



This is the ninth edition of our Parish newsletter, designed to keep you in touch with activities in our parish. We welcome your input, so please let us have your comments and contributions. Contact details:

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Alternatively, leave a note on the letter board.

This newsletter is also available on the parish website www.knaresborough.co.uk/stmaryrcchurch

Fr Terry Madden

The Justice & Peace Group featured in earlier editions which described how it began through links with Fr Terry Madden, a White Father who lived in Knaresborough, was ordained at St Mary's and in 1981 was sent to Titao in Burkina Faso to be the parish priest. He soon appealed to St Mary's for funds to sink a well. He moved on in 1994 but we have continued to

support the parishes in Titao and Kala (Tanzania.) Last August Fr Madden visited Knaresborough and met Bob Archibald of the Justice & Peace Group and gave an overview of Burkina Faso and the parish in Titao.

Burkina Faso: see box overleaf.

The Parish of Titao: is 1% catholic, 50% muslim, 49% animist.

There are no great tensions between religions and tribes. Fr. Etienne



Fr Terry Madden

Nyampa is the new parish priest and doesn't speak English. There is a single electricity line from Ouagadougou and supplies are not guaranteed. 20 years ago money was left to build a church, but the mayor confiscated the land it was to be built on and the money was purloined. The priest's

housing is very poor, and there is a big problem funding pastoral work. The parish covers 60km². The need is to fund a church,

improvements to the presbytery, church benches etc.

Fr. Terry firmly believes we should retain our links with the parish (rather than follow a particular priest) and thinks it would be beneficial if two parishioners visited to form direct links.

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Burkina Faso

is arid, land-locked, on the edge of desert, a flat plateau 400m+ above sea level.

The rainy season is Jul-Sep, with most water derived from wells. The country is 43% muslim, 23% catholic, with the rest from old traditional religions, e.g. animist. The president has been in power for 25 years following a coup and is now getting old. The one party state is politically fragile, and often dependent on foreign aid, although if the rains come it can feed itself. There are rich and poor people, the rich looking after themselves. Most people depend on agriculture, with cotton the main export. Meat is also exported south to Ivory Coast, along with groundnuts, cereals, etc.

SPOTLIGHT on Fairtrade at St Mary's

You may have noticed the Certificate on the Atrium noticeboard announcing that St Mary's is a Fairtrade parish. This was awarded in 2005 by the Fairtrade Foundation in recognition of a commitment to use Fairtrade tea and coffee at all Parish events, and to promote Fairtrade in other ways as far as possible.

On March 21 2009, at a Fairtrade festival mass at St Anne's Cathedral, the Diocese of Leeds was awarded the status of Fairtrade Diocese by

Chris Baines, Director of CAFOD. At that point over 50% of Parishes in the Diocese had applied for Fairtrade status. And in January 2011 Harrogate Borough Council's Cabinet declared Harrogate District a Fairtrade Town.

The Fairtrade mark has become commonplace on supermarket shelves, with Fairtrade sales topping £1 billion in the UK in 2010 - a 40% increase on 2009. In fact the UK is the world's biggest Fairtrade market, which continues to grow explosively as major multinational brands switch to Fairtrade. The British consumer can now choose from over 3000 Fairtrade products, from tea, coffee and honey to wine, cosmetics and footballs!

"But what is Fairtrade?" you may ask. Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world. By requiring companies to pay sustainable prices for goods and raw materials, Fairtrade addresses the injustices of conventional trade, which traditionally discriminate against the poorest, weakest

producers. It enables them to improve their

position and have more control over their lives. To use the Fairtrade mark on their products and sell at the Fairtrade price, producers must be certified against international criteria meeting minimum social, economic and environmental requirements. For example, child labour must not be used, and fair wages must be paid. In addition producers must have plans for continuous improvement of their organisation and community. The price paid to producers must never be below the market price and money paid over and above the Fairtrade price, known as the Fairtrade Premium, must be invested in improvement projects. Usually producers form co-operatives which decide democratically how the Fairtrade Premium will be spent, e.g. improvement of schools, installation of water supply and sanitation, installation of electricity or other community projects.

St Mary's Parish supports Fairtrade in several ways. The most obvious is by



drinking Fairtrade tea and coffee in the Hall after 10:00 Mass, and at social gatherings and meetings. It's wonderful to think that by simply drinking a cup of tea or coffee we are helping producers provide an education for their family and improve their living standards.



Purity Muthoni at work

Says Purity Muthoni, a tea grower in Kenya: "Tea helps me in many ways: to educate, to provide the family with food, good clothes, buying cows. Because of Fairtrade our lives are improved."

The second way the Parish supports Fairtrade is by buying Fairtrade products from the Shop. Items stocked include tea, coffee, chocolate, biscuits and muesli. Shop takings are currently around £400 a year. All products are sourced from Traidcraft, a company established in 1979 as a

Christian response to poverty which combines a trading company and a development charity. Traidcraft's mission is to

fight poverty through trade, practising and promoting approaches to trade that help poor people in developing countries transform their lives. To do this, Traidcraft builds lasting relationships with producers, supports people to trade out of poverty and works to bring about trade justice. Crucially, Traidcraft works with producers to help them improve their products and methods in order to obtain Fairtrade Certification, which opens the door to all the benefits Fairtrade can provide. Traidcraft's vision is a world freed from the scandal of poverty, where trade is just and people and communities can flourish. A striking example of Traidcraft's work is a 3 year project in India which supported farmers to convert to organic, fair trade cotton production and develop rotational crops to address their



Indian fair trade cotton

economic, social and environmental problems. One of many significant benefits achieved by this project was that Fairtrade standards for cotton were

established and grower organisations received the Fairtrade mark for their organic cotton. This enabled farmers to access new mainstream buyers such as Marks & Spencer!

Introducing Father Stephen

Fr Stephen has now settled in to his year at St Mary's, but I'm sure that many of you may like to know a little bit more about him! He has some "form" at St Mary's, having helped out one Holy Week in the mid 60s. He was brought up in Ollerton, Nottinghamshire where his father was the pit manager for the Butterley Company. Known mainly for its iron foundry, constructing bridges, overhead cranes and structural steelwork, it also had interests in coal mines and brick-making. It was a very Catholic upbringing thanks to his two Irish grandmothers. His father's mother had a chapel in the stable at home, finding a priest to come and say Mass from time to time. Stephen's father did the

same, keeping a chapel in the stable in Ollerton. His grandmother's influence can be gauged by the fact that she would make his uncles say the rosary before venturing out on their motorbikes!

Fr Stephen's connections with Ampleforth go back to before his birth, as his father and uncles were all educated there. He followed, along with his three brothers, two of whom also became Benedictine monks.

Fr Stephen wanted to become a monk from the age of 11, and joined the community in 1956. He gained a degree in History at Oxford and taught at Ampleforth for 35 years. He developed a wide range of interests and he played a full part in Ampleforth life. He coached rugby, spent 25 years with the RAF cadets, ran a film society and cinema for 30 years, ran a photographic society and taught calligraphy, candle making and beekeeping. Indeed, a man of many talents!

Music had not played a great part in Fr Stephen's upbringing, but he began playing the clarinet during his novitiate and ran a wind quintet at Ampleforth. He still plays to this day - you may have heard his Mozart piece at the "Wine, Women and Song" event in October.

One of the most significant events in his life occurred not far from here, in

Harrogate in 1972. He had recently read "The Pentecostal Movement in the Catholic Church" by Fr. Edward O'Connor, a book about a group of Catholics at University in Pittsburgh who experienced their own



Pentecost in February 1967. Interest aroused, he attended the monthly Days of Renewal at the Convent of the Holy Child in Harrogate.

"There was something very nourishing spiritual and right about the trips to Harrogate. I was aware that what was happening was new, but it was not strange.....It was on the return from one of these days that I felt much more elated than normal, much freer, much more at ease to laugh and chat. This was the unremarkable day on which I later discovered that a change had happened in me that I would later see as the moment of my own Pentecost. The primary experience was the close presence of Jesus, and my ability to praise him with meaning in my heart and mind, and love in my heart."

This is from Fr Stephen's website which explains the

subject far better than space will allow here. He describes the outpouring of the spiritual energy of God to the Catholics of our time to help them in their mission after the Vatican Council and how his Catholic faith became alive in a different way.

Fr Stephen was instrumental in running a series of Days of Renewal at Ampleforth from 1977 onwards.

When he finished teaching he took a sabbatical year which included travel to South Africa and Chile. He began his pastoral ministry at Easingwold in 1996, which included a pilgrimage to Medjugorje and giving a retreat to the Mother Teresa sisters in Albania. A year at Warrington was followed by 5 years at St Mary's Leyland when he also became part of the new community at St Benedict's, Bamber Bridge. He then served the Parish at Warwick Bridge while living in Workington, Fr George's home town.

In 2009 the Workington and Warwick Bridge Parishes were handed over to the Diocese of Lancaster and Fr Stephen returned to Leyland before moving to Knaresborough in August.

Fr Stephen is clearly a man of great knowledge, experience and thought. Let's make the most of him while he is with us! If you would like to know more, go to www.stephenosb.co.uk