

St Peter's Church Magazine

February 2017



Missa brevis in D major by Mozart K.194

One of the popular settings of the Eucharist by Mozart will be sung liturgically by the Choir on Sunday 19th February at 6.30pm, accompanied by a string Trio and organ Continuo.

The Eucharistic anthems to be sung are the Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus, Benedictus and Agnus Dei.



Spirited hymns ensure that we can all enjoy raising our voices in praise.

This setting is thought to have been penned for ordinary use in Salzburg Cathedral in 1774 and it is clear that Mozart has tried to satisfy the Archbishop's demands for brevity in the composition.

If you would like to sing the work, do let me know. **Graham Jones**

Tel. 01704 876 134 Email: g.mjones@btinternet.com

We are delighted to announce that following our three Christingle services on Christmas Eve, when nearly 900 people attended, we raised £1421.46 which was added to £87.66 raised by our carol singing in Tesco's, making a total of

£1509.12

towards the work of The Children's Society.

**The
Children's
Society**

Thank You

ADVENT COLLECTION and Carol Singing in The Grapes

**The
Whitechapel
Centre**

We are delighted to advise we raised **£717.80** towards the work of the Whitechapel Centre for the Homeless in Liverpool. *Thank You*

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

A very happy and peaceful year to you and your families near and far.

We hope you enjoyed Christmas, it was certainly a very special one at St Peters. We have to thank Steve and Andrew and all those many good folk who gave their time and expertise to make it a true celebration. So many people came to share our services that we foresee an extension to the church building not just to the Bier house - just joking!!!!

Lots of things are happening this month and we hope you will be able to support some of them. The Service of Wholeness is now on the last Sunday of the month, this is up to and including 28th May. The last Sunday in June is the ordination of our new curate, Nathan, in Liverpool Cathedral. So summer dates for the Service of Wholeness in due time.

Another of our regular services is the Breakfast Church held in the Bier House on the first Saturday of the month at 9am. It is usually completed by 9.30am when you can enjoy a hearty spread of toast and pancakes. Delicious!



On Wednesday 8th February in the Old School Room at 7.30pm Revd Sheilagh Williamson will lead an open meeting when we will consider getting involved in an overseas project in Uganda. This could be an important commitment for us, so come along and find out more.

Finally, the Lent study groups will be starting in March so busy days ahead!

With our best wishes

The Editorial Team

*Please note that the deadline for the March 2017 edition of the magazine is **Friday 3rd February 2017**. Contributions to alisonwhiffing@aol.com*



SOCIAL COMMITTEE – SAVE THE DATE

*An 'Irish Evening with Percy French'
Friday 17th March 2017 in Church
See next magazine for more details!*

Dear Friends,

The days are getting longer, and already snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils are pushing up from their long winter sleep to appear above the ground. Buds are beginning to form on trees and shrubs. Although there's a debate about when Spring actually starts – now it's March rather than the traditional February – nature is stirring itself and the beginnings of new life are evident everywhere.

John Newton, the one-time slave trader who became a clergyman (after his conversion!!), and who wrote Amazing Grace, also wrote a poem called "Kindly Spring".



*Kindly Spring again is here,
Trees and fields in bloom appear,
Hark! The birds with artless lays
Warble their creator's praise.*

*Where in winter all was snow,
Now the flowers in clusters grow;
And the corn in green array,
Promises a harvest day.*

*Lord, afford a spring to me,
Let me feel like what I see;
Speak, and by thy gracious voice,
Make my drooping soul rejoice.*

*On thy garden deign to smile,
Raise the plants, enrich the soil;
Soon thy presence will restore
Life to what seemed dead before.*

Shoots of new life are appearing in parish life as February begins.

- ◆ Planning permission has been granted for the extension of the **Bier House**, and after it passes through the diocesan process we will be able to start looking to tenders. All the details are on page 7.
- ◆ **Fishy Club** begins again after the Christmas break on Wednesday 1st February. More leaders would be a great help just let us know.
- ◆ Progress has been made on a possible overseas project in **Uganda** for the parish to become involved in – see page 8.
- ◆ The ground is at present being prepared for two programmes in **Lent** -

“BUILDING FAITH” a 5 week course which looks at significant events in the life of Jesus to build up our faith, which will be held on the Wednesday evenings of Lent. While on Tuesday mornings, there will be a weekly series of Bible studies in the Bier House. More details next month.

- ◆ Thanks to the **Educational Trust**, the main hall of the old school (now our Church Hall) has been renovated and refurbished.
- ◆ And, of course, we are looking forward to the arrival in June of our new curate, Nathan Thorpe, and the refurbishment of the Curate’s House in Kenton Close will soon be underway.

We will also be holding **CONFIRMATION** Preparation this year, and I would ask any who wish to be confirmed – whether young or old - to contact me.



The youngest are young people in Year 6 but there is no upper limit! Whereas all are welcome to receive Holy Communion, Confirmation marks a time of re-dedication as we renew the promises of our baptism and receive in a sacramental way by the laying on of hands by the bishop the strengthening grace of the Holy Spirit. The Confirmation Service will be held on Sunday 14th May and preparation will begin in March.

As we have entered this New Year in the life of our parish we pray that new shoots of ministry and mission will emerge, that we be will be open to the challenges presented to us as we seek to serve God as a welcoming and inclusive parish.

So, new shoots are, and will be, appearing, which we pray will ‘promise a harvest day.’ And we also pray that, as the life of St Peter’s continues to grow, each of us will feel renewed and know a spring time of the soul which will make any ‘drooping souls rejoice’.

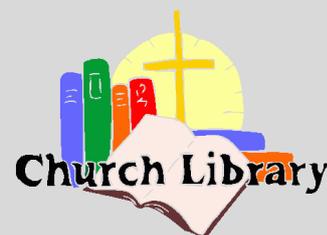
As this is the first magazine of 2017 may I thank all those involved in a wonderful Christmas in St Peter’s and wish you all a very Happy New Year.

Anne

The Parish Library is in The Bier House

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

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, please write your name in the notebook provided. We hope this is a useful resource for everyone.



Update re Bier House Extension

As you may know the P.C.C. has been hoping to extend the Bier House. The first plan was turned down by Sefton Council as it would mean removing part of the original church wall. So Plan B was put into operation and we are delighted that we have been granted planning permission and at the time of writing are just waiting for the official church faculty to be granted.

New Proposals

A new extension on the east side contained within the width of the existing building width is proposed to rehouse the kitchen and accessible w.c. The existing east wall will be demolished and the opened up area will extend into the space where the gardener's store and toilet are currently situated. A further small extension will be created on the south side to store chairs and tables out of sight and thus allow a bigger linked space to extend the meeting area. In order to reduce the impact of the existing main access door opening directly into the new meeting space, a new porch will be created.

None of the original church boundary wall that is of historical significance will be altered. A small section of the recently built lower dwarf wall separating the car park section will be removed. This section of wall is of very low significance. The new east and south extensions will be built in brick with slated roofs and end parapet stone capped copings to the gables to reflect and match the existing construction of the Bier House. The new porch will be constructed in timber frame with close boarded detailing and a slate roof to match the existing Bier House. The ridge tiles will be the same.

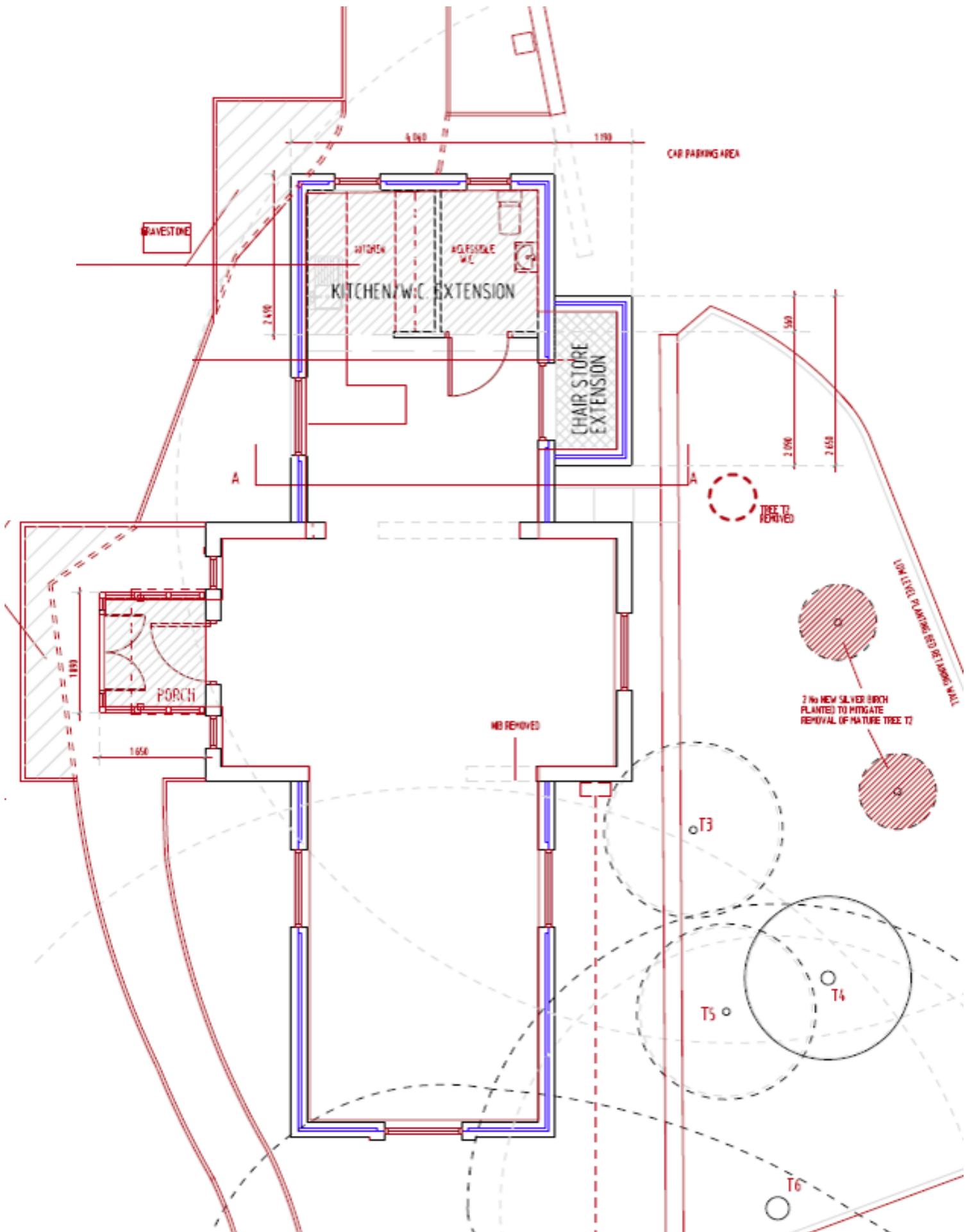
Access

The new porch access will be created by increasing the widths of the current tarmacadam pathways around the Bier House. Access will be level and provides full wheelchair access and there is an accessible toilet.

The following is an extract from the Revd Anne Taylor in support of the application to Sefton Council...

“With a growing congregation it is now too small for the Sunday Club which uses the Bier House and is a valuable part of our church’s ministry. The numbers of children attending are increasing and the space is too small. The Bier House is also used each month for the Worship on Wednesdays, which is a service provided for pre-school children. The congregation meet for coffee after each Sunday service but the area is too small which means that many don’t stay. Meetings for both the Parish and the local community are regularly held in the Bier House but its use is limited because of its size. The Bier House is an easy facility for elderly community members to use but activities are limited because of the space available.

This is a project fully supported by St Peter’s PCC and the local community.”



We are up to stage two of the project which includes creating Building Regulation drawings and application, finalising specifications and tender invitation and drawing up contract documents.

POSSIBLE PARISH PROJECT

Location: Kalule, Central Uganda,

1 hr from capital, Kampala

Run by: Revd Sheilagh Williamson



For the past year the P.C.C. has discussed becoming involved in an overseas project. The project would need to be one that the whole parish could get excited about and feel involved in. It would include the possibility of a work team visiting the project and have elements, other than just financial, that we can support. Ted and Anne spoke to several agencies but with no success as many just wanted monetary involvement. This was until a chance conversation with Bishop Cyril Ashton who knew of a cleric who serves in Darlington, Co Durham, who had set up a project in Uganda and he made the connections. This is the project that we are now looking at getting involved in as a parish.



**TOGETHER
WE CAN**

Kalule is a small village which Revd Sheilagh Williamson has visited a number of times, and it was due to her initiative that the project, **Uganda Together We Can**, (see its Facebook page), was set up.

At the moment it consists of about 100 women who are engaged in a number of ventures to earn money for food for their families and to educate their children. They make cakes for weddings and they grow mushrooms and maize, and make blankets, rugs bags and simple jewellery for sale.

Recently on the request of the Anglican Bishop of Luwero, the project has been extended to provide an opportunity for boys to make sandals for sale out of old car tyres. Over 130 boys have so far joined the project. Through funds Sheilagh was able to raise, they have built a special hut for all this work. At the moment they work on the floor, but work benches would be very much appreciated.

There is also an Anglican run primary school beside their church with about 300 pupils. It is badly in need of painting and refurbishment; desks need to be repaired and/or made.

What a group might do?

- Paint the school and do necessary repairs.
- Help the women with skills for their work – design, carving, also healthcare, hygiene and dental care – and also help them to develop a ‘business plan’ and ideas for the sale of their products. They also need

help to develop a garden around the church for maize and other food.

- Schools concentrate on the '3 R's', but there is no activity like craft, music or games, though the school does have football and netball teams. The children need a bit of fun in their lives! The teachers would also appreciate help with the subjects they teach – their education is very basic.
- Above all, a parish group from St Peter's just being there would be a great boost to their confidence, showing that others care for them.

Initially we could go out as a small group – say about 12 - to do the above work and to discuss with the local people what they might also need in the future. There is a Diocesan Guesthouse about 30 minutes away where a party could stay.

Sheilagh was in Kalule in October and has had an extremely enthusiastic response to the idea of our parish getting involved in the project. Sheilagh is supported in what she does by the Bishop of Durham and also the Bishop of Luwero.

Neither primary nor secondary education is free, and there might also be a possibility of an education fund in St Peter's to help those children who would otherwise find it difficult to attend school.

To explore this project further we have invited Revd Sheilagh Williamson to address an open meeting for PCC members and any others who are interested in finding out more. This will be held on

Wednesday 8th February at 7.30pm

in the Old Schoolroom, Parish Hall, Paradise Lane, Formby L37 7EH

**THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
(QUAKERS)**

Formby Quiet Time based on the Quaker tradition of silent worship

1st TUESDAY OF THE MONTH 10.30am to 11am

The meeting is open to everyone, of faith or no faith, who would like to come and share half an hour of peace and reflection.

Refreshments provided afterwards.

Venue: 15 Sandringham Road, Formby

Tel: 876208

GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE – UPDATE

The Churchyard Team is continuing to improve the churchyard to make it safer and easier to maintain, whilst trying to be sensitive to the feelings of churchyard users, particularly those with family tablets in the Garden of Remembrance.

A new fence has recently been constructed between the churchyard and 'Conservation Corner'. The object of this is to neaten the appearance of the Garden of Remembrance, and also to enable the area to be securely fenced when the uniformed groups, the school, and the Fishy Club undertake activities behind the Church Hall. The red refuse wheelie bin has also been placed in a fenced cubicle to enhance the appearance.

A problem has become evident with the flower-spikes which have been inserted into the chippings in the Garden of Remembrance. When relatives removed the spike to replace stagnant water it was found that chippings fell down the hole making it difficult to reposition the container! This has now been solved by providing a second flower-spike as an inner sleeve to contain the water, whilst the old container has been punctured to assist drainage.

Relatives are reminded that that only floral tributes placed in the flower spike are acceptable. A relaxed attitude has been adopted over the Christmas period to wreaths and other seasonal tributes.



These have now been placed behind the garden for collection, and any not collected will be sent to recycling.

Parishioners who wish to have a flower spike placed behind their loved ones tablet should contact the Church Office, and the churchyard team will insert one as speedily as possible.

Nick Philpott

Refugee Support Group – News

On 21st November we welcomed **nine asylum seekers to Formby** from Asylum Link. Despite cold and wet weather we gave them a warm welcome and hot lunch. They much appreciated the opportunity to relax, talk to friendly people, tell their stories and play games. At least one had come through the Calais jungle, two were from Iran and one from Syria, others were from Eritrea, Sudan and Pakistan.

Thanks to the generosity of the Mother's Union who had collected toiletries over the autumn and of individuals who have donated clothing we were able to take **a full car load of items to Asylum Link** at the beginning of December. Asylum seekers are constantly in need of these articles, especially men's clothing in the winter, so any donations are most gratefully received.

In November Carol and I visited the asylum seekers' drop-in at **Skelmersdale** library which is open once a week for two hours and run entirely by volunteers. There are about 80 asylum seekers in the Skelmersdale region and the group are in regular contact with half of them. The volunteers were providing their guests with a hot drink, one-to-one English tuition and a listening ear. It was the kind of low-key operation which could be started in Bootle and other places when asylum seekers are given residency in the borough of Sefton.

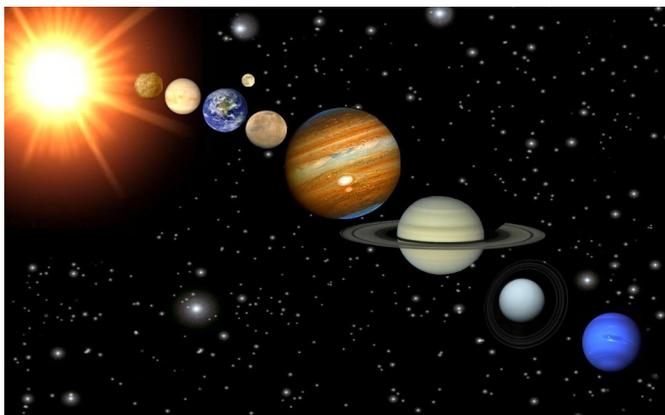


We will be taking **another delivery** of clothing and toiletries early in the New Year so please keep up the good work of leaving items in the church porch or let me know if you'd like them to be collected: Thank you.

Peter Paine (01704 809517)

Darkish Matters

It seems that scientists who survey the stars are having difficulty with one of their theories, the one which deals with 'dark matter.' We have lived with this phrase for some time and to some extent it has taken on a life of its own. Whenever we want to refer to some idea or set of facts which we cannot fully explain we refer to it as dark matter. Well, it has been decided to spend millions on proving it exists.



Dark matter refers to a theory that there is a force which must exist to hold together planets which surround a sun. In our system outer planets revolve more slowly than those nearer the sun, but this does not happen in all galaxies which means that the outer planets are moving as fast as the inner and therefore should be spinning into space but they don't.

Dark force is the force that holds them together. No evidence of this force exists and for years scientists have tried many complex methods to prove it, the latest experiment involves equipment at the bottom of a defunct gold mine!!

Whether or not there will be proof of this force in space, the idea that you can take a theory and use it to establish a principle is affecting more areas and is being used on Christianity. The publication last year of the national falling attendance at church services brought about a series of discussions and articles on the importance of Christianity. These sought to show that over the centuries the Christian religion has been either a force for good or a binding force which brought about the freedom of the individual. As a consequence of these arguments it was put forward that Christianity must be supported or at least seen as an important part of exploring our past. Unfortunately this puts religion on the same basis as dark matter. An interesting idea or a mystical force which can be studied to enable a better understanding of our society. But this is a dangerous approach for the future of Christianity.

The New Testament is not a treatise on political theory nor a means of justifying an historical development. It does present moral arguments but this is part of a faith. Christianity cannot survive as an interesting approach to understanding the United Declaration of Human Rights, as important as this is Christianity has to be seen as an individual act of commitment which defines a future. The loss of numbers to the church does more than highlight an interesting theory about the past; it is a loss of faith.

Going back to dark matter this theory requires, according to astrophysicists, to be proved, demonstrated in some sort of scientific way. This approach is so often

used of Christianity. Yet faith is personal commitment.

Ruth Burrows, a Carmelite nun wrote, “Faith is not a thing of the mind, it is not intellectual certainty or a felt conviction of the heart, it is a sustained decision to take God with utter seriousness as the God of our life; it is to live out the hours in a practical, concrete affirmation that he is Father and he is in heaven.”

Rod Jacques

Service of Wholeness

Prayer & Anointing

This is a monthly service in the evening where there is the opportunity to receive prayer through the laying on of hands and anointing with oil either for ourselves or on behalf of someone else.

The service started on a regular basis in September 2014 and has provided a source of comfort and strength for many.

It is a quiet and reflective ministry set in the context of the Eucharist. Those who want prayer and anointing come to the Formby Chapel. No information is asked other than a name, while others can sit quietly in their pew and offer their own prayers to God.

It is Divine Healing, recognising God as the source of health and wholeness. It is inclusive and works hand in hand with the work of doctors, surgeons and nurses, offering a spiritual resource to complement the skills and treatments of the medical profession. We believe that God’s perfect will is healing and wholeness. But we are also very well aware that God’s will is not always done on earth as it is in heaven. And so often, in this ministry as in life in general, we have to walk in faith with a sense of mystery. As St Paul wrote, “Here we see through a glass darkly.” We don’t have all the answers, but we believe that God always blesses and always gives strength and courage and peace to those who seek his grace.

Two introductory sermons on the ministry of wholeness can be found on our parish website.

**This service is held on the last Sunday of the month
at 6.30pm and all are welcome.**





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Sefton Children's Trust – Charity Number 1016643

Sefton Children's Trust is a local charity that St Peter's has supported for several years. In 2016 the PCC donated £300 to the work of SCT. **David Poole**



Sefton Children's Trust provides residential experiences, Christmas parties, presents, hampers and clothes for local children and young people from families who are experiencing difficulties and last year Sefton Children's Trust celebrated its 32nd year.

How do we spend donated money? Sefton Children's Trust has been a charity since 1984 and is wholly supported by volunteers. We have no paid staff. The main aim of SCT is to provide a 3-year educational and recreational programme for children aged 8 – 12 years, who are experiencing difficulties within their own families and who live in or around the Sefton area of Merseyside. The children may be young carers, live in families where there is serious or terminal illness, have experienced bereavement or murder of a close family member, have been abused or live in a totally chaotic household.

SCT enables the children to attend an annual week's residential at Manor Adventure in Shropshire, which will provide them with an opportunity to remove the stresses of everyday life. This residential provides an opportunity for each of the children to be a child, as they are often forgotten children in today's society. This break had a huge impact on the children who are in need of our support and referred to this charity. Some children learned, for the first time, how to make new friends and build trust with others, skills that will help them, their families and their local communities in the future. The young people referred to this charity are from families who do not have the opportunity to go on any other holiday and are in need of help and support.

Also, during the course of the year, SCT facilitates a Christmas activity as well as the week long residential. The charity aims to give hampers to approximately 60 families; a Christmas gift for each child and a fun day. SCT plans for these families to have lunch and to watch a film at a local cinema for up to 72 whole families including their parents/carers. This is often the first experience of a fun activity for both the parents/carers with their children. In some cases, it is the first time the parents/carers have experienced these activities either as children or adults.

Any donations can make a difference to children living in families who are experiencing difficulties. If you would like to speak to us here at SCT to get further information about how the charity works, please do not hesitate to contact us at:

Burlington House, Crosby Road North, Waterloo L22 0LG Tel: 0151 920 0726

Anona Kelly

A Christogram at St Peter's



When the old church of St Stephen, Grove Street, was being demolished the pulpit from that church was brought to St Peter's to retain this treasure within the Liverpool Diocese.

I remember a parishioner standing and looking at the monogram beneath the reading desk and asking why there should be a dollar sign carved in the front. It's not a dollar sign but something that appears very often on church furnishings and embroidery. It is the abbreviation of the name Jesus.

IHS is the Christogram (relating to Christ) otherwise monogram based on the Greek word for Jesus, IHSOYS. This may seem a little complicated but, if we accept that the letters IHS indicate the name of Jesus we are on safe ground. As Jesus is at the centre of our worship, and faith, it is good to be reminded of the fact in all we see and do.

Perhaps it may be of personal interest to see how many times we see IHS in our church buildings and furnishings and to remember Jesus in all things.

Cliff Cotsworth



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Best wishes for a happy New Year, and welcome to the MU in 2017.

The Christmas lunch on 1st December was a happy opening to the Christmas season, with carols, readings and music. We are grateful to Mike Hastie for again providing musical accompaniment to the carols.

2017 began with the branch meeting on 5th January. The meeting opened with a short service at which Caroline Hope was enrolled by Revd Ted Woods as a member of the MU. We welcome Caroline to our fellowship.

The service was followed by a talk given by Natalie Redding on 'The Gideons'. They were started in America in the late nineteenth century by a group of businessmen who saw a need for bibles to be available for travellers in hotel bedrooms. They came to Britain in 1949. The Gideon vision is to bring others to Christ through personal witnessing and presenting God's work in the main streams of life. Members place bibles and testaments in the widest possible spread of public venues from schools, universities and hotels, to ships, hospitals, prisons, and similar avenues of distribution. They operate in over 170 countries and members now place 60 million copies of bibles each and every year. Natalie cited tales of how inspiration from Gideon bibles has profoundly changed individuals' lives. Scripture distribution is funded by registered supporters known as 'Friends of The Gideons'. Our local branch is based in Southport, and new Friends are always needed.

On Tuesday afternoon, 10th January, representatives of St Peters MU joined others from the Deanery at the annual presentation of tributes (branch subscriptions) and annual reports to the President, Beverley Boden, at her home in Blundellsands.

On Thursday, 2nd February, at 2.00pm we will be holding the AGM and Bring & Buy. We are always looking for new committee members. If you would like to become a member, please let Eleanor know (874112) before 2nd February.

The Bring and Buy is one of our main sources of funding so please give it your support and bring any suitable items that you can.

On Thursday, 2nd March at 2.00pm the 2017-18 programme opens in the *Church Hall* with 'Our Formby', an entertaining and informative stroll through Formby's past, with slides, songs, conversation and humour, presented by Joan Rimmer, Steve Gerrard and Nic Dickson. Guests will be welcome. *Please note change from usual venue.*

A reminder: the MU corporate communion is on the second Wednesday of every month in church at 11.00am.

We are always open to new members. If you are thinking of joining or would like more information please telephone Eleanor (874112).

Eleanor

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 11th February

usual time 4pm to 6pm

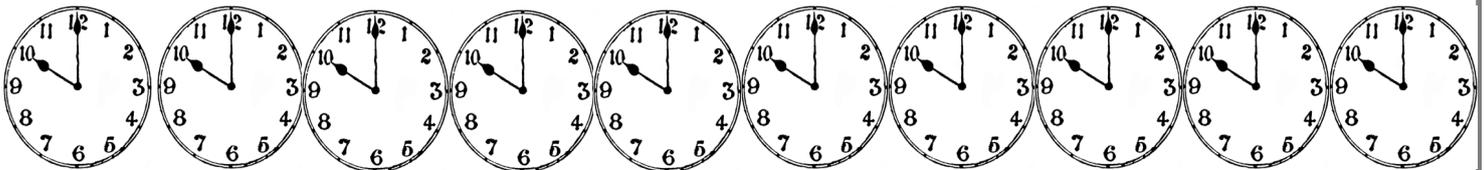
(Please note change of day to Saturday)

in St Luke’s Meeting Room.

More information from Sally Nicol,

New Beginnings Co-Ordinator

Tel. 01704 877655



Primetime

Last year we set up a new ladies group ‘Primetime’ with the hope of encouraging ladies to join us for a monthly get-together.

We weren’t quite sure how it would pan out but are happy to report that ‘12 months on and still going strong’.

We would be interested to hear from anyone who would like to talk to the group or has an interesting story to share.

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

Our next meeting will be on 15th February 2017.

Why not join us?

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



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Vicar, can you spare a dime?

The things people ask for at an urban rectory

‘I am a Messianic Jew,’ says the jittery young man at the rectory door. He is pale and drawn, with a close-shaven scalp and several days of bristles on a sharp chin. The bloodshot eyes search for me swimmingly. ‘A Jew, a Messianic Jew,’ he emphasises. I should have a clever rejoinder, but I am assessing if he has a knife so I only manage, ‘Ah yes, and how can I help?’ ‘Is this you?’ is thrown back at me, as he jabs his finger at the screen of his phone and then holds it up to my face like a mirror. I admit my identity (an image from our website), and this makes him confident of success. ‘You must pay my bus fare to Latvia.’

Such encounters are the commonplace of the daily life of the urban vicar. The rage and frustration when no money is forthcoming is the awkward moment — best done somewhere public. ‘Give to everyone who asks of you,’ says Jesus in Luke’s gospel, but then Jesus wasn’t a vicar in Catford. In fact, I am not sure Jesus would have made a very good vicar. One can’t imagine him chairing the parochial

church council or filling in yet another funding application, though he would perhaps have gone out of his way to encounter the Messianic Jew I am trying to get rid of. I must pay his bus fare, he says again. But if I help, my front door will quickly become even more of a magnet for the lost, bewildered and feckless. I offer food to my Jew, but it is of no interest, despite his racked and hungry appearance.

The Church of England still understands herself to be the church of the nation: bishops in the Lords, royal weddings, choral evensong and, above everything, availability to all — ‘a presence in every community’, as the strapline goes. I am not the chaplain to the congregation, but rector for everyone in the parish, or that’s the idea. The danger with urban ministry is that this understanding is shared absolutely with all those who would like something free from the vicar — money, food, shelter, financial advice, lock-picking, drain-clearing, etc. The expectation that the vicar can help still runs deep among those lost communities of London folk who survive at the edge of things.

In the first few years after ordination, the steady stream of supplicants at the door makes one feel rather important and needed. That wears off fairly quickly, to be replaced with a guilty weariness and occasional fear. There is variety, though. I have had the man who wanted his heating sorted out (I found an engineer), the woman who wanted to know if it was wrong to kill her husband (yes, wrong), the two Muslims who wanted to get married in church (possible — but are you sure that's what you want?), the man wanting advice on hammers (I gave him directions to Homebase), numerous people needing tickets to somewhere — Brazil was the most ambitious recently, Croydon the most believable — and many needing help to get to a funeral a long way off; one man's mother had died so many times that we both struggled to keep a straight face when he was delivering his story.

Then there was the very well-spoken young man whose opening gambit was straight from Wodehouse — 'Terribly sorry to bother you, Reverend. The thing is, I find myself a bit down on my uppers just now, and I wondered if you might be able to advance me a little something.' One poor man, enormously burdened with weight and walking with great labour, came

all the way from the East End to me here in Catford, only to be turned away again. One wonders what is really happening in these repeat transactions where all I offer is food, tea and prayer.

The bus fare to Latvia not being forthcoming, my visitor eventually slinks away disappointed, to tell his tale elsewhere, and I head to church to say evening prayer. 'In so far you did it to the least of these, you did it to me' echoes around in my head. One can't help thinking that Christianity would be a much easier affair if Jesus hadn't said so many awkward things like that. Give everything you have to the poor, hate your father and mother, pluck out your offending eye. It's quite difficult to know where to begin sometimes. In the prayers I ask Jesus, the Messianic Jew, whether I should have been more helpful, and the noisy silence of his reply unsettles me.

Martin Thomas
5 November 2016
The Spectator



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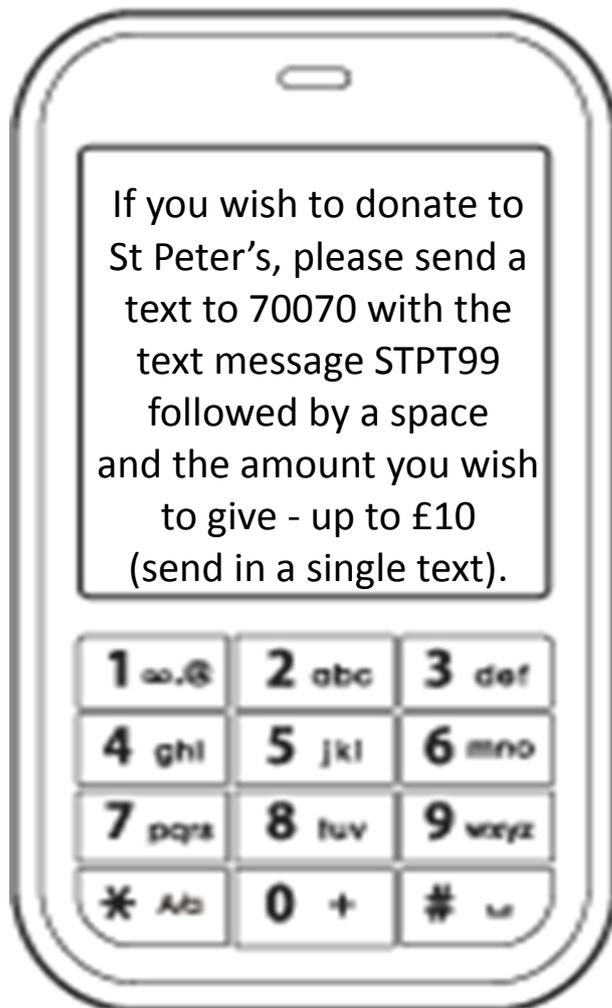
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Photographs from Christmas 2016



New Year Greetings

I hope this article is of good use to somebody!

I have recently been in hospital and had numerous forms to fill in prior to going in to theatre. One of the questions was asking who had Power of Attorney.

It stopped me in my tracks, as those words brought back such horrific memories of the time I had with my husband's stroke. No one had ever mentioned Power of Attorney to us, not even the day before when we made our wills. I relived the nightmare.

We were happily on our way to Australia to spend three months with my sister in law, when half an hour after leaving Bangkok, Frank had a massive brain haemorrhage. It entirely changed his personality and he was not anything like the man with whom I got on the plane.

For six weeks, he was treated for the stroke in Sydney and then told to come home as he needed hospitalisation. (Medication had to be financed there by the way.) When we came home the NHS took over. Frank was sectioned and spent six months in Greaves Hall being treated.

Soon after his Section a lady phoned me and told me that The Court of Protection had stopped all our Bank Accounts and I could no longer draw any money from any of our JOINT ACCOUNTS. All our married life we never had "yours and mine". It was all ours and we thought that if anything went wrong with either of us we would be all right. NOT SO! I was later told that everyone over the age of sixty should have their own bank account.

For about four months my little dog and I lived on a mere pittance of about £45 a week from a mini pension I had taken out and forgotten about. It saved us from starvation. I could no longer pay any utility bills or my Council Tax or the Nursing Home fees which after six months I had to pay.

Eventually I was given half of our joint account money back, but it took months and I had to open another bank account, which took quite a long time. The house and car were in joint names but I was told that I could not sell them without giving the Court half of the proceeds. Frank's half was to be invested by the Courts at 8%, so I was pleased about that, and they told me that all would be returned on his death.

After two and a half years Frank died but when, after another long wait, the money was returned to me it was less than they had taken in the first place. When I asked where was my 8%, I was told that that was the Court Charges! What had they done caused me hurt and hassle! I reckon that I was robbed and all because no one told me about Lasting Power of Attorney. Frank was only in his early sixties but you 'never know the minute' as they say. My New Year message to you is to look at your resolutions to ensure that all is in order for your loved ones just in case the 'call' comes unexpectedly.

The NHS was fantastic all along and the nurses were true angels and could not be thanked enough for what they had to do for him. I also could not thank them enough for what they did for me when I was 'under the knife'.

Christmas is a time for giving and receiving and for thankfulness, and I can only thank the NHS for what they did, but also, I have God to thank for helping me through all my problems, both then and now. He held my hand and He never fails us.

A very Happy New Year everyone.





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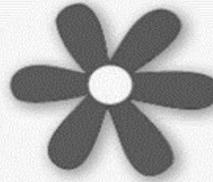
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EMAIL DIRECTORY

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.

Spring Flowers word Search Puzzle



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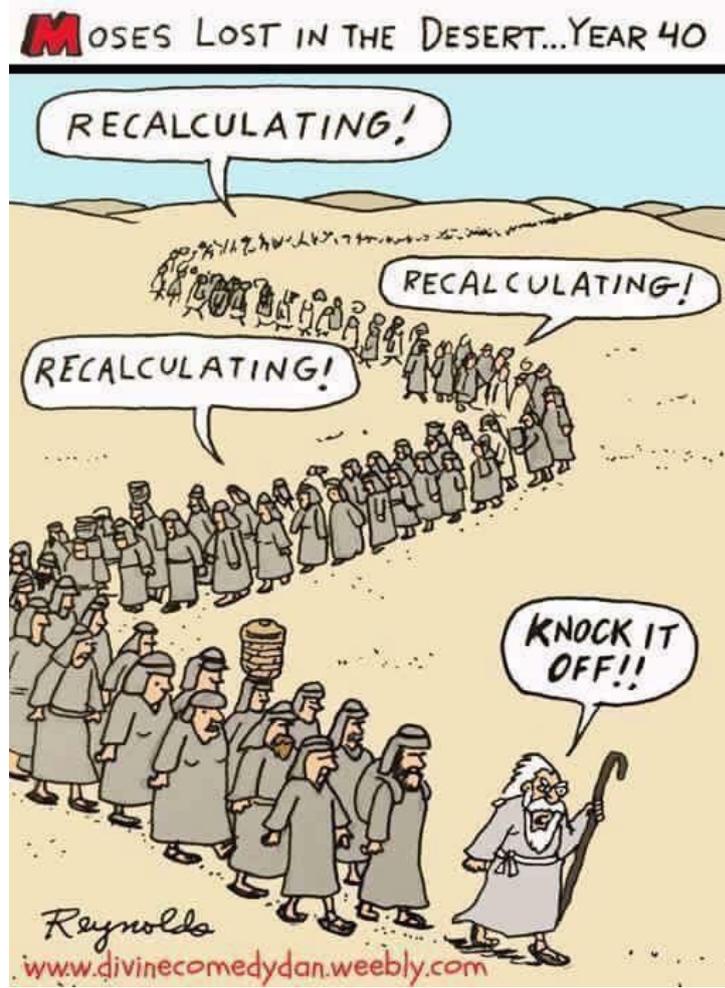
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Jonquil
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Marigold
Magnolia
Orchid
Pansy
Petunia

Poppy
Rose
Snowdrop
Spirea
Tulip
Zinnia



FOUR WORMS AND A LESSON TO BE LEARNED!!

A minister decided that a visual demonstration would add emphasis to his Sunday sermon. Four worms were placed into four separate jars. The first worm was put into a container of alcohol. The second worm was put into a container of cigarette smoke. The third worm was put into a container of chocolate syrup. The fourth worm was put into a container of good clean soil.

At the conclusion of the sermon, the minister reported the following results:

The first worm in alcohol - Dead.

The second worm in cigarette smoke - Dead

The Third worm in chocolate syrup -Dead.

Fourth worm in good clean soil -Alive.

So the minister asked the congregation.

What did you learn from this demonstration?

Young Toby was sitting at the back, quickly raised his hand and said,

'As long as you drink, smoke and eat chocolate, you won't have worms!'

That pretty much ended the service!!





From the Back Pew Ted Woods

THE REFORMATION

This year, 2017, marks the 500th anniversary of the Reformation of which the catalyst was Martin Luther and the nailing of his “95 Theses” on the door of the church at Wittenberg in Germany.

The Reformation was no sudden flash in the pan. Already, all over Europe, there was a movement for reform with the Renaissance of the 14th century. A new wave of scholarship and spirituality was sweeping through Europe; new thoughts and ideas were being introduced, and with it a new look at institutions and conventions.

The Church and the Christian faith were included in that critical look, and there was, for the critics and the reformers, much to challenge.

Before Luther, Erasmus criticised the error and folly of the Church and the clergy. Reform was in the air, popularised and circulated by the newly invented printing presses. Whereas Erasmus stayed within the Catholic Church, the break came with Luther.

The Church in the West was in poor spiritual state. Many of the clergy were corrupt, immoral and ignorant. Clergy were exempt from secular courts and from taxation. There was much pluralism – one priest or dignitary holding office for many parishes and benefitting from the incomes they brought in. Offices were sold to the highest bidder, or secured for offspring or friends. Absenteeism from parishes was widespread and there was no real care for the people. There was much to reform!

Martin Luther was born in January 1483 and became a monk and a professor of theology at Wittenberg University. His study of Scripture led him to re-evaluate Church teachings.

The catalyst came when a monk called Tetzel came to Wittenberg selling indulgences. Indulgences were authorised by the Pope and were supposed to shorten the time anyone spent in Purgatory. The Pope had introduced indulgences to raise money for the repair and upkeep of St Peter’s in Rome. Luther protested, quoting Paul’s Letter to the Romans which says that we are saved by faith alone, by faith in Jesus’ death and resurrection and not by pieces of paper signed by the Pope.

Luther’s protests concerned more than just the issue of indulgences. He went on to produce his ‘95 Theses’ – arguments about what was wrong with the Church of his day and, in the absence of a blog or Facebook, nailed them to the door of the church.

But what was local, by the power of printing, became a European issue.

Luther wanted the Bible in the vernacular. He defended the right of individual conscience. The Bible was to be the ultimate authority in matters of faith and practice. He repudiated papal authority and declared the priesthood of all believers.



The Pope was not pleased at this challenge to his authority – nor to the drying up of monies from the sale of indulgences. Luther’s writings were burnt and the Pope demanded that Luther should recant. Luther’s famous response was “Here I stand, I can do no other, so help me, God.” Luther was excommunicated.

Those who followed Luther, the Lutherans, became known as ‘Protestants’ and in 1528 a new Protestant Church was founded, supported by German princes – on political as much as religious grounds.

Back in England, Henry VIII wanted to divorce his wife of 24 years, Catherine of Aragon. They had failed to produce a male heir to the throne. The Pope, Clement VII, refused to grant a divorce and Henry declared himself head of the Church in England. Helped by Thomas Cranmer, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and his first minister, Thomas Cromwell, grounds were found for the annulment of his marriage to Catherine, and there followed, as we all know, a series of five other marriages!

But what prompted Henry VIII’s declaration of himself as head of the Church was the issue of authority rather than faith. Henry had no desire to alter catholic faith and practice. In fact, he had even written a refutation of Luther’s reformation principles for which the Pope had awarded him the title ‘Defender of the Faith’, a title which is still ascribed to English Protestant monarchs today – look at any coin!

In Henry’s time the old masses continued. His row with the Pope was about who was boss!

It has been argued that even without the actions of Henry, reform would have come to England anyway, but in England – as in Ireland – reform came through an Act of Parliament, and as such no new church was formed as on the Continent, but rather the existing church was reformed from within. The Church of England claims continuity with the church established by Augustine, and this is seen in the fact that the primate of the Church of England, Justin Welby, is the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the succession of archbishops can be traced back to Augustine in 597 AD, as indeed can many other bishoprics.

It was under Queen Elizabeth I that the character of modern Anglicanism became established with a balance of between reformed theology and catholic order and this ‘via media’ has been one of the characteristics of Anglicanism, an expression of the faith that is both reformed and catholic.

No doubt 2017 will be marked by many learned books and articles about Martin Luther and the Reformation. The above is a ‘Ladybird’ account which, I hope, may give a basis for more in-depth study!

From the Church Registers Baptisms



27th November

Hattie Ann, daughter of
Joanne Gemmell



11th December

Kyle James, Maddison
Margaret & Amelia Jane

Family of Stephanie
Barrett & Scott Coey



11th December

Oliver Sidney, son of Stephen &
Rebecca Morley

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 Wedding

17th December
Martyn Wilson & Leah Mahon



From the Church Registers

Funerals

30 th	Nov	Alec Greenwood
2 nd	Dec	Brenda Wylie
20 th	Dec	Margaret Chapman
5 th	Jan	Arthur Cheetham
12 th	Jan	Paul Chamberlain
13 th	Jan	Beryl Thomas
19 th	Jan	Richard Birkett

Memorial Service

21st January Beverley Walker (née Staunton)

Interment of Ashes

26th November Gordon Milles

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – FEBRUARY 2017



1 st Weds	2.00pm	WOW service for pre-school children in Church <i>followed by refreshments in the Bier House</i>	
	3.15pm	Fishy Club starts (after school) in the Parish Hall	
2 nd Thurs	2.00pm	Mothers' Union – in the Bier House A.G.M. and Bring and Buy	
3 rd Friday	6.30pm	First Friday Eucharist	
4 th Saturday	9.00am	Breakfast Church in the Bier House	
5th Sunday		4th Sunday before Lent / Candlemas	
	10.00am	Sunday Club	
	6.30pm	A Service for Candlemas	
8 th Weds	3.15pm	Fishy Club (after school) in the Parish Hall	
	7.30pm	Discussion about an Overseas Project in Uganda with Revd Sheilagh Williamson In O.S.R., Parish Hall	
12th Sunday		3rd Sunday before Lent	
	10.00am	Sunday Club School Half-term 13 th – 17 th	
15 th Weds	7.30pm	“Primetime” Ladies Club in Old School Room, Parish Hall	
19th Sunday		2nd Sunday before Lent	
	6.30pm	Sung Eucharist – setting by Mozart	
23 rd Thurs	2.30pm	Eucharist in Halcyon House – visitors welcome	
26th Sunday		Sunday next before Lent	
	10.00am	All-Age Parade Service	
	6.30pm	Service of Wholeness	

A Visit to the Parish Church of St Margaret of Antioch, Toxteth

Sunday 5th March at 6pm

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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