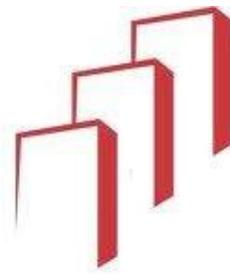


# *Milestones* in a Ministry



Fr Neil Kelley at St Faith's: 1999-2012

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To mark the ending of his 13 years' ministry as Vicar of the United Benefice, we present year-by-year edited highlights, in words and photographs, of each year's events at St Faith's

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*A.D. 2009*



## Here We Go Again!

February 2009 brought panto time round again. This year's offering was 'Rumpelstiltskin'.

As usual, it came with over-the-top acting from assorted adults and enthusiastic song and dance routines by the young – and the very young



Kevin Walsh, a much-loved member of St Faith's and star of several United Benefice pantomimes, had died in November of the previous year. As a fitting memorial to him, a grand 'St Kevin's Night' celebration night was staged on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

The theme was Irish, and assorted leprechauns and more conventionally-attired friends and members of the congregation enjoying a good night out in Kevin's memory.





A few days later, the over-65s holiday club week was again enjoyed by all.

On September 13<sup>th</sup>, our old friend Denise MacDougall was licensed to serve as Honorary Assistant Curate at St Faith's and is here seen being welcomed back and 'read in' to the job



Fr Neil celebrated ten years as our incumbent in 2009, and on 24th September he staged a heroic 24-hour sponsored organ play at St Mary's, managing to keep cheerful even in the small hours!



## **Walsingham to Merseyside – and back!**

**In a ground-breaking pilgrimage,  
the statues  
and staff of the Walsingham  
shrine journeyed to Liverpool  
cathedral for a very special  
and striking day of worship and  
ceremony. St Faith's folk, not  
unfamiliar with such goings-on,  
welcomed Mary's grand arrival.**

**When Mary came to Liverpool they opened wide the door  
And bore her in with trumpets where she'd never been before.**

**The Great Space echoed brightly with the tinkling of the bell;  
The sounding air was filled on high with incense's sweet smell.**

**In skullcap and in cummerbund the purple bishops walked  
And down each aisle and on each stair black-garbed  
incumbents stalked**

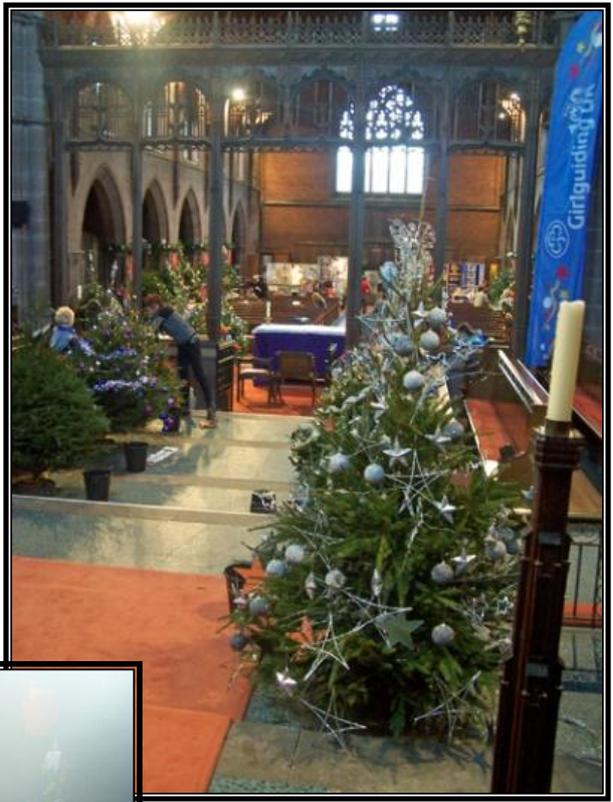
**Before the great High Altar the Sacrament was displayed  
With soaring smoke and twinkling lights while queues of  
faithful prayed.**

**When Mary left her Holy House, to Liverpool she came  
And left us feeling that our lives might never be the same.**



**Not long after, members of St  
Faith's returned the  
compliment and joined a local  
pilgrimage to the Walsingham  
shrine.**

**In Norwich they were  
welcomed by Fr Richard  
Capper and his family, and  
visited the splendours of  
Norwich Cathedral and Close.**



## The Tale of the Trees

December of another eventful year – and the staging of our first Christmas Tree Festival in St Faith's. Some 50 live trees were decked and lit by a wide range of charities to raise their profile and money, and we paid host by day and after dark to crowds from the parish and further afield for a week of open church, music, refreshments and assorted sales stalls. An event to be repeated...!

