

NewsLite

Issue 11
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An occasional publication of happenings at
St Faith's Great Crosby



Spring is just around the corner!

Tales from the Counting-House!

Another year, even partly in lockdown, has flown by, the Annual Accounts have been prepared and are currently being audited in time for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) on the 20 March.

I thought you would like to know a couple of "news headlines" in advance of the full accounts being published. The figures are, of course, subject to audit but it looks as if the planned giving for 2021 (weekly envelopes and monthly standing orders) has increased slightly from 2020. This is excellent news and we are very grateful to all of you who give so generously to St Faith's in this way, thus ensuring a steady income flow all year round.

Secondly, thanks principally to the Covid vaccination centre and Slimming World, income for the church hall is in excess of £10,000. This is far in excess of previous years and we are proud of the community benefit that has arisen from using the hall for the vaccination programme.

I've previously mentioned the problems of cash handling during the pandemic and the fact that a number of banks are closing due to much reduced footfall. More people are switching to a standing order and we thank you for that. Please ask me if you would like a standing order form. We are also looking at getting a contactless unit in church so that regular members of the congregation and visitors, especially at weddings and funerals, can donate with a tap of their debit card.

The Annual Report for 2021, including the audited statement of accounts will be published at the beginning of next month. Thank you for your continued support.

DAVID JONES
Parish Treasurer

(The vaccine centre is slowing down a little at the moment so pop along for your jabs and support St Faith's at the same time! Ed)

The Archdeacon's Parish Review

Every year or so the Archdeacon visits a parish and holds a meeting with the PCC to check up on how things are going. Not so much an Ofsted inspection, rather a critical but friendly look at a parish to explain current diocesan ideas, look for progress and suggest change where necessary. Due to Covid these visitations have been on hold for a while, but last month the Ven. Pete Spiers spent time with the Vicar, Warden and PCC going through the plethora of church documents, policies, terriers and reports checking that we had all the necessary 'paperwork based' stuff correct. And the good news is that with a little tidying up we have!!

At the PCC meeting Pete was very complimentary of many of the things that we do and applauded our efforts to keep up the St Faith's spirit during the past couple of years - from concerts to brown bags and Christmas trees we appear to be doing a good job. He did point out however that we do not make the most of our success and use these events to promote the church itself and encourage the community to cross our threshold more frequently. The main thrust of his suggestions was to set ourselves targets for what we do rather than just let things happen. At present we move from one serious problem to another, guided by urgency rather than strategy. Now that we have new boilers, a dry roof, and a repaired West window, we should be challenging ourselves to targets that can be measured, and, at an appropriate time, we can gauge our progress and plan other steps forward. The diocese can offer some guidance, and we will need support from all, and good leadership, but we are actually in a stronger position than many churches and, with our traditions and facilities, we offer something different. We must go out there and shout about it!

What's On @ St Faith's

A surprise Saturday concert by a school from Langley Park in Surrey is scheduled for Saturday 12th February. This school is on a concert trip around the North West and have picked us for a performance which will start at noon. There will be the usual catering from 11.00 so pop in for a coffee and a roll and listen to an hour of free music.

Farewells: -

It is always sad to record the passing of good friends, and I am sure that we will all miss Doreen Plevin and Muriel Harrison who have died recently.

Doreen, whose funeral was earlier this month, was a regular member of St Faith's for very many years: always smartly dressed and easy to talk with.

Muriel's funeral will be at St Faith's on 18th February at 10.00. Izzy and her family are hoping that many of her friends will be able to join them in church to celebrate her long life.

Next time you are in church

. . . . Check on the list at the Back of Church that you are on the Electoral Role of the parish. If not then please ask for an enrolment form. It takes only a moment to fill in but it makes life considerably easier for the parish admin team. (That's me! Ed)

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

Please note that there is normally a weekly celebration of the Eucharist on Thursdays at 12.00

February: -

- 6th Parish Eucharist at 11.00
- 6th Crosby Symphony Orchestra at 7.30
- 12th Lunch time Concert 12.00
- 13th Parish Eucharist at 11.00
- 13th Evensong at 3.00
- 20th Parish Eucharist at 11.00
- 27th Parish Eucharist at 11.00

March: -

- 2nd Ash Wednesday Eucharist with imposition of ashes at 7.30
- 6th Parish Eucharist at 11.00
- 6th Short PCC meeting at 12.15 followed by Pre-Lent Lunch
- 6th Stations of the Cross with Compline at 3.00
- 13th Parish Eucharist at 11.00
- 13th Stations of the Cross with Compline
- 20th Parish Eucharist at 11.00
- 20th Annual Parish Meeting 12.20
- 27th Parish Eucharist at 11.00
- 7th Stations of the Cross with Compline