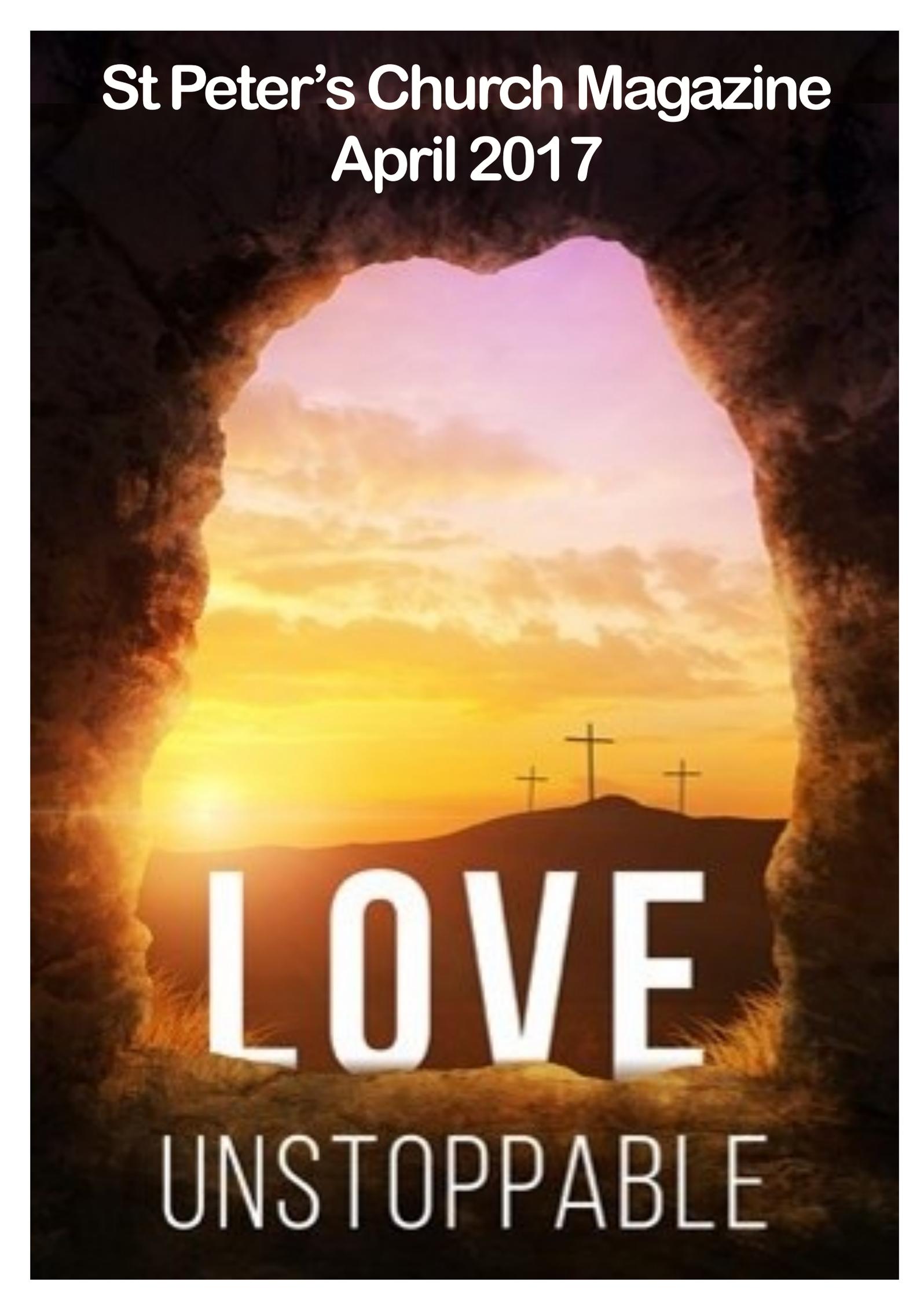


St Peter's Church Magazine

April 2017

A sunset scene viewed through a cave opening. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the sky. Three crosses are visible on a hill in the distance. The cave walls are dark and textured.

LOVE

UNSTOPPABLE



TIME OUT *ON TOUR*

To Talk About What Matters

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



This month we are taking to the road to visit Liverpool Seafarers Centre in Waterloo – an inter-denominational outreach combining the Apostleship of the Sea and the Mersey Mission to Seafarers. The Centre is run by John Wilson, a churchwarden in Birkenhead, and offers welfare services, advice, practical help, care and friendship, communication, transport, recreation, and financial aid when necessary. At the centre, or aboard ship, volunteer Chaplains are always ready to provide advice and assistance – irrespective of a person's beliefs or nationality.

The centre is used by sailors of many nationalities and John will tell us of its interesting work.

We will meet at the Bier House at 7.30pm on **Thursday 6th April** and transport will be provided – there is a bar in the centre! All welcome.

Primetime

Primetime ladies group meets monthly

on the 3rd Wednesday of the month

7.30-9.30pm

in the Old School Room at the Parish Hall, Paradise Lane.

We do something different at each meeting, but you can take part as much or as little as you like - whatever we do we enjoy ourselves!

***Our next meeting will be on
Wed 19th April.***

We always welcome new ladies....

why not join us?

*Call Sonia, Elaine or Ali
on 833781 / 874635 / 879976*

for further details.



Tea tasting ... March meeting

From the Editorial Team

Spring has sprung at last and how lovely the churchyard and conservation corner are looking. Many thanks to all who have made it look so beautiful. Someone else who has been hard at work is Herbert Blundell who has catalogued the library books in the Bier House, no small task! Each entry in the catalogue now has a short description of the book's contents which is most helpful when you make your selection. We commend the library to you - it has many excellent, new titles. And thank you Herbert.

In the Bier House you will find a collecting tin for refugee's clothing. A contribution of small change will enable us to buy very useful clothing from a charity shop, items that would otherwise be recycled. As the season changes the need for suitable clothes becomes more acute so we would be most grateful if you can help.

And lastly, news from Joyce Greaves who recently moved away to be nearer her family. Joyce was a member of our MU and a regular worshipper at the Wednesday service. She writes that she has settled very happily into village life and her new church at N. Ferriby, we certainly wish her well.

Happy Easter everyone, all the services are here in the magazine. Incidentally, we hope you like the various pictures that we have on our front cover.

The Editorial Team



*Please note that the deadline for the May 2017 edition of the magazine is **Friday 7th April 2017**. Contributions to alisonwhiffing@aol.com*

Dear Friends,

This edition of our Parish magazine comes to you just before the beginning of Holy Week and Easter. At this time we are reminded of all that Jesus endured to show just how much he loves us, to show that his love for us is without limit.

As the famous prayer puts it:-

*Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
For all the benefits you have won for us,
For all the pains and insults you have borne for us.*

And then the prayer goes on to our response:-

*May we see you more clearly,
Love you more dearly
And follow you more nearly,
Day by day. Amen.*



Yes, a reflection on what Jesus endured for us in the first Holy Week leads on to our response. Our faith, our Christian journey requires a response from us and Lent is a special time of refreshment and encouragement so that we can respond in a positive way.

One of the Wednesday evening sessions was entitled 'Actions Speak Louder Than Words' and helped us to look at the type of person we are and how our gifts can be used. The session finished with the idea that it only takes a second to make a difference to someone else. Lent should be a positive time. In years past it focused on making us think about what terrible sinners we are and how we need to repent and turn from wicked ways. But a positive Lent produces a response. A positive Lent helps us focus on our gifts and how we can use them in loving and serving God. Lent and the services during Holy Week help us to gain spiritual strength as we look outward in mission to our community and our world.

The Holy Week Services are entitled 'On The Edge' when we will look at the events of that week through the eyes of some of those who were looking on from the margins – people like Mary Magdalene, Barabbas and Jesus' mother, Mary. These people were not main players in the drama, and sometimes were literally on the edge of the crowd. Then on Good Friday evening we will look at Jesus' suffering through the eyes of Peter who stayed on the edge of the crowd during the trial before Caiaphas, and at the crucifixion.

The climax of Holy Week is Easter Day as we gather to celebrate Christ's resurrection.

Early on the first Easter morning some of the women who followed Jesus came to his tomb to embalm his body. But to their astonishment and amazement they found the stone rolled away and the tomb empty apart from the linen cloths in which he had been buried. St Matthew tells that “Jesus suddenly met them”, and his first words were “Do not be afraid.”

‘Do not be afraid’ continues to be the message of Easter telling us that life is going somewhere; it’s not a meaningless existence that ends with death. Life continues on. Easter also tells us that ultimately the powers of good will triumph. Like for the disciples on Good Friday things at times appear very bleak and even hopeless. But Good Friday was followed by Easter. Evil didn’t have the last word. And then, Easter assures us of the living presence of Jesus with us. Whereas during his ministry he was limited to a particular time and place, now, risen and ascended, his presence is with us, and indeed within us, whoever we are or wherever we may be. So “Do not be afraid.”

The first Easter morning was a morning of great activity as the women went to the tomb and then ran back to Jerusalem to tell the disciples what they had seen and heard. And then Peter ran to the tomb to see for himself that the tomb was empty.



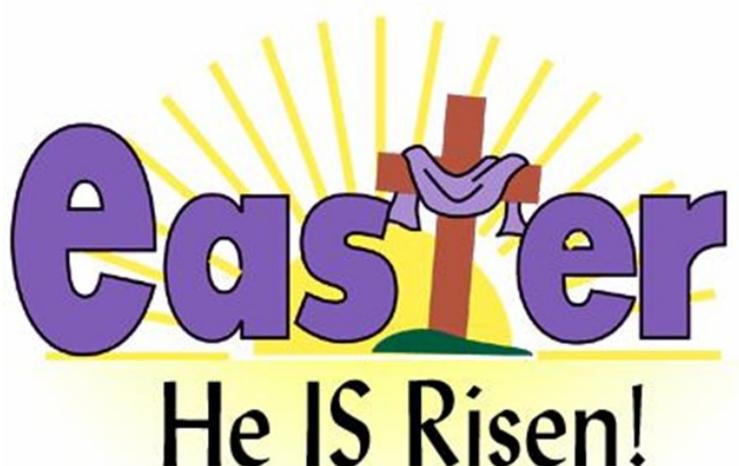
All the details of the Holy Week morning and evening services are in the centre pages of the magazine. After church on Easter morning there will also be great activity around the churchyard as there will be an Easter Egg Hunt for young people!

Thank You — thank you to all who helped deliver 4000 Holy Week Cards. One parishioner at Christmas time had a lady comment on the train platform how lovely it was that St Peter’s had delivered her a card with the service times and she didn’t know his connection to the parish.

So thank you for delivering this time Easter cards it is an important witness and a great way to help people know St Peter’s is here for them.

Happy Easter,

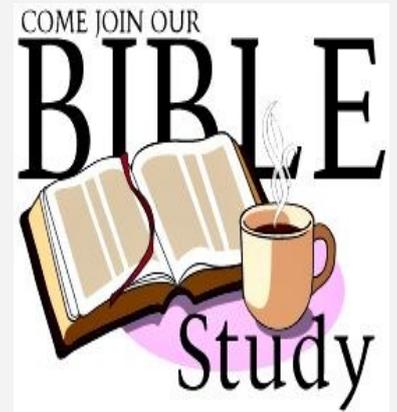
Anne



Bible Study Groups

We plan to develop bible study groups in the Parish and after Easter we would like to hear from anyone who would be interested in being part of a group.

No one would need expert knowledge, just an interest in scripture and a desire to learn how God's word can enrich our lives.



These groups can meet at a time and venue that suits those involved. Please let the Vicar know if you are interested.

There are two Bible Study Tuesday mornings in Lent remaining and you would be very welcome to come along.

The structure of each morning is as follows and you are welcome to come for part or all of the morning. Also you are welcome to come on whichever Tuesdays you are available.

Lenten Tuesdays will be held in the Bier House.

9.00am Morning Prayer

using a service from the Iona Community.

9.30am Coffee

10.00am Bible Study: "Receiving Christ"

11.00am Quiet time for reading and access to the church library

"Receiving Christ in Five Different Ways" Bible Study

28th March Receiving Christ through Prayer and Fellowship

4th April Christ in You the Hope of Glory

In His Steps

There are 2 evenings left in our 5 week course looking at significant events in the life of Jesus to build up our faith.

Wednesday 29th March

'Temptation: Choosing between what is easy and what is right' led by Ted Woods



Wednesday 5th April

'Healing Life's Hurts' led by Alison Woodhouse & Pete Hawkins

***7.30pm in the Old School Room of the Parish Hall.
All very welcome.***

The Parish Library is in The Bier House

There is a great range of books and DVDs for all ages.

NEW book

Thomas Cranmer: In a Nutshell by Beth von Staats, a concise, easily digestible and accessible 90 page book on what is known about Thomas Cranmer - Archbishop of Canterbury, reformer, writer of the Book of Common Prayer.

The Library has a selection of books that include theology, spirituality, prayer and biographies. There is also a selection of DVDs from BBC and ITV documentaries.

If you would like to borrow a book or DVD please write your name in the notebook provided.

We hope this is a useful resource for everyone.



Confirmation

What is it?

Confirmation is the completion of baptism in the sense that, for those who were baptised as infants and for whom promises were made on their behalf by parents and godparents, those same promises are now made by the person themselves.

So for young people they are saying, 'I am taking responsibility for my faith journey' though accepting we all need encouragement and support at times whatever age we are.

For many different reasons some adults will have not been confirmed and this is an important opportunity to be able to affirm their baptism promises and dedicate their lives to God. The bishop is there to mark this important step.

In confirmation we 'confirm' that we are ready to dedicate ourselves to Jesus and to live the Christian life as best we can, and God 'confirms' that he loves us and accepts us, and will help and strengthen us all our days. For most of us, Confirmation is an affirming of our faith and a very meaningful step in our journey of faith.

In St Peter's we welcome young people from Year 6 in primary school through to adulthood - whenever someone would like to be confirmed.

Those coming for Confirmation do need to be baptised. Baptisms in St Peter's in the last year have been arranged for very young babies, teenagers and adults. Baptism can be arranged separately or as part of the Confirmation Service.

The Confirmation Service in St Peter's will be held at 3pm on Sunday 14th May. Those who wish to be confirmed need to contact the Vicar. The Confirmation Service is for the Deanery and for all ages.

Here are the dates for the preparation sessions for young people when we will discuss different topics concerned with Confirmation and young people can ask any questions they might have regarding their faith or the church. It is also expected that ever effort is made to attend the 10am Eucharist. For adults there will be a different time to meet to discuss the decision to be confirmed.

So whatever age you are, if you are interested in being confirmed or if you have further questions please do contact me – Revd Anne Taylor
Telephone: 872824 revannetaylor@gmail.com

Dates for Young People wanting to be prepared for Confirmation with St Peter's

Weds 29 th March	6.30pm-7.30pm	meet in St Peter's Church
Easter Holidays		
Weds 3 rd May	6.30pm-7.30pm	Parish Hall, Paradise Lane
Weds 10 th May	6.30pm-7.30pm	meet in St Peter's Church (incl. rehearsal)
Sunday 14 th May	3pm	Confirmation Service St Peter's
Weds 17 th May	6.30pm-7.30pm	Parish Hall, Paradise Lane
Weds 24 th May	6.30pm-7.30pm	Parish Hall, Paradise Lane



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www.liverpool.anglican.org/parishgivingscheme

Or contact St Peter's Stewardship Team
who will be happy to discuss the scheme.

Mike Fletcher 07808 310834

email: stewardshipstpeter@gmail.com

Let's talk about

EASTER MEMORIES

Come and join us as we reminisce about Easter and take part in our Easter Bonnet Parade! We'll be singing some of the old songs too!

Sunday 9th April, 2-4pm

St Luke's Church Meeting Room, Formby.

For more information please contact Sally Nicol on 01704 877655



St Peter's - Dementia Friendly Church

In 2016 St Peter's began the journey to become a Dementia Friendly Church, promising to increase awareness within and in the wider community, to hold special services for those living with Dementia amongst other things.

For 2017 we will be building on this, again holding special services, providing fellowship and continuing to make sure all our buildings and premises are Dementia Friendly. One suggestion that has come forward from a parishioner is to see if we can provide some practical support for carers, maybe spending a short time with their loved ones whilst the carers come to church, pop to the shops etc.

To help us as we make our plans for the coming months, it would be good to know if any other parishioners would be interested in helping with this sort of fellowship. Please do let the Vicar or myself know of your thoughts, ideas and any interest that you may have.

Vicky Hall

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.



We are advised by the Foodbank they have plenty of supplies of soup and beans – but they are in desperate need of the following: - **long life milk; fruit juice; jam; tinned cold meat.** Donations can be left in the boxes in the church porch or the Bier House.

Thank You for your continued support.

REFUGEE AID

We have put a collecting tin in the Bier House.

Why? because money donated can be used to buy clothing for the refugee centre that we support through Revd Peter Paine.

Your small change would be very welcome, it would buy warm clothing for people who really need it.

I do hope you will be able to support us.

Phone Sue Jacques 879643 if you would like to know more.

National Army Cadet Youth Band



Ince Blundell Village Hall,

L38 6JQ

Wednesday 12th April 2017

7:30 pm

In Aid of the Poppy Appeal & Band Funds

Tickets £5

**from Formby Hardware & Hightown Village Store
or Telephone 871927 / 874101**

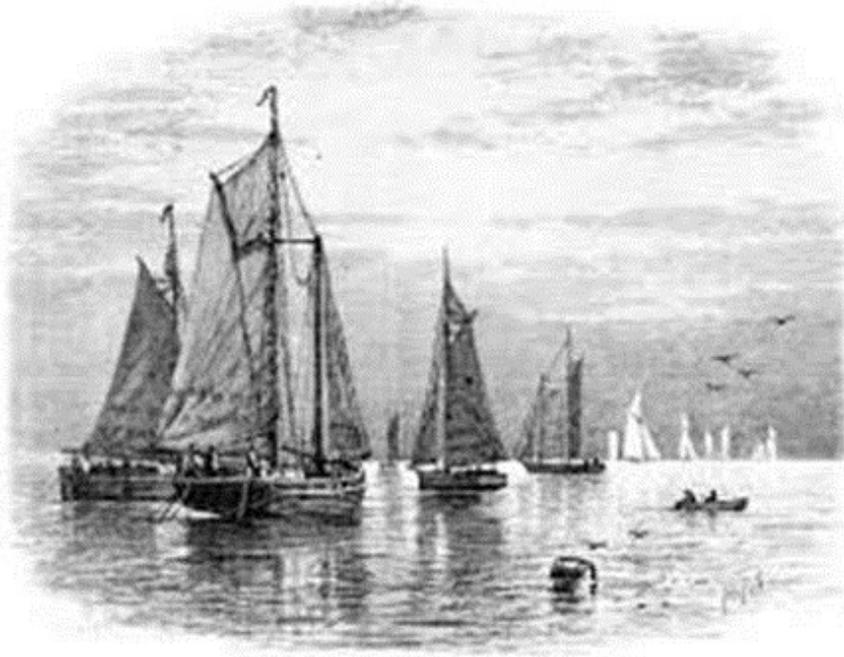
The Price of Fish

During a conversation a speaker may make a statement which has no relevance to the progress of the discussion. When this happens it used to be common for the other person to say, “What has that to do with the price of fish?”. A none too polite but often effective, way of saying ‘keep to the subject’. Yet the phrase has been used in another effective way as the title of two books.

In the 1880’s a professional man was asked if he knew about the fishing fleet known as ‘the short blue’. These were sailing fishing vessels going out all year round from London and the east coast to fish the Dogger bank in the North Sea. As a result of his enquiry he took passage in a steam ship which went out to these large fleets to receive their catch and take it to port while they continued casting their nets. The passenger Mr E J Mather, returned deeply concerned about the sailing vessels selling large amounts of drink which resulted in accidents and the lack of medical care for those who were injured, It was a well known fact that within the fishing fleet there would be many sailors seriously injured, constantly drunk, or washed overboard or ships lost. The number was high and what concerned Mather was the casual acceptance of this by the ship masters and owners.

He took action and provided other boats whose task was to provide more acceptable goods for sale and medical care. He was motivated by his Christian faith and each of his vessels would provide bibles and Christian services. During his work in providing these support vessels he wrote a booklet called, “The Price of Fish”. Soon after it was published he was stopped by a friend and accused of selling the book as a fraud. Apparently his wife had bought the book as a guide to the cost of fish and finding it was not about this threw it away. Mather handed over another copy and asked him to ensure his wife the read it right through, Within a few days he received a generous donation for his work. The book was a description of the skill of the fishermen, the dangers they faced, the injuries and losses suffered and the need for his

support ships. He eventually wrote a book about his work called “Nor’ard of the Dogger” and his work was to become the ‘Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen.’ He was effective in ensuring society was aware of the cost of fish, as well as justifying the need for his charitable work.



The other book, also called “The Price of Fish” looks at the overfishing of stocks and how the greed for fish means that herring shoals and other fish are at risk. We have to feed the population but at what cost? This problem is reflected through much of the demands of society and we will always need someone to warn us of the dangers.

The sign of a fish was used in the Christian Church as a symbol of being a Christian as the letters of fish in Greek spell ‘Jesus Christ son of God Saviour’. The choice of the symbol was used as a secret means of indicating Christian commitment during persecution. It was inscribed on places where they would be communal services in secret. Again the symbol of a fish can indicate the cost of being a Christian.

With Easter coming soon we are asked to look at the price of Christ crucified as the fisher of souls.

Rod Jacques



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Caroline Speakman, Diane Skellern, Rachel Speakman & Caroline McGarvey.

The leaders of the pack.

Brownies



The Leaders from 1st Formby (St Peter's) Brownie pack attended a full day of training at their County Training Day in March.

They want to be able to take their Brownies on a pack holiday later in the year. Both Caroline McG & Caroline S have been running the very popular pack for over 15 years.

If anyone is interested in becoming a volunteer or a leader in Girlguiding which is an extremely rewarding role, then visit the Girlguiding website to see what a difference you can make.

www.girlguiding.org.uk



WE DISCOVER, WE GROW

Girlguiding

James Speakman, a former chorister in our Church Choir at St Peters, after graduating in Music from Cambridge University, has gained the Associateship Diploma of the Royal College of Organists, carrying off prizes for top marks in the practical and written examinations.

Congratulations, James!

A recent photo of James taken at St Wulfram's Church, Grantham, where he was giving a recital.



***BIRKDALE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
Grosvenor Road, Birkdale, Southport, PR8 2ET
Sunday 2nd April at 6.00pm
OLIVET TO CALVARY***

A Passiontide Cantata by J.H. Maunder
Annette Thomas (soprano) Philip Clieve (tenor)
Thomas Isherwood (bass)

James Speakman (organ) Cantata Choir
Alan Whiteley (conductor)
Retiring collection & refreshments afterwards

Intercessions Workshop

Tuesday 4th April – 7.30pm to 9pm

St Luke's Church, Liverpool Road, Crosby

The workshop will be led by Ann Griffiths who is a Reader with the Sutton Team in St Helens. If you are interested in joining the St Peter's Intercession Team or are already involved and would like inspiration then you will be very welcome to attend.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2017

Sunday 9th – 16th April



**Services to help us reflect
on the death and resurrection of Jesus**

Palm Sunday

10.00am Parish Eucharist

6.30pm **The Way of the Cross** – readings, reflections and special music.

Monday 10th

10.00am Eucharist

8.00pm **The Crucifixion** by John Stainer – sung by St Peter's Choir & friends

Tuesday 11th

10.00am Eucharist

8.00pm **'On the Edge – Mary Magdalene'** – Short Evening Service & Reflection

Wednesday 12th

11.00am Eucharist

8.00pm **'On the Edge – Barabbas'** - Short Evening Service & Reflection

Maundy Thursday

10.00am Eucharist

8.00pm **'On the Edge – His Mother Mary'** - Eucharist

followed by Vigil of Prayer until midnight



Good Friday

- 10.15am Walk of Witness from the Bier House to the Village
- 11.00am Service & Passion Play (Formby Pool grounds)
- 2.00pm **'The Contrasts of Good Friday'**
A service to mark Jesus' last hour on the Cross
- 3.00 - 3.30pm **'The Fourteen Stations of the Cross'**
A Suite of contemporary organ music by Alan Ridout depicting the Stations of the Cross.
- 8.00pm **'On the Edge - Peter'** – hymns, readings & reflection

The Church will be open Monday to Thursday
from 9.30am to 12noon
for personal prayer & reflection.

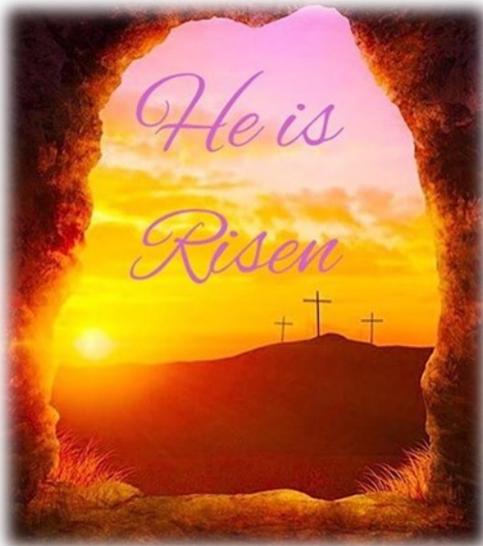


Celebrating the Resurrection Easter Day

8.00am Eucharist (BCP)

10.00am Easter Eucharist
followed by children's Easter Egg Hunt

6.30pm Festal Evensong
(organ music for Easter will be played
from 6pm)



For further information please contact:

Parish Office: 871171

email: stpetersformby@gmail.com

or visit our website:

www.stpetersformby.org

Learning for Living - 2017 Prize Winning Essay

Learning for Living is an essay writing competition held each year between pupils of all the Formby schools, both primary and secondary. It is based on a scheme set up by the John Templeton Foundation (Templeton was an internationally prominent financier and philanthropist).

St Peter's Educational Trust has financially supported the competition for some years together with Southport Soroptimists. Shirley Potter is one of the representative judges.

An awards ceremony was held in March, when certificates and monetary prizes were awarded to all the winners, from over 400 entries to the competition. Reproduced is the winning Primary School entry written by 11 year old Jenna Christian from St Luke's Primary School.



Peter Deyes

Don't Judge a Book by its Cover

This essay will discuss the importance of celebrating diversity in our homes, our schools, our communities and our many nations.

Firstly, I will discuss my own upbringing and the values and beliefs that are important to me and my family. Next, I will write about my own experiences in school and how they can encourage children to develop positive values and beliefs about diversity. I shall then go on to discuss skin colour and issues about homophobia, writing about the problems that people have had to face, sometimes family tragedies, and finally I will show how important it is to promote positive ideas about diversity so that we can all help to bring about great changes for the better.

I am an eleven year old, white, British Girl. My school and the community that I live in is mainly a white British area. My parents have encouraged me to respect others and treat people in a way that I would want to be treated. I have grown up to believe that it is wrong to criticise people for the way they look. After all, you should never judge a book by its cover. Sometimes I don't understand why people live their lives in a different way from me. However, I can always discover more about differences by talking to others, reading books or the internet and asking lots of questions. Learning about other people, helps me to understand and respect that there are other ways of doing things that I love. All the people in my family are different; some of my cousins are Asian and some of my cousins are gay; for myself, celebrating these differences makes me feel proud. I believe in my values and the importance of sharing my beliefs with others to help to create a closer, warmer community and a safer, happier world.

Whilst I have been at school, I have heard children criticising others about their appearance. This can involve calling them names because of their hair colour, for example, *ginger*, in addition to criticising people about the clothes that they wear, saying, "*Your coat's a fake,*" or, "*Why do you always wear that horrible dress?*" I have also heard children making judgements about others, simply because they share a similar skin tone. However, in my school we are taught about different

religions, beliefs and cultures and this educates children to respect each other's similarities and differences. Furthermore, my school's values are to *Learn, Succeed and Value One Another*. I think that the teachers and children in my school, work well together in the classroom, in assembly and in our school council, to set a good example and we actually do value one another.

As I have mentioned, I am very fortunate to live in a family that celebrates diversity and to attend a school that values one another. Sadly, across the world, in each country, city and community, people are experiencing hate crimes based on skin colour and also relationship choices.

In 2005, an 18 year old black student called Anthony Walker was tragically murdered on his way home from college. While Anthony waited at a bus stop with his girlfriend (who was white), he heard some men, who were standing outside a nearby pub, calling him *Nigger* and shouting other racially abusive comments. Anthony and his girlfriend decided to walk away from the bus stop and go through the park to get home. But they were followed and shortly afterwards Anthony was attacked by a gang of four men and one of them battered Anthony's skull with an axe. Sadly, Anthony was unable to survive these severe head injuries and he later lost his life.

Following, Anthony's racially motivated murder, his family set up a charity named THE ANTHONY WALKER FOUNDATION. It aims to promote racial harmony in the community, organise education programmes, sports events and arts activities to name but a few. The foundation promotes positive ideas about diversification by encouraging people of different races to work and achieve goals together.

In addition to people being treated badly because of their skin colour, some people are treated badly and can experience hate crimes because they are gay. Criticising and harming people who are gay is called homophobia; sadly, there have been some awful attacks on Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual and Transgender (LGBT) people in the UK. It's not fair that people don't respect each other's sexual decisions and we should not treat others badly because they may like somebody of the same gender as them. They are still people and they shouldn't have to be afraid because of the decisions they make.

A charity in the UK called GALOP, helps people who are experiencing homophobia. It says that every single day at least one young person is discriminated against because of his or her sexual orientation. Across the UK, gay, lesbian and bisexual students are being verbally, physically, and emotionally abused, and this homophobia is harming hard working students and is creating a negative and damaging learning environment for them.

This has got to stop.

Sadly, we all have to admit racism and other forms of hate crime does take place in our world. This can happen in schools, at work or in public places and we cannot turn a blind eye to it. As it is in my own school, at THE ANTHONY WALKER FOUNDATION and GALOP, everyone needs to play a part by trying hard to set a good example and show people how we can all value one another.

Thank you for reading my essay about celebrating diversity.

Jenna Christian

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 Saturday 8th April
usual time 4pm to 6pm

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



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Percy French Evening on 17th March

The Parish Hall was full to overflowing on Friday night for the Percy French Tribute Concert.

Everyone had a great time and we collected over £500 in the retiring collection to be given to The Friends of St Joseph's

Thank you to everyone who helped make such an enjoyable evening.



On Thursday, 2nd March, Joan Rimmer, Stephen Gerrard and Dominic Dickson presented “Our Formby”, a reminiscence of Formby’s past in the late 19th and early 20th

centuries when it was still a largely farming community with farms, thatched cottages, winding lanes, horses and carts. Stories of the old life and who lived and farmed where, illustrated by photographs of cottages, today’s traffic-heavy roads as they were a century ago, asparagus fields, woodland, sandhills, shore and sea were accompanied by evocative poems set to music, all backed by entertaining commentary. It was a memorably enjoyable afternoon.

On the following day, 3rd March, several members attended the service held this year at St Anne’s, Timms Lane, as part of the wave of prayer which goes around the world on the first Friday in March every year. Prepared by the Christian women of the Philippines, it was as usual a beautiful and inspiring service. An estimated 3 million people will have taken part, with some 6,000 services being held in the British Isles.

On Thursday, 6th April, we look forward to Nick Philpott’s talk, “Mr. Bradshaw comes to Southport”- a history of the Liverpool to Southport railway line, at 2.00 pm in the Bier House.

The annual outing is on Thursday, 4th May, when we will again be having lunch at Clouds Restaurant, Southport College, at 12.00. There will be a three-course lunch and the cost will be £10.00 per head. If you intend coming, would you please tell Tricia Shaw at the meeting on 7th April and let her have payment then.

Visitors and prospective members are always welcome at our meetings.

Eleanor



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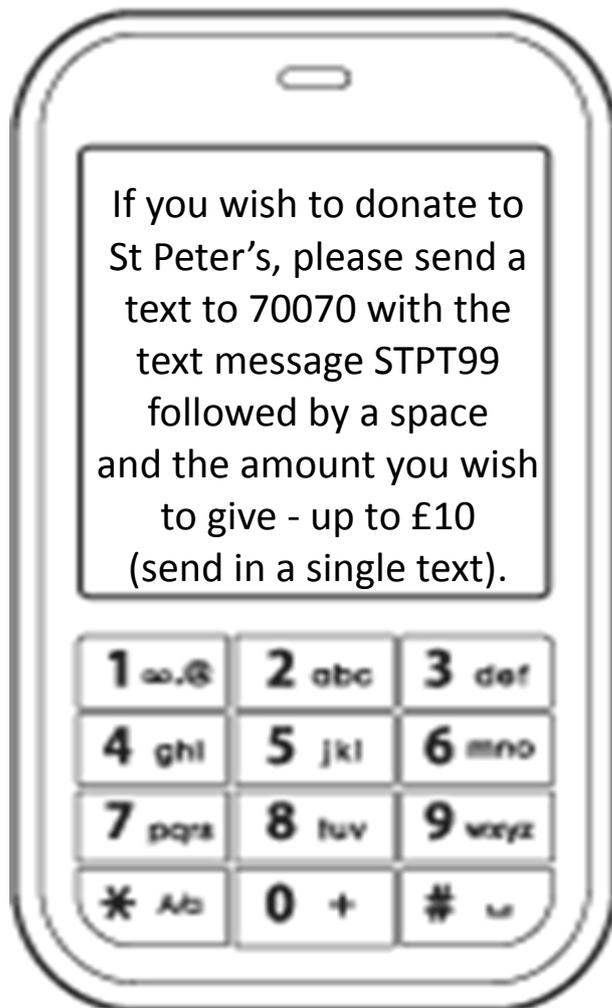
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Veils and Paschal Candles..... at St Peter's

You will notice that on Maundy Thursday all the crosses and hangings are veiled with white linen cloths.

Why do we do this?

We read in the Gospel of John 8:59 "*Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple*". The Jews tried to stone Jesus because of His claims to be the Son of God, and Jesus quietly hides and escapes to quell the tension before things got out of hand. Knowing the events to occur later in the week we hide with Jesus and forego that symbol of the cross which is the visible sign of our faith. Following the celebration of the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, the Church will be stripped of all crosses and decoration leaving only two wooden candlesticks on the altar.

Things are at a low ebb!

However, our faith is to be endorsed and confirmed yet again with the joys of Easter and the wondrous Resurrection.

On Easter Sunday morning we kindle a fire and light our Paschal Candle. This candle is around a meter tall and 10cm in diameter. It bears a colourful symbol of the Resurrection and part of the liturgy is that five studs, containing single grains of incense, are attached to the candle. These represent the five cruel wounds of Christ as He hung on the Cross for our salvation.

The Paschal candle is carried through the Church to enable every member of the congregation to light a candle from it.



Hallelujah, the light of Christ is returned to us.

How and when the candle burns varies from parish to parish. In many it burns at all services until Pentecost and after that at funerals and baptisms. At Saint Peter's it burns at most services throughout the year ahead to remind us of the joy and hope of the Resurrection.

Cliff Cotsworth

Lent, Mothering Sunday and Easter.

Isn't it lovely to see all the spring flowers after the dreary winter days? It seems a long time since we were celebrating Christmas and Christ's birth, and here we are approaching Easter, the time of his death.

The "leap forward" day on March 25th has been and gone and the days are getting a little longer and brighter. We are on the way to Spring.

Lent is here. The church has its seasons, as does the yearly calendar, a ritual that we can always rely on. It is a time of reflection and self-denial, a time to take stock of our relationship with family, friends and God. The family and friends are variable, but God is a "constant" in our lives, as sure as night follows day, so we must do a bit of self-seeking and see if we are fit to call Jesus "Friend". Are we worthy of him? He denied himself in the wilderness when he fought with the Devil for our salvation, but what do we do for him? Lent is the time to think about this.

Next comes Mothering Sunday. When we consider what a mother does for her family it is phenomenal, "love and sacrifice and care" is synonymous with the word Mother. Mary, the mother of Jesus is the Mother of the church so we should not only think of our own mothers, but also of Mary on Mothering Sunday. She is to be revered. When we reflect on what our mothers do or did for us we reward them and show our love for them with flowers and gifts. Chocolate eggs and Easter Bunnies are not what Easter is all about. People have their own reasons for looking forward to Easter. Children look forward to it for the eggs and for the long awaited school holidays. Family holidays begin their season, when those who can go abroad for sunshine, which has been lacking for many months here in winter. It is said in Ireland that Saint Patrick turns up the "warm side of the stone" on March 17th Saint Patrick's Day. It isn't always true, but it is a good omen for warmer weather to come.

I often wonder what went through Jesus' mind and how he felt, knowing that one of his friends betrayed him for money, and sold him to the Romans, who put him to death in a most degrading way.

As I say, we all have our own reasons for looking forward to Easter, but we should also remember that it was the time when man killed God.

Don't ever let us forget that, but during this Easter let us amend our ways to show that He did not die in vain.

A Happy Easter.





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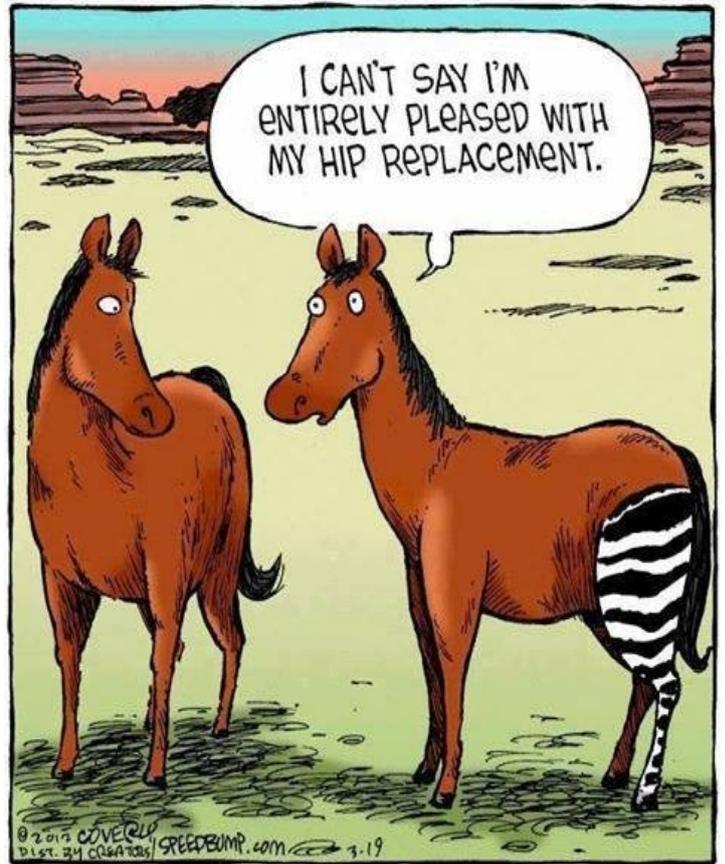
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The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



and so at age 75, Abraham receives word from the 'boss' that retirement will be delayed. **Genesis 12:1-4**



Father Flynn wouldn't tolerate sword play with the Palm crosses

ALL GIRLS PRAYER!!!

When my daughter, Kelly, said her bedtime prayers, she would bless every family member, every friend, and every animal (current and past). For several weeks, after we had finished the nightly prayer, Kelly would say, "And all girls." This soon became part of her nightly routine, to include this closing. My curiosity got the best of me and I asked her, "Kelly, why do you always add the part about all girls?" Her response, "Because everybody always finish their prayers by saying 'All Men'!"

Easter Word Search

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- ANGELS
- APOSTLES
- BETRAYAL
- BLOOD
- CALVARY
- CROSS
- CROWN OF THORNS
- CRUCIFIXION
- DARKNESS
- DEATH
- EARTHQUAKE
- EASTER
- GOLGOTHA
- HIGH PRIEST
- JESUS CHRIST
- JOSEPH
- JUDAS ISCARIOT
- KING
- LAMB

- MARY
- NAILS
- PASSOVER
- PIECES OF SILVER
- PIERCED
- PILATE
- RESURRECTION
- ROBE
- ROMANS
- SACRIFICE
- SIMON OF CYRENE
- SOLDIERS
- SON OF GOD
- SPEAR
- STONE
- TEMPLE
- THIEVES
- THREE DAYS
- TOMB



From the Back Pew Ted Woods

One of the joys of working in the church is that life is seldom boring! The vicar may think he or she knows what they're going to do on a particular day, only to find that something more urgent crops up and needs immediate attention, and the carefully planned diary is turned upside down!

Even in the routine, there can be great variety. Take baptism for example. While most of the baptisms I have conducted were of babies, I have also baptised children up to their teens and also a number of adults. And, I have to say, it was those adult baptisms that I found most rewarding as we discussed matters of faith and how they got to the stage of wanting to be baptised.

So why should we be baptised? And what does it mean?

First of all, we baptise in response to Jesus' parting command, "Go, therefore, and make disciples...baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19).

Jesus himself chose to be baptised by John in the river Jordan, and his disciples baptised those who wished to become his followers.

So, in the early church and since, baptism has been the initiation rite into membership of the church.

We get a full glimpse of the significance and symbolism of baptism by looking at how it was practised in the early days of the church. Most of those who came to be baptised were adults who wished to become Christians. Many had been members of pagan cults and religions.

It was during Lent that they were prepared for baptism by being taught about their new-found faith. Then, usually on Easter Day, they were brought to the sea, or a river, or a lake to be baptised. They would be led into the water until it was about waist high, and as they professed their belief in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, they would be submerged into the water three times. No mere sprinkling with a few drops of (heated) water in those days!

There was a great symbolism in the three-fold submersion. If a person falls or gets knocked into water and goes under, the first two times they resurface they will still be alive and breathing, but the third time they resurface, they will have drowned and be no longer breathing. So, when in baptism the candidate was raised to the surface after the third profession of faith, they were said to have been born again, to have become a new person in Christ.

Their baptism was a symbol of death to their old way of life and beliefs and of rebirth to the Christian Way. If in a river, they came in by one bank and left by the other.

This was further symbolised by the person being baptised sometimes wearing old dirty clothes going into the water and then being clothed in a new clean white garment after being baptised.

It was a pivotal, meaningful, life-changing, life-transforming ceremony as they became members of the church.

Then, as whole families were baptised, children became included, and, of course, Christian parents would want their babies baptised and made members of the church. Hence, those seeking baptism can be any age.

The Catechism puts the meaning of baptism neatly when it says, “In my baptism God called me to himself, and I was made a member of Christ, the child of God and an inheritor of the kingdom of God.”

Baptism is a response to God’s love which is extended to us even before we may realise it. “We love because God first loved us.”

God makes us *a member of Christ*. It’s not like membership of a club, but membership in the sense that my arm is a member of my body. Like a grafted branch we have been joined to Christ and his life becomes the source of our life.

The child of God. That’s why names are given in baptism. We’re not just any old (or young) child but named and known by God. As someone once said, “God loves each one of us as if there were only one to love.” Each of us matters to God.

An inheritor of the kingdom of God. All the benefits of God’s love are ours – forgiveness of sins, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, grace and strength to live the Christian life. All are ours. But of course we have to accept them and use them!

Baptism is the rite by which we become full members of the church. When an adult is baptised they make the promises for themselves, but when babies are baptised parents and godparents speak for them and undertake to bring up the children in the faith until they come to confirmation when they affirm the promises for themselves.

One of the most meaningful services I have attended was when my daughter-in-law was being confirmed. She had not been baptised as a child and so the bishop incorporated her baptism into the service. Having been baptised she then received the laying on of hands for, among other things, strength to live the Christian life.

Adults or children – baptism is for all.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – APRIL 2017



1 st Saturday	9.00am	Breakfast Church in the Bier House	
2nd Sunday		5th Sunday of Lent	
4 th Tues	10.00am	Bible Study in the Bier House	
5 th Weds	7.30pm	Lent Series in Old School Room, Parish Hall	
6 th Thurs	2.00pm	Mothers' Union meeting in Bier House <i>"Mr Bradshaw comes to Southport" – speaker Nick Philpott</i>	
7 th Friday	6.30pm	First Friday Eucharist	
8 th Saturday	4.00pm	New Beginnings Marriage Group in St Luke's Church	
9th Sunday		Palm Sunday Annual Parochial Church Meeting following 10.00am service in Church	
	9 th – 16 th	Holy Week and Easter <i>(see centre pages for list of services)</i>	
13 th Thursday	2.30pm	Halcyon House Eucharist – visitors welcome	
14 th Good Friday	11.00am	Village Passion Play	
16th Sunday		Easter Day Easter Egg Hunt following 10.00am service	
19 th Weds	7.30pm	Primetime in Old School Room, Parish Hall	
23rd Sunday		2nd Sunday of Easter	
	10.00am	Sunday Club	
30th Sunday		3rd Sunday of Easter	
	6.30pm	Service of Wholeness	

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

From the Church Registers

*Mike and Sheena Hastie
were married on
31st March 1967,
in St Machar's Church,
Bridge of Weir,
Renfrewshire, Scotland.*



Baptisms

5th March

Holly Clare, Lottie Maria &
Olivia Rose Smith,
daughters of Alan & Laura



Charlie Paul Wheeler,
son of Steven & Ashley

Funeral

13th March

Jennifer Hall

Interment of Ashes

6th March

May Blundell

Happy Easter



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

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