuller release of the Holy Spirit to live a deeper Christian life.

The seminars are a series of talks and discussions which take place over a period of seven weeks. They are designed to be just the beginning, just the first step in a completely new way of life.

Interested? Excited? Sceptical? Scared? Whatever your reaction, don't turn your back on this opportunity. Come to the “Come and See” on **Wednesday, 17th October at 8 pm** in **Our Lady Help of Christians** and hear how others experience the power of God's Holy Spirit working in their lives..

To find out more please email info@LifeinTheSpirit.net



***It's Not What You Gather, But What You Scatter
That Tells What Kind Of Life You Have Lived !***





FARNBOROUGH SECTION OF THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE, OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

The CWL in Farnborough has had a successful nine months and continues to meet every third Tuesday of the month (except August and December) in the Narthex of Our Lady Help of Christians, Farnborough at 7.15 pm – all ladies of the parish are very welcome. We ended 2011 by holding a very pleasant and enjoyable Christmas lunch at The Holiday Inn, Farnborough, attended by all our members.

This year we are supporting our Portsmouth Branch in helping them to raise funds for the Apostleship of the Sea and we are creating shoe boxes for Christmas for the men on the container ships. We also knit woolly hats for them! They are much appreciated

All members of the CWL support David Cameron who believes that Christians should have the right to wear a cross at work and he has promised to change the law to allow this, if necessary.

Throughout the year we have continued to raise funds for our various charities by holding Coffee Mornings, Cake Stalls, and Bookstalls and we thank you for all your support. I would also like to thank Father Dan for all the help he gives to the CWL.

In March this year, Kate Boardman, our Social and Liaison Secretary, arranged a very successful pilgrimage to Lourdes. Seven members and three husbands enjoyed a spiritual experience and all except one entered the baths. Everything was superbly organised by Kate.

We held our annual party in May and invited many ladies of the parish and all the local ladies' organisations from surrounding churches. All enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared by members and many excellent raffle prizes were won. Our parties are extremely popular and invitations are eagerly sought each year! Four members went off to Windsor Park with Kay Grew to see the Queen and the royals attend Ascot. A Strawberry Tea was held in Helen Priestley's lovely garden and enjoyed by many, at the same time raising funds for our charities. Although we work, we do have a lot of fun at the various events. Kate organised a Day of Devotion to our Lady in May which was well attended by members and very much appreciated.

On 31 May, Cathy Raggett organised a stall in Princesmead on behalf of Rushmoor Voluntary Services showing the voluntary work of the Parish and the CWL. At Angela McGeown's Coffee Morning we surprised our lovely member Pam Massey by presenting her with a cake and a chocolate bottle of Champagne in celebration of her 90th birthday. Congratulations to you, Pam – our oldest member!

In July, four members from Farnborough Section joined 400 CWL members from around the country for a day in Oxford for the 150th anniversary of the birth of our founder, Margaret Fletcher, where we attended mass in the Oratory in Oxford followed by a sumptuous afternoon tea in Oxford's exquisite town hall. In September, three members of the CWL, Margaret Tabbener, Aileen Joyce and Cathy Raggett, together with Fr Dan, joined the Salesian Co-Operators and went on pilgrimage to Italy. We all had a very beautiful and meaningful time in Italy. We went to see where St Don Bosco began his work for the young and how inspiring he was to all, and to see where he started his first small school. St Don Bosco followed the teachings of St Francis de Sales and called his order the Salesians in his honour.

Our National President, Mrs Margaret Richards, will be honouring our section by coming to our meeting in February 2013 to which all members are looking forward. At the moment Kate is busy looking for a venue for this year's Christmas lunch and at various theatre outings.

Eight members are going to Coventry in October for the Annual General Meeting of the Catholic Women's League where we shall have mass said by Bishop Doyle, Bishop for the CWL and where many meetings and discussions will take place.

We are intending to hold a Harvest Raffle later this year and hope you will all buy a ticket!

Margaret Tabbener



IT'S THE LAW !

Law of the Result

When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, it will.

Law of Commercial Marketing Strategy

As soon as you find a product that you really like, they'll stop making it.

Variation Law

If you change queues (or traffic lanes), the one you were in will always move faster than the one you are in now (works every time).

Law of Gravity

Any tool, nut, bolt or screw, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible corner.

VISIT OF POPE BENEDICT XVI TO LEBANON – SEPTEMBER 2012

POPE BENEDICT XVI ended his recent three-day visit to Lebanon with a call for unity among Christians and Muslims in the Middle East and for peace in neighbouring Syria. "I hope that Lebanon will fortify the communion Lebanon will fortify the communion among all its inhabitants, whatever their community



or religion, and that it will resolutely reject all that could lead to disunity," he said as he departed from Beirut international airport. Lebanese President, Michel Suleiman, thanked the Pope for his visit and said: "We pledge to you to keep Lebanon a country of dialogue and openness."

Around 40 per cent of Lebanon's population is Christian while the rest are Muslim.

Earlier, the Pope held an open-air mass on Beirut's waterfront, which was attended by some 350,000 people. The pope, during his sermon, urged Christians to be peacemakers amid the "grim trail of death and destruction" around the world. The 85-year-old Pope conducted the mass on an altar in the shape of the Cedar of Lebanon - white flowers and olive trees symbolizing peace. Among the congregation were Christian and Muslims officials, including members of the Lebanese Shiite movement Hezbollah. Nawaf al-Moussawi, a Hezbollah parliamentarian, told the Lebanese television station LBC: "Our message is that we want to work together for a Middle East where religions and sects live on the basis of justice that leads to peace."

"May God grant your country, to Syria and to the West Asia, the gift of peaceful hearts, the silencing of weapons and the cessation of all violence," the Pope said after the mass.

The head of the Maronite Church, the largest Christian community in Lebanon, Patriarch Bashara al-Rai, said: "The visit offers Christians in the region a sense of safety at a time instability. This visit carries a message of peace that the world and Middle East long for."

The Pope met Muslim and Christian leaders as well as foreign diplomats. He appealed to Christians, Jews and Muslims alike to "root out" religious fundamentalism. The Pope had an audience with some 30,000 youth, including Syrians, whom he told that he remembers Syria in his prayers and concerns, along with those in the West Asia who are suffering. The Pope appealed Friday for a stop to arms imports to Syria, saying it would help end the civil war there.

It was his fourth trip to West Asia. The last papal visit to Lebanon was by the late John Paul II in 1997.



THE HOLY CROSS AND MOST HOLY REDEEMER

THE ROSARY is commemorated in the Church during October originally to celebrate the defeat of the invasion of Western Christendom by a Turkish Fleet at Lepanto in 1571. The rosary was mainly popularised in the western Church through the efforts of St Dominic and his Order to promulgate it as a meditative devotion to combat spiritually the Albigensian heresy (a sect mainly in southern France which was basically dualist in belief, rejecting the flesh and all material creation as evil and believing that Christ was an angel).

But the rosary was not invented by St Dominic or the Dominicans, nor was it originally a Christian form of prayer. Both Marco Polo in the 13th century and St Francis Xavier in the 16th were astonished to find rosaries in use in south India by Hindus and in Japan by Buddhists. We find the earliest written records in Vedic Hindu India around 500 BC, where its use is traced to a rosary of 108 beads called Japa Mala, and consisted of repeating the name of God or a Sanskrit mantra. But its real origins may go back much earlier in the mists of a prehistoric Sanskrit past. This could be suggested by an ancient Vedic Hindu tradition that deeply revered *sound* and *language*. Both the ancient Sanskrit language and its alphabet were believed to be divine in origin. All creation was believed to manifest cosmic vibrations of sound which were expressed in the Sanskrit 50 letter alphabet of which the sound 'OM' was the divine origin. Chanting these sounds was believed to take one beyond the mind into the peace, harmony and union of God. Malas appeared in Buddhism soon after (probably introduced by converts) where the beads were made from the Bodhi tree seeds, with which the three part Buddhist prayer of refuge was recited to ease the pain of earthly suffering by elevating the soul beyond it.

Christian forms of the rosary seem to have appeared among early Christian hermits in the desert who used pebbles, or holes in boards, etc as ways of reciting Christian mantras, like the *Kyrie*, or the *Our Father*, psalm verses, or other scriptural words or phrases to form the background of their contemplation. Eventually these became the 100 knots of a sacred cord used by monks. The rosary probably spread to the western Church shortly before the First Crusade. Strings of beads, pebbles, berries, bone discs, and precious stones were already in use by the time of Lady Godiva in the 11th century for reciting the Latin *Paternoster* (Our Father). The original Hail Mary only consisted of the Gospel half of the prayer '*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus*' as a salutation prayer. The 'mysteries' were introduced centuries after St Dominic, most probably by a German Carthusian around 1500 AD.

THE DIOCESE WELCOMES BISHOP PHILIP EGAN



Bishop Philip Egan
Motto: *In Corde Iesu*
("in the heart of Jesus")

With hope in our hearts and trust in the providence of God, we welcome our new Bishop to Portsmouth, Philip Egan.

While we pray that Bishop Philip may become for us an ardent yet gentle shepherd, we give thanks for Bishop Crispian Hollis, who today entrusts to his successor the people of our diocese for whom he has cared so untiringly these past 24 years.

Bishop Egan was born in Altrincham, Cheshire; he was educated at St Vincent's Primary School and St Ambrose College after which he became a graduate of the University of London (King's College).

He was ordained a priest in August 1984. After a journey holding several posts within the Church, in 2008 he was appointed Parish Priest of Our Lady and St Christopher's, Romiley, near Stockport. Then in 2010, he was appointed Vicar General of the Diocese of Shrewsbury, following which he became in 2011 a Prelate of Honour to His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI and in 2012 a Canon of Shrewsbury Cathedral.

During his ordination on Monday, 23 September, on the feast day of our Lady of Walsingham, Bishop Philip received his episcopal ring with the words, "*Take this ring, the seal of your fidelity. With faith and love protect the bride of God, his holy Church.*"

In his address at his inauguration, Bishop Philip says; "*I wish to build on the wonderful work of Bishop Crispian and to encourage everyone to fulfil their vocation as disciples of Christ. I wish especially to support our priests who have the demanding task of shepherding the Lord's flock within a cultural context. I ask your prayers as I respond to the Lord's call received from the Holy Father to serve as the 8th Bishop of Portsmouth.*"

Essentially, a bishop shares most fully and visibly in the mission and leadership ministry of Jesus Christ, in particular as the chief teacher, shepherd and priest of his diocese.

In his address at the ceremony, Nicholas France, Provost, Cathedral Chapter of Canons, said, "*As we prepare to enter the Year of Faith, proclaimed by Pope*

Benedict to celebrate the rich fruits of the Second Vatican Council which commenced 50 years ago this October, let us pray that, in unity of charity with Bishop Philip, we may respond to his leadership, listen to his teaching and follow his example in accepting the cost of discipleship. In all these endeavours, may we be open in prayer to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, who kindles within us the fire of God's love.

We all look forward to embracing the plentiful gifts of Bishop Philip as he becomes part of the living story of our local church, accepting gladly the rich deposits of faith, wise pastoral planning and experienced administration bequeathed to him.



CAN YOU PUT THESE JUMBLED OLD TESTAMENT EVENTS INTO DATE ORDER?

The Kingdom of Israel is divided in two.

Joseph is sold into slavery by his brothers

Ezra reads the Book of the Law to all the people

Noah builds the Ark

King Solomon builds his palace in Jerusalem

Moses leads the Israelites out of Egypt

Elijah defeats the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel

Deborah judges Israel

Creation

The people of Judah are taken into exile in Babylon

Childless Hannah visits Eli the priest

Isaiah's vision in the Temple

Abram and Sarah leave their home in Haran

The Temple is rebuilt

King David marries Bathsheba

The revolt of the Maccabees

Joshua leads the people across the Jordan into Canaan

(Answers on Page 26)

THE STRANGER

A few years after I was born, my Dad met a stranger who was new to our small town. From the beginning, Dad was fascinated with this enchanting newcomer and soon invited him to live with our family. The stranger was quickly accepted and was around from then on. As I grew up, I never questioned his place in my family. In my young mind, he had a special niche.

My parents were complementary instructors: Mum taught me good from evil, and Dad taught me to obey. But the stranger... he was our storyteller. He would keep us spellbound for hours on end with adventures, mysteries and comedies. If I wanted to know anything about politics, history or science, he always knew the answers about the past, understood the present and even seemed able to predict the future! He took my family to all sorts of sporting events.

He made me laugh, and he made me cry. The stranger never stopped talking, but Dad didn't seem to mind. Sometimes, Mum would get up quietly while the rest of us were shushing each other to listen to what he had to say, and she would go to the kitchen for peace and quiet.

(I wonder now if she ever prayed for the stranger to leave.)

Dad ruled our household with certain moral convictions, but the stranger never felt obligated to honour them. Profanity, for example, was not allowed in our home - not from us, our friends or any visitors. Our long time visitor, however, got away with four-letter words that burned my ears and made my dad squirm and my mother blush. My Dad didn't permit the liberal use of alcohol but the stranger encouraged us to try it on a regular basis. He made cigarettes look cool, cigars manly, and pipes distinguished. He talked freely (much too freely!) about sex. His comments were sometimes blatant, sometimes suggestive, and generally embarrassing. I now know that my early concepts about relationships were influenced strongly by the stranger. Time after time, he opposed the values of my parents, yet he was seldom rebuked ... and NEVER asked to leave.

More than fifty years have passed since the stranger moved in with our family. He has blended right in and is not nearly as fascinating as he was at first. Still, if you could walk into my parents' house today, you would still find him sitting over in his corner, waiting for someone to listen to him talk and watch him draw his pictures.

His name?

We just call him 'TV.'

He has a wife now....we call her '*Computer*.'



THE HOLY CROSS AND MOST HOLY REDEEMER

DIVISIONS IN THE EC have been dominating much of the news during the past few months, which is hardly really surprising during a world economic slow-down which has affected the national interests of its members so very differently. The Conservative backbench revolt over a national referendum was a very unwelcome sideshow for Mr Cameron at the very time he was facing growing criticisms in the Euro area for obstructing an urgent international need to agree to strengthen the euro. But it needs also to be seen in the context of a reaction of nationalism wherever the present economic slowdown is being experienced most critically, not only between the countries of northern and southern Europe, but between France and Germany, between the US and the EC, China and the US, etc.

The Catholic Church has tended strongly to support the EC as the main bulwark for peace in Europe after centuries of European conflict. As a strong international political union of nations this is true. But the Commons debate cannot simply be dismissed as a sideshow. The present form of the EC makes its democratic deficit too high. Those of us who really value our democracy and legal traditions of justice cannot indefinitely be satisfied with such a bureaucratic and expensive international centralisation of authority in a Commission which seems not only immune from adequate public scrutiny, but seems to ignore subsidiarity to interfere unjustifiably with cultural laws, customs, commercial modes of transaction, and forms of national political integrity which have taken centuries to evolve in forms which European nations have found acceptable, and can alter or abolish themselves.

Some MPs want to withdraw altogether from the EC, but most wish to return important powers to Parliament. Only Liberals seem to support it uncritically. But we should surely all seek a more carefully thought out and wider European programme of political reform which can restore the EC to the democratic accountability of its constituent national parliaments. The Council of ministers was developed to control the political powers of the Commission, but is now itself becoming a device which further removes EC decisions from the public scrutiny and accountability which the European parliament was originally meant to provide. But the European Parliament is really an impotent and expensive irrelevance which should simply be put out of its misery. The scrutiny of EC proposals should be returned to all the parliaments of the EC's constituent nations. Its scrutiny could surely be transferred to parliamentary committees of MPs already elected, who could meet together internationally whenever this is really necessary.

A PILGRIMAGE/HOLIDAY TO ITALY IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF DON BOSCO

by Margaret Tabbener

On the Tuesday 4 September Fr Dan, Cathy Raggett, Aileen Joyce and Margaret Tabbener joined the Salesian Co-Operators on a pilgrimage to Italy. We left Gatwick airport and arrived in Turin to be met by our coach and driven to the Salesian Centre at Valdocco. We were taken to the Penardi Shed where John Bosco first began his work which is now a beautiful little chapel. St John Bosco was a great inspiration to all who knew him and was a man determined to carry out his work for young people. He prayed to the Blessed Virgin Mary and constantly relied on her help. St John Bosco also relied on his mother's help with the boys and she willingly became a 'mother' to all the children in their care. Turin is a beautiful city and the Basilica of Our Lady Help of Christians and surrounding chapels are all exquisite and ornate. St John Bosco was a great admirer of St Francis de Sales and named his order the Salesians in his honour. Our accommodation was very comfortable. Although we were not able to see the Shroud we were taken to see where it is kept in the Turin Cathedral.



St Don Bosco

We left Turin and travelled to Mornese visiting the Shrine of St John Bosco and his family home and many other interesting areas connected with the Saint's life. We were shown the space behind the altar where St John Bosco witnessed the young St Dominic Savio deep in prayer and ecstasy. We stayed at the Centro di Spiritualità, home of Salesian Sisters, where we were given a warm welcome and excellent rooms. We were taken by our guide to see the home of St Mary Mazzarello who was doing similar work to St John Bosco for girls. In the school we were shown a light which is never allowed to go out and is burning for all Salesians, past pupils and present – a very peaceful place. The weather was hot and sunny throughout our stay. Mornese is a lovely little Italian hill town and we enjoyed our stay there and saw the birth place of St Mary Mazzarello and the small house where she began her work for girls.

We left Mornese and took the beautiful drive to Florence visiting the medieval city of Lucca where we stopped for lunch and met our guide, who took us around the city, and came with us to Florence and gave us a full tour of that lovely but very busy city and we were glad to rest in the Salesian Institute. The following morning we were taken to Florence train station and travelled to Rome Termini Station and taken to the Church of the Sacro Cuore and the Salesian Community. This church was built by Don Bosco and has recently re-opened after restoration.

We left Rome and travelled to the Alban Hills to the exquisite Villa Palazzola where we were happy to stay for four nights. The villa has a long history going back to before the 12th century and was once a monastery belonging to the Cistercians. The rooms were excellent and the food very good and we ate al fresco every evening – always with a delicious pasta starter and red or white wine! The view from the window in my room was across the volcanic lake Albano towards the Pope's summer residence of Castel Gandolfo. The Villa had beautiful walks, a library and chapel and a very welcome swimming pool of which we took full advantage to escape the heat.

We were taken into Rome and had a picnic in the lovely gardens of the English College in Rome and given a very interesting tour of the College. We visited the Basilica of St Paul outside the Walls and viewed the mosaic medallions of all the Popes from St Peter to the present day where Pope Benedict's portrait is highlighted. Piazza Navona is as lively and lovely as ever but our highlight was to visit St Peter's and hear mass. The following day we visited Castel Gandolfo and hoped to be able to see the Pope but his schedule had been changed and we were unable to see him so we shopped for souvenirs and had cappuccinos and gelati instead.

I would like to thank Fr Dan for saying mass every morning and for leading us in our evening prayer and having the traditional St John Bosco *buona notte* every evening. We were also fortunate in having Sr Ella, a Salesian sister, on our pilgrimage, who was only too happy to tell us all she knew about St John Bosco and end each evening by leading us in our singing of the *Salve Regina*. We returned home on the 13 September having experienced a spiritual and meaningful pilgrimage always to be remembered and highly recommended.

THE NEW PIANO TEACHER

by Margaret Tabbener

Well, I knew more about Mr Anderson than my mother – she is so insistent that I continue with my piano lessons even though I tell her that I would like to stop. I liked Mrs Taylor and I had done well with her but my mother knew better. Mrs Taylor was kind and a really good teacher but, unfortunately for me, she was elderly and had cancer – and I don't think my mother was very nice to her and had already begun looking for a new teacher before Mrs Taylor died, and within two weeks I had lessons arranged with a Mr Anderson. Not much was said about Mrs Taylor but I was very sad because she was the first person I knew that had died. Anyway, my mother was the same when I had ballet classes. I was never going to be a svelte ballerina and by the time I was 11 it was clear to everybody that a tall, plumpish girl with arms and legs that went all over the place was in the wrong class. I know I was a disappointment to my mother but my Dad would take my side, and that always caused a row with my mother. "You are too soft with Louise - she needs a lot more discipline and I am surprised at you, a so called Psychologist, letting her get away with it all the time."

And then the argument would begin and get quite nasty. What was I getting away with – I was not built to be a dancer and not going to be much of a piano player either. It made me feel so guilty, being the reason for their shouting at each other, until my father would see my face and say, "enough", and scoop me up in his big, strong arms and take me to my room and read a story to me. That was the only good thing about their fights. I was now too big for my Dad to scoop me up but the arguing still went on – I don't think I was the sole cause but, being an only child, all attention seemed to be focused on me, and my mother was very ambitious. It was exhausting being dragged from gymnastics to tennis coaching, and drama classes, etc, etc. I worried would they divorce – I was about the only girl in my class who still lived with both parents under the same roof.

I'd realised, after talking to my friend Gina at school, that Mr Anderson was her uncle and had been married to her mother's sister, and they had recently divorced and it had been unpleasant. She told me that he had been quite a nice uncle and was very jolly and she was sorry he was no longer welcome in their house. Apparently, the bruises and black eyes that her aunt had occasionally shown up with were from him. That Mr. Anderson, who was my new piano teacher, did that was hard to believe. I had overheard my mother and her friend, Mrs. Molly Hoskins, discussing my piano classes and my mother was saying that at last she had found a suitable new piano teacher to replace Mrs Taylor and it was unfortunate that he had just come out of a nasty divorce because his wife had cheated on him, not once but several times, and demanded a lot of money – hence his need to do some private work. Then my mother saw me and changed the subject. I knew more than that about him – Gina had told me that he had had too many women friends for her aunt's comfort. Oh we like to gossip too even though we don't understand the adult

world – they seem to be making a complete mess of things and we swore that we would never marry or have children. I liked Gina – we got on very well. The other girls at St Hilda’s were weird and heavily into body piercing and tattoos, although both were forbidden. I had been threatened by my mother that if I ever appeared in the house with a tattoo or anything else, she would throw me out and remove me from St Hilda’s which was, as she reminded me on many occasions, a very expensive school and I was a privileged child – as if I would even consider doing any such thing.

Every Wednesday I would go round to Mr Anderson’s flat for my hour long lesson – at first I liked him but after Gina had told me about her aunt, I thought his hands were very square and ugly, not like a pianist’s should be and he insisted on sitting very close to me. He put me off and then he would place his hands on mine to show me the correct positioning – I had learnt all that from Mrs Taylor and she never did that to me. His hands were always hot and worse hairy. I couldn’t concentrate and he would say if you want a distinction in your grade 6 exam, which your mother is expecting you to get, you need to do better and to make sure you practise. It’s all about practise, practise, practise, Louise. He bored me and his flat smelt of stale cigarette smoke and garlic, although I never saw him smoke. The phone rang during one of my lessons and Mr Anderson quickly went to the door apologising and in his haste, because he was always so close to me, he nearly knocked me off the piano stool. “I need to answer that,” he said, “and Louise, please continue playing”.

He closed the door but I could still hear him – I think it was his wife. He sounded very angry and I heard him threatening her saying, “you’ve got all my money – there’s nothing left. I have to give extra lessons to make ends meet and you have interrupted a lesson.” Then the door flew open and he stamped across the room towards me, looking red in the face and angry. He frightened me. “I may have been on the phone, Louise and I’m sorry about that, but you did not play that piece very well, did you?”

Of course I didn’t. I’d tried but I was being too nosy to play, and busy listening and I was nervous. I did not want my piano playing to drown out what he was saying. And, anyway, my interest in the piano was disappearing fast and I had to play the piece over again – it still did not please Mr Anderson and I had to take it home and come back next week and play it perfectly. He also said he needed to talk to my mother – well that made me concentrate and I promised him I would practise, practise, practise.

It was on the Friday after my Wednesday lesson, which had been cancelled, when Gina told me that her mother was very worried about her aunt – she hadn’t been seen for two weeks and she hadn’t been answering her mobile phone. “You mean she’s gone missing? He did it,” I said. “He’s killed your aunt. I’m sure of it – he has horrible hands, Gina – I know he did it – she’s

dead and he has buried her somewhere or put her under the floorboards in his flat – he looks like a murderer. I'm sure he did it – he's killed your aunt. Oh my God, Gina – none of us are safe. He's got rid of your aunt and he'll be after us next. He'll stop at nothing."

Gina stared at me horrified. "Are you mad, Louise? Of course he didn't kill my Aunt Jenny. My father spoke to her – you didn't let me finish – she had facial surgery that's all." "Facial surgery – what's that", I asked. Oh you mean she's had a face lift." "Well, yes. My aunt didn't want everyone to know – least of all my mother, who has always said how foolish and vain some women were to waste their money. Who would want to do that to themselves? And you had my aunt murdered and buried in my uncle's flat! What were you thinking, Louise? He's not a murderer." As she laughed loud and long I felt foolish. "Of course not," I said – I knew that really." "My poor aunt is not buried in my uncle's flat. She just wanted to look younger and I heard her tell my Dad she was very lonely and she would like to meet someone nice, that's all, and she was afraid my mother would make fun of her- and she would! You are a silly girl, Louise, oh but I do like you, you're so funny." How she laughed.

I said I was sorry – of course Mr. Anderson wasn't a murderer but you never know and his hands were really horrible. Anyway, one good thing happened – at last my mother realised I'd had enough of piano playing and I was relieved, but I start junior philosophy classes next week and I know I'm going to hate it. I thought Mr Tate, the Philosophy teacher, looked OK, although when he was being introduced to my mother, I noticed that the tip of his middle finger was missing on his right hand and he was wearing dark glasses in the evening. Even my mother thought that was a bit odd – we couldn't see his eyes – I wonder what they're like? I bet they're small and mean and brown: oh no – like Mr Anderson's!

The end

Who's Chicken?

When asked to get a tin of soup out of the pantry cupboard, a 5-year old refused, saying It's dark and scary in there.

The mother explained that God is everywhere and would protect her.

Dutifully, the little girl went to the pantry, stuck her head just inside and said, 'God, would you please hand me a tin of chicken soup?'



My church is composed of people like me.

I help make it what it is.

It will be friendly, if I am.

Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.

It will do great work, if I work.

It will make generous gifts to many causes,

If I am a generous giver.

It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship,

If I invite and bring them.

It will be a church of loyalty and love of fearlessness and faith

And a church with a noble spirit,

If I, who make it what it is,

Am filled with these same things.

Therefore, with the help of God,

I shall dedicate myself to the task of BEING

All the things I want my church to be.

(Author unknown)





THE HOLY CROSS AND MOST HOLY REDEEMER

THE VISIT of the Archbishop of Canterbury to President Mugabe was courageous because it was undertaken simply because it was the right thing to do without any real expectation or hope of much more than a humiliating response, and so it was in this sense deeply Christ-like. In fact Dr Rowan Williams met with what seemed generally to be a courteous response, even though he might neither have expected it, nor is likely to expect his requests to be met by the ruling party. But in the longer run he may hopefully have strengthened Anglican unity, and the problem he faced in Zimbabwe also illustrates the problems of the Christian Church or Churches in general in facing and meeting the secular state in any society, whether Christian or not.

The Anglican Church in England meets all the time problems which are inherent in its statutory authority as 'the established Church of England' without receiving anywhere nearly enough of the support needed to fulfil this increasingly challenging task in a very secularist age. Many Anglican clergy believe that their Church would fare significantly better pastorally if it was disestablished and free to run its own affairs without being often impeded by the mere fact of its establishment. Such aspirations deserve the sympathy and support of all Christians should Anglicans choose such a path of ecclesial independence. But an alternative vision is emerging which deserves more ecumenical interest than it is usually given (especially among Catholics).

The Church of England was established to provide a stable national Church which would avoid the threatened civil war of competing versions of Christianity which occurred in the European wars of religion. As such it emerged as a national compromise between the extremes of Protestantism and the exorbitant extremes of an outdated papacy. In the longer run, however, its settlement compromise would inevitably fail with an English civil war.

But the fact that the enterprise was conceived as an ecumenical political compromise does give the Church of England a way of seeing its establishment as an *ecumenical* vocation of service to represent not merely its own interests, but those of all other mainstream national Christian traditions. It already does through its establishment sometimes choose deliberately and ecumenically to represent other mainstream Christian causes in Parliament, but this is a representation which could be established by some kind of ecumenical convention through which the interests of most of our Christian traditions could be better ecumenically served and represented *through* its establishment, if our Christian leaders could find a way of overcoming the sectarian obstacles which would of course inevitably surface at least initially in such an enterprise.

School News

ST. PATRICK'S ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Whitefriars, Avenue Road, Farnborough
Hampshire GU14 7BW Telephone: 0252 542511



Our Olympic year was always going to be a memorable one and the summer term of 2012 did not let us down. As always, the trips and events tend to take centre stage towards the end of the year but this year has been a little bit different. The Olympics have been a great source of pride and inspiration for all of us and the children at St Patrick's are no exception.

The children have been learning about various aspects of the Olympics – its ancient Greek roots, the participating countries and their sporting heroes, but also looking at the Olympic and Paralympic values of Excellence, Respect, Friendship, Courage, Determination, Inspiration and Equality. Each week during celebration assembly, children who had been seen demonstrating these values received special certificates. These values are reflected in St Patrick's continuing support for the "Send my Friend to School" campaign which highlights the millions of children, particularly girls, who do not receive their right to an education. The children wrote to David Cameron regarding this issue and are awaiting a response.

Despite the weather not being on our side, the children have taken part in many trips this term: Reception class had a great day at Marwell Zoo; Year 1 enjoyed Hiller Gardens and Year 2 had a rainy day at the seaside! Year 3 had several local visits including Farnborough Abbey; Year 4 spent a night at the East Meon Sustainability Centre; Year 5 gazed at stars at Winchester Planetarium and Year 6 had an inspiring day at Wintershall.

The children also enjoyed a Jubilee Party and charity fundraiser, an Olympic themed sports day, a rather sports based Leavers production – and all this against the background noise of the Airbus A380!

The fun and celebrations of the summer term are always tinged with a little sadness at our Year 6 leavers. Our senior class led a beautiful mass in the last week of term which was attended by many families reaching the end of a long association with our school. These children were our first Panda's nursery class and, looking at the special commemorative photograph, it was particularly poignant to reflect on the journey of these chubby cheeked toddlers to accomplished young adults. We wish all our leavers luck in their new schools and hope they return to visit us often.

We also bid farewell to another member of our school, whose journey mirrors our Year 6 children. Miss Julie Tomkins, who arrived at our school eleven years ago leaves her post as Deputy Head at St Patrick's for her new role as Head of Primary at the British School of Houston USA. The number of past pupils and parents who visited to say goodbye to Miss Tomkins during the last week are a testament to the respect and affection she inspired in so many children. Miss Tomkins will be sorely missed by staff and pupils alike, but we wish her well in her future endeavours.

Kate Licence

FARNBOROUGH HILL
EDUCATING THE WHOLE PERSON



the caring face of academic excellence

Our Year 9 Public Speaking team are national champions, having won the final of the Rotary International Youth Speaks Competition in Wales. The team are Carys Dally (Vote of Thanks), Beatrice Cerullo (Chairman) and Sangeeta Rijal (Speaker). In the National Final Beatrice also won the Best Chairman prize and Carys was awarded the trophy for the Best Vote of Thanks. Headmistress Sarah Buckle said, 'This is an outstanding achievement for the school and we are all delighted



Sangeeta, Carys and Beatrice

Weeks of hard work and plenty of laughter resulted in a wonderful Choral Concert. The programme was a real mixture of exciting music – Mozart's moving and expressive Requiem, followed by a light hearted Rondo for Flute and Orchestra, with our Head Girl, Faye Henry, as solo flautist, and a selection of lively and passionate spirituals arranged by John Rutter and Michael Tippett. We are grateful to the audience and visiting singers for the generous donation of over £1500 towards the expenses of the concert.

Farnborough Hill is dedicated to the Sacred Heart and we celebrated the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in June with a beautiful Mass in Chapel for the whole school followed by lollies on the lawn. The Chapel was decorated for the occasion and special mention should go to the Sacred Heart statue by the Chapel entrance with its floral decoration by Sister Mannion

A large group of Year 10 students have undertaken the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award this year. As part of the award, the girls had to take part in an expedition involving camping overnight, walking and navigating a route of about 25 km and carrying all their equipment including tents and food. It was very tough and certainly a huge challenge, but the girls all enjoyed it hugely.

Mrs Lynn Glover, Head of Year 8, retired at the end of the Summer term. Her year group collected money for her leaving gift and presented her with a 'CAFOD Gift' of £100 'Teaching Someone to Read' in celebration of her work as Head of Year and her retirement. In addition, they presented her with some flowers and a beautiful memory book filled with pictures and written memories. We will all miss Mrs Glover but wish her a happy and fulfilling retirement.

Students at Farnborough Hill were rewarded for their hard work with excellent A level and GCSE examination results. At A level there was a 100% pass rate again, with nearly half of all the grades at A*/A grade, a 10% improvement on last year's already impressive haul. Among the top performers with three or more A*/A grades were: Joanna Fuller (going to Bristol to study English), Charlotte Heffernan (Lincoln College, Oxford to study PPE), Faye Henry (Durham to study Chemistry), Gabrielle King (Exeter to study Geography), Francesca Pipkin (Southampton to study Pharmacology), Natalie Sole (Bristol to study Biochemistry) and Sophie Welch (Leicester to study Medicine). The GCSE results were also outstanding. The school continued on an upward trend with a fantastic 92% of all the results at A* - B. With 64% of all the results at the top two grades of A* and A, 41% (39 girls) gained at least 8A*/As each. An amazing 28 girls achieved A*/A grades in all their subjects and 9 girls had all A* grades. Top performers with 11 A*s (having studied Ancient Greek as an extra-curricular subject) were: Amelia Cameron; Talitha Lewis; Victoria Patel and Paloma Vince. Gaining 10 A*s were: Louise Beynon; Laura Doherty; Emily Ellis, Karen Ellis and Kloe Storrie. There were also some huge personal triumphs among the girls with more modest results and everyone is equally delighted with these girls' successes.

Headmistress, Mrs Sarah Buckle said "Once again we are very proud of our students' achievements. They are multi-talented and excel in a whole range of extra-curricular activities as well as their academic studies; they thoroughly deserve their wonderful results."

Our next Open Afternoons are:
Friday 5 October and Wednesday 14 November 2012
For information please telephone 01252 545197



SALESIAN COLLEGE FARNBOROUGH

Salesian College's stunning results

In August it was with great delight and pride that the College celebrated a 99.5% pass rate at A Level with 67% of all grades awarded being at A*-B and 88% being at A*-C. The satisfaction of seeing our young men and women gaining deserved places at universities of their first choice and looking forward with excitement to their next stage of life was very gratifying.

Although there were concerns about the changing of grade boundaries to make it harder to achieve top grades at GCSE, 99% of the boys gained 5 A* - C grades. The grades achieved by Year 11 students were 60% at A* - A and 84% at A* - B with fifteen boys achieving 11 A* - A grades each.

More than just outstanding results!

The academic results complement the College's many successes over the last year which included winning the Geographical Association's 'Worldwise' Quiz for the third year in succession and achieving fourth place in the internationally prestigious Kids' Lit Quiz for avid readers. In the Sixth Form, the College's Young Enterprise Team took part in the Rotary Christmas Bazaar and won the trophy for their business knowledge and stand appearance and Sixth Form Student Edward Cummings was a runner up in the National Competition Chance to be Chancellor.

Salesian College has enjoyed a phenomenal year of sporting success winning 34 team trophies and numerous district, county, regional and national titles in a variety of sports. Successes included winning the U12 and U14 Camberley Rugby Tournaments and the Under 16 ISA National Ruby Sevens Tournament. At the Regional Biathlon Championships, the Year 8 team took first place and Year 11 student Owen Wagstaff was the overall individual winner. In Cross Country, the Year 11-13 team dominated the field taking the first three individual places and the overall team event for London West at the ISA National Cross Country Championships. In swimming, our young men and women were outstanding, winning an amazing 26 Gold medals at the ISA London West Swimming Championships and Basketball saw the College win two District League titles.

New £1.3m Music School

The new impressive McGuinness Music School, built at a cost of over £1.3m has been completed and the students are now benefitting from the purpose built facilities which will enhance music at the College. The new recital room and auditorium provides a wonderful venue for recitals, visiting speakers and presentations alongside dramatic performance.

Diary Dates

Salesian College is a very successful and highly regarded school which warmly welcomes young people of other faiths. Prospective students and their parents for entry into Year 7 are invited to attend our Open Afternoon on Wednesday 3 October 2012 from 1.15pm to 3.30pm. For those students interested in our thriving Co-Educational Sixth Form, you are welcome to attend the Sixth Form Open Evening on Monday 15 October 2012 from 7.00pm. Visits to the College are always welcome at any time by appointment – 01252 893000. Copies of our prospectus, both for the College and the Co-Educational Sixth Form are available on request. Please visit our website at www.salesiancollege.com for updated information. We look forward to welcoming you to Salesian

Answers to the Quiz on Page 11:

THE CORRECT ORDER

1. Creation
2. Noah builds the Ark
3. Abram and Sarah leave their home in Haran
4. Joseph is sold into slavery by his brothers
5. Moses leads the Israelites out of Egypt
6. Joshua leads the people across the Jordan into Canaan
7. Deborah judges Israel
8. Childless Hannah visits Eli the priest
9. King David marries Bathsheba
10. King Solomon builds his palace in Jerusalem
11. The Kingdom of Israel is divided in two.
12. Elijah defeats the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel
13. Isaiah's vision in the Temple
14. The people of Judah are taken into exile in Babylon
15. The Temple is rebuilt
16. Ezra reads the Book of the Law to all the people
17. The revolt of the Maccabees

