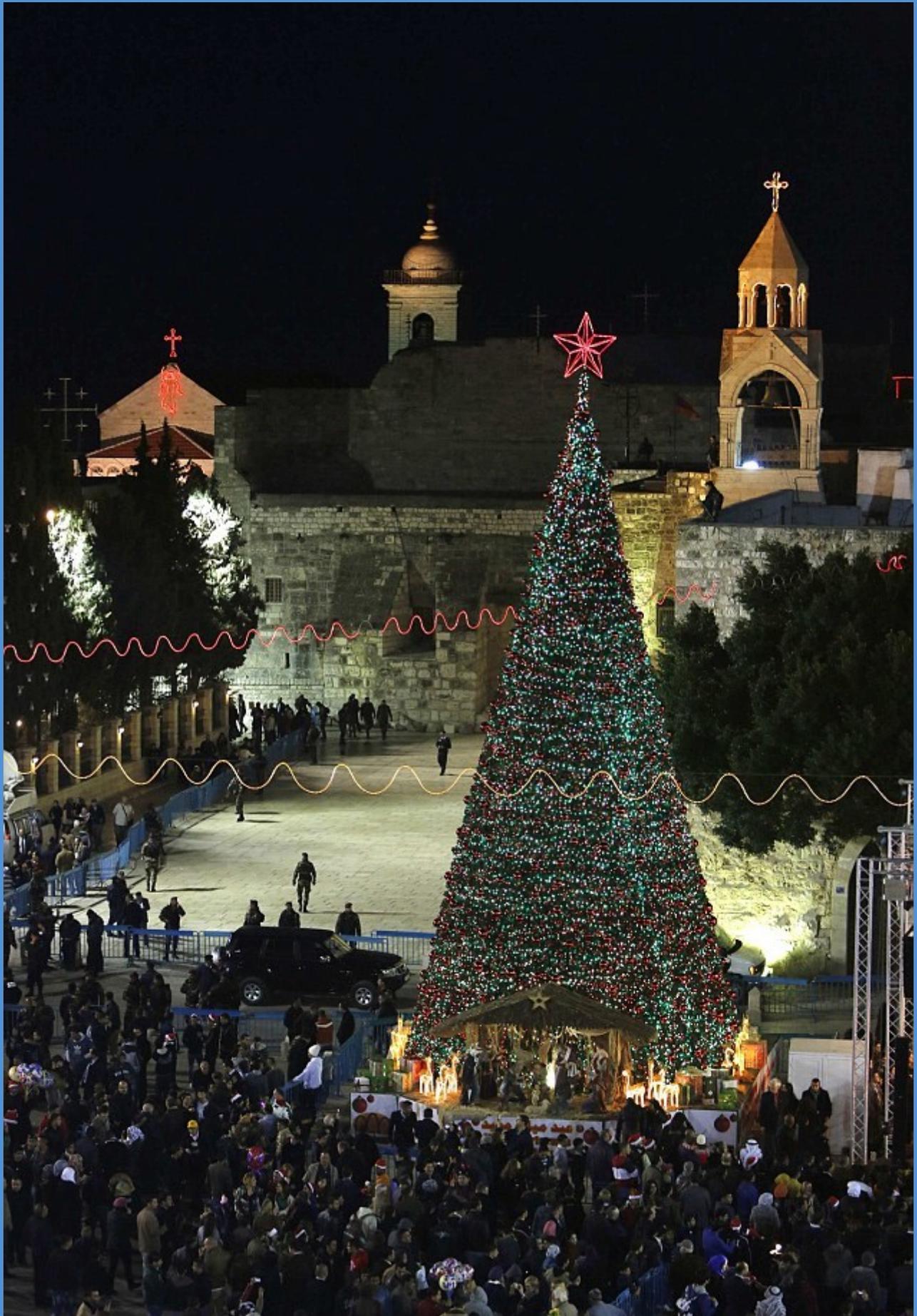


St Peter's Church Magazine

Festive Edition

December 2016/January 2017



Churches Together in Formby, Altcar & Hightown present

Formby Village Nativity, Chapel Lane, Formby Saturday 10th December at 11am

The Village Nativity is a well established event having been held in the centre of the village for the past 10 years in preparation for Christmas.

Please support this local event.



SOCIAL COMMITTEE EVENT

Banish the January 'Blues'!

Come and enjoy a

'Blind Wine Tasting Quiz'

at Formby Cricket Club

on Friday 27th January at 7.30 pm.

It is a John Nelson evening, so it is guaranteed to be a hit!

Tickets will be available soon, but you can leave your name with any of the Social Committee.



St Peter's Church was originally "The Ancient Chapelry of Formby, St Peter Apostle and Martyr." It dates from the 12th century and was situated very close to the sea. St Peter's was part of the Parish of Walton, which is why the Rector of Walton is still our Patron. This chapel became "ruinous" and a new church, on the present site, was built in 1746 and consecrated on 19th July 1747.

From the Editorial Team

The Autumn Study Series is under way, with one to go at the time of writing. With good attendances, the first two have proved to be thought provoking, leading to lively discussion amongst those attending. Thanks must go to our speakers Sir Mark Hedley, Ted Woods, Alison Woodhouse and Peter Hawkins.

We draw your attention to the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (see Page 13), and we welcome to our evensong service on Sunday 22nd January the Revd. Martin Abrams who is the Ecumenical Chaplain at Southport and Ormskirk Hospital Trust.

Regular readers of this magazine will note that there is no contribution this month from Martha, who for some years has written such thoughtful and interesting articles for us. She is about to undergo knee surgery; and in thanking her for her past efforts we wish her a speedy recovery and welcome back in the New Year. Get well soon, Martha.

The Formby Village Nativity was substantially curtailed last year due to dreadful weather, so we live in hope that this year's performance will not be similarly affected. Do try to support this event on Saturday 10th December at 11.00am. You may recognise one or two of the participants!

And so we come to the end of another year, a time for looking back as well as forwards. We receive occasional comments of appreciation for our efforts, but are always happy to hear from you in an endeavour further to improve the contents. Please do tell us, and of course your contributions are always welcome.



Remember the magazine is YOURS.

Finally our best wishes for a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

We will be back in time for the February 2017 edition.

Best Wishes from the Editorial Team

*Please note that the deadline for the February 2017 edition of the magazine is **Friday 13th January 2017**. Contributions to alisonwhiffing@aol.com*

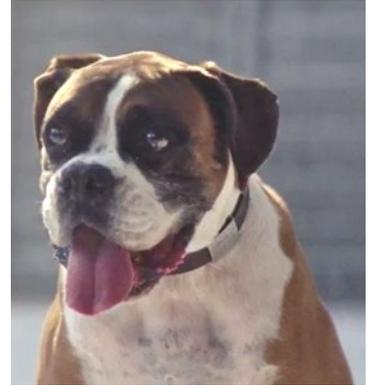
Cover Photo: A 55-foot Christmas tree towers above the revelers outside the Church of the Nativity, Manger Square in Bethlehem. Reuters 2012

Photographs throughout magazine: Revd Anne Taylor and Sonia Greenyer

Dear Friends,

As I write this letter, Christmas adverts are appearing on our screens. Two have particularly caught my attention – The John Lewis advert and the Amazon advert.

In the John Lewis advert we see the family dog, Buster the Boxer, enjoying the trampoline that has been erected for the children. Buster, from the window the night before, had been watching the local wildlife enjoy themselves, so on Christmas morning he was first to the trampoline! While in the Amazon advert, a Vicar and an Imam, both with dodgy knees, give each other the gift of a pair of knee pads so they can both pray with a bit of comfort.



And to me, they sum up the message of Christmas – Fun and Care.

Fun, not only for children, but also for adults! How often Christmas can become a stressful time with so much to do and so little time in which to do it. There are presents to be bought, cards to be written, people to be entertained, family to be visited, all to be juggled along with work or other responsibilities. How often do we hear, ‘I’ll be glad when Christmas is over!’

Which is a pity, because it can be a time for relaxation and fun. One of our new Advent books in the Church Library is “Do Nothing, Christmas is Coming!” The Bishop of Chelmsford, Stephen Cottrell, provides short, practical steps for each day of Advent to help us slow down, take time out and resist the pressure of the Christmas whirl. It might be worth a read! If someone already has taken it out from the Library, then you can always get it on Amazon!

Which brings me to the Amazon advert with its real-life vicar, Rev Gary Bradley of Little Venice near Paddington. Amazon were looking to use his church for making the advert and they asked him if he would be interested in taking part as well. Both he and the real-life imam, Zubeir Hassam, principal of the Muslim School, Oadby, in Leicestershire, agreed as it also encouraged inter-faith dialogue and understanding.

Christmas is about caring for each other. Not just by giving presents but by good neighbourliness, by friendship, thoughtfulness and understanding. Christmas is not always an easy time for everyone as people cope with bereavement, illness or worry. Let us take time in our own Christmas preparations to remember those who may find the festive season difficult this year.

The central message of Christmas is God’s care and love for us in coming to this world in human form to bring us a message of grace and hope. He came to be born

not in a royal palace but in a stable, among ordinary people, to show that his love and care embraces everyone, everywhere. The Magi from the East were welcomed, emphasising that the message of God through Jesus is for all the world.

God gave himself to us in Jesus. He cares that much for us. And that is the motivation for our care of others, near and far.



Recently I was speaking to Year 6 pupils in school about how Christians use Advent to prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth. One pupil explained how during Advent, each evening after dinner, her mum lights the Advent candle and they spend time talking as a family and then it was her job to blow it out when it reached the next date. What a great idea as a way of taking time out in our busy days to pray and reflect.

As you will read later on, 303 shoe boxes have been sent to children overseas - a wonderful total, and well done to all involved, of all ages. The collections at Christingle services will go to children in need through the work of the Children's Society, and there will be carol singing for other charities too. There is also the Christian Aid Advent Calendar as a way of bringing some hope to those in need. The calendar is available in church or from the Parish Office.

So, as we reflect on the message of Christmas, let's make it a time of Fun and Care, and not get too stressed!

I didn't even get to mention the Heathrow Airport advert! I promise I do not have shares in any of the above-mentioned companies!!

Advent's preparations, both at home and in church, all



underline
Christ's presence in our midst –
something really to celebrate!

Ted & I wish you all a very happy,
enjoyable and peaceful Christmas.



Anne



Bishop Paul Bayes ~ Christmas Message

Make a bigger difference this Christmas.

Nearly everyone will utter, at some point over the festive season, the well-known phrase "It's the season for Goodwill." Most of us agree that Christmas, among other things, is a time to do something for someone else. Something well meaning. Something that will bring, as they say, a bit of Christmas cheer.

And goodness knows there's nothing wrong with that. Jesus endorsed doing good things for others. He taught about it, spoke parables about it and modelled it in his own life. He showed, commanded and implored us all to look out for our neighbour, to speak up for justice and walk alongside those in need.

This is the "bigger difference" I have been talking about wherever I go. The real difference that Christians make across our area day in and day out. I applaud, commend and thank God for all of you who are doing that - who make a difference.

Because the real story of Christmas is a story of the difference that one child made to the world. A child who even in his birth taught the world about love, poverty, humility, grace and service. A child who was worshipped then as we worship the saviour now. This is the difference-making story that outlasts the Christmas baubles, tinsel and turkey. A difference that lasts for ever.

If we believe in that, then we need to act. So I give the challenge to myself and I give it to you. What difference will you make this Christmas? And who will you make that difference for? Because our faith becomes attractive more through the deeds we do than the words we utter. People are touched by kindness, compassion and love. That's what Jesus did. He healed and fed, often before he taught.

I have always said I want to see a bigger church. But why bother with that? Because the church we want to see is full of people who have felt the difference that knowing Jesus brings and who want to make a difference to others. This is the life-changing message that has echoed down the centuries from the nativity crib to the Calvary cross.

I shall be trying to make a bigger difference this Christmas. Will you try also? What difference will you aim to make?



Have a happy, peaceful, difference-making and grace-filled Christmas!

Christmas Cards

We want to be a welcoming community in St Peter's and to extend an invitation to others to join us for our Christmas Services.

We need volunteers willing to deliver Christmas cards as we did at Easter and Harvest. Thank you to all those who have delivered cards as it is very much appreciated.



But there is no job for life and there may be others who would like to help so if you could let us know what streets you can cover that would be a great help.

Sometimes we have several people living on one street so if you have time to go a little further please let us know.

A card personally delivered says a lot about the sender so this task helps us as a parish to be welcoming. It is also great exercise before Christmas!

Please contact the Parish Office

Tel: 01704 871171 email: stpetersformby@gmail.com



Carol Singing

Come along and support the Choir and friends who will be carol singing for charity.

The Grapes Pub on Friday 9th December at 6.30pm

Tesco on Tuesday 13th December at 6pm

The more the merrier so please do join us.

Church Tidy and Clean and Church Yard Winter Tidy will be on Saturday 3rd December from 10 am just after Breakfast Church. Please come and help!



SUNDAY CLUB has started again and meets two Sundays each month. Children start in church (10am) and then move to the Bier House for lots of fun. An adult comes with the child and can join in with the activities. All children are welcome, though it is designed for the younger age group (up to Year 2).

Sunday Club Dates -

11th and 18th December

8th and 15th January 2017



How to support Christian Aid this Christmas Advent Footsteps 2016



Advent Footsteps calendars offer an alternative or complementary resource to help us reflect on issues affecting the world's poorest communities and respond day by day throughout this season of preparation.

Follow the footsteps as you count down through Advent, and attach a silver coin each day to help light the way this Christmas.

This year's calendar focuses on the story of Waleed, a young Palestinian in our Christmas appeal whose limited access to healthcare left him cut off from the world around him.

With assistance from Christian Aid's partner, Physicians for Human Rights Israel, not only is he able to interact with his peers but with Israelis who are not in uniform.

A simple and attractive resource that appeals to all ages. To get a copy, contact the Parish Office or they are available in Church.

The Christmas Shoe Box Appeal



There was a wonderful day in October when St Peter's Parish, along with Trinity St Peter's School, spent the day filling shoe boxes. The children in the school designed cards to go into the boxes and the classes all came to the hall to fill boxes. Decisions were made - was the box for a boy or a girl? What age would they be? Then for a few pounds a box was filled for children from some of the poorest areas of our world.



Thank you to everyone who came along on the day or gave money for a box to be filled. This year you filled a fabulous **303 boxes** which will generate so many smiles this Christmas.



A very big thank you to Vicky Hall, for all the time and enthusiasm for making this day happen; to our Scouts for wrapping boxes and setting up a

chain gang to empty a full mini bus and to Andrew & Maureen May, from Elbow Lane Methodist Church, for giving a phenomenal amount of time all year collecting the appropriate items for boxes and making it so easy for us to get involved. We will let you know where the boxes go.



AUTUMN DISCUSSION SERIES

Three topics were discussed at our Autumn Discussion Series – Assisted Dying, Same Sex Relations and Life After Death.

In this issue we report on the first two.

WHAT ABOUT ASSISTED DYING?

Sir Mark Hedley, a retired High Court judge and Chancellor, or chief law officer, of Liverpool Diocese spoke from a legal point of view on the subject of Assisted Dying.

Suicide has been decriminalised since 1961, so the legal focus is on those who assist suicide. Sir Mark admitted this was a sharply divided debate with Christians taking opposing views. There were also sad stories to tell on both sides.

He said that it is legal to withdraw treatment if that is in the best interests of the patient. Artificial hydration and nutrition are defined as “treatment” according to law. And it has to be recognised that some medical treatment, e.g. morphine, given to improve the patient’s quality of life, or to make the illness more bearable, may result in death coming sooner.

But he questioned whether it is right always to strive to keep a person alive.

Some people do give notice that they are not to be resuscitated or be given treatment to keep them alive, and these are legal. But a person with power of attorney is exempted from making such decisions.

He distinguished between a pastoral approach and a legal approach. A pastoral approach will always seek an action that is best for the person in the circumstances. But, he said, “hard cases make bad laws” from a legal point of view. He felt that the law in itself did not result in too many hard cases. He also suggested that, not only Christians, but everybody should have a philosophy of life that takes account of death.

Lord Falconer is again trying to get a private member’s bill aimed at legalising assisted dying through the House of Lords. This is his fourth attempt, as he has been unsuccessful before. There are still widely diverging opinions. The present Archbishop of Canterbury is very much against assisted dying while his predecessor has come out in favour.

Sir Mark was also concerned about the effect a changed role would have on doctors and on the doctor/patient relationship.

The whole topic needs a lot of further reflection and debate.

WHAT ABOUT SAME SEX RELATIONS AND THE CHURCH?

The Revd Ted Woods led this discussion and looked at the issue from the perspectives of History, Scripture and the Present.

Homosexuality has existed in most societies from ancient times, and for the Romans was an accepted part of human sexuality, although an adult free Roman citizen would never be a passive partner. It was about domination.

But homosexuality was also associated with various cultic practices and rites, and Bible writers, both in Old and New Testaments were determined that God's people should steer clear of such practices and associations.

The Christian attitude to sex up to the last century was what St. Augustine taught – that the sexual act, other than for procreation was sinful, and sexual relations between people of the same gender was contrary to nature and the Divine will.

It was not until the middle of the last century that that attitude came to be challenged. An American theologian, Norman Pittenger, argued that homosexual relationships were not sinful “as long as they were between two people in a permanent loving relationship.” – a standard as true for heterosexuals as for homosexuals.

That concept of two people of the same gender in a stable, exclusive, life-long relationship was what was new in the whole debate, and is what is being debated in the Church today.

Passages from both the Old and the New Testaments were examined. But these did not deal with the concept of a same sex couple in a monogamous relationship. They were concerned, as in the case of Sodom (Gen. 19) with the abuse of hospitality laws, or, both in Leviticus 18 & 20 and Romans 1, with warnings against the promiscuous and cultic practices of the day.

In our study of the Bible we have to distinguish what is Core, timeless and eternal, and what is Culture, conditioned by the society in which the various books and letters were written. In Bible times it was assumed that the default position of humans was heterosexual. Homosexuality was regarded as unnatural and homosexual behaviour as deviant. The concept of a same-sex loving stable relationship was never envisaged.

Jesus is not recorded as having said anything about homosexuality, though he did speak against remarriage after divorce. But now as a church we do re-marry divorced persons. There has been development and change, as there has been about other issues like slavery, contraception, the place of women in church and their ordination as priests and bishops.

But right from earliest times, e.g., Peter & the Gentile Cornelius in Acts 11, there have been changes and developments. Maybe the Holy Spirit is prompting the church today into a similar change in attitude towards homosexuality.

The Marriage Service recognises that sexual activity between a couple builds and enriches their relationship.. No longer is sex regarded as solely for procreation. Contraception has broken the link between intercourse and conception. So, if non-productive sex is acceptable and relationship-affirming, should homosexual acts be excluded? As the highly respected Roman Catholic marriage counsellor, Dr. Jack Dominian, once asked, “Do not homosexual men and women need a loving relationship as much as their heterosexual counterparts?”

The Church is slower to come to decisions because as Anglicans we look at issues through the prism of Scripture, Tradition and Reason, and changes have to go through synodical processes.

What is being debated is not the authority of the Bible, but its interpretation. To quote the Archbishop of Wales, Barry Morgan, we have “to interpret the Bible in a way that is consistent with the main thrust of the ministry of Jesus.” – the way of love and acceptance.

There are four new books in the Church Library to help as we enter the season of Advent:-



“Walking Backwards to Christmas”

Stephen Cottrell explores the Advent story through the eyes of some well - known characters.

“Do Nothing, Christmas is

Coming!” also by Stephen Cottrell. For every day of Advent, Stephen Cottrell

provides short, practical steps to help us slow down, take time out - and resist the pressure of the Christmas whirl.

“Advent for Everyone” A Journey through Matthew by the popular Christian writer and commentator, Tom Wright.

“Reflections for Christmas” by Steven Croft & Joanna Collicutt. This is a daily devotional companion throughout Advent.

If you would like to borrow a book or DVD please write your name in the book provided. The Library is situated in the Bier House. We hope this will be a useful resource for all ages.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2017

Crossing



Barriers

Morning Prayer

9 a.m. Monday 16 th January	St Michael's Church, Great Altcar
9 a.m. Tuesday 17 th January	Formby Christian Fellowship
9 a.m. Wednesday 18 th January	St Jerome's
9 a.m. Thursday 19 th January	St Luke's
9 a.m. Friday 20 th January	St Anne's
9 a.m. Saturday 21 st January	Formby Methodist church

Christian Unity Service

6.30pm Sunday 22nd January 2017

St Peter's Church, Green Lane

Preacher – Rev. Martin Abrams, Ecumenical Chaplain of Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust.

With the choirs of St Peter's & TSP Primary School.

www.ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2017

Christmas Inside.

There used to be a custom in the British Army regiments, and there still may be, when on Christmas Day the officers and sergeants would serve the soldiers of the regiment with their Christmas main meal. All the soldiers would be sitting in the mess hall, several hundred of them, and in would come the senior ranks to ensure all had their turkey plus trimmings and Christmas pud. There would be plenty of ribald comments muttered and a large cheer would go up when some brave person shouted “waiter” when the commanding officer went round with a dish of roast potatoes. It was always good humoured and in the afternoon the regiment would watch a football match between the officers and sergeants when fancy dress was in order and again freedom of comment for the spectators. The referee would suffer considerable humiliation. This inversion of the lines of authority was to strengthen the family of soldiers who were far from home and many would not receive a parcel.

Whereas the soldiers were volunteers to be absent from home, prisoners were held against their will. Most would have no gifts and few would have cards, in fact Christmas had to be endured. A way to help this was to ensure they had a great deal to eat, so money was provided by the governor. This would create a howl from the media but the funds came from the profits of the prisoners’ shop which had to be used for their benefit. The main meal was a fully loaded tray of Christmas food followed a couple of hours later with a large tea. All this helped them sleep over the festive season, while they listened to the radio, but it never really lessened their isolation.

There is a well-known poem about institutions at Christmas with the opening line “ It was Christmas day in the workhouse”. There have been many parodies of this which use the main theme of the underdog decrying the authority imposed. The original poem written in 1903 has the good burghers of a town visiting the workhouse to help serve the Christmas fare. During this, one inmate verbally attacks the visitors for destroying his family by letting his wife die because the good burghers refused relief of bread for her. The poem ends on his ringing accusations against cold-hearted authority. There is no reply from anyone but the silence emphasises the difference between the life of the institution and family life of the Victorians and of today.

Unlike closed institutions, hospitals allow visitors. The staff go out of their way to ensure all patients have a Christmas linked to relatives and friends and where this is not possible then the patient will be included and not isolated. The previous Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams states in his book on being a disciple that each person is presented to us by God and should be accepted by us as one of us. This is the obligation placed on all at Christmas and should wherever possible be shown in institutions.

Those who belong to closed religious orders see midnight service as the dramatic turning point of Christmas and a Trappist monk describes their community who join them for services as a “ a little pooped out by the commercialism and noise of the seasons shopping and are hungering for a glimpse of what the true meaning of Christmas is.” He ends his description of Christmas saying, ‘what the monks most cherish about Christmas Day: are the free periods given us to spend time in chapel, or walking with nature and entering into the mystery of Christmas in silence and solitude.’

Rod Jacques



Let us welcome God's bright
and shining morning star,
A child
born in a manger,
A son
sent to redeem the world,
A saviour
come to renew all things.
May his light shine on you,
May his light shine in you,
May his light shine through you,
The light of God's Christmas
star be with you,
in this season of new birth.

Please see below the thank-you letter for our parish's £1080.50 harvest donation for the work of Farm Africa. I think it gives an excellent idea in the way our donations are used by them to help African farmers to help themselves. It can have a life changing effect.

David Poole



20 October 2016

Dear David and everyone at St Peters Church, Formby,

Thank you for raising £1080.50 – a fantastic total and an absolutely amazing achievement. We were so pleased and grateful to know that the Horizons committee decided to support Farm Africa as part of your Harvest Giving this year. By taking part in Give Hunger the Boot and fundraising for Farm Africa you are helping farmers like David provide for their families.

David and his wife Kavutha live with their children in Kitui, Kenya. They used to grow maize to eat and sell, but when the rains failed their crops would die and they would have to take on labouring jobs to feed and provide for the family, earning approximately £1.50 a day.

But since working with Farm Africa, they have learnt what crops tolerate the dry conditions well, and received business training to ensure they can sell their produce for a good price.

"When I was young I just farmed because that is what others did. Now I see it as a business from which we can make a profit and I know how to grow crops that earn income. Thanks to Farm Africa, I am earning money from the training they have given, and I know there is a market for my harvest and I will sell it for a fair price. Everything I grow I know I will get money for and I have the bargaining power because there is someone who is waiting to buy my crops.

We have used our extra income to pay for my children's education. I have also invested the money into our farming which will increase the yield and quality of our harvest.

Farm Africa has helped me to uplift my life and now my family is enjoying the benefits. We thank people in the UK very much for their support."



David and Kavutha have worked hard to put their training to good use, and transform their once struggling farm into a thriving business. Their family can now look forward to a brighter future, free from poverty as a result of their hard work. From them, and from all of the farmers across eastern Africa who will benefit from your support – thank you.

Very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Sarah Goddard'.

Sarah Goddard
Community Fundraising Manager

The Christmas Watchdog - *Written by Shel Silverstein*

Tonight's my first night as a watchdog,
And here it is Christmas Eve.
The children are sleeping all cozy upstairs,
While I'm guardin' the stockin's and tree.

What's that now---footsteps on the rooftop?
Could it be a cat or a mouse?
Who's this down the chimney?
A thief with a beard -
And a big sack for robbin' the house?

I'm barkin', I'm growlin', I'm bitin' his butt.
He howls and jumps back in his sleigh.
I scare his strange horses, they leap in the air.
I've frightened the whole bunch away.

Now the house is all peaceful and quiet again.
The stockin's are safe as can be.
Won't the kiddies be glad when they wake up tomorrow
And see how I've guarded the tree.

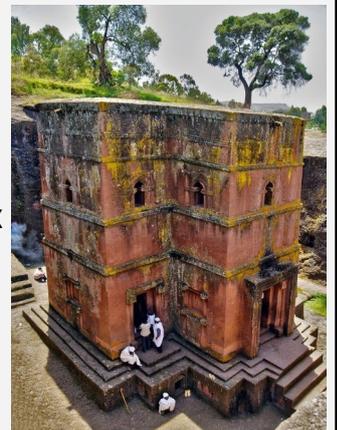


Easter in Ethiopia

Ethiopia is an ancient cradle of civilization with biblical connections going back to the Queen of Sheba.

We will share in the colourful celebrations of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church over Holy Week and Easter which will give us an insight into a rich and different tradition but one which shares the same faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. Not only will we visit the famous rock-hewn churches of Lalibella and other ancient Christian sites but also sites of antiquity. We will spend a day on safari in the Simien Mountains Nature Reserve observing some of its unique animal life.

The tour will also include a direct flight to Addis Ababa from Heathrow, a professional guide throughout, accommodation in good hotels on full board basis, a boat trip on Lake Tana, a traditional dinner at Gondar and a farewell dinner at Addis Ababa with cultural show.



For a brochure with full details please contact: Revd Peter Paine,
peterspaine@gmail.com, 01704 809517 or Worldwide Christian Travel on their website.

The students of Clarence High School invite you to join us for coffee and mince pies on behalf of Freshfields Animal Rescue.



We will welcome any donations, this does not have to be cash it could be animal food, bedding, toys or things for the raffle.

Please join us from 10.30am on Friday 16th December for festive fun and cheer, coffee, mince pie, a raffle and stalls.

Meet Father Christmas.

We are looking forward to seeing you at

Clarence High School, West Lane, Formby L37 7AZ



If you cannot attend and wish to donate please contact Nicole Dunn at Clarence High School 01704 872151 and we will arrange to pick up the goods from you.

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On 3rd November David Brooks talked to us about his Saddleworth childhood. It was fascinating to hear

about life in a Lancashire mill town from someone who had actually experienced it and who grew up in a home where his parents had worked in a mill. His humorous talk gave a picture of a happy childhood where children enjoyed the surrounding wild moorland and there was much fun.

On Thursday, 1st December, we will be holding our Christmas party at 1.00 pm in the Parish Hall. Entry charge: £1.50 to include wine. There will be carols, readings and music, a festive opening to Christmas.

The Deanery Christmas Party is on Tuesday, 20th December, at 2.00 pm at St. Michael's Church, Blundellsands. All MU members are welcome. If you are coming, please let Eleanor (874112) know for catering purposes and please bring wrapped present (approx. £2.50) for bran tub.

Our next branch meeting is on Thursday, 5th January 2017, at 2.00 pm in the Bier House when Stan Rimmer will talk to us about The Gideons. Most of us have found their bibles in hotel bedrooms and we look forward to hearing about their work.

The AGM and Bring & Buy are on 2nd February, at 2.00 pm in the Bier House. We depend on the bring & buy for income to help fund the running of the branch, so please bring what items you can.

The branch pays the £13 subscriptions for Inside Members. This covers the contribution from the diocese to MU headquarters at Mary Sumner House to support activities including the wave of prayer, campaigning at the United Nations, managing programmes such as the literacy campaign in South Sudan, support services in Britain and Ireland, communication, and maintenance of Mary Sumner House.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Christmas Party, and wishing you all a very happy Christmas and New Year,

Eleanor

*Eleanor celebrating
her 80th birthday*



MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE



“New Beginnings” for those planning to get married in St Peter’s or St Luke’s. It is a relaxed group where couples can support each other; where the church can offer advice about the practical things concerned with a wedding; and where we can look together at some of the key things which make for a successful marriage.

Next meeting Sunday 11th December at 4pm to 6pm

in St Luke’s Meeting Room. More information from Sally Nicol,
New Beginnings Co-Ordinator Tel. 01704 877655



TIMEOUT



To Talk About What Matters

An opportunity to share ideas and thoughts together over a pint.

Venue: The GRAPES Time: 8.00pm

Thursday 26th January 2017 All Welcome.

Primetime

We meet in St Peter’s Old School Room, Parish Hall,
Paradise Lane on the 3rd Wednesday of the month
at 7.30pm – 9.30pm.



**Our next meeting will be on 14th December
(a week early for Christmas). Why not join us?**



Call Sonia,
Elaine or Ali
on 833781,
874635 or
879976
for further
details.



ST. PETER'S, FORMBY

Sunday 4th December

2.30pm Dementia Friendly Service
followed by refreshments in the Bier House

Thursday 15th December

2.30pm Halcyon House Carol Service

6.30pm Trinity St Peter's School Carol Service in
Holy Trinity Church

Sunday 18th December

4th Sunday of Advent

8.00am Eucharist (BCP)

10.00am Parish Eucharist

followed by coffee in Bier House

10.00am Sunday Club

6.30pm **Carols by Candlelight**

followed by Mulled Wine and Mince Pies





CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2016

Saturday 24th December

Christmas Eve

3.00pm Christingle Service
(focus: pre-school age children)

4.30pm Christingle Service
(focus: primary school age children)

6.00pm Christingle Service
(all-age service with choir)

11.30pm Midnight Eucharist

Sunday 25th December

Christmas Day

8.00am Christmas Eucharist (BCP)

10.00am Christmas Parish Eucharist



St Peter's Dementia Friendly Service on Sunday 4th December 2016 at 2.30 pm

You are warmly invited to attend this Service being held at St Peter's Church. This will be a short service for everyone who has been touched by dementia in their lives, and will be followed by refreshments in the Bier House.

Dementia
friendly **church**

All are very welcome.

Vicky Hall

Let's talk about

CHRISTMAS

MEMORIES

Come and join us as we reminisce about
Christmases of old, and sing some
Christmas songs together.

Saturday, 17th December, 11am til 1pm

St Luke's Church Meeting Room,
Formby

DAA Dementia
Action Alliance



It was good to see over 230 people in church on Sunday 13th November for our Remembrance All-Age Parade Service with members of our uniformed groups.



Congratulations to our **Canon Anne Taylor** after her collation and installation as a Member of the College of Canons at Liverpool Cathedral on Tuesday 8th November.

(Her minders were also on hand!).





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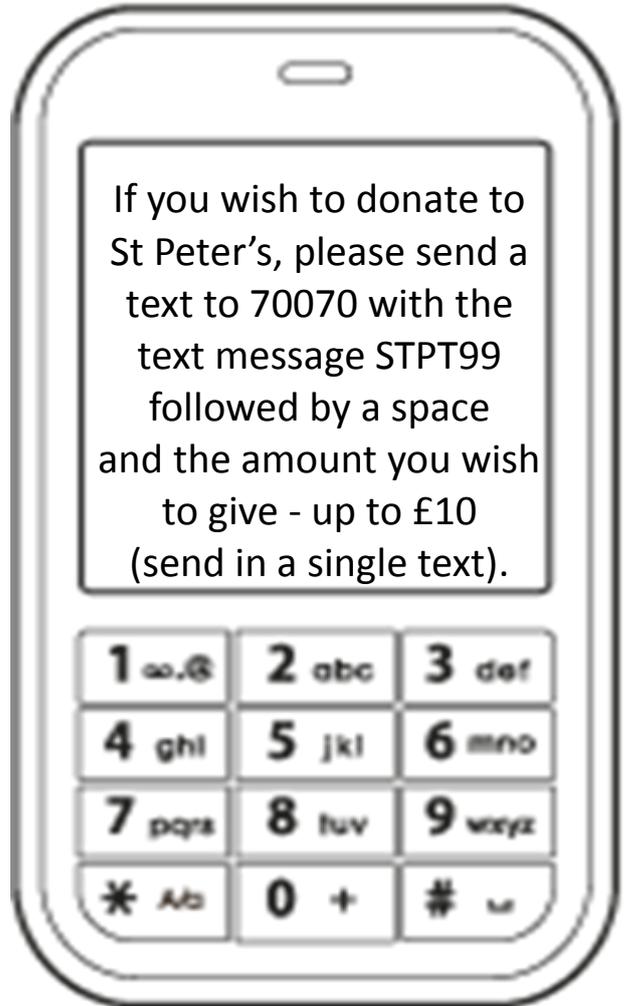
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45, Piercefield Road,

Formby L37 7DG

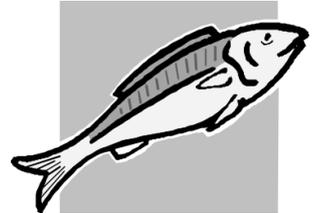
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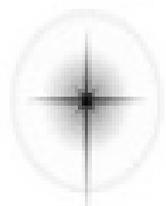
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Christmas Alphabet

A is for Angel, big and strong.



B is for God's Bethlehem gift.

C is for the Cracker, Cards & Carols.

D is for the Donkey carrying God's Son.

E is for the life Eternal we have through the Christ child.



F the Forgiveness he offers to all.

G the wise man's Gift of Gold.

H the Holy Spirit who helps us all.

I is the Icing on top of the cake.



J is for Jesus born at this time.

K is for the Kiss under the mistletoe.

L is the Light from the guiding star.



M is for Manger and its Message of love.

N the Name of Jesus we love.

O is for Offering myself to God.

P is for Presents enjoyed by all.

Q is the Quiet place, hearing God's voice.



R for Rejoicing at our Kings birth.

S the Song of Shepherds heard.

T the fir Tree and everlasting love.



U for Understanding the Good News to know.

V the Virgin Mary who watched Jesus grow.

W is Worship we give to our King.

X make a kiss to show our love.

Y is for You to know God's love.

Z is the Zeal to walk in his way.



9th Formby Scout Group News



9th Formby (St Peters) Scout troop raised a fantastic £3,397 at their bonfire and firework display!

A huge thanks to the people who came and supported the event. The money raised will support the group over the next 12 months, keeping the cost at a minimum for the young people.

The group would also like to thank the following businesses for their help and support:

Formby Cricket Club / Edmondson Shipping / Huws Gray / Tesco / Formby Timber / ALS Inspection / Wirral Tool Hire / Porters Fuchsias / Formby Bubble.

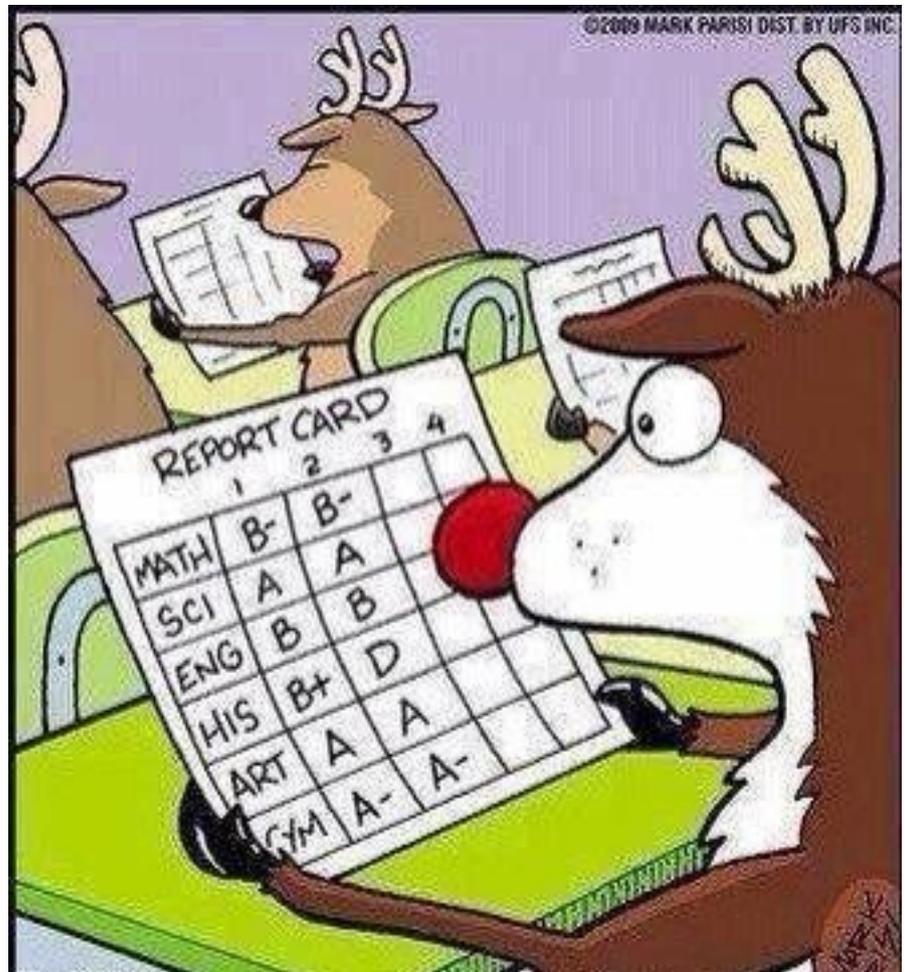
Special thanks also go to all the parents, leaders and friends who helped with the set up and running of the event.





EMAIL DIRECTORY

We have a parish email directory which is used once or twice a month to send out dates for the month and also when a special event is coming up. If you would like to be added to the email list please send an email to revannetaylor@gmail.com Email addresses will only be used by St Peter's. This is a way to help us keep in touch.



Christmas Word Search

Level 4



G L E T W C R S T O C K I N G
Y I P I D A E R B R E G N I G
A C O V T R P Y A E C E F F U
R E A S L E Q I X O C T A P Z
E M I R Y H A U D P S A J O N
S E A P O B E T H L E H E M I
N R U L O L D O N T F O S P U
A R L S L E I G H A A S U D O
M Y N O K L T T O Y S I S H R
W C E N E M E S I W F E T A N
O B M K A J L O Z Y E G V M A
N E R N O L U H M G O T E L M
S O G I E O Y D N A C X O N E
V E R B I J O T H U W B K A N
R E E D N I E R Q C A E E R T



- | | | |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. Bells | 9. Holly | 17. Sleigh |
| 2. Bethlehem | 10. Jesus | 18. Snowman |
| 3. Candy | 11. Manger | 19. Star |
| 4. Carol | 12. Merry | 20. Stocking |
| 5. Christmas | 13. Ornament | 21. Toys |
| 6. Elves | 14. Peace | 22. Tree |
| 7. Gifts | 15. Reindeer | 23. Wisemen |
| 8. Gingerbread | 16. Santa | 24. Yuletide |

ENTERING HEAVEN...

Three men died on Christmas Eve and were met by St. Peter at the pearly gates.

“In honour of this holy season,” St. Peter said, “You must each possess something that symbolizes Christmas to get into heaven.”

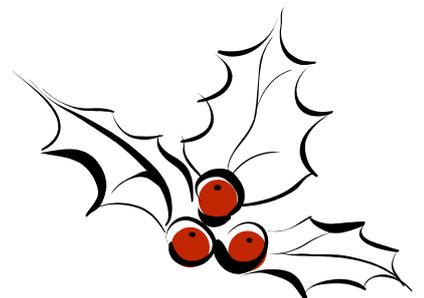
The first man fumbled through his pockets and pulled out a lighter. He flicked it on. “It represents a candle,” he said. “You may pass through the pearly gates,” St. Peter said.

The second man reached into his pocket and pulled out a set of keys. He shook them and said, “They’re bells.” St Peter said, “You may pass through the pearly gates.”

The third man started searching desperately through his pockets and finally pulled out a pair of women’s glasses.

St. Peter looked at the man with a raised eyebrow and asked, “And just what do they symbolize?”

The man replied, “They’re Carol’s.”





Here at Trinity St Peter's we're really proud of the way we do things and we would love to show you around our vibrant and forward-thinking school.

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From the Back Pew

SING TO GOD WITH SONGS OF WORSHIP

Christmas is coming – the season for singing carols and Christmas songs. It's the time of the year when we sing the most with extra carol services, Christingles, and even singing for charity whether in Tesco or The Grapes!

Hymn singing has a very long history, going back to pre-Christian times. In Judaism singing was, and is, part of synagogue worship, as it was in the ceremonies and rituals of the Jewish Temple. It was natural for Christians to include the singing of “psalms, hymns and spiritual songs” (Col.3:16) in their services of worship.

Most of the pre-Reformation hymns, i.e. up to the 16th century, were, like the services of which they were part, in Latin and sung to plainchant. They couldn't in any way be described as “popular” and were sung mainly by the monks.

However, with the Reformation came not only services in the language of the people, but also hymns in the vernacular. Martin Luther, the catalyst of the Reformation, played a major role in this as he was not only a theologian but also a fine musician.

In England the main type of hymns used in worship were metrical psalms. Hymns as we understand and know them were the brainchild of Isaac Watts (1674-1748).

Coming out of church one Sunday in Southampton in 1690, the young Isaac Watts complained to his father that what they had sung during the service (metrical psalms) were dull and uninspiring. His father replied, ‘Then, my boy, the best thing you can do is to write some better ones!’ Which he did!

Isaac Watts broke the mould of metrical psalms and began writing a freer and more personal style of hymn. Some from his pen are “When I survey”, “Jesus shall reign where'er the sun”, and “Joy to the world”. In all, there are 23 of his hymns in our hymn book today.

Charles Wesley (1707 – 1788) was a contemporary of Watts. With Wesley the stream of hymns, begun with Watts, turned into a flood. He wrote over 6,500 hymns, 24 of which are in our hymn book.

From the mid-twentieth century there has been a fresh spate of hymns, and new

hymnbooks have appeared regularly. Not that many were 'perennials', and lasted a very short time. What we have in the most recent edition of Ancient & Modern is the best of the old and the best of the new.

Hymns mean a great deal to people. There are the hymns we sang as children, still fondly remembered, or those associated with family events such as marriages and funerals. These hymns become imbued with a personal significance and meaning. And, because we are all different in our tastes and preferences and memories, hymns which some people love and hold dear, will not strike the same chord with others. Different hymns mean different things to different people.

For example, I cannot forget a rendering of "O Lord my God" I once heard at a wedding. The singer tried to put on a country and western voice and sing it in that style. In fact, he murdered it! It has put me off that hymn ever since. And yet so many others love it!

Hymns which some people regard as dreary will be full of meaning to others. They may not be in the humour for a complete diet of jolly, rousing hymns.

So, in picking hymns for worship, there needs to be sensitivity and variety. And, of course, they need to reflect the readings and theme of the day. It's not just a matter of picking a random selection of the most popular. And, to avoid getting into a rut, congregations need to learn new hymns from time to time.

There is another aspect to singing hymns which is often overlooked, yet crucially important. And that is the content and theology of what we sing. There is an old maxim – "as we pray, so we believe." The same applies to what we sing.

And here the vicar who picks the hymns for worship has to be careful that not only is the hymn appropriate to the theme of the day and sing-able, but that its theology is correct.

For example, the hymn "In Christ alone" (678 in A&M) is a popular hymn with a beautiful tune. But in the 2nd verse are the lines,

*"till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied."*

What kind of image does that give of God? An angry, vengeful God whose wrath has to be appeased by the death of Jesus?

We need to be careful what we sing.

Finally, a piece of advice from John Wesley, the founder of Methodism:- "Sing lustily and with good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half-dead or half-asleep, but lift up your voice with strength!"

Ted Woods

Trinity St Peter's Primary School

The experiences and opportunities provided to the children this Autumn term has brought an abundance of joy, curiosity and reflection for all at Trinity St Peter's.



It has been a delight to welcome so many new families to our school and see how well their children have settled into school life and how so many parents were also able to attend Team TSP's (school PTA) first event of the year - wine tasting - which proved to be a great success.

This term we also welcomed Fr. Richard Peers, the new Director of Education for Liverpool Diocese, to the school. He was very impressed with the school and was blown away by the phenomenal production of the WW1 play 'Archie Dobson' which Year 6 aptly performed on Remembrance Day.

There have been many noteworthy events: fundraising through TSP Bake Offs and TSP Sing Offs; children singing at the Royal Albert Hall in London; Y6 participating in military school every Monday; Y5 attending the mid-week Eucharist in Holy Trinity and Y6 in St Peter's; and the school winning the local primary Formby High School Maths Maze for the eleventh year running!

In fact, there have been far too many highlights to mention them all here so please do read the school's website which is updated every Friday (www.trinitystpeters.org) and the school's Twitter account (@TSP_Primary) to keep up to date with the wealth of activities provided to the children.

Thank you to all at St. Peter's Church, particularly Anne, Graham Jones, Jane Newby and Paul McHenry, in giving their time so generously to support the school. We are all very grateful.

On behalf of everyone at Trinity St. Peter's CE Primary, we wish you all a very happy and holy Christmas.

We do hope you will be able to come along to the school's carol service held this year at Holy Trinity Church on Thursday 15th December at 6.30pm and look forward to seeing you there.

D. Pringle, Headteacher



From the Church Registers Baptisms

6th November

Elliott Martyn Wilson
son of Martyn and Leah



Engagements

Congratulations to Nathan Thorpe & Poppy Richards who have announced their engagement.



From the Church Registers



Interment of Ashes

4th November William Aindow
10th November Jane Jones

We would like to include the announcement of births, engagements and special anniversaries etc. **so please let us know—alisonwhiffing@aol.com**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – DECEMBER 2016



1st Thursday 1.00pm

Mothers' Union "Christmas Party" – in the Parish Hall

2nd Friday 6.30pm

First Friday Eucharist

3rd Saturday 9.00am
10.00am

Breakfast Church in the Bier House
Church Clean & Churchyard Tidy Up

4th Sunday

12noon
2.30pm

2nd Sunday of Advent
Hot Dog Children's Service
Dementia Friendly Christmas Service
followed by refreshments in the Bier House
Service of Wholeness



House

9th Friday 6.30pm

Carol Singing in The Grapes Pub

10th Saturday 11.00am

Formby Village Nativity



11th Sunday

10.00am

3rd Sunday of Advent
All-Age Parade Service & Sunday

PARADE

Club

4.00pm

'New Beginnings' Marriage Course

13th Tuesday 6.00pm

Carol singing in Tesco supermarket.
Come and join our choir

14th Wednesday 11.00am
2.00pm

Eucharist *with the Mothers' Union*
WOW service for pre-school children in Church
followed by refreshments in the Bier House

7.30pm

"Primetime" Ladies Club in Old School Room, Parish Hall



15th Thursday 2.30pm
6.30pm

Halcyon House Carol Service
Trinity St Peter's School Carol Service
in Holy Trinity Church

18th Sunday

10.00am
6.30pm

4th Sunday of Advent
Sunday Club
Carols by Candlelight



24th Saturday

3.00pm
4.30pm
6.00pm
11.30pm

Christmas Eve

Christingle - the focus will be pre-school age children
Christingle focus - primary school age
Christingle - all-age service with the choir
Midnight Eucharist



25th Sunday

8.00am
10.00am

Christmas Day
Eucharist (BCP)
Parish Eucharist

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – JANUARY 2017



1 st Sunday		Naming and Circumcision of Jesus <i>No Evensong</i>	
5 th Thursday	2.00pm	Mothers' Union meeting in Bier House <i>"The Gideons" talk by Stan Rimmer</i>	
6 th Friday	6.30pm	First Friday Eucharist—The Epiphany	
7 th Saturday	9.00am	Breakfast Church in the Bier House	
8 th Sunday		The Baptism of Christ Sunday Club	
11 th Wednesday	11.00am 2.00pm	Eucharist <i>with the Mothers' Union</i> WOW service for all pre-schoolers <i>followed by refreshments in the Bier House</i>	
15 th Sunday		2nd Sunday of Epiphany Sunday Club	
w/c 16 th		Week of Prayer for Christian Unity see page 13 for details	
18 th Wednesday	7.30pm	"Primetime" Ladies Club in Old School Room, Parish Hall	
22 nd Sunday	12noon 6.30pm	3rd Sunday of Epiphany Hotdog Service Christian Unity Service – preacher Rev. Martin Abrams	
29 th Sunday	10.00am 6.30pm	Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas) All-Age Parade Service Service of Wholeness	



NB There will be no Wednesday Eucharist on 28th December.



Church Services

Sundays

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 8.00 am | Holy Communion (1662) |
| 10.00 am | Parish Eucharist (Coffee afterwards) |
| 12.00 noon | Baptisms (as arranged) |
| 6.30 pm | Choral Evensong |
| 6.30 pm | Service of Wholeness –
Last Sunday of month (January) |

Weekdays

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 9.00 am | Morning Prayer
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday |
| 11.00 am | Wednesday Eucharist (Coffee afterwards) |
| 6.30 pm | Eucharist 1 st Friday of each month |