

Newslink Lite

Issue 3

March 2021

An occasional publication of happenings at
St Faith's Great Crosby



Picture taken from a Lenten card brought in Liverpool Cathedral
Painted by John Hort

Letter from Fr Bill Matthews

Travelling can be a joy or a chore. Some like cruising or coach tours. Others prefer to reach the destination as quickly as possible.

If we have to travel a great tour guide can make history come alive and help us to understand a place. Most passengers on my tour to the Valley of the Kings were sleeping when our guide began to speak. We all agreed it was worth breaking our sleep to hear what she had to say.

Lent is often described as a journey or pilgrimage. The Church begins the Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday and there is no short cut to Easter. In readings and worship Christians accompany Jesus through the wilderness. We remind ourselves of his earthly ministry, miracles, teachings and ultimate kingship.

My friend Dhana lives in Malaysia - his background is Hindu. In a recent conversation he mentioned reports of Hindus in Nepal sprinkling melons with red dust so that when they were 'sacrificed' (sliced open) they would appear to bleed. "Why is it necessary to sacrifice?" he asked.

Lent has long been a time of fasting and repentance. Forty days, not including Sundays, in which we remind ourselves of God's ultimate sacrifice through the giving of His Son. We do this by setting aside things we enjoy for a short time, spending time reflecting on the life to which God calls us.

Just now, most of the world is on a kind of Lenten journey. In addition to Covid Lockdowns, there's a freeze in Texas, martial law in Myanmar, floods in South Wales and South Africa and bushfires in Australia. People will make sacrifices to rescue some and help others.

The successful landing of NASA's Perseverance was good news. Even before Galileo's observation of Mars in 1610 the red planet has fascinated us. After decades of missions and about six months in space a new phase of exploration has begun.

Lent is about much more than giving up chocolate, cake or comforts. It's a pilgrimage to explore God's will for each of us and for the whole Church. It is a six week journey towards a better world.

View from the Engineers Desk

I don't know about you but Rosie and I have been lucky enough to have received "the jab" in the past month, and without any of the optional side effects! Sometimes being a little bit older does have some benefits. Looking at the pandemic from an **engineering** point of view, it has represented a huge control problem that needs to be tackled by a series of small and carefully targeted actions, followed up by measuring the effectiveness of each step before making decisions about what to do next. Mankind didn't reach the moon in one giant leap but in a series of small steps. Let's not rush and undo all the lessons we have learned over the past year, and we mustn't forget the vast numbers of families who have lost loved ones both in this country and world wide.

You will be pleased to hear that after a 12month delay because of COVID, Robbie Bell has been instructed by the Standing Committee to start work on the design, specification and costing of the Back of Church developments. Although nothing will be seen for a while it does mean that by late Spring we should have some realistic pictures & prices and can set about planning applications etc. Fund raising will also have to start again in earnest.

Congratulations to Corinne who has won a prize in a national newspaper caption competition - and not for the first time! After having to move home due to building development, she has just moved into her splendid new apartment after spending some months in a hotel.

Sadly we said farewell to Ada Slater last month who, along with her late husband Gordon, had been a long time members of our congregation. We send our prayers and condolences to Vivienne and Valerie and their families.

You will have seen in the weekly pew sheets that we have three new trees adorning our church. Kindly donated by Judy Riley, Fr Dennis and Sylvia Jones, they replace a number of trees that had to be taken down recently due to disease.

Maureen Madden has sent me an article based on a BBC radio programme that pointed out that for most of his life, William Shakespeare had to deal with the Black Death pandemic. There are many references such as " A plague on all your houses" and several times theatres were closed and performers had to adapt to become travelling players. 'Quarantine' measures demanded that all those in the household of an infected person must be shut up in the house and the doors barricaded to prevent escape. The number of fatalities soared because of the inevitability of all those in contact with the first victim becoming infected.

Unfortunately the article is far too long to reproduce here but the programme "A Curse on All Our Houses" should still be available on iplayer

A curse was visited on our Church Hall last month when a radiator decided to spring a leak. Fortunately Gareth happened on the scene before things became too bad, but much of the floor is damaged and will be out of action for a while.

STOP PRESS:

In the very early stages of planning is a concert on St Faith's organ and piano by two brothers who are internationally renowned musicians. I have heard some of their work and if we can tempt them to come and record a concert then we will be able to enjoy some spectacular music. No more information yet but keep your eyes open for details next month.

Also in the planning stage is the next Brown Bag event. Timed for Easter Monday 5th April and called "Easter Cheer", we aim to raise everyone's spirits as we look forward to the gentle easing of restrictions and some decent, warm weather. Invitations will open around Mothering Sunday, 14th March, but what is in the bags is yet to be decided! Ideas will be welcomed.

I make no apologies for reminding you that the future of [Newslink Lite](#) really is up to you! Stories of what you are doing, memories of St Faith's - your ideas and contributions and I am waiting to hear which three words best describe your past year? Don't hold back just drop me a note.

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Services at St Faith's

Thursdays at 12.00 noon	- Parish Eucharist
Sundays at 11 am	- Parish Eucharist
Sunday 7 th March at 6.30 pm	- Evensong
Sundays 14 th -28 th at 6.30 pm	- Stations with Compline
Monday 29 th March at 7.00 pm	- Mass and Stations of the Cross
Tuesday 30 th March at noon	- Mass
Wednesday 31 st March at 7.00 pm	- Mass with Reconciliation
Thursday 1 st April at 8.00 pm	- Thanksgiving for Communion and Watch
Good Friday 2 nd April at 11.00 am	- Library, and at 1.30 pm - Liturgy
Saturday 3 rd April at 8.00 pm	- Vigil
EASTER SUNDAY at 11.00 am	- Eucharist, and at 6.30 pm - Evensong

During Lent there will be a "Thought for the Day" posted regularly on line.