

NewsLite

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



Looking 50 years back and 50 years forwards

Looking backwards and forwards

As we plan the future of St Faith's with a new lighting system, an ambitious music programme, and the long awaited kitchen, Fr Dennis visits a curate who left us over 50 years ago

In the summer of 1966, with the arrival of the young, charismatic, energetic, and former Mirfield Monk, Father Charles Billington as the newly appointed vicar of St Faith's, an exciting new chapter began in the life of the church. In the months that followed Father Charles's induction a tired, small and moribund congregation was transformed and refocused as Parish life was invigorated and re-energised. Numbers increased in church, youth organisations began to flourish and the social life of St Faiths took off in a big way.

Liturgical innovations came, with the introduction of high masses on feast days, the more regular use of incense, stations of the cross and other observances to mark holy week, and eventually the introduction of a nave altar, consecrated for use in 1970 by Bishop Mark Way, a former curate of the parish.

An active ladies' group, the Horsfall Club, replaced an aging and declining branch of the mother's union - a glee club for men met in the church hall upper room to unite in song around the piano and drink an occasional beer - walking groups ventured into Snowdonia and the Lake District - Parish outings and day trips went off by coach and retreats and quiet days became a regular feature of church life.

It was to this exciting and renewing time in the life of St Faiths that in 1968 a young Mirfield priest Father **David Emery** came from St Thomas's Upholland to serve a second curacy. Father David's two-year ministry with us was greatly appreciated and much valued as he threw himself into all aspects of the parish life with enthusiasm and commitment. Leaving us in 1970 for a living at St Barnabas Warrington, we were not to hear from him again for many years.

So it was that early in 2022 after a space of 52 years, I picked up the 'phone and contacted Fr David, now aged 84 and living in Macclesfield. Regular correspondence by both letter and email has been made over recent months and it was with enormous joy and great delight that in late August I travelled to visit our former curate and his wife, Ann, in their lovely home.

Several hours very quickly passed as we sat, reminiscing over David's time with us and the many happy memories we recounted of parishioners we had known and activities in which we had shared.

I thank God that such an unexpected reunion was made possible, and I look forward to remaining in regular contact with this dear and much valued friend.

Father Dennis

St Faiths Music

Were you there? As one of the most ambitious projects (*so far!*), the St Faiths music team hosted a spectacular "Come and Sing" event last month when the church was packed to the doors to hear a massed choir and orchestra of over members 100 sing Mozart's Requiem. A truly memorable occasion that was unique in our Parish history. Supported by churches (and cathedrals) from across the Diocese the event will undoubtedly lead to many more events which will keep St Faith's at the forefront of Music in the Diocese. Well doe Joe and the team!

Church Development

By now we are all aware of the generous legacy that we have received from the late Liz Mackert. Her gift will enable several items to be taken off our wish list and transferred into reality.

At a recent PCC meeting I was delighted to present two major projects to the Council, and was delighted when they agreed that both should go ahead.

The Back of Church Fund had existed for many years with an aim to build a kitchen and toilets at the Northeast corner of the church with many fundraising events and donations raising over £20,000. With additional help from the legacy, that project can now move forward. Cost estimates have been updated, a new architect has been appointed (as our great friend Robbie Bell has retired), and plans have been redrawn and submitted for approval from the Diocese. We will then apply for planning and building permissions from the local authority, followed by tendering, and finally appointing a builder.

A long way to go, but with any luck you could see things happen in the New Year. The plans are on show at the back the church, and I am always happy to talk about the project to anyone interested.

You will also have noticed that the lighting in church has become rather gloomy over the last few months. The present system was installed over 50 years ago and has now well passed the 'use by' date. The wiring is not up to current standards, the light fittings are falling apart, and our electrical contractor tells us that he can do no more to extend their life. As a temporary measure he has installed some extra flood lights but we are faced with the need to replace the lights and the wiring to meet modern lighting and safety standards.

Again, the timely Liz Mackert legacy comes to our rescue and we have recently asked a number of specialist lighting companies to offer their suggestions for a modern lighting system that will see us through the next 50 years.

With one eye on costs and the need to 'Think Green', the system will save considerably on present electricity bills, and the bulbs, or rather 'Luminaires',

have a guaranteed average life of over 50,000 hours - that works out at nearly 60 years!!!! There are some very sophisticated lighting systems on the market, and we aim to install the best we can that will give us the opportunity to see our lovely church in a whole new light! (*Bad pun intended*)

Once again, we are looking into the New Year before we are likely to see the lights installed, but the wait will be well worth while.

Rick Walker

Next time you are in church

. . . . Look for something extra that you can offer - a contribution to the food bank - helping with the coffee rota - chatting to visitors - joining the 100 Club - If you look hard enough there are many things that YOU can do to support St Faith's. Don't wait to be asked to help - just volunteer!

Services, Meetings and Events for the next two months:

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

October:-

- Sun - 2nd Parish Eucharist at 11.00
- Thu - 6th St Faith's Day Eucharist at 10.00
- Sun - 9th Parish Patronal Festival at 11.00 followed by buffet lunch
- Sun - 9th Evensong at 6.30
- Thu - 11th Finance Committee at 2.00
- Sun - 16th Harvest Festival Eucharist at 11.00
- Sun - 23rd Parish Eucharist at 11.00
- Mon - 24th Standing Committee in Upper Room at 10.00
- Sun - 30th Parish Eucharist at 11.00

November:

- Wed - 3rd Requiem for All Souls 12.00 Noon
- Sun - 6th Parish Eucharist at 11.00
- Wed 9th Diary Planning meeting in Upper Room
- Sun - 13th Remembrance Sunday Parade Eucharist at 10.45
- Wed - 16th PCC Meeting in Upper Room at 7.00
- Sun - 20th Parish Eucharist at 11.00
- Sun - 20th Crosby Symphony Orchestra at 7.30
- Sun - 27th Parish Eucharist Toy Service at 11.00
- Sun - 27th Start of Christmas Tree Festival 1.00
- Sun - 27th Avent Carol Service at 6.30