

# NewsLite

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



A Time of Concerts and Christmas Trees!

This month Denis Griffiths remembers Christmas Tree Festivals from the past and explains what they have meant to him.

## **Christmas Tree Festival 2021**

It is 13 years since Margaret Houghton introduced the Christmas Tree Festival to St Faith`s and, apart from the Covid inspired virtual event of 2020, the event has grown in popularity and size ever since. This year there will be 32 Christmas trees, each decorated by a sponsoring organisation. That is part of the success of the festival as sponsoring organisations come together in friendly competition to decorate their trees, thus raising the profile of the sponsor and (hopefully) raising money for their worthy causes. The tree decorating skills are shown to good effect but the imagination that people show in designing their tree decorations is also worthy of praise; there are many clever artists in our community.

But Margaret`s idea is more than tree decorating, it demonstrates warmth and companionship as is illustrated by the way that people come together to discuss the trees and their charities over well organised and tasty refreshments. The community spirit engendered by the Christmas Tree Festival is part of what St Faith`s is about. People can enjoy the display and even learn something about tree decoration, but they also meet up with people they already know and with people they have not seen before. The Christmas trees are a means to an end, a profitable means as is witnessed by the contents of individual charity boxes. I am sure that over the years visitors have discovered local charitable causes which they did not know existed, I certainly have. This is the learning part of the Christmas Tree Festival; worthy causes are all around us and the Christmas trees bring them to our attentions. By all means enjoy the festival but also learn and contribute.

Happy Christmas!

Denis

## **What's On @ St Faith's**

This month sees the start our lead up to Advent and Christmas and as you will see below, there are several items on both the musical and social calendars to keep us busy:

On **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November**, our publication date, is the 'Come and Sing' evening when the Music Department have invited singers from far and wide to join with St Faith's choir in singing the Fauré Requiem Mass. Soloists are Katie Bradley and Armand Rabot, with Richard Lea on the organ. At the time of writing numbers are growing fast and it looks like being a fabulous evening which will be followed by a supper of Cheese and Wine for singers and congregation alike. The evening starts at 6.30 and will be a fabulous start to our winter of celebrations and entertainment. Admission is free so please come along.

On **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November** at 7.00 we host an evening of 'Italian Classics' sung by Alison Davies, Bethany Fahrer, and Barry Gerald Webb, accompanied by Fr Greg and Fr Neil. Including Pergolesi's Stabat Mater and other classics it will be another great evening of high-class music. Tickets on the door are just £12 and all the proceeds are going to the British Heart Foundation.

At 7.00 on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November** sees The Phantom of the Opera at St Faith's. The silent, 1930 black and white film will be accompanied on the organ by Martin Baker, former Master of Music at Westminster Cathedral. For just £10 payable on the door, come and see how the Phantom was performed before Lord Lloyd Webber was born!

Just 2 days later on **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November** the Crosby Symphony Orchestra are 'on stage' in church at 7.00 with one of their renowned concerts. Featuring music from Elgar, Tchaikovsky, Wagner and Richard Strauss.

When you have regained your breath, come along to the Christmas Tree Festival which starts at 1.00 on **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November**.

This is our 13<sup>th</sup> Festival and promises to be the best yet with all the favourites from previous years PLUS some special treats. With 32 illuminated trees, plenty of music, and with our usual stalls augmented with visiting craft and gift stalls, everything is set for a great week of celebrations.

There will be the usual Military Brass Band, this time on **Thursday evening**, and the **Friday night concert** (£12) will feature two of the fabulous artists from our summer concert series - guitarist John O'Connell and pianist / vocalist Katy Bradley.

The Wayfarers Barbershop chorus will be entertaining us on **Saturday lunchtime**. This is their first sing out since lockdown and also the first with their new Musical Director so expect new songs and be prepared to join in.

## **Next time you are in church . . . . .**

Look at the Votive Candle Stand in the Lady Chapel or should I call it a Pricket Candlestick? The design was based on a broadly similar item in Wakefield Cathedral which was admired when some members visited Wakefield for the installation of Richard Capper.

Designed as a tree and dedicated to the memory of a much-loved former member Elsie Bell in October 1998 in the presence of members of her family. It is situated in the Lady Chapel next to the Rabbit Madonna where the lighted candles can be seen to particularly good effect from around the church, and it is a much-valued addition to the furnishings of St Faith's.

It accommodates 10 nightlights and 30 votive candles and has become a well-used feature of the devotional life of our Church.

Keep safe and have a wonderful time,

Rick

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## **Services at St Faith's during the next few months:**

November:-

- 7<sup>th</sup> Parish Eucharist at 11.00
- 14<sup>th</sup> Parade Remembrance Service 10.45
- 21<sup>st</sup> Parish Eucharist at 11.00
- 28<sup>th</sup> Parade Toy Service at 11.00
- 28<sup>th</sup> Joint Carol Service at St Mary's Ecclestone at 6.30
- no service at St Faith's

December: -

- 5<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> Parish Eucharist at 11.00
- 19<sup>th</sup> Service of 9 Lessons and Carols at 6.30
- 24<sup>th</sup> Christingle Service at 6.30
- 24<sup>th</sup> Vigil with Carols & Readings at 11.00
- 24<sup>th</sup> Midnight Mass at 11.30
- 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day Eucharist at 10.30
- 26<sup>th</sup> St Stephens Day Eucharist at 11.00

January: -

- 1<sup>st</sup> Eucharist at 12.00 followed by light lunch
- 2<sup>nd</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> Joint service at Christ Church & Buffet. (Date to be confirmed.)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> Parish Eucharist at 11.00