



# THE DOME

Autumn 2012

THE MAGAZINE OF PETERSFIELD CATHOLIC PARISH

## St Laurence Church – Recent Modifications

by Fr Peter Hollins

**The General Instruction on the Roman Missal states that “Churches . . . should be suitable for carrying out the sacred action and for ensuring the active participation of the faithful. Sacred buildings and requisites for divine worship should, moreover, be truly worthy and beautiful and be signs and symbols of heavenly realities.”**

The Dome of St Laurence Church makes a welcome return to the Petersfield skyline. The work took longer than expected. With Holy Week and Easter approaching, the Methodist Church kindly made arrangements for us to use their building. In the event, we celebrated our return to the church with the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday.

On arriving in the parish, I was told about various schemes for the re-ordering of St Laurence Church.



The overall aim was to provide a location for the Baptismal Font, more seating and a better view of the altar. At the same time, I learnt that the development of the Alton/Petersfield Pastoral Area into a single parish with two priests would lead to the closure of St Agnes at Liss and St Lucy’s at Medstead. It seemed prudent to consider how we might provide substantially more seating in St Laurence Church. Various options were discussed by the Buildings and Maintenance Committee, bearing in mind the limitations of a Grade 2 listed building. For the time being, it was agreed that there was too much uncertainty about the future of the Pastoral Area to develop substantial plans. However, some adjustments have taken place in the building recently.

The organ on its platform took up an inordinate amount of floor space and caused a disordered seating arrangement. In particular, the grave of Lawrence Cave, founder of the church, had some chairs and a pew standing on it. After consultation with the Liturgy Group, the organ was moved to

the back wall between the Sacred Heart Chapel and the Sanctuary. It is generally agreed that the sound from the organ is improved by its relocation. The vacant space is used for additional seating facing the Sanctuary. Lawrence Cave’s gravestone now lies uncovered.

A wooden cabinet by the church entrance served little purpose beyond gathering clutter and was replaced by the hymnbook trolley. A little more room was allowed for the sidespersons and the space on the other side was filled with pews. The Holy Water stoop was fixed in a more accessible position by the front door. Four substantial chairs with arms have been placed in the church, for those who find that the usual seating does not give them enough support.



*Continued on next page*

## Our new bishop

**The successor to Crispian Hollis as Bishop of Portsmouth, will be Monsignor Philip Egan** (*on the right of the photograph*).

He was born in Altrincham, Cheshire. A graduate of King's College London, he studied for the priesthood at Allen Hall, London and the English College, Rome. Subsequently, he gained a doctorate in theology (PhD) from the University of Birmingham.

He was ordained in August 1984, was Assistant Priest at St. Anthony's, Woodhouse Park, then Assistant Chaplain to the University of Cambridge. He was Chaplain to Arrowe Park Hospital, Wirral (1991) before embarking on further studies at Boston College, Massachusetts.



For twelve years, he was on the formation staff of St. Mary's College, Oscott, in the Archdiocese of Birmingham, where he was the College's Dean of Studies and Professor of Fundamental Theology. He returned to Boston College as a post-doctoral research fellow of the Lonergan Institute in 2007, before being appointed Parish Priest of Our Lady and St. Christopher's, Romiley, near Stockport in 2008.

In 2010 he was appointed Vicar General of the Diocese of Shrewsbury, in 2011 a Prelate of

Honour to his Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, and in 2012 a Canon of Shrewsbury Cathedral.

Monsignor Egan has regularly contributed to religious journals and magazines. He has written about the thoughts of Newman and Lonergan.

Mgr Egan will be ordained Bishop at St John's Cathedral on 24th September. Gratefully building on the pastoral work of Bishop Crispian and fellow clergy he humbly asks for your prayers as he receives this call received from the Holy Father. Bishop Crispian says: "I warmly welcome the appointment by the Holy See of Mgr Philip Egan to be my successor in the Portsmouth diocese and becoming its 8th Bishop."

## Church Modifications ... continued from front page

Increased seating capacity has taken pressure off using the hall as an extension to the church. So the audio/video scheme has been scaled back. Nevertheless, there is now an excellent sound relay to the hall and a fixed video link, albeit of lesser quality. The PA control box has been repositioned to a more discreet position in the Sacred Heart chapel.

At the moment the church font is in the centre of the Sacred Heart chapel. It is not used because there is little room around it and it is only visible to a small part of the congregation. Its current location in the Sacred Heart chapel does not reflect the significance of the Sacrament of Baptism. There have been suggestions to return it to the

original position in the corner by the front entrance to the church. However, there is little space or visibility in the corner. Another suggestion has been to site the font in the middle of the church alongside the confessional. My own preference would be to position the font in the centre of the aisle, just inside the church entrance but we could not afford the loss of seating this would entail. A happy compromise has been put forward: in front of the pillar on the right side of the sanctuary. It is a place of some dignity without taking attention from the sanctuary. Parents and godparents can easily stand around and it is visible to most of the congregation. The Liturgy Group agreed a trial placing of the font in that position. After

six weeks it will be returned to the Sacred Heart chapel to allow time for wider consultation. If the response is generally positive we will consult with the Diocesan Liturgy Commission and the various historic church bodies before it is made permanent.

The internal view of the newly painted dome is a magnificent sight. Many have remarked that it makes the rest of the church appear shabby. The Maintenance and Buildings Committee is minded to see the painting of the rest of the Church during Autumn 2013. Light fittings and redundant piping will be dealt with first. This will depend upon next year's financial position.

About the Parish

# St Agnes News

by Margaret Effenberg



**Despite the dreadful weather this**

**year** the ladies from St Agnes led by Margaret Effenberg excelled themselves with a magnificent flower display entitled "All Things Bright and Beautiful", suitably inscribed in Latin on a silk ribbon. (See picture, right).

This was part of the splendid flower festival at St Mary's Church over three days in June, from 22-24th, to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in which all the Liss Churches,

clubs, schools and some businesses participated. There was a wonderful service of thanksgiving on the Sunday evening at which all the groups were asked to choose a hymn for the service.

The monthly Liss Churches Working Together prayer breakfasts have continued to be short prayerful events (8.30-9.00 ) and good opportunities to meet our brethren from other churches. St Agnes is responsible for the one in November (Saturday 10th at 8.30a.m.) and will be at Justin and Valerie Kelly's (10 Highfield Gardens, Liss). So we hope others will join us then.

A reminder that we need to support the food bank for Petersfield by donating dry goods through

the bin at the back of St Agnes.

Finally, we look forward to meeting everyone at the parish Harvest Mass in St Agnes at 6pm followed by supper to be held in Liss Village Hall on 6th October.

Please pray for Parishers who have recently died, especially Pat O'Connor who was very active in St Agnes in his younger days. May he rest in peace.



Angie Rowan, Cathy Collins, Mary O'Brien at the Liss Churches Flower Festival

## Baptisms

- Jan 15th Evie Rebekah Scott
- Feb 4th Emma Kate Newnham
- 18th Rafferty James Alabaster
- April 1st Solomon Andrew Phipps
- 8th Beatrix Alys Cuss
- 22nd Filip Oliver Godzisz
- July 8th Lena Czerwinska

## First Communions

- 20th May 2012
- Edward Ditcham
- William Thomas
- Kaitlin Shaw
- Daniel Shaw
- William Jenner
- Konrad Painta

## Those who have died

- 2011
- Oct 30th Megan Gay Mason
- Nov 13th Patricia Mary Black
- Dec 3rd Peter James Meiklejohn
- 2012
- Jan 2nd Patrick Michael O'Connor
- Feb 21st Josephine Greenhaigh
- 26th Alice Mitchell
- 29th Fredrick Richard Mauldon
- Mar 2nd Harriott Stanton
- 13th Anthony Michael Grant
- 28th Rosemary Frances Grimshaw
- Apr 7th John Brian Morley
- 11th Joan Marie Chick
- 23rd Kathleen Rhoda Pitt (Katie)
- 26th Dorothy Isabel Watson
- May 1st Alice Rosalie Campey

From a parish (not ours!):  
 'The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hospitality.'



*My company is the only truly local Independent agent who in 2012 will have been providing professional advice to clients and selling and letting property in Petersfield and the surrounding area for 80 years. I and my colleagues look forward to being of help to you in the future and in the meantime I wish all fellow parishioners a very Happy Christmas and New Year.*  
 Adrian M Organ FRICS

Tel: 01730 262826  
 Email: [petersfield@keats.biz](mailto:petersfield@keats.biz)

## Being a young Catholic today

**I would say that there are some good and some not so good points about being a Christian in today's times.**

Most of the time I feel really good inside and when I have understood Mass, it motivates me to be kinder and more helpful to people around me, not just my family. I sometimes find it quite difficult to understand the message during Mass and I find that this is frustrating because I lose concentration and my Mum tells me to listen.

I feel that being a Catholic makes me stand out from my friends as most of them don't really believe in God or go to church, but they seem to accept that I do and I attend Mass regularly. I have also noticed that I have a different set of values and morals in comparison to my friends and this sometimes leads to peer pressure, which is hard when it comes to making the right choices.

*by Jenan Richard (14)*

**I think it is hard to be a Catholic because my most of my friends don't go to church and we do.** So they always are doing stuff when we are going to church and I miss out. I get cross with Mom and Dad when they say we are going to church but afterwards I feel good and I like doing things for other people to make them feel good. I think some of the words are too big for me, so I am not always sure of what I am listening to.

*by Chad Richard (10)*

## Inspire a generation

**With the Olympics and Paralympics this summer it is only fair to mention two of our own young parishioners who have excelled in their sports recently.**

Kay Smith's grandson, trampolinist Daniel Johnson (14), was awarded the East Hants District Council Award for the Junior Disability Sportsperson of the Year in May at an evening at The Studio, Petersfield School, hosted by ITV's Fred Dinenage. Well done, Daniel!

Luke Williamson (9), who attends St Agnes, wrapped up the title glory in the Future West British Supercross Auto Championship at the Birmingham 02 Arena in February. Riding a Metrakit 50cc bike he raced to victory in the first round at the Sheffield Arena, and in Belfast, for round 2, he did well to finish 4th in another tightly fought race. He did well despite having to remount after



Luke Williamson riding high

a punctured rear tyre. The final race gave Luke another great win, leading from the gate to the finish and sealing the championship.

Luke spent the first six years of his life watching his Dad, Francis, competing at British Championship level in road racing. Luke then took up motocross (racing) and set his sights on the Supercross Championship; he really enjoys jumping and to come away with the Championship has been a great achievement.

For this season Luke has had to adapt to a 65cc (bigger and geared) bike and is lying 3rd in his club championship. Well done Luke, and be safe!

Love thy neighbour, but cut not down thy hedge!



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## Children's Liturgy

by Georgina Carrick

St Laurence is lucky to have a thriving Sunday children's liturgy for those of primary school age. It's held in the church hall every fortnight and run by a dedicated team of helpers who are Steph Murray, Susanne Ashcroft, Emily Rankin, Julia Nesbitt and myself. Teaching focuses on bringing alive the Gospel through a wide range of engaging activities, including use of arts and crafts, puzzles, song, storytelling, games and role play. Prayer



Bear joined us last year and enables families to come together in prayer during the week and a diary of their time with him is kept by the children and shared during liturgy. He's well-travelled; he has been dog-walking on the Downs, surfing in Cornwall and on pilgrimage to Lourdes, to name but a few of the many destinations he has visited in the last 12 months with the children. Much fun is had by all involved at children's



Prayer Bear with Maggie, a Chocolate Labrador

liturgy and the contribution of these sessions to the parish helps bring families of all ages to the church.

*Children's Liturgy is on its summer break and will return again in September. We look forward to seeing you then.*

## A Challenging Task

by Bronagh Lindsey

**Bringing your children up in the catholic faith in today's world can be tough.** As we live each day, going from morning to evening, the majority of us are overwhelmed by the sheer busyness of our lives, as we meet our responsibilities of work and family. There is little precious time and energy left for sharing our faith with our children or is there.....? On reflection, we make time without realising it!

We remember our baptismal promises to raise our children in the Catholic Faith. Rising to this promise can prove a challenge in itself. Through a variety of ways we take this forward and pro-

vide our children with the life skills necessary to succeed and lead healthy, physical, emotional and spiritual lives. From a spiritual perspective, we help them by teaching them to pray, reading stories, and insisting on regular attendance at Mass.

We provide them too with the necessary preparation required to receive and understand the sacraments, and helping them to reach these all important milestones in their spiritual lives.

Catholic teaching in our locality is limited but available. During term time children have the opportunity to meet out of the confines of their school day, meet other children from different schools share experiences and learn from each other. They have the opportunity to foster and develop new friendships and share a common interest- their faith.



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# Church Roof - The Final Chapter

by Simon Craig McFeely,  
Chairman, Maintenance Committee

**I write this as we bathe in the glow of what seems to be endless sporting success for the British this summer.** A British finalist at Wimbledon, the first British Tour de France winner and now endless gold medals at our own Olympics.

It all seems a lifetime ago that I was almost daily, climbing six ladders to the top of the roof at St Laurence Church ....strangely, I realise that it was less than a couple of months ago, in June, that we finally completed the replacement of the copper on the dome at our church.

This little project, and the inevitably large monetary cost, had been hanging over the parish for some years and it was only falling brickwork, from just below the copper gutter at the bottom of the dome, that forced us to make the decision to erect scaffolding to make a proper inspection. (We thought about using a large “cherry picker” crane for our initial inspection, but our tight site did not allow access for such a big piece of equipment). When we first climbed

the scaffolding and got a close view of the roof, our worst fears were not confirmed, as although the copper had clearly reached the end of its life, the wooden frame beneath appeared to be in good condition. However, it was clear that we would have to not only renew all of the copper, but, at the same time, fairly extensive repair, and re-pointing of damaged brickwork was required, as well as refurbishment of the sixteen windows at higher level.

We duly appointed a building surveyor with plenty of experience of Historic Listed Buildings, Richard Glover of Richard Glover Limited, based locally in Buriton, to oversee the project for us. We went out to tender for builders and copper workers and were very fortunate to have a specialist copper worker recommended by our locally-based scaffolders, Liddiards. They had just come across a firm based in Croydon who were working on a house in Waterlooville, and had been impressed with the standard of the work that they had seen.

We asked Peters Roofing to tender and they came up with the cheapest quote of the three. Further checks revealed that they were probably the best copper contractors in the UK and they were duly awarded the contract.



Simon aloft, by the cross on the top of the dome, then protected by scaffolding.

It was a joy to see them at work. They were always keen to show us what they were doing and why, and to impress us with the care and trouble that they were taking, and to do a job of which they could be proud, and which was also clearly an improvement on the original job that was done in the 1890's.

This improvement was not simply due to their taking greater care to do a good job, but also to improvements in our knowledge of how copper weathers etc, which is something that is of course discovered when older buildings, such as our church, are refurbished.

English Heritage took a keen interest in proceedings and Petersfield-based Chris Wood of English Heritage made several visits to see not only how the new copper was being fixed, but also to see how the old copper had fared after more than a century on the roof of our church.

Perhaps the most amazing aspect of such a large job was the scaffolding and no, I am not talking about the cost, which was in fact just under £25,000 including VAT, but rather how the scaffolding was built. This seemed



*The photographs illustrating this article were taken by George Spear, to whom we are grateful for permission to include them.*

Repairs



to me to be quite an engineering feat and indeed Liddiards did have to consult a specialist engineer for advice. Very cleverly, most of the weight of the scaffolding was taken by the lower roofs, so that the higher scaffolding was free standing from the bottom of the copper upwards. This was necessary because it could not be fixed to the church roof at any point once the copper was reached, as all of the copper had to be accessed for replacement and there could be not gaps or holes in it for scaffolding if it was to be watertight!

The total cost of the contract was a little over £170,000 including fees and VAT. A small final payment to both main contractors will be made in October after a “defects’ period” expires.

Our grateful thanks are due to all who worked on the project, in particular our Building Surveyor, Richard Glover, and Peters Roofing for taking such



care over the new copper work. Additionally, Chris Wood of English Heritage who gave helpful advice whenever he visited and George Spear, a local freelance photographer, who made about fifteen visits to build up a comprehensive library of photographs documenting the work. Lastly our thanks are also due to three organisations who very kindly gave us grants to help us with the cost of the work:  
East Hampshire District Council



Covers for Vents to level the air pressure and reduce condensation

was particularly generous in a time when grants are being cut due to the recession. Because of the size of the contract and also because of the prominence and importance of our church on the Petersfield skyline, they made us a special case.

Allchurches Trust very kindly sent us a cheque for a similar amount.

The Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches Trust [HIHCT], whom we support annually through their “Ride and Stride” to local churches, generously gave us not only a grant, but also an interest-free loan.



Michael Jelnicki the co-Director of Peters Roofing Contractors Ltd responsible for the copperwork on the Dome. This photo was taken at their workshops with his book of calculations he has made for the work.



After the Dome Thanksgiving service in July. L to R, Tricia Blakstad, representing HIHCT, Simon Craig McFeely, Town Mayor Cllr Mary Vincent, Fr Hollins and Jean Lord, Chair of the PPC.

The Higgs boson walks into a Catholic church, and the priest says: 'What are you doing here?' The Higgs says: 'Well, you can't have Mass without me.'



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## Did You Know? by Joan Mullins



From earliest times, the Four Evangelists were represented symbolically by winged beasts, known as the Four Apocalyptic Beasts; the idea comes from the Old Testament, Ezekiel (Ch1 v5-14), and also from the Book of Revelation (Ch4 v6-8). In both cases, winged beasts are “near the throne of God”...

St Matthew is represented by a winged man (NB: not an angel), as his Gospel contains the list of the human ancestors of Jesus.

St Mark is always represented by a winged Lion. His is the gospel which speaks of the “voice crying in the wilderness”. The greatest of the beasts in the wilderness is the lion.

St Luke is represented by a winged Ox. In ancient times, the greatest sacrificial beast was the ox and Luke’s Gospel starts with the story of Zachariah, priest in charge of the Temple sacrifices.

St John is, of course, the winged Eagle. The eagle was the bird which seemed to fly closest to heaven and John’s Gospel reflects this in its language and content.

## “Divine Mercy in my Soul”

From the Diary of Saint  
Maria Faustina Kowalska,



introduced by  
Anna Luke.

Faustina Kowalska  
was a Polish nun of  
the Blessed Sacrament of the Con-

gregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. She was canonized by Pope John Paul II on 30th April, 2000. Pope John Paul requested that the first Sunday following Easter should be called “Divine Mercy Sunday”.

The barque of my life sails along  
Amid darkness and shadows of night,  
And I see no shore;  
I am sailing the high seas.

The slightest storm would drown me,  
Engulfing my boat in the swirling  
depths,  
If You Yourself did not watch over me,  
O God,  
At each instant and moment of my life.

Amid the roaring waves  
I sail peacefully, trustingly,  
And gaze like a child into the distance  
without fear,  
Because You, O Jesus, are my Light.

Dread and terror is all about me,  
But within my soul is peace more pro-  
found than the depths of the sea,  
For he who is with You, O Lord, will  
not perish;  
Of this Your love assures me, O God.

Though a host of dangers surround me,  
None of them do I fear, for I fix my  
gaze on the starry sky,  
And I sail along bravely and merrily,  
As becomes a pure heart.

And if the ship of my life sails so peace-  
fully,  
This is due to but one thing above all:  
You are my helmsman, O God.  
This I confess with utmost humility.

## Leisure by William Henry Davies (1871-1940)

Introduced by Ann Saunders

*I like this poem as it reminds us to look at nature  
which can often make us think of God and the  
wonder of His Creation.*



What is this life if, full of care,  
We have no time to stand and stare.  
No time to stand beneath the boughs  
And stare as long as sheep or cows.  
No time to see, when woods we pass,  
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass,  
No time to see, in broad day light,  
Streams full of stars, like skies at night.  
No time to turn at beauty’s glance  
And watch her feet, how they can dance.  
No time to wait till her mouth can  
Enrich that smile her eyes began.  
A poor life this if, full of care,  
We have no time to stand and stare.

**If you have any reflections,  
contact [ann.saunders50@  
ntlworld.com](mailto:ann.saunders50@ntlworld.com)**



We wish Venetia and Nick Wright  
all the very best as they move to  
Wiltshire.



