

NewsLite

Issue 5
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An occasional publication of happenings at
St Faith's Great Crosby



Read all about our new Director of Music inside . . .

Organising our future

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to be writing this article for St Faith's magazine to introduce myself as the new Director of Music! St Faith's is blessed with a rich and illustrious musical heritage, and I feel honoured to have been entrusted to develop and expand the previous excellent work of former Directors of Music.

Growing up in the seaside town of Fleetwood, just outside Blackpool, my love affair with music started from a young age. Through out my time at school, I was privileged to sing and play in prestigious venues such as Westminster Abbey, Washington National Cathedral and St Mark's Basilica to name a few. Following on from my school experience of music and liturgy, I enrolled on a Bachelor of Arts Programme at the University of Liverpool to study Music, where I was also awarded the prestigious scholarship at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral for three years. Post University, I have been busy teaching, performing, and occasionally performing on the cruise ships with internationally renowned firm, P&O cruises.

My vision for music at St Faith's is clear: music should enhance our liturgy whilst allowing people of all ages to be involved with music making. In my first few months, my main priority is to begin regular choir rehearsals once more so our dedicated choir can lead our worship. The choir underpins the success of the music foundation; over the coming year, exciting plans are afoot to significantly expand and enhance the choral programme to include children and adults from across the diocese.

As part of my role, I am blessed to be the custodian of the fine J.W. Walker & Sons organ that is of paramount importance to the liturgical and musical life of the church. Those who have recently heard the organ will know it is not sounding as excellent as it once was, and therefore, I am delighted to announce that Harrison & Harrison of Durham have been appointed to regularly tune and maintain our instrument. Harrison and Harrison are the Rolls Royce of Organ builders, recently having rebuilt instruments in York Minster, Salisbury Cathedral, Kings College Cambridge and currently Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral. I am sure you will be relieved as I to know that the organ will once again receive the regular attention it deserves, and I would like to thank Fr. John and the PCC in supporting me to get this attended to in a timely and efficient manner.



The future for music at St Faith's is exciting; the warmth and compassion that has been shown to me so far has been inspiring. If you have any suggestions or questions about music, or would just like to say *hello*, please do get in touch with me via email or phone.

Joe Watson
Director of Music

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View from the Engineers Desk.

As you can read above, Joe has plenty of forward thinking ideas to take our musical tradition forward so let's give him our full support, and once normality returns we can enjoy a full musical life again.

Fiona Whalley has asked me to pass on her greetings to everyone as she and Dennis enjoy their new life in the Lakes. I quote from her note which, as Fiona says, is out of the mouths of Babes -

"I was bending down yesterday doing up my 4 year old granddaughter's shoes and her head level was above mine. "Granny - your hair is all white and silver". That is because Granny is getting older. I replied. Pause - then - "Granny, your hair lights up the room".

The Easter Cheer event seemed to have gone down well with 80 recipients of the infamous carrier bags full of food and goodies. Congratulations to those who won the chocolate prizes in what was hopefully the last (for now) of the brown bag series. Back of Church funds have benefited considerably as a result of your kind donations.

We were saddened however to learn of the passing of Liz Mackert a week or two ago. Liz and Fred, her late husband, were loyal members of the congregation and those of us lucky enough to be invited to their home in Aughton were well entertained with stories of her fascinating life in International show jumping and horse training, and once Fred started talking about life in the US Army there was no stopping him!

I think we did her proud, thank you all.

Much love, Viv Shilltoe.

In the last few weeks, our architect, Robbie Bell has been working on the final plans for the Back of Church project. He has now passed those plans to a quantity surveyor who will put an accurate price on our aspirations. There are three phases to the work - a kitchen and servery in the back of church, toilets in the North porch, and significant improvements to the main entrance of the church. The PCC should have those estimates fairly soon, and I hope that you will be able to read all about it in the next edition NewsLite.

Have you noticed the slight change in the name of this journal this month? It slips more easily off the tongue and saves ink!!!

Cheerio for now, and don't forget to send me any contributions for what will be a Summer Edition.

Rick

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Next time you are in church

. . . . take a look at the case and pipes of our splendid organ. Built by J W Walker & Son (no relation) in 1900, it was last cleaned and 'serviced' in 1988 and it is now due some serious work to restore it to first class condition. Joe has some great plans for the musical future of St Faith's so let's make sure that we give him the best instrument that we can.

If you are reading this online and really want to see what our organ is made of, then click [here](#).

Services at St Faith's during May & June

Weekly:

Thursdays at 12.00 noon	- Parish Eucharist (Not 13 th May)
Sundays at 11 am	- Parish Eucharist

Occasional:

Sunday 2 nd May at 6.30	- Evening Service
Ascension Day Thursday 13 th May at 12.00	- Mass
Corpus Christie Thursday 3 rd June at 12.00	- Mass
Sunday 6 th June at 6.30	- Evensong