



# What's been Happening at the Discipleship Group

Where to start? Well, I suppose at the beginning!

It was after attending a meeting to discuss our vision text "Christ Church a community of people affecting change by being changed into the likeness of Jesus" that Kelvin set up a discipleship group for those who were interested in furthering this aspect of their faith.

I was interested in this and signed up for the group, not sure if it was for me (self doubt). After a couple of meetings discussing the qualities and characteristics of Jesus and thinking and looking at ourselves, it was decided to have a day away at Sisters of Jesus Way in West Kirby.

On the 1st June ten of us set off early that Saturday morning. The sun was shining, blue skies, a perfect day, but still I had feelings of uncertainty as to what this day would bring (self doubt again).

When we arrived we were shown into a room where tea and coffee were provided, the tranquillity of that room hit me right away and I felt a tremendous feeling of peace.

After prayers, songs and a power point presentation we began our discussion. We began with things that may possibly hold us back from taking our faith further, even taking that step of faith. It could be something from our childhood (how many times do you hear teachers telling their pupils they will never make anything of

themselves) or maybe in our teens when adults may well tell you, "you'll never do that, you're just not good enough" or even being told how stupid you are. Even into our adult years things can be sent that knock our confidence and leave us with a feeling that maybe it's true and we just aren't good enough (self doubt again). All these things and other experiences can hold us back from taking that step, BUT Jesus invites us to step out in faith, he is always with us. He knows our limitations and doesn't give us anything he knows we cannot do or achieve.

I think of Peter stepping out of the boat, whilst he focussed on Jesus he stayed on the water, however, when fear took hold (maybe he said to himself I can't do this) that's when he started to sink. Who was there to lift him up and keep him safe? Jesus was and he is there for us too. We need to put our trust in Jesus 100% and I know myself what a challenge that is. However, during our lunch, one of the Sisters gave us the story of how the Sisters of Jesus Way retreat came about. Throughout their journey they prayed and trusted in God to provide all they needed and wow did he provide an amazing story, not without difficult times but they came through.

I left that Saturday with so much less, but so much more. Let me explain. I'd taken a lot of baggage with me that day, but throughout our time there, whether at

group, in the chapel, reading in the conservatory or walking around the beautiful garden I was able to leave a lot of baggage behind. I also gained so much. A definite new zeal for working for the Lord (what doing, not sure yet but I'm confident that the Lord will let me know). Also to put my trust in him and know that I can do things that maybe I feared before, because all things are possible with the Lord. So whenever I'm challenged to do something different (ie this article) then I will have a go, knowing the Lord is with me, and put my trust in Him. Things will still be a challenge to me but instead of being quick to say, "Oh no, not me I couldn't possibly do that" with the Lord's help it may become "Yes, why not me". Who knows, only the Lord does. So if, like me you have self doubt and are not sure you can step out in faith, pray about it, maybe join the discipleship group, there will be another chance in



October when Kelvin will be looking at our vision statement again and hopefully another group will stem from there. Go on, take that step.

*By Linda Parle*

## Waddow Hall Parish Weekend

Our parish weekend is booked again at Waddow Hall 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> May 2014. This is a long weekend.



We have provisionally booked the Rev. Dr. James Harding as our speaker. James was recently part of the television documentary about Merseyside Chaplains. He is at present chaplain to the University of Liverpool and John

Moore's University. He is a lively and energetic speaker.

Please see Alyson if you want to book and pay in instalments. An approximate cost for the weekend will be in the notices ASAP.

**Book Now. Not to be missed.**

## We welcome Catherine Fox to Christ Church



On Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> October 6.30pm Catherine is joining us at our evening worship. This will be an informal evening of worship, coffee, cake and the opportunity to listen to Catherine.

Catherine is an author who has written a number of books, 'Angels and Men', 'Benefits of Passion', 'Love for the Lost' and others. [Penny and Alyson have read her books]

She is also a regular columnist in the Church of England Newspaper and lectures at Metropolitan University. Plus a doctorate in theology and recently was awarded a black belt in judo!

She moved to Liverpool in 2012 when her husband, Peter, was appointed Dean of Liverpool Cathedral.

**Why not join us for what could be a very interesting evening**



## How do I Encounter God? *By Dorothy Sumner*

In the timing of things quite often, I love it when a line of a hymn comes to mind out of the blue and answers a prayer, calms or encourages.

Then there is nature, the bird singing when I needed cheering up or reminding God cares, a rainbow to say he's there.

When my mum had severe dementia we often walked in the park. As I pointed out lovely things I saw God in creation, every visit became an encounter and He became very real.

I see God in a friend popping round or phoning just when needed. Also when I feel I should contact someone and realise God was prompting me.

He's in the challenge I'd like to side step and the highlighting of a wrong attitude or in that feeling of restraint designed to stop me saying something I shouldn't.

I hear him when Bible passages speak into my situation with great timing and sometimes humour. It's thrilling to find him in answers to prayer, especially those personal 'between you and God' prayers you thought may be too small to bother him with.

He can be encountered in so much – unless I'm too pre-occupied to notice!

## **They're Back! Those wonderful Church Bulletins! These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services.**

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

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Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

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Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

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At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our worship group practice.

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Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM . Please use the back door.

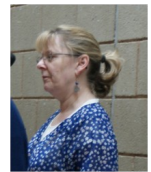
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The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours.'

## **Jesus said...Go into all the world, looks like Diane, Eddy and Hayley have taken that to heart.....**

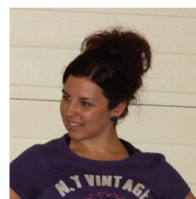
My husband Eddy and I have been fortunate enough to have the opportunity of travelling to Ghana on July 26<sup>th</sup> this year, to live and work in the United Hearts Children's centre in Awutu Bawjiase .

United Hearts (formerly known as the Christian Refuge Orphanage Center) was established in 2007, with 5 children sleeping on a common mat, by Pastor Elisha. They now have 25 children living there and also have the local village children going there for meals and also some education when volunteers, like ourselves, visit.

We are so excited and thank God for this wonderful opportunity to share our love and talents with both the children and staff. We will bring back lots of photographs, information and stories to share with you in the next edition. Thank you all for your generosity and prayers.



*Diane and Eddy Carey*



I am Hayley Williams. I am a member of Christ Church in Walton Breck, and have gone to this church for over twenty years. During my time at the church I have witnessed many of my peers and elders taking part in volunteer programmes all over the world. I have been inspired by their courage to try new things; I have also been overwhelmed by their hard work and dedication to work with people who are not as fortunate as us. From a young age I have also wanted to give up my time to help others but have never had the opportunity until now. I have been lucky enough to have been chosen to represent Liverpool Hope University in a life changing project. As part of the Global Hope charity that help disadvantaged people across the world I am preparing to travel to Tiruchirappali in India. I will be travelling to this destination at the end of July. I am excited to travel to India; I am looking forward to meeting new people, and facing challenges. At the same time I feel anxious about being so far away from home and what I am used to. Although I am nervous about this trip I feel comforted because I know that people will be praying for me. I hope that the love and kindness that my church has shown me, I may share with the people in India.



A 54 year old woman had a heart attack and was taken to the Hospital. While on the operating table she had a near death experience. Seeing God, she asked, "Is my time up?"

God said, "No, you have another 43 years, 2 months and 8 days to live."

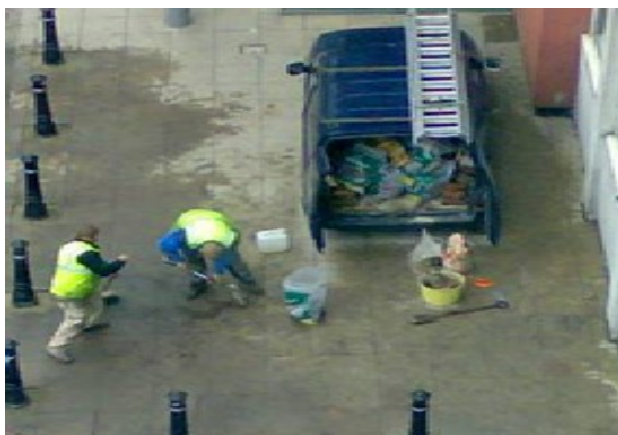
Upon recovery, the woman decided to stay in the hospital and have a face-lift, liposuction, breast implants and a tummy tuck. She even had someone come in and change her hair colour and brighten her teeth! Since she had so much more time to live, she figured she might as well make the most of it.

After her last operation, she was released from the hospital. While crossing the street on her way home, she was killed by an ambulance.

Arriving in front of God, she asked, "I thought you said I had another 43 years? Why didn't you pull me FROM out of the path of the ambulance?"

God replied, "I didn't recognize you."

## CAN YOU SEE WHAT THEY HAVE DONE?



Often in life we get on with things, trying to earn a living, making sure the family is alright, shopping, dreaming of a better life and much much more. The problem is we don't always stop and look at what we are doing or where we are going in life and without knowing we can find ourselves trapped. Jesus said that he came that we might find freedom!

# HELP NEEDED!!

There are many opportunities to volunteer and get involved in many different ways at both Christ Church and Holy Trinity, and we are always hoping people will come forward and give their time freely in whatever way they can.

At this present time we are especially looking for people who would be interested in giving their time to some new ventures that we are considering ( the details are shown below).

## Trustees for Christ Church

We are considering setting up a charity to oversee and develop our work in the community. We are looking for people to be trustees. No experience needed. Training will be offered but a passion for the needs of people and a desire to see things change are priorities.

## Food Bank Distribution at Holy Trinity

We hope to open a distribution centre for the Food Bank. This means people who have received vouchers will be able to go to there to pick up food.

Initially we will open every Monday 10am-12noon.

If you think you may be interested please get in touch, our contact details are on the top of the front page.

## The Coming and Goings of Folk from Christ Church & Holy Trinity

One of the aspects of life in our churches has been people leaving us to go on into paid ministry in other areas, unlike the ministry most people are involved in which is the unpaid day by day 'stuff' Christians get on with. Below is some of the news about people who have moved on and what they are doing now.

It was great to be at the Liverpool Cathedral and see Shirley and Sonya being ordained as priests in the Church of England and to see all their families.



### As June prepares to leave!

It's only a year since June, with Eric left us but in the next twelve months she will be looking at possible moves to her first church as a Vicar!! As I spoke to her of her time at Bootle she was full of enthusiasm for the opportunities that she has had being there people willing to allow her to pray with them when they come to the 'Food Bank' for food; the hard work yet fun of organizing a school's project in church with the local schools; preparing people for confirmation and the times

of being 'surprised by joy,' those moments when you realize that God has done something through you which was unexpected, this was evident to her as she recently prepared two people for confirmation. She has also learned as she was 'ripping' out a kitchen in the church hall with a clergy colleague how much time goes into looking after the buildings. But no doubt with June's enthusiasm the kitchen will now look that much better.



Ex Walton Breck Clergy gather for a picture. [The tall guy at the back is Shirley's new boss).



### She didn't cry!!! [Sonya]

As many who have known Sonya over the years know she can cry just about over anything but not a tear was shed as she was ordained priest on the 16<sup>th</sup> June, that was until Robert [the new addition to the Doragh family] was passed to her by Phil and then the tears came. In some ways it shows the amazing changes that they as family have gone

through recently, leaving to go to train in Bristol, ordained deacon last year and the arrival of Robert. Sonya told me that the whole ordination weekend had been fantastic, the retreat had been really helpful and she said Bishop Cyril Ashton who had led the retreat had been 'infectious' in the way he had spoken to them about their ministries. One special moment for Sonya in the ordination service was when two girls she had helped through an Alpha course, then seen confirmed, took Holy Communion in the Cathedral for the first time, Sonya said it was like a re-affirmation of God's calling on her life. She is still on adoption leave and looks forward to that time as a family for being together in new ways.

### Tim and Sarah's farewell

It was a sad day for us to say goodbye to Tim and Sarah but good finally for them to have the security of a new home and a new job. It was good for both congregations to be able to give them the gifts and to be able to say thank you for all that both did for us in Walton Breck. It was fitting a tribute made by Ted, probably the oldest member of Holy Trinity which concluded our worship at Tim's final service at Holy Trinity filled with people who had been touched by both their hospitality and generosity over the years.

We hope that we will be able to keep in touch like we have with other folk who have left us. Tim did say how difficult it had been for him to leave Liverpool. Our loss is Worksop's gain.

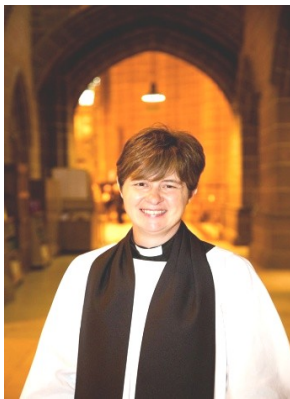




## Tim and Sarah's last Sunday with us



### More nervous than ever!!! [Shirley]



Shirley was also ordained priest on the same day as Sonya and later in the evening many of us went to share in Shirley first celebration of Holy Communion at St. Stephen's it certainly went with a 'bang' and a party to follow. How good was that! But Shirley admitted she was more nervous of that than being at the Cathedral. But she did well. Shirley says, 'There has been such a warm welcome from St. Stephen's which has enabled a smooth move to this church and community. What I'd like to see happening next is my ministry unfolding further and together being in a place where we know for ourselves the blessing God wants to pour out. For this to happen I believe God calls us to be vulnerable with one another and being open to what he has in store. In a sense working with people on a practical level is easy and I can do this - its being alongside someone and asking them "Where are you?" which is harder and that is the place I believe I am called to be - walking the walk, together, at St. Stephen's Gateacre. Shirley is looking for that deep work of God through the Holy Spirit in her life and in those she will work with.

### Andrew [soon to be Team Rector!]

Andrew, who with his family left us in 2009 to become Vicar of St. Luke's, West Derby, now finds himself becoming a Rector over a new team ministry in Knowsley comprising of four churches St. Luke's Church, St. Jude's Church, St. George's Church and St. Mary's Church. Andrew says that he is excited at the prospect and that he will be working with some good people both clergy and laity, and coming soon his Reader is going to be ordained. When I asked him, when the call to Bishop? Andrew said "never, not me....." I will perhaps remind him of those words in a few years time. I'm sure when he left us he did not see that all this was going to happen. As Andrew told me, that is what God does.



For St. Luke's Church, plans are now in place to alter the interior, to re-cover the floor with carpet, take out some of the pews and erect screens at the back to enable them to be more flexible to do other things like 'Messy Church'. Thankfully all the family are doing well. It was good to hear Andrew's enthusiasm for what he sees happening, all down, he say to answered prayer.