

Newslink

The online journal of St Faith's Church, Great Crosby

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Welcome to the May 2019 online issue of our church magazine, which features news, reports, announcements, comment and comedy from St Faith's and elsewhere. During the course of the month, material will be uploaded as it arrives and as each month ends, the issue will be archived and a new month opened: (access these on the 'Magazine archive' link above.) The editor welcomes contributions of every kind at any time.: the latest article is at the top of the page.

Contributions, comments or complaints to cdavidprice@gmail.com

May 31st

An irreverent, but not irrelevant, cartoon to round off the month and the season.



May 28th

come and join us for our

VINTAGE
High Tea
& Old Time Music Afternoon



Amazing Food, Unlimited Tea/Coffee
Great Music With A Sing Along At
St. Faith's Parish Hall, Milton Rd.

SUNDAY 9TH JUNE 1PM

Tickets £12.50

Why Not Bring A Friend Along For
A Great Afternoon Of Entertainment

All Proceeds Go To The Back Of Church Fund

**Admission by ticket booked in advance. Phone
Corinne 07510219705 or Christine 07860825370**

Afternoon Tea at St Faith's

If you want an afternoon of luxury, or have always wanted to have afternoon tea at The Ritz, but could never quite afford to do so, here's your chance to have a comparable experience, not in London, but here in Liverpool!

So, for your delectation on Sunday, 9th June at 1.00p.m. sharp, there will be a luxury vintage afternoon tea complete with Olde Time Music Sing-a-Long at St. Faith's Church Hall.

I am assured, by those in the know, that only top-notch foodstuffs, produce and ingredients will be used and the quality of the cakes produced by the ladies of St. Faith's needs no introduction!

The menu includes:-

Dainty melt-in-the-mouth tea sandwiches of:

Smoked Salmon and Cream Cheese

Ham and Mustard

Egg and Cress

Cheese and Pickle

Scrumptious bite-size mini cakes

Victoria Sponge (naturally)

Chocolate Brownies

Scones with jam and lashings of fresh clotted cream

A selection of teas:

Camomile, Lemon and Ginger, Earl Grey, Breakfast Tea

Coffee



A comparable afternoon tea at Liverpool's finest hotels would cost between £25 - £30 and would not include musical entertainment or the exquisite pleasure of a Victorian Olde Time Sing-a-Long.

So, don't miss out on this top-quality afternoon for only £12.50 per person.

In aid of the Back of Church Fund.

For more information or to purchase tickets please ring:

Christine Spence 07860825370

Corinne Hedgecock 07510219705



May 25th



The Parish Giving Scheme

St Faith's relies on the generosity of many parishioners, either through a monthly standing order or the weekly envelope, to provide for the mission of the church and the upkeep of the services and building.

The Parish Giving Scheme is a new, free resource that is used by many dioceses to help church members to plan their giving and, where appropriate, to do so tax efficiently. The Scheme will also address static giving and reduce administration time. It can be used by those who currently give by standing order, envelope or open plate, taxpayer or non-taxpayer, enabling you to give by Direct Debit. These gifts can be – if agreed by the giver – increased annually by inflation.

How does it work? Gifts can be made on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis on the 1st of the month. The gifts, and any associated Gift Aid, are automatically credited to the church the same month. A monthly report is sent to me, listing the giving and Gift Aid claimed. Tokens are available for church members to put on the weekly offering plate at each service.

St Faith's, like every household, is affected by inflation, thus eroding the value of your giving. The Parish Giving Scheme tackles this problem by enabling church members to choose the popular option to increase their giving annually in line with inflation. They can increase or decrease their gift by calling the Parish Giving Team. Also, when the annual inflationary increase is advised, this can be declined or increased.

The church benefits by:

- ✓ Stable and often increased planned giving
- ✓ Instant reclaim of Gift Aid
- ✓ Protection against inflation

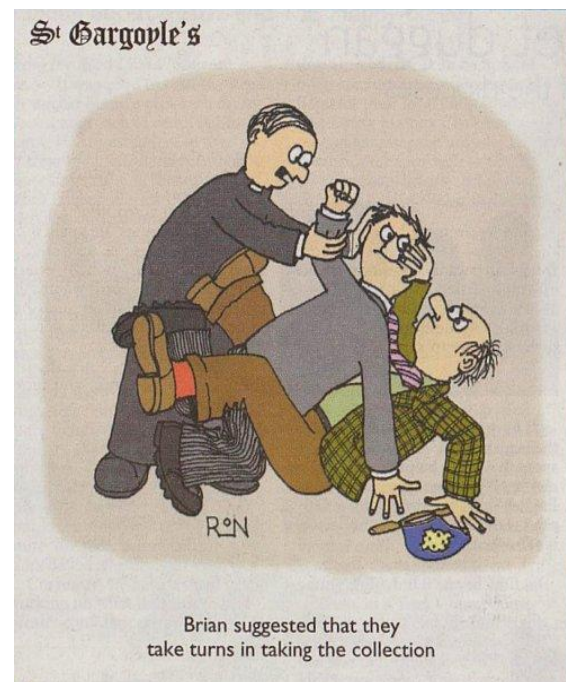
The individual benefits by:

- ✓ Being in total control of how much you give
- ✓ A simple giving method that means regular church giving
- ✓ The option to increase giving annually
- ✓ The Direct Debit guarantee protects the gifts
- ✓ Gifts can be given anonymously if so desired.

We will be writing to all those in the planned giving scheme to give full details and to seek your views. If you wish to proceed, you will be provided with the necessary forms and the new scheme could start in 2020. If you do not wish to take part, you can keep your current method of giving.

Thank you for your support.

DAVID JONES, Treasurer



21st May

'What! The Devil?

It sounds like the start of a joke - a Catholic, a Lutheran and a Protestant walk into a room to talk about the devil – but a conference on exorcism to be held in Rome will be no laughing matter.

Representatives of the main Christian faiths will come together to trade tips on casting out demons and combating the malign influence of Satan.

While the Catholic Church is best known for performing exorcisms, depicted in Hollywood films such as *The Rite* which starred Antony Hopkins, the practice exists in other denominations.

The meeting will be the culmination of a six-day training course which began at a Vatican-affiliated university. The dark art of performing exorcisms may seem archaic to non-believers, but the Catholic Church insists that the presence of the devil is growing all the time, due to the increasing secularisation of society, loss of faith in God and the easy access provided by the internet to black magic and the occult.

The round table meeting on how to perform exorcisms will bring together clergy from the Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran, Greek Orthodox and Pentecostal churches. 'The idea is to help each other, to establish best practices, if you will,' said Pedro Barrajon, a Spanish priest and professor of theology, one of the meeting's organisers.

Nick Squires, *The Daily Telegraph*, Rome

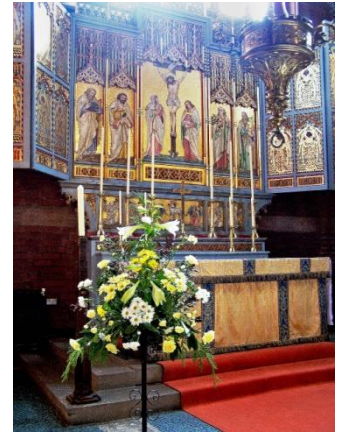


17th May

The Vicar's Eastertide Epistle

Dear Friends,

Spring has sprung and everywhere we see flowers opening in myriad shapes, colours and hues. When the sun shines and we feel its warmth the damp days of winter are long forgotten. The lengthening evenings and early sunrises make the days open to doing more things. Thoughts move from keeping warm and out of the wind to gardening, long walks, days out and holidays.



In the church the drab purple days of Lent are behind; in a church filled with flowers and bright white altar frontals we proclaim loudly; Christ is risen! The hymn tunes and choral pieces take on an air of celebration.

St. Paul wrote in his first letter to the Corinthians;
"If for this life only we have hoped in Christ,
we are of all people most to be pitied.
But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead,
the first fruits of those who have died."

Our faith stands or falls on the resurrection. And yet greater church attendances and more services are found around Christmas. Christmas is when we celebrate God becoming human in the child Jesus, and is important. Historically Easter is the primary festival; all others flowed from it. Perhaps it doesn't have the attraction of the cuddly baby and the crib, but there would be no Christmas or any other festival without Easter.

And yet even regular churchgoers easily conform to the world around us, which loves Christmas and doesn't see the need to relate to the man on the cross, or the empty tomb. An empty tomb makes a bold statement: "He is not here, he is risen" Even death, the final statement on human existence, is defeated. This inspired passion amongst the first disciples, making following Jesus worth leaving behind families, trades, and homelands. For some it meant giving their lives. Our response in comparison seems so cold.

But the empty tomb makes the statement that if death is destroyed nothing is impossible. In our church life as we grapple with old buildings, old declining congregations, and increasing financial pressures. We need to look beyond what seems to be overwhelmingly important in organisational terms to rediscover what it means to be a true follower of the risen Jesus.

May God bless you in your discipleship.

Fr. John

14th May

Songs of Praise

One of the editor's favourite hymns. If you would like one of your favourites to be featured, please email me.

Lord, for the years

Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word, receive Your people's praise.

Lord, for our land in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

Lord, for our world when we disown and doubt him,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him:
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us -
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,
past put behind us, for the future take us:
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith

Music: 'Lord of the years' (Michael Baughen)

Listen to a fine performance of this splendid hymn on Youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MkTrFQLy6js>

10th May

Rant!



‘Probing the Peter Principle’

Denis Griffiths

Another in Denis’s series of regular rants, this king-size polemic deserves a careful read, not least the closing section on the hierarchy of our Anglican Church, in the light of the recent damning report on the sad and sordid Peter Ball scandal. Comments and contributions welcome as always.

This article is not an exercise in tongue-twisting but is designed to highlight the incompetence that we have all seen and experienced in many areas of our lives. Without using the “B” word, recent events have illustrated how incompetent our politicians are - but it is not only Europe which gives people cause for concern about the incompetence of political leadership; there are many examples. Prime amongst these is the inability of the Transport Minister to keep trains running because he does not seem to comprehend that changing train timetables requires sufficient trains to be available with trained drivers to drive them. The train service is not like getting into a car and driving wherever you want to go; drivers must be trained for particular routes. Anybody with the slightest understanding of how railways operate knows that. It is not just national politicians who display a staggering degree of incompetence: our local politicians compete very well as can be seen by ongoing road works which have virtually shut off access to the centre of Liverpool from the north for many months.

The Peter Principle is a management concept developed by Laurence J. Peter, which observes that people in a management hierarchy tend to rise to their "level of incompetence". Effectively it means that employees are promoted based on success in previous jobs until they reach a level at which they are no longer competent, because skills in one job do not necessarily translate to another. Additionally, some people are naturally incompetent but can hide it well by knowing the correct jargon and climbing on the backs of others. Incompetent managers, who know that they are incompetent, will tend to appoint incompetent underlings in order to make themselves look good; that is the perfect management storm.

The essence of any job, management or otherwise, is skill, not academic certificates. If you look at job adverts these days you will often see the vacancy described as being for a graduate. No mention of accomplishment or ability but I suppose that “the boss” feels that if he/she is surrounded by graduates then he/she must be important. A degree is not a qualification it is a certificate of attendance and passing examinations, well maybe not even examinations as some course modules just rely on course work. The ability to do a job is learned actually whilst doing the job and that is what apprenticeships were all about. If I had a gas or water problem, I would much prefer a plumber who had served an apprenticeship doing plumbing rather than just attending lectures about plumbing. Management (and politics) is just the same, it requires skill, not academic certificates which are framed and hung on the wall behind the recipient’s desk.

In my first career as a sea-going marine engineer, senior engineers were required to possess a certificate of competency; a similar certificate of competency applied to the navigation department. A Class 2 certificate of competency was required for a second engineer’s position (referred to as a second’s ticket) and a Class 1 certificate of competency was required for a chief engineer’s position (referred to as a chief’s ticket). There were separate certificates for steamships and motor (diesel-engined) ships. Each certificate of competency had an academic part (part A) which could be taken without any qualifying sea experience. Part B of the certificate examination had a Naval Architecture and Electrotechnology section and an engineering knowledge section. However, the engineering knowledge section could only be taken after a period of sea service. The engineering knowledge section consisted of two examination papers and an oral examination;

in my time at sea the oral was conducted by the Board of Trade/Department of Transport examiner who had marked your written papers. That examiner had details of your seagoing experience and could ask any question he liked about machinery you had sailed with or were likely to sail with. Only at the end of a gruelling oral examination, provided that you had passed all other written papers, would the examiner make a decision as to your competency to serve as a certificated engineer on board ship. If the examiner thought that you were deficient in knowledge or experience, he could make you undertake further sea service before you were allowed to present yourself again for examination. You could only take the chief's "ticket" if you had the additional required sea time after passing the second's "ticket". This ensured that only competent engineers held responsible positions on British ships. The British certificate of competency system was held in such high regard that many overseas marine engineers opted to take the British ticket examination as opposed to those issued by other authorities, where multiple choice questions were often used. The British marine engineering "ticket" is still a sought-after qualification, even though there are very few British marine engineers or British ships. Quality matters and is respected.

My second career as a lecturer did not require the same level of competency and an assortment of degrees was sufficient to enable me to move around from position to position. I did not require a teaching qualification to stand in front of a class and lecture, I just picked it up as I went along. As a teacher I would have required a teaching qualification and would have had to have undergone monitored teaching practice. At a university, teaching undergraduates and post graduates, I was not tested on my ability to teach; having degrees and an ability to conduct research were all that was necessary. This is my experience and I seem to have managed well as since I retired I have been asked to undertake other university lecturing. Maybe I am OK at teaching, or maybe I am just cheap.

Anyway, back to the point of the article, the incompetence of much management. We have all encountered it in our jobs and in everyday life. How often have you said to yourself or a colleague, "How did he/she get that job?". In some areas competence does not seem to form part of the equation when a higher position is to be filled. Seniority is important; how long you have been employed dictates if you will be promoted, not the fact that you might, or might not, be able to do the job. Surely the ability to do a job well is the sole requirement for filling a position, not how long a person has been working for the company. I was discussing this matter with the personnel manager of the shipping company for whom I worked and he said that seniority prevented favouritism being used for promotion. Neither of these notions, seniority or favouritism, should be used for selecting suitable candidates for promotion and the fact that this shipping company no longer exists is almost certainly a consequence of poor management.

Management incompetence often leads to bullying, as the incompetent manager dictates to members of the organisation views and decisions based upon false reasoning. Although the Peter Principle is generally applied to companies, it is equally applicable to local authorities, national government, clubs, societies, religious organisations, etc. I am sure that we can all think of people who have risen in an organisation for no apparent reason and whose decisions seem to defy logic, common sense or truth. Management incompetence is due to the fact that these individuals do not have the skills to manage because they have never experienced good management themselves or actually learned from good management if it was available.

Apprenticeships are not just for mechanics, they are for everyone. You learn skills by observing a craftsman at work and are able to differentiate the good from the bad. As the Peter Principle implies, skills at one level are not indicative of the ability to demonstrate different, or even the same, skills at another level. A brilliant classroom teacher does not necessarily make a good head teacher, which requires different skills.

Unfortunately, the only way for a brilliant teacher at the top of the salary scale to progress to a higher salary is to be promoted out of the classroom and then both sides suffer; students lose a brilliant teacher and the school suffers because it has acquired a poor manager.

There are many similar analogies and I am sure that the reader can think of their own. Nearer to home, in the CofE there is a management hierarchy where the natural progression seems to go from parish priest to bishop (or even archbishop), via intermediate steps. Who makes those decisions? Is the person making the

promotion decision the right person to be doing that? I have heard it stated that selection panels are “guided by the Holy Spirit”. Really? Why blame the Holy Spirit for the incompetence which is sometimes shown? I don’t need to go into particular cases of bad clergy, including paedophiles, which regularly come to light in the media, but these people will have been selected by incompetent management which has ignored the warning signs and taken actions for the wrong reasons. But then, if you can blame the Holy Spirit, you have a “get out of jail free” card; it is not your fault, you were poorly guided. However, people are not that gullible these days, they can generally recognise incompetence when they see it. After all we have had lots of practice. People will vote with their feet; if a restaurant provided poor service and treats the customers with contempt, customers will stop coming.

Management incompetence can be exploited by those who would manipulate the incompetents for their own ends; you then have someone else to blame. In business the purpose of management is to run the business in order to make a profit and there is nothing wrong with that. However, where labour and safety rules are flouted in the cause of profit there must be some form of retribution; but who would pay that price. It is generally not higher management who take the blame, but the lower-level incompetent managers who have been put in place for that very purpose. In government, ministers are appointed to departments when they have no idea of the area their department covers. This results in chaotic decisions being made which affect us all, generally in the form of higher taxes. The rushed introduction of Universal Credit illustrates a complete lack of understanding with respect to how recipients were going to cope with the changeover, but then it was the dogma which mattered, not the people.

Schools are there to educate but the governing criteria seem to be the Ofsted report and the position in league tables. This situation devalues the efforts of the hard working teachers who devote their lives to encouraging students and trying to ensure that they make the best of their God-given talents. It is not a level playing field and value added is not recognised. However, the minister of education can take credit for improving grades and blame others for failing schools.

Lincoln’s words “government of the people, by the people, for the people” do not seem to apply any more. Government is no longer for the people, if it ever was. Management is a form of government without the “by the people” bit, and certainly without the “for the people” bit. A management elite manipulates the incompetents to govern for its friends and paymasters. The incompetents are being manipulated because they seek status and higher pay but, being incompetent, they don’t realise that they are being manipulated.

I could go on to look at many other areas but, as this is a parish magazine, I shall finally consider the CofE management. A few years ago a cleric told me that he/she had “signed Canon Law” and that governed the actions available. Now I have never read (or met) Canon Law and I have no intention of doing so; life is much too short and interesting. However, a Google search indicates that Canon law and CofE (mis)management would seem to be a classic case of the Peter Principle. For me the Ten Commandments are sufficient, especially No.9, “Thou shalt not bear false witness”. To operate any management structure successfully and honestly the Truth must be paramount; by truth I don’t just mean not telling lies, as non-disclosure of facts is also a form of lying. Not telling people what harmful chemicals are in the food they are buying is dishonest (and, I believe, also illegal), but some organisations do not disclose harmful practices. The rulers want to hold on to power for as long as they can and they will do anything, including bearing false witness, to do so. In the American TV programme “The X-File” there was always a caption “the Truth is Out There”, and it is. However, best not tell people, as they won’t understand.

Readers will know that a favourite journal of mine is ‘Private Eye’ and I would advise readers to take out a subscription as its pages are full of pieces which expose the wrongdoers and the untruthful.



7th May



Clerics row over nuclear ‘celebration’

Westminster Abbey service is ‘wrong kind of message’ says bishop, as dean rejects the criticism as ‘careless’

Gabriella Swerling, Religious Affairs Editor, *The Sunday Telegraph*, May 6th, 2019

A spat has erupted between a bishop and a dean over Westminster Abbey’s commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Britain’s nuclear deterrent. The Bishop of Colchester, the Rt Rev Roger Morris, said that a National Service of Thanksgiving last week was ‘the wrong kind of message for the Church to send’.

Writing in *The New Statesman* on Friday the Bishop of Colchester, who is an anti-nuclear activist, said: “The Church of England has a duty to stand up as a force for peace in our communities and for the flourishing of all humanity. It cannot do so if it celebrates, even tacitly, nuclear weapons.”

He added that there is “no doubt” that service personnel on submarines make sacrifices and are “all too often forgotten”, but that the Ministry of Defence has been clear that celebrations to mark 50 years of British nuclear weapons being on constant patrol at sea will recognise the skill and innovation of those that built them. “That is something that I cannot condone in a place of worship,” he said.

However his comments appear to have sparked a row among the clergy - which was played out over social media.

Following the publication of the article, the Very Reverend Dr John Hall, Dean of Westminster tweeted: "Regrettable that the Bp of Colchester decided not to discuss the service with me, rather than simply criticising without information."

Dr Hall added that there was "no personal antipathy" amid speculation of a row between the clergymen on social media, "just regret at criticism without prior serious engagement: seems casual and rather careless".

A copy of his service at Westminster Abbey on Friday, which was attended by the Duke of Cambridge in his role as Commodore-in-Chief of the Royal Navy Submarine Service was published on the Church's website.

Prince William was booed and heckled during the service as protesters shouted: "shame on you."

In his address, the Dean said: "For the past fifty years, Royal Navy submariners have patrolled the oceans and seas of our world, sometimes for many months at a time, burdened with a force able to engender a greater destructive power than has ever been seen on earth.

"Today we thank God that this continuous at sea deterrence, part of a balancing of forces between the most powerful nations on earth, has had the effect of maintaining peace and security between the nations.

"We pray that the Royal Navy may never be required to deploy these terrible forces in war and that they may continue to deter their use by others.

"We give thanks for all the thousands of people who have designed, built, supported, and crewed the submarines during these past fifty years and for their families, and we continue to pray for the life and work of the Royal Navy, in particular for its submarine service."

In response to the public spat, the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) praised the Rt Revd Morris' article as a "great piece" and said it was "sad the Dean of Westminster "didn't listen and instead rang the Abbey's bells which sounded like joyous wedding bells to celebrate Britain's nuclear weapons system".



The Telegraph contacted the Rt Rev Morris and Dr Hall for comment.

The Bishop of Colchester said: "I have been very careful in all my public statements not to criticise The Dean or the Abbey staff. In fact, I have been very grateful for the Dean's continued insistence that the service yesterday was 'not a thanksgiving for nuclear weapons' and was pleased to hear his assertion in the sermon that we 'cannot celebrate weapons of mass destruction'.

"However, the original press release from the Royal Navy spoke of celebrating the ingenuity and skill of those who designed and built the nuclear deterrent. I'm afraid that my conscience does not allow me to do that."

Since April 1969, for 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, at least one UK ballistic missile submarine has been on patrol beneath the waves of the world's oceans.

3rd May

Changes to the Saturday concert schedule highlighted below



The Parish Church of St Faith, Great Crosby

Summer Saturday Concerts 2019



You are warmly invited to the 21st annual series of Saturday lunchtime concerts at St Faith's. The church is open from 11.00 am to 1.00 pm on concert days, with recitals starting at 12 noon. Admission is free, with a retiring collection towards expenses. Light refreshments are on sale. The schedule is subject to confirmation. Changes and updates will be posted on the church website (www.stfaithsgreatcrosby.org.uk) and **highlighted** here

4 May

Merchant Taylors' Soloists Recital Concert

11 May

Robert Woods (organ)

18 May

The Paling Trio (*Please note that this concert starts at the earlier time of **11.30 am***)

25 May

Liverpool BID Community Choir

1 June

Ian Dunning (bass) and Anne Dickinson (piano)

8 June

Fr. Neil Kelley and friends

15 June

Mostly Madrigals

22 June

The Cantelina Singers



29 June

Colin Porter (organ) and Robert Bird (piano)

6 July

Merchant Taylors' School Combined Concert Band

13 July

Southport U3A Choir

20 July

Elizabeth McNulty (Harp)



27 July

Beth Hartless (soprano) and James Luxton (piano)

3 August

Crosby Gilbert and Sullivan Society

10 August

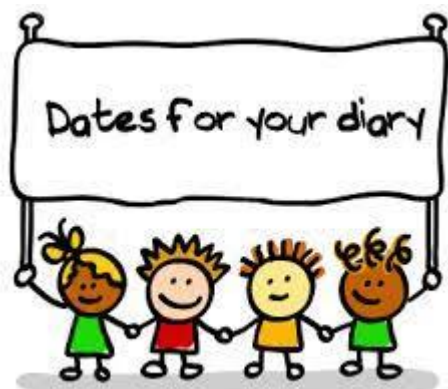
Jennifer Lee (soprano) and Robert Woods (piano)

17 August

Clare Hyams (mezzo-soprano), Keith Cawdron (bass) & Anne Dickinson (piano)



1st May



What's on at St Faith's this month

Thursday 2 nd	12 noon	Eucharist
Saturday 4 th	12 noon	Recital: Merchant Taylors' School soloists
Sunday 5 th	10.30 am	St. John the Evangelist: joint group worship at St. John's, Waterloo.
		No morning service at St Faith's
	1.15 pm	Holy Baptism
	6.30 pm	Evensong
Tuesday 7 th	7.00 pm	Eucharist with prayers for healing and wholeness
Wednesday 8 th	7.30 pm	Forces Family Support Group meeting
Thursday 9 nd	10.00 am	Worship committee
	12 noon	Eucharist
Saturday 11 th	12 noon	Recital
Sunday 12 th	11.00 am	4th Sunday of Easter
	12.30 pm	Christian Aid Lunch
	6.30 pm	Christian Aid Week Service at Christ Church, Waterloo
Monday 13 th	10.00 am	Standing Committee meeting in upper room
Tuesday 14 th	7.00 pm	Eucharist
Thursday 16 th	12 noon	Eucharist
	7.30 pm	Archdeacon's Visitation at St Helen, Sefton
Saturday 18 th	1.00 pm	Wedding Service
Sunday 19 th	11.00am	5th Sunday of Easter
Tuesday 21 st	7.00 pm	Eucharist
	7.30 pm	Churches Together in Waterloo meeting at Seafarers' Centre
Wednesday 22	7.00 pm	PCC meeting
Thursday 23 rd	12 noon	Eucharist
Saturday 25 th	12 noon	Recital
Sunday 26 th	11.00 am	6th Sunday of Easter
Tuesday 27 th	7.00 pm	Eucharist
Thursday 30 th	7:30pm	The Ascension of our Lord: Holy Eucharist