



THE DOME

Summer 2008

THE MAGAZINE OF PETERSFIELD CATHOLIC PARISH

Message from the Bishop



The Right Reverend Crispian Hollis

“Communication is so important in today’s church that I am delighted to see that Petersfield parish is launching ‘The Dome’; I wish every blessing to its editorial team. I note with approval that you are also planning a complete update and overhaul of your website, to be launched this autumn. Advances in electronic media - email, the internet, databases and the rest - make it possible for parishioners to work together more effectively than in the past.

Four years ago, Petersfield participated in the Diocesan consultation which led to the publication of our Pastoral Plan (‘Go Out and Bear Fruit’) ensuring that the Eucharist continues to be available to all Catholics. Ideally, the Alton and Petersfield Pastoral Area will want to participate in the production and publication of this parish magazine and I would encourage the other parishes in the Pastoral Area to do so.”

What is happening to the PPC?

Are you wondering why there was no parish AGM last year? Unclear about references to a “Core Group”? You won’t be surprised then to hear that your Parish is going through some changes....

After a period of observation Canon Hetherington felt that it would be a good idea to review the mission and operation of the Parish Pastoral Council. A series of meetings was held during the autumn of last year looking at the purpose of pastoral councils (as defined by canon law) under the guidance of Nicky Stevens, Head of Pastoral Formation for the Diocese. She helped to move the new council away from its previous administrative role of overseeing other parish committees to a more pastoral and spiritually-formative function in keeping with Church guidelines.

In April’08 the Canon invited a “core group” to start this new program of re-generation, to continue over the following twelve month period. The group has twelve members – some from the previous PPC and some new. It is chaired by Terry O’Connor, his deputy is a relatively

new arrival from South Africa, Hadley Richards, and Jean Lord is its secretary.

The group will lay the foundations of the new PPC, define the Parish Mission and develop a Parish Vision. It also intends to review all existing parish ministries and to search out as yet un-discovered talents!

All parish groups are going to be consulted and in the autumn there will be a meeting, to which parishioners will be invited.

By Spring 2009 the Core Group should have made itself redundant by recommending how the new PPC should be instituted. Hopefully the Parish will by then understand better what the PPC does and candidates will know what is expected of them when they join.

The PPC in session, chaired by Terry O’Connor with the Canon and (right to left) Anne Penn, Kevin Fry, Hadley Richard and Jean Lord.



PARISH COMMUNICATIONS

Message from the editor

Veronica Goulder

Welcome to your new Parish magazine; **'The Dome'** – because **it covers everything!**

We are delighted to be able to bring you this first edition where you can discover what is going on in Petersfield parish. Although 'The Dome' is not a newsletter we intend to cover some items of news and activities in greater depth, so you can get more insight into what is happening with the hope that you will feel inspired to join in. You may spot a gap and feel inspired to fill it!

This issue includes a wonderful piece by Justine Jenner on the Women's Book Club which runs in people's houses and an overview of Ann Johnstone's many years of work with the children of the parish - and lots more besides.

But more than anything we want the magazine to reflect and serve the parish area and where appropriate the wider Catholic community, hence the piece on the next page about the Clayton Court day on Aug 16th. – put it in your diary!

So, your story is of great importance to us and we can make a difference if you bring your interests and issues to our attention either via the Letters page (next edition) or directly to a member of the editorial staff who will contact you - and you may even be interviewed!

The magazine team (pictured on the right) are ordinary parishioners without particular skills or training in journalism but we are willing to learn and welcome any input from you and most importantly, your prayers for its success. Send your views to; verogoulder@hotmail.com



The editorial team of The Dome - Veronica Goulder (top) Ann Saunders and Laura Best

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What the Communications Group is up to ...



Michael Blakstad

'The Dome' is the direct result of a Workshop held in May 2007 at which a number of parishioners was asked to make suggestions for improving communications both among ourselves and with the outside world.

A questionnaire of parishioners was completed last autumn and the results enabled Lise Foster, who is also the new parish music coordinator, to create a parish database detailing special talents and interests.

The Welcoming leaflet has been updated and re-named **'Information'** since the names and telephone numbers it contains are of use to all parishioners.

Next came the Parish Summary, designed by the Diocese, which requires details about every aspect of our activities and the people involved, down to who holds the keys to the buildings and who looks after the gardens.....You can see that we are acquiring a large body of knowledge which has never been gathered before - the Parish Summary has 32 pages of information.

The next step is The Dome. The workshop felt strongly that there was more information to be communicated within the parish than could be contained in the weekly Mass Sheets (important though this medium continues to be). A small editorial group was gathered and this is its launch edition.

The last big initiative is to re-launch our parish website in the autumn.. We have deliberately kept this until the end of the process so there is a clear understanding of its purpose. We are meeting anyone who needs to know how the website can best help the activities they organise on behalf of the parish.

This is all being undertaken by a small but dedicated group of parishioners, to whom my sincere thanks. Please let us know your views and any suggestions you have to make!

Pope Benedict's latest book 'A Biography of Christ' has sold over 2.5 million copies making him one of Europe's best-selling authors

THE PASTORAL AREA

Pastoral Area get-together



The Alton-Petersfield Pastoral Area is organizing an event for all its parishes at Clayton Court near Liss (pictured above) at 3pm, Saturday 16th August 2008.

This is the day after the Feast of the Assumption and the main focus of the celebration will be the 150th anniversary of Our Lady's apparitions

to St. Bernadette at Lourdes in the French Pyrenees.

Vespers will be followed by Benediction and then there will be a tea for everyone. This day will offer a great opportunity to meet with and get to know Bordon, Liphook, Grayshott and Alton parishes. This is a very special occasion so let's make it a great day to remember.

her time in the choir and her continuing role as Eucharistic Minister.

Up next was **Monica Taylor** who was awarded the Diocesan Medal by Bishop Crispian after the Anniversary of St Laurence's Dedication Service on 6th May. Monica has given 36 years' service in the choir and the last 21 years as Choirmistress before stepping down. Monica is still Secretary of the Liturgy group, and helped out in the office recently.

Daphne Daniels, who celebrated her Diamond Wedding last year was the next one to be surprised. As sidesperson, busy attending to the hymn books at the back of St Laurence's, she suddenly heard her name being called - she had missed the announcement by the Canon to come forward and receive the Medal. Daphne was the first woman sidesperson in the parish and later was in charge of her fellow sidespersons for over ten years. She was also involved with the former St Laurence's Association and still reads regularly, continues as sidesperson and is an usher at funerals.

The new Pastoral Area

Canon Hetherington

Our Parish is part of the Pastoral Area of Alton-Petersfield but the vision of many of us is confined to our Parish or even to the church we attend. If we are to grow into a Pastoral Area we need to get to know and trust each other before we can work together. The motto of Cardinal Suhard, wartime Archbishop of Paris, "In fide et lenitate" (in mutual trust and gentleness) could become ours as we move forward in implementing "Go out and bear fruit".

'The Dome' begins as a venture of Petersfield Parish I hope it will become in time the journal of our Pastoral Area. I welcome this first issue and thank all who planned and implemented it. May it continue for many years to come.

Diocesan Medals awarded to Petersfield parishioners

It was a delight this year to see four faithful servants of the parish being recognised with some of the highest accolades.

Firstly, **Betty Burton** was awarded the Diocesan Medal for 'outstanding fidelity and service in the diocese' for over 10 years' service as Sacristan, not to mention

Canon Hetherington with, left to right, Monica Taylor, Daphne Daniels, Katie Pitt and Betty Burton



To complete the quartet, **Katie Pitt** has received the Benemerenti Medal, which was instituted by Pope Gregory XVI in 1832 and is conferred on those who have exhibited 'long and exceptional service to the Catholic Church, their families and community'. The Medal has the word 'benemerenti' (to a well deserving person) on its face, surrounded by a crown of oak leaves, and its ribbon is made of the Papal colours. There are not many aspects of parish life in which Katie has not been involved and our next edition will carry more about Katie and her life in the parish.

Many congratulations to all of you and thank you for all you have done and continue to do.

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Children's Catechesis with Ann Johnstone



Ann Johnstone at Oxfam where, as at Sue Ryder, she has worked as a volunteer for many years.

One of the greatest contributions to the parish life of St. Laurence's deserves to be recorded in the first issue of The Dome and that is the fantastic work of Ann Johnstone (above) who has been running the children's RE class for the past 25 years.

Her dedication has yielded a rich harvest in the young of the parish. She has managed to keep the wheels on the carriage of Catholic instruction over many years often in the face of a creeping dilution of our inherited body of teachings, handed down from the beginning.

The "modern" tendency to teach comparative religions could actually be viewed as an attempt to sideline our own teachings and the local Church has sometimes been oblivious to the dangers of this approach, especially where the young are concerned. What young, where? You may well ask. QED.

In a happy reversal of this more general trend we here at St. Laurence's have had the benefit of the RE class on Tuesday afternoons in the hall where not only are the children instructed but they are also introduced to projects outside the parish such as Naomi House for which the children organise fund-raising and hear talks. Other activities include a noisy pancake party on Shrove Tuesday, acting Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, the Nativity play at Christmas and Harvest Festival activities and much more.

Ann stresses the importance of these activities not ending after First Holy Communion as there is a very real need for on-going formation and a structured programme of religious instruction at all levels. With this in mind a study day was arranged on Sat. 12th July with Sr. Veronica of the Dominican Monastery near Brockenhurst as facilitator.

Youth alert! Flame Fanning at St Dominic's Priory, Brockenhurst



For anyone wanting a course, retreat or a Summer Camp for the young in the beautiful setting of the New Forest this is the place for you. The community of nine Dominican sisters with many gifts both spiritual and pastoral make the Priory a great resource for Catholics and others in the south of England and well worth discovering – the new and stunningly designed chapel alone is well worth a visit (pictured above).

The sisters offer a range of retreats and courses which run throughout the year for both the young and for adults. Sister Marie (from France) even takes a group of young on a round pilgrimage to various sites in France which includes overnight stays in her uncle's farmhouse! There may be spaces on this year's pilgrimage for 18-25 year olds.

For this summer the Young Person's residential course – **Fanning The Flame** runs from **18-22 Aug. '08**; is well worth mentioning and is very popular, so early booking is recommended.

Booking - Tel; 01590 681 (874 email; dominican.sisters@talk21.com to see their full program.

Gerald Craig McFeely dies after illness

With sadness we have learned of the death on July 4th of Gerald Craig McFeely. He was a loved and much respected member of the parish and we offer our prayers and condolences to Joanna and all their family. A full obituary will be in the next issue of 'The Dome'.

PACT & LISS



The Wonersh group outside St Laurence, left to right: Br. David Newsham, Michael Doyle, John Chandler, David King, Mgr Jeremy, Deacon Tom Dubois, Linda Cawsey (Chair of PACT), Steve Roach, Daniel Kelly and Jonathan Routh

Wonersh seminarians visit Petersfield

Parishioners will know that our previous parish priest, Mgr Jeremy Garratt, moved to Wonersh to become Rector of the Catholic Seminary. On a sunny Monday morning in June Mgr Jeremy came back to Petersfield with eight of his students to show them how a 'Churches Together' organization operates.

(He had himself been chair of PACT during his time in Petersfield.)

They were met at St Laurence by Linda Cawsey, this year's Chair of PACT, who gave an introductory presentation of the many ways in which the churches work and worship together in the Petersfield area.

The students were interested to learn how the spirit of unity had strengthened and developed across such a diverse group of churches over the past forty years leading to tangible evidence of mission and outreach.

After lunch in the Church Hall provided by Sarah Hicks, the group went on to visit the Unity Bookshop, Petersfield Housing Association and also to speak to Lt. Stewart Madden at the Salvation Army who is leading this year's PACT Holiday Club witnessing some of the wide range of activities in Petersfield associated with PACT. They finished with evening worship at St. Laurence Church.

Mgr Jeremy commented: "The students were impressed by the many practical ways in which the churches, through PACT, engage with the social needs of the community in which they live. This is really Christians being the 'leaven in the dough' that lifts up and inspires the local community by tending to the needs of those in its midst who are most needy. In this way PACT is truly the active, saving, healing presence of Christ among the people."

St Agnes in Liss



The part of the Parish based on St Agnes in Liss continues to thrive, as well demonstrated by the numbers attending the 9 o'clock Mass on Sundays, the spirited hymn singing and the time spent socialising outside the Church afterwards!

St Agnes is blessed with many often unsung workers keeping things going: John Cleary and Irene Morgan-Owen the sacristans; George Frost equally committed running the welcomers and sidepersons; the excellent organists Elizabeth Gotto and Ra Wilson; together with the servers, readers, flower arrangers, cleaners and many others who have our grateful thanks.

Liss is not in the town of Petersfield and therefore not within PACT but our parishioners are fully involved in the local community and activities include helping at the Triangle Café run by all the churches in Liss and involvement in discussions about Church Place, the Christian Bookshop, supported by all churches although currently funded by St Mary's Anglican Church.

Justin Kelly has taken over the chairmanship of the Crossover, the Liss Youth Drop In centre. Margaret Effenberg is also a trustee for Crossover (and was Villager of the Year in 2006).

Future activities include the Harvest Festival supper, run for the whole Parish, in the Liss Village Hall. This will follow a 6pm Mass at St Agnes on Saturday, 4th October 2008. St Agnes's Feast Day will also be celebrated next January.

BULLETINS



Canon Hetherington, Sister Veronica and the children who this year took their First Holy Communion

to flight because there can be no more “productive” activity than just being with God in the Blessed Sacrament.

So, what is “produced” by just sitting there gazing at a host in a monstrance, you might ask?

Answer ...– you! You are produced, inasmuch as by allowing yourself to come into the

Congratulations to the **Unity Bookshop** (pictured below - it is behind the Folly Wine bar) which is celebrating its 21st birthday this month. Petersfield parishioners may not be aware that their Editor and assistant editor were involved in the founding of the bookshop, as was Ann Judson. In fact, the logo which appears outside the shop and which is reproduced here was designed by our editor Veronica Goulder! So do call in and wish them a happy Birthday and have a look around, and if anyone would like to be a volunteer, I’m sure they would be very grateful.

Time with God - Eucharistic Adoration

Veronica Goulder

In the 1960s and 70s the craze for wall posters got kick-started by the teenage desire for giant images of pop stars but there were also some great ones with slogans and funny strap-lines which I also enjoyed. One in particular showed a large and ponderous orang-utan with a far away look in his eyes. The slogan read; “Sometimes I sits and thinks and sometimes I just sits”.

The tenuous connection with Eucharistic Adoration is that implied in the above slogan is the idea of non-productive inactivity. (Perish the thought, in our target-driven times!) Of course when it comes to sitting before the Blessed Sacrament for no other purpose than being there then the notion of non-productivity must be put

allowing yourself to come into the radiance of Our Lord, changes begin that allow you to become more fully the person God meant you to be. You need to give it time, of course, as Rome wasn’t built in a day. But that’s exactly what God does give us – roughly three score years and ten!



The editorial team would like to dedicate this launch edition of The Dome to Our Lady of Mount Carmel whose Feast Day was on July 16th

Congratulations, too, to **Kay Smith** who has just completed 20 years at Safety Glass Petersfield where she was “Employee of the Year” last year!

For those of us born at the wrong time to be able to dredge up the odd bit of Latin from our schoolday memories we have been requested to help with a little translating.....Starting with a favorite of your editor here is the **REGINA CAELI** attributed to St Gregory the Great;

Regina Caeli, laetare, alleluia
 Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia
 Resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia
 Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia

Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia
 For He whom you did merit to bear, alleluia
 Has risen, as He said, alleluia
 Pray for us to God, alleluia



Painting reproduced courtesy National Trust, Uppark

Terry Curran (Uppark steward)

The next time you visit Uppark – and if you haven't been, you should go – take a look at the painting above the fireplace in the dining room. The guidebook tells you it is by the early 17th century Dutch painter Cornelis Engelszen and

is entitled “Kitchen Interior with Christ in the house of Martha and Mary”. It depicts an episode in St Luke’s gospel.

Most visitors hardly give this work a second

glance: some might wonder where Christ is, or Martha or Mary, for that matter.

The foreground is dominated by a harassed-looking maid standing before a heavily laden table with two slightly sinister characters on either side. The observant might note a group of small figures at

the back, in the distant doorway. And there’s Jesus, sitting on a stool, arms outstretched, with Mary sitting on the floor and the exasperated Martha standing to the side, arms also outstretched, wondering how the housework’s going to get done.

Look again at the foreground scene. The maid’s arms are again outstretched, crucifixion-like. In her left hand is a knife, the point of which coincides with Jesus’ side in the background. The figure to the right is trying to sell his fish: the one on the left holds up a small bag of silver coins. On the table are loaves of bread, a leg of lamb, wine and various fruits.

Christian symbolism regularly occurs in medieval art. But even Dan Brown might be impressed by the amount in this painting. It’s worth a look.

Thoughts of a young Catholic

Laura Best

To start with, it has always seemed to me that I am a strange and fearful creature, being a Catholic and under the age of retirement in the 21st Century. If I had a dime for the number of times that I am looked at in an odd way, followed by being asked, “*Why* are you a Catholic?” – well, I would have a lot of dimes!

You see, I am in that age group where my contemporaries are not quite adult enough to hold back on intimate questioning and my answer usually produces a bewildering mix of embarrassment, curiosity and disapproval.

I went to an all-girls convent school in which I was one of only three students in my class of over thirty girls who was a practicing Catholic. Then college: again, I was one of maybe a dozen religious practitioners in the entire college. Then university – ha! – I was the *only one* not only in my year but in the one above and below who was practising. This is where this peer-questioning occurred the most, in fact. The concept of my going to mass every Sunday was so alien to most of them there that it lost me friends (did I say friends???)

At the time I viewed this as a result of a cultural difference between us; it was part of my background. But, being challenged in this way (especially at an age when acceptance by peers is so important) is what I believe a Catholic of *any* age would benefit from. We live in a cynical age where the teachings of a church are being challenged and we can become stronger Catholics for it.

For further thoughts by Laura see our next issue of The Dome. – Ed.

Our Rome correspondent

Monsignor Mark Langham, recent administrator at Westminster Cathedral, has kindly agreed to give us a few thoughts for our future editions from his new position as Ecumenical Advisor at the Vatican! So, watch this space....

The Legacy of Eli

Tim Concannon on the art of being a Sunday sacristan



Tim Concannon on sacristan duties

An Opera-loving friend once described sung Mass as the greatest opera ever written.

It's a good analogy so, keeping within the boundaries, if the Mass is an opera, the sacristan is a cross between props master and stage manager.

Essentially the duties are threefold. First, prepare the church for Mass which means dealing with minutiae such as ensuring the notices are up to date, that the Mass leaflets are put out for the sidesmen and setting up the lighting. Second, preparing the basics for the Liturgy of the Word, setting out and marking up the various books used at Mass, and thirdly, preparing the sacred vessels and the bread and wine.

A ritualist like me makes a little ceremony of each set of actions. When I first go in I put on the lights on the altar and sanctuary to provide a focus for early massgoers. I then open the altar rails and light some votive candles; it reminds me of the Real Presence.

The housekeeping comes next. Are the Holy water stoops full? Does the sanctuary light need changing? (I try to light the new one with flame from the old, not always successfully!)

Counting out the hosts is another small, private ritual:- I count in threes with an extra one after three threes to make ten. (The numbers are multiples of ten)

Last, there is attending the Priest. I like to draw an analogy with an old-fashioned barrister's clerk, who would make sure that his "guy'nor" was properly turned out before going into court, sometimes with the aid of a clothes brush!

It is a fascinating and rewarding position, which engenders a sense of proprietorial pride in one's Church and its building.

Around the kitchen table

Two years ago, the need for fellowship and prayer with other Catholics was the springboard for the formation of the Women's Book Club & Prayer Group. Why a book club? Because we thought that a Bible study group might be too intimidating at first.

We are at present five women and meet every other Monday morning in each other's houses with coffee & yummy things to eat.

There is a lot of chat (we like to call it "share for prayer"!!!). We take it in turns to choose a Christian spiritual

book to read which then acts as a focus for discussion.

Now, be under no illusion, we are not theologians but women from different backgrounds with different ways of expressing our faith & often with opposing views in respect to Catholicism.. However, we are united in seeking to know & love Jesus more fully.

We have read a variety of books, which although not intentionally chosen to follow a theme, have all been about the Christian life. We began with 'To Be a Pilgrim' by

Basil Hume, followed by 'God of Surprises' by Gerard Hughes. We have just finished a small booklet designed as a practical prayer aid. Our next read is titled "Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World" by Joanna Weaver.

We always finish with a little prayer so why not come and join us?

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