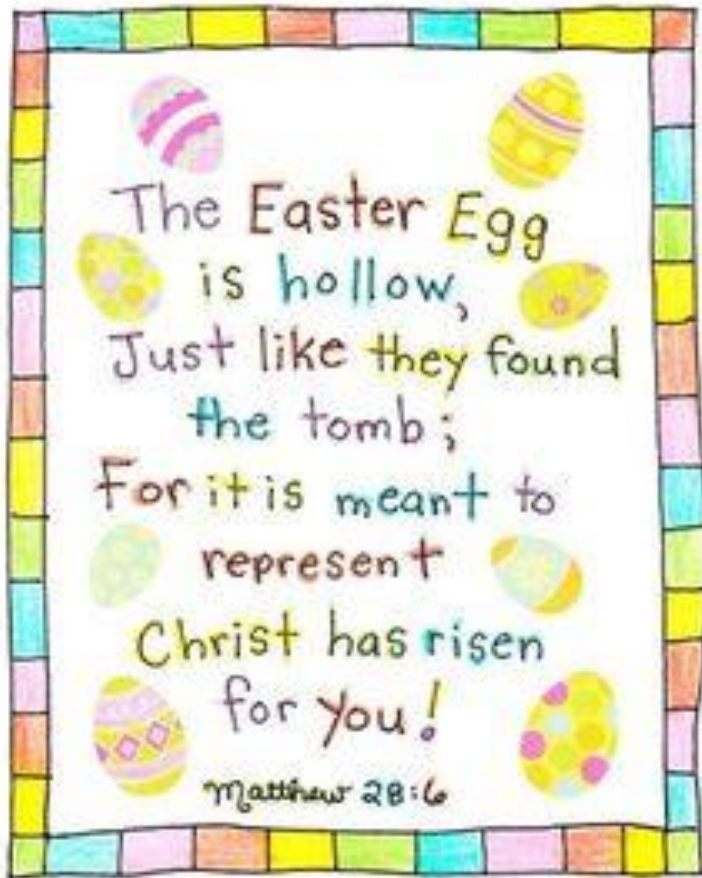


Newslink Lite

Issue 4
April 2021

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



MONEY MATTERS says our Treasurer . . .

2020 was not quite the year we were expecting and so, financially speaking, it was a challenging year too.

The Annual Accounts for the past year are being audited at the moment but the provisional figures would suggest that our Planned Giving for the year (bank standing orders and weekly envelopes) have held up very well indeed. It looks like we received over £35k in donations last year which is a remarkable figure and I want to thank you all very much indeed for your support during those difficult months.

One of the side effects of the lockdown is that it enabled us to get on with a number of maintenance works during the year. These will be detailed more in the Annual Report (the Annual Meeting is now on the 23rd May) but we have had a new roof alarm installed, roof works done, PA system renewed and trees planted. Unfortunately, the church boilers have needed quite a few repairs (they are now 14 years old) which has resulted in some cold mornings in church!

Grateful thanks must go to Rick and Rosie and their band of helpers for organising the "brown bags" of good cheer during the year. Not only was it a great "virtual" networking opportunity, it also raised much needed funds for church. The Virtual Christmas Tree Festival was a huge success too and we raised additional income through our new JustGiving page.

One problem that arose, partly through Covid-19 but more through lack of footfall, was the closure of the TSB in South Road where the church accounts are held. In future, cash handling will be less easy and we are looking at contactless options but, in the meantime, it would be a great help if you could avoid using coins wherever possible.

Thank you very much for your continued support and generosity. We are all looking forward to getting back to normal as soon - and as safely - as possible.

DAVID JONES
Treasurer

View from the Engineers Desk

Thank you Mary Crooke for your three words describing the past year - they probably represent the views of a number of us, what do you think?

Gratitude: - To all those who have helped in so many ways with 'phone calls, cards and letters: for the welcome to church and the "brown bag" team.

Sympathy: - For those who have not weathered the Lockdown well and those who have lost loved ones. For the younger generation denied meetings with friends or playing sports, and whose education has been disrupted.

Hope: - That our lives will soon return to "normal".

Val Broome has sent in her thoughts remembering some of the things of the past year - long hours in the garden in beautiful weather - empty shelves in Sainsburys - crossing Liverpool Rd without having to wait for traffic to pass - dancing round the house when you have managed to reserve a Tesco delivery slot - daily walks around the district to wave through windows at isolating friends - 'phones, texts, e-mails - and the thought of wandering round a Department Store just because you can!

After the sad death of her mother, Ada Slater, Viv Shillitoe has asked me to print this letter:

Dear all,

I just wanted to say thank you to everyone at St Faith's following Mum's funeral. I have been completely overwhelmed by all the love, support and payers we have received from members of both the clergy and congregation alike.

In particular, I would like to thank **Fr John** for all his support and understanding, **Rev Denise** for her unwavering support and gentle guidance throughout, and her wonderful tribute to my Mum, **Fr Dennis** for his moving correspondence following Mum's passing and for actually making me smile during the service with his "Queen of the Brasses" comments.

Fr Ged for his overwhelming kindness in providing the beautiful music which made the service so special, and to **Brenda and Gareth** for their calm presence and preparation of the church.

I would also like to thank **everyone** who attended the service to help us say our final farewell and making it a real St Faith's occasion.

I hope I haven't forgotten anybody, but suffice to say I am truly grateful to everyone who had a part in making the day such a wonderful tribute to my mum. I think we did her proud, thank you all.

Much love, Viv Shillitoe.

Also this past month we lost Sid Stephens who died unexpectedly in early March. He was a great supporter of St Faith's and always carried himself with dignity and a smile. We offer our condolences to his wife, Sally, his family and to his close friends Dot and Harry - friends from his primary school days.

Peggy Mattison's daughter, Barbara, has sent in a poem called 'Signs' by J Darnley, which in her words "puts winter and COVID behind us."

Though days remain short and the weather still cold
There are signs that the winter is losing its hold.
The sun's rays spread further and so does the thaw,
And birds seem more vocal than they have been before.

And in sheltered corners a flower may appear,
Welcome portent of the spring, a gallant pioneer.
And its cheering presence can serve to remind us
That winter's dark days can soon be put behind us.

Although there is no news yet of the organ and piano recital that I mentioned last month, we have great news regarding a new Musical Director for St Faith's. After a recital and an extensive interview recently by a panel representing us all, the position has been offered to [REDACTED]. Unfortunately, as we are awaiting the "legal" technicalities to be completed I can't give you his or her name, but after hearing them play, sing and speak, I am certain that they will fit in well at St Faith's so that once we return to 'normal' we can enjoy some great music again. We are even hoping to re-establish the Saturday Concerts later in the year.

Next time you are in church

. . . . Take a look at the Tall Pascal Candle stick. It was designed and made by Chris Dawson in the mid 1970s to match the woodwork of the then new Nave Altar. It is in memory of Jessie Gale a long serving member of the church. The shorter Pascal Candle stick was the work of this author at the request of Rev Sue Lucas who was not tall enough to light the other one!

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Services at St Faith's

Thursdays at 12.00 noon - Parish Eucharist

Sundays at 11 am - Parish Eucharist