

ST PETER'S CHURCH MAGAZINE
FESTIVE EDITION
DECEMBER 2017 AND JANUARY 2018

CHRISTMAS
BEGINS WITH
Christ





Church Tidy and Clean and Church Yard Winter Tidy will be on Saturday 2nd December from 10 am just after Breakfast Church. Please come and help!

Social Committee Events

Advent Service

Sunday 3rd December 6.30pm
Sherry and shortbread after service



Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 17th December 6.30pm
Mince pies and mulled wine after service

Family Ceilidh Evening

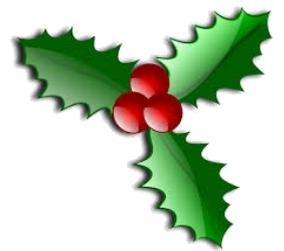
Saturday 17th March 2018
More details to follow.....

Ceilidh

Church Services

Sundays

- 8.00 am Holy Communion (1662)
- 10.00 am Parish Eucharist (Coffee afterwards)
- 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 1st Friday of each month

9.00am **Breakfast Church** – 1st Saturday of each month

From the Editorial Team

Ted Woods' fascinating article 'From the Back Pew' on how the structure of St Peter's buildings has continually changed in the last two hundred years makes us realise that nothing stays the same, and that we have continually to adapt and alter to meet the needs of the day. St Peter's has met that same challenge in 2017 by substantially extending the Bier House to meet our present needs.

We feature two matters of special note in the present edition:

firstly the achievement by the Shoebox working party in completing 281 boxes for needy children, who otherwise might not receive a Christmas present, and secondly our 9th Formby Scout Group who raised the amazing sum of over £3000, from their fundraiser on 4th November.

We congratulate all those involved in both undertakings.

Please do not forget to support the Formby Village Nativity Play which takes place on Sunday 10th December, at 2.00 pm, where you may recognise one or two of our stalwarts taking part!

As we get closer to the year end, we reflect on the work ahead to produce 10 more magazines during 2018. Whilst we are blessed with having several regular contributors, more would be very welcome. So any readers with writing aspirations, please speak to one of the editorial team. More contributors will be most welcome.

And so from us all, our best wishes for a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year. We'll be back in time for the February 2018 edition.



***Best wishes from the
The Editorial Team***



Please note the deadline for the February 2018 edition of the magazine is Friday 5th January 2018. Contributions to alisonwhiffing@aol.com please.

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 stpetersformby@gmail.com. This is a way to help us keep in touch.

Email addresses will only be used by St Peter's.

Dear Friends,

I came across the rather challenging statistic recently that in a survey in America it was found that 83% of those who started to come to church for the first time, or started going to church again after lapsing, did so because they were invited or brought along by a friend. A staggering 83%!

I thought of this as Liverpool Diocese initiates a campaign **Bring One Friend to Church**. Bishop Paul Bayes speaks about the need for all us to adopt a culture of invitation. “We want all congregations to rise to the challenge...It will enable you to show your friends what you get from being part of a people who know and love Jesus...Bring someone you know to something you love.”

Some time ago I saw an interview on TV of a young couple who had started going to church and they mentioned two factors which not only drew them to the church but also helped them stay. Firstly, they felt that the church, in sermons and talks, was helping them find a meaning and purpose in life, and secondly, the people were friendly and welcoming.



It's not rocket science! But it does require effort – and a certain amount of courage! We don't like to be pushy, we naturally pull back from those who button-hole us about our faith. But we'll talk to friends about a good book we've read, a good film we've seen, a good meal we've had, so why not about a good church – St. Peter's! – to which we belong?



Thank you to those who will drop in Christmas Invitation Cards to the homes of our parish. I really appreciate the effort you make and it does make a difference. But think of that statistic of 83% and also invite and bring along a friend to one of the services over Christmas.

Nationwide, the Church of England has launched a Christmas Campaign - **#God With Us**. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, in recommending the campaign says, “The constant refrain of Christmas, in carols and readings, is that God is with us. In whatever situations you find yourself this Christmas, God is with you – and you need only turn to him and ask to know his presence.”

So why not bring a friend along this Christmas to hear the message that God is with us?



It's something we all can do, for let us never underestimate the power of one – one kind word, one act of friendship, one caring gesture, one invitation.

Before we reach Christmas we have our time of preparation – **Advent** – and I would suggest a browse in our Parish Library for an Advent book. There will be the Advent Carol Service on Sunday 3rd December and then Carols By Candlelight on 17th December – both followed by refreshments St Peter's style! A time to bring a friend! At the All-Age Parade Service on Advent Sunday we will be having a **Toy Collection** (new and good as new) to be distributed through Marie Curie.

The Christingle Services are always a very happy occasion on Christmas Eve. We do need volunteers to help make up the **600 Christingles!** If you can spare some time on Christmas Eve morning, there will be a team in the Bier House from 10am. Please do call in and give a hand.

Farewell but not good-bye! Tricia Shaw, our Parish Administrator, after 9 years' service has decided it is time to retire at the end of December. We thank Tricia for all her hard work and patience over the years. She managed to juggle the many different demands that come into a Parish Office, from bulletins to wedding requests, hall bookings to callers, and all with a smile. Thank you Tricia, and we are delighted that while you may not be in the office you will be able to sit in a pew in peace and quiet!

With your parish magazine is a small present of a **St Peter's Parish pen** - just the thing for writing the Christmas cards and filling in the parish dates in your 2018 diary!

Ted & I, along with Nathan & Poppy, wish you all a very enjoyable and peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Anne



Christmas House Communions

If you cannot get to Church this Christmas and would like Holy Communion at home, would you please give me a ring.

Revd Anne Taylor 872824



St Peter's Church, Formby PARISH ADMINISTRATOR REQUIRED

Based in the Parish Office,
Parish Hall, Paradise Lane.

3 mornings per week - Wednesday to Friday

For further information and job specification please see the advert on our website

www.stpetersformby.co.uk

or contact the Parish Office 01704 871171 stpetersformby@gmail.com

Closing date for applications is Monday 8th January 2018.



Carols with Brass



with Formby Band
conducted by Louise Hough, MBE

Jon Barton - organ

conducted by David Holroyd

Tickets: £10
Under 19s - £5

THURSDAY

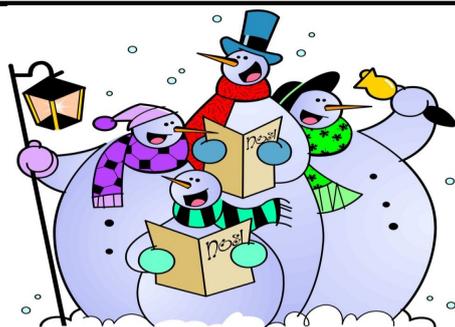
21st December

7:30 pm

Holy Trinity Church

Rosemary Lane, Formby L37
3HA

available from **Gifts in House**, Chapel Lane
online at www.formbychoralsociety.org
or from Mike Fletcher, Shirley Potter
Caroline Speakman, Wendy Thorpe



Carol Singing

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

Saturday 9th December at 7.30pm

The Grapes

The more the merrier so please do join us.



Welcome

We welcome Revd Mark Savage as he joins Formby Elim Pentecostal Church as their new Pastor.

Mark's welcome service will be on Saturday 13th January at 3pm. Mark has been the Associate Pastor in Elim Lakeside Church in Southport.

Churches Together in Formby,
Altcar & Hightown

**NATIVITY
MUSICAL**

2 p.m. Sunday 10th December
Formby Pool Gardens

Featuring Choirs from
Make Noise, Our Lady's,
Woodlands, Freshfield &
St Jerome's schools

Free Fun and entertainment
for all the family



Advent Appeal – The Whitechapel Centre

The Whitechapel Centre is the leading homeless and housing charity for the Liverpool region. They work with people who are sleeping rough, living in hostels or struggling to manage their accommodation. They are committed to helping people find and maintain a home and learn the life skills essential for independent living. www.whitechapelcentre.co.uk



Donations through the Blue Envelope Advent Appeal will be given to help this very important work. The envelopes will be available in church and can be put on the collection plate.

Quiz

Once full of turkey, then it is time to test your brains over Christmas (or your Google skills!!) on our Africa Quiz Sheet. £2 for a sheet



and all proceeds for **UGANDA – TOGETHER WE CAN**. We thank Glennis & David Poole for the brains behind the quiz. Quiz sheets are available at church or from the Parish Office.

There are great prizes and the closing date is 7th January 2018. Have fun!

Keystone @ The Bier House, St Peter's Dementia Support Group meets in The Bier House 2.00 - 3.30pm

The next dates are:

Monday 4th December 2017 and Monday 8th January 2018

All welcome, both carers and cared for, just drop in!

Dementia Friendly Christmas Service

Sunday 17th December at 2.30pm
with seasonal refreshments afterwards

If you would like support from our team between these dates please contact the Parish Office on 01704 871171 or email stpetersformby@gmail.com



Let's talk about

DAA Dementia
Action Alliance

CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

Come and join us as we remember Christmases of old and sing some Christmas songs together!

Saturday 9th December, 11am until 1pm

St Luke's Church Meeting Room, Formby

For more information please contact Sally Nicol on 01704 877655

Looking Forward

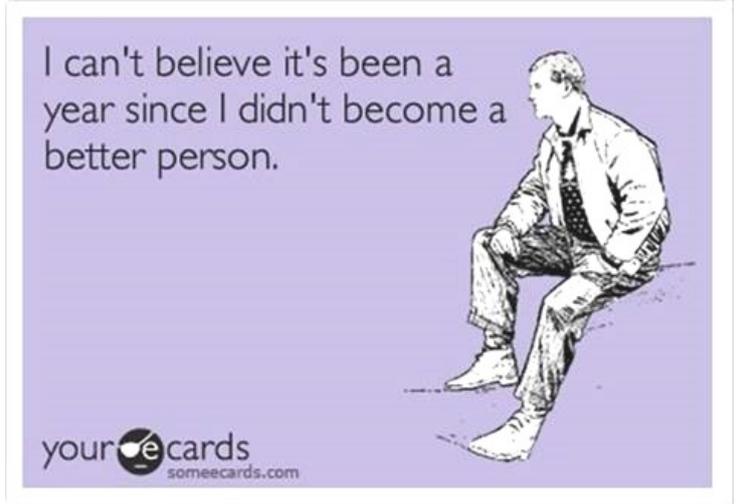
Apparently Socrates said that writing would damage your memory but as we can all write now, that could be used as a good excuse to forget New Year resolutions! Most of these resolutions are personal and private.

It is rare for an organisation to make a New Year resolution. Just imagine a company which promised to answer all calls within three minutes. It would not be long before, after many minutes of waiting, we would be told 'your call is important to us, please wait'. So usually we keep our New Year resolutions to ourselves. Most are probably intentions to make a small adjustment to our behaviour but as someone said, New Year resolutions are a to-do list for the first week in January. Another reference to the short lived nature of these resolutions is, 'may your troubles last as long as your New Year resolutions'! As we get older different aims are needed - we try not to talk back to the television when we disagree with the speaker.

Assessing the future is always difficult. Harold Pinter in his play 'The Homecoming' wrote, "Apart from the known and the unknown what else is there?" This denies the human imagination. Neil MacGregor in one of his talks on "Living with God" describes a small ancient carving of a man with a lion's head. He shows how this allows us to imagine things beyond ourselves. A New Year resolution is an attempt to do several things, to imagine the future, assess ourselves in that future and to try to respond to it.

The big issue is that we so often fail but as the hoped for change was kept private it is only the individual concerned who knows how successful it was. The Christian faith allows us to acknowledge this and seek help and find renewal.

Rod Jacques



TIMEOUT

Formby Cricket Club, Cricket Path, Formby,
Liverpool L37 7DP

The next get-together will be on
Thursday 30th November at 8 pm
Discussion -
A Christian Perspective on the Arms Industry



VOLUNTEERING

In 2002 all the mental health units in Merseyside hospitals were amalgamated to form MerseyCare, and this brought together a band of people who had been doing similar work on mental health at other hospitals. As a non executive member at that time on the board of Aintree Hospital, one of my duties was to sit with two colleagues to hear mental health cases as required by the Mental Health Act 1983, and my involvement has continued once my board membership at the hospital came to the end.

Mental Health Act Managers (MHAM) who are independent of the Trust, work under the Mental Health Act 2007 to hear evidence from doctors, social workers and nurses about a patient and decide whether the patient should be further detained under, most commonly, section 2 or 3 as recommended by the doctor, or discharged. Associate Hospital Managers, as we are sometimes called, are also charged with ensuring that the Trust is following the requirements of the Mental Health Act. These duties are delegated to this group of some 30 MHAMs by the Trust board. In practice most of the decisions we take are actually carried by other managers and staff. MHAM must ensure that patients are only detained as the Act allows, that their treatment and care accord fully with its provisions and that patients are fully informed of, and are supported in exercising, their rights.

The group has regular training sessions, meets every two months as a private committee followed by a meeting with the Trust Vice Chairman and those professional managers and staff closely associated with our work. Each MHAM's work and attendance is reviewed in February/March each year to ensure that we meet the required standards or require further training. The bulk of the work is in sittings to decide on the detention or discharge of a patient which is, in the main, once a year, though a patient can appeal against their detention. There are other types of hearing, of which the most frequent is a Community Treatment Order, where a patient is treated in the community by health professionals. The CTO will have conditions attached to ensure the patient continues, for example, to take their medication. The CTO gives the doctor (or Responsible Clinician as the Act designates them) the power to recall a patient where he/she is failing to adhere to the conditions of their CTO. The group has, from time to time, to carry out audits to ensure the Trust is in line with the MH Act 2007.

A smaller group within the 30, deals with this work in Ashworth High Security Hospital. We pair up to visit a patient and report to the group meeting at the end of each month where decisions, again under the Act, are taken.

Here the decision of the smaller committee is conveyed to the patient by letter, whereas if the patient is present at a hearing at one of the 25 plus sites we visit, the panel's decision will be given to the patient at the end of the hearing by the chairman.

I have thus been involved in volunteering "work" for two decades (not to mention being on the PCC) and the time is coming as I approach my eightieth birthday to return to fishing and, with a second new hip, fell walking and preparing for a new season in the garden.

John Smith

Marie Curie Street Collection – Volunteers Needed

Marie Curie need help with the Formby Street Collection which will take place in the village on Friday 15th & Saturday 16th December. Just a couple of hours collecting will raise vital funds to enable us to provide care and support through terminally illness for patients and families. If you would be interested in helping for a couple of hours, or have any friends, family or neighbours who you think may like to help, we'd love to hear from you. You can book yourself into a collection slot that suits you online by clicking through the link below.

<https://www.mariecurie.org.uk/get-involved/collecting>

Pauline Price



Primetime



*Our December meeting will be a party night
in the **Bier House**
(please note change of venue)
on Wednesday 13th December, (a week earlier than usual).*

*We return to our usual time and venue in January and will meet
on the 17th January in the Old School Room, in the Parish Hall
for a talk from Ian Robertson on the RSCPA & its history.*

7.30 - 9.30pm

All welcome, bring a friend.

*For further details call Sonia, Elaine or Ali
on 833781 / 874635 / 879976*



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REFUGEE SUPPORT GROUP REPORT

At our August meeting (the last before September) we said a sad farewell to Graham and Marilyn who had been staunch supporters from the beginning. Graham pioneered a very un-Australian form of beach cricket and always brought the equipment: bat, tennis balls and a card-board box. This was very popular especially among the Pakistani women (and men). Marilyn always provided excellent cakes which were also very popular. At the beginning of September we were most fortunate to be joined by another excellent cake maker, Sue Smith, so the seamless transition has happened in that department. Our numbers will be further strengthened when Shirley Fisher joins us in November. We are always open to new volunteers. We meet generally once a month for no more than an hour and welcome asylum seekers roughly every two months in the Spring, Summer and Autumn.



At our last "welcome" event on 18th September asylum seekers came from countries of the Middle East and East Africa but also from Chechnya, Kazakhstan and Burkina Faso.

We gave them a variety of curries and cakes which are always popular. After the meal we all went off to the pine woods where the red squirrels were in plentiful supply and then to the beach. Our guests wanted to know what country lay beyond the water and always enjoy the spaciousness of the coast.

Thanks to your generosity we were able to give each of them a pack of toiletries to take back. Clothing and other items which had been donated over the previous two months were taken in the minibus directly to Asylum Link Merseyside. We are most grateful for your contributions in this regard and now that winter is approaching warm clothing will be especially useful.

Peter Paine



9th Formby Scout Group

would like to thank everyone that came to support them on November 4th, along with thanking all the parents, leaders and volunteers that helped out at their bonfire fundraiser.

The group would also like to thank the following for their continued support:

The Lunch Hour / Tesco Formby / Spar Green Lane / Formby Bubble / Wirral Tool Hire / ALS Inspection / AB Lewis / Formby Cricket Club / Porters / St Peter's Church / Liverpool Diocese

The group managed to raise a staggering £3,000 (and 80p!) and with match funding will finish with just under £5,000!

This will help the group to keep sub fees low, buy new equipment and fund fantastic activities for all the young people.

Thank You!



Read a Book for Advent

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

“Walking Backwards to Christmas” Stephen Cottrell explores the Advent story through the eyes of some well - known characters.

“Do Nothing, Christmas is Coming!” also by Stephen Cottrell. For every day of Advent, Stephen Cottrell provides short, practical steps to help us slow down, take time out - and resist the pressure of the Christmas whirl.

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

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

If you would like to borrow a book or DVD please write your name in the book provided. The Library is situated in the Bier House. Take time to have a look.



A Donkey's Tale

I know it is only a small stable, but, by heck, I was glad to get here. It was a long haul from Nazareth to this place- I think they call it Bethlehem. At least it is warm and dry in here and the stable door keeps out the cold wind. I just hope that the cattle don't start throwing their weight about and get stroppy, for the poor woman I brought here on my back is not happy. She is about to give birth and there was nowhere but this place to shelter her and her husband, my master.



The whole town is buzzing with people coming along the roads in droves, all getting here to be counted. It seems to me that people are very strange, for who needs to be counted at this cold, dreary time of year? The hay is sweet and very welcome, for I am hungry after my long walk and my feet are sore, and I am glad to be able to rest for a while.

Oh dear! There isn't much comfort for my mistress, she is very uncomfortable and no one seems to be helping her in her time of need. We beasts just get on with giving birth to our young, but people make much more fuss.

At last! I hear a baby cry. The father washes it in the bucket of water that was put there for us animals to drink, then puts it in the manger full of my hay. I suppose I will just have to put up with it.

Hello! More people are arriving, more visitors I suppose, but no, they are shepherds with a tiny lamb. I expect they need shelter too, but no, they are looking in wonder at this tiny baby and seem to be doing it homage. How strange, it only looks like any other baby to me. They have gone, but left the bleating lamb as a present for the baby. Maybe I will get some sleep now.

My goodness! Whatever next? Three men in very fancy clothes are coming in. There isn't any room for their camels in here. My master seems very perturbed and is calling them Majesty so they must be kings, but what are kings doing bringing expensive looking gifts for this baby? One of them is whispering in my master's ear and he seems to be very upset.

The stable cat arrives and jumps into the manger looking for a place to settle down and sleep. There is a great deal of beautiful singing outside and the cat says that the singers are angels announcing the birth of a new king. Whatever next?

My master and his wife sleep for a while, then he begins to feed and water me and puts on my saddle and before dawn we are off again. Instead of going back the way we came we are heading for a land called Egypt, along a strange road.

I suppose you could call us refugees. Animals don't matter, but people do and they are either accepted or rejected. We seem to be accepted, as my master is a carpenter and can be of use to the locals. How dreadful it must be to have to flee your home and family and become a refugee in a strange land, far from all you know and hold dear. How many more times will mankind have to do this before they can live together in peace? We are all one family in the eyes of God and should be able to live in peace and harmony with one-another without a bullyboy wanting to be boss. Throughout history wars have been fought and lives lost for a piece of earth - God's earth, not ours. Will we ever learn or be like Joseph and Mary looking for refuge in their hour of need?

There are many refugees in our country and I just hope that they will be welcome and have a very happy Christmas in this, their new home.

Happy Christmas,

Martha - and the Donkey



A busy Remembrance Parade Service & Baptism

with over 280 in church, including our youth groups & baby Thomas & his family. Good to see everyone!





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10.30AM TO 3.30PM

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- ❖ Take your own photo with Father Christmas (between 10.30am & 12pm and 1.30pm & 3pm)
- ❖ Café serving food throughout the day

Trinity St Peter's Christmas Fair

Saturday 2nd December from noon till 4pm
 at St Peter's Parish Hall on Paradise Lane.
All welcome.

Entrance 50p per person or £2 per family.

Visit Santa's grotto for just £3 per child,
 have a go on the bottle or luxury goods
 tombola or make some Christmas
 decorations to hang on the tree.

Hot food and drink will also be available.

All proceeds will go towards buying
 equipment and paying for events for
 children at
 Trinity St Peter's Primary School.



Here at Trinity St Peter's we are very proud of the way we do things!
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For further information, please phone: **01704 876391**; email your
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 the school's website: **www.trinitystpeters.org**



Trinity St. Peter's
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 where children shine



Christmas Services at St Peter's Church 2017

Sunday 17th December

- 8.00am Eucharist (BCP)
10.00am Parish Eucharist & Sunday Club
followed by refreshments in the Bier House
2.30pm Dementia Friendly Service
6.30pm Carols by Candlelight
followed by mulled wine & mince pies

Sunday 24th December Christmas Eve

- 10.00am Parish Eucharist
3.00pm Christingle
- pre-school & primary school age
4.30pm Christingle
- pre-school & primary school age
6.00pm Christingle
- all-age service with choir
11.30pm Midnight Eucharist

Monday 25th December Christmas Day

- 8.00am Eucharist (BCP)
10.00am Christmas Parish Eucharist

Toy Appeal – All-Age Parade Service - 3rd December

Marie Curie Fundraising Group are asking for your support in helping with a local appeal for unwanted toys. The toys are needed to stock the Marie Curie shop in Formby village ahead of Christmas. A donation of any unwanted toys and games in reasonably good condition would be very gratefully received. These toys help families who cannot afford to buy Christmas presents in the large toy shops and also raises crucial funds for supporting families affected by cancer.



Please bring any toys along to the All-Age Parade Service on the 3rd December or hand into the Parish Office. Your help will bring joy and hope this Christmas.

ST PETER'S SHOEBOX APPEAL 2017

Thank you to everyone who donated to this year's Shoebox Appeal. And to the pupils and staff of TSP for building so many boxes. Thanks also to Shoebox Express and their volunteers for their support, and not forgetting our uniformed groups! We have sent **281** boxes, through the Christian charity International Aid Trust who deliver aid to those most needy, regardless of age, race or faith across Europe and Africa.

Vicky Hall



Caroline Speakman, Estate Planning Consultant Just Wills & Legal Services

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If you would like some guidance, please feel free to come and have a chat with me, or alternatively please contact me on **07926 587776**

Caroline Speakman **Member of the Society of Willwriters**

Email: cspeakman@jwals.co.uk

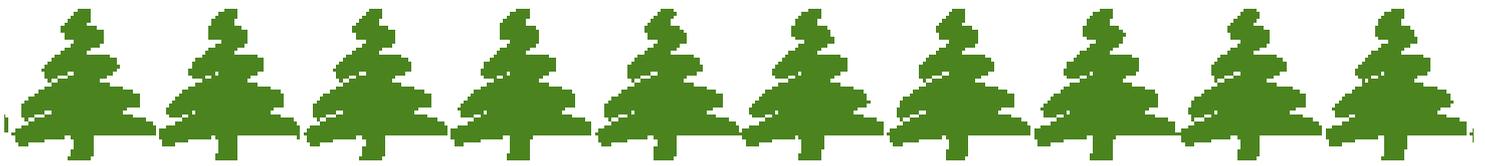
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CHET

Christmas Concert Sefton Ladies Choir

Friday 8th December at 7.30pm

Ticket £7.50 - with mulled wine and mince pies



For further information and bookings
please call 0151 924 9099
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Crosby Hall Educational Trust
CHET Centre, Back Lane,
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Brownies Pack Holiday

If the words 'Platform 9 ¾' means anything to you, then you know the fun is about to start! This was the start of 1st (Formby) St Peter's brownie Pack Holiday with a Magical Hogwarts (Harry Potter) theme. The girls started their holiday by entering through a very special wall. They bravely said their goodbyes to their beloved 'muggle' families and began their magical adventure. There were many activities to do and some brownie badges to be earned.



For some of the girls, this was the first time away from family and they did amazingly well, supported each other, having wonderful time, learning to work as a team and gaining some early independence skills.

During the potions class, the girls learnt that ice can be made colder with salt, which they used to make some excellent ice-cream (It was even better than Mr Whippy!) and in advanced potions class they got to sample the famous butterbeer (no alcohol involved!)



A very special visit from the Owl Sanctuary, meant that the girls were able to get up close and learn about the conservation of owls. Reverend Anne and Mrs Potter (Brown Owl) were also able to make a special visit to share the experience with the girls. The girls were calm, brave and kind, when they were allowed to hold the owls.

They all had a magical time at pack holiday learning to share, work, learn, play and relax with their friends and guiders. As a bonus, they all earned their Brownie Holiday badge, Cook badge and Craft Badge. Well done girls!



Many Thanks for the donation from St Peter's Church, who kindly donated money to hire Shirdley Hill for the weekend. The brownies and guiders had a wonderful time, and created some fantastic memories.

If you are interested in your daughter joining our Brownie Group, then please contact the parish office with your details. We would also ask that you register your interest on the Join Us (Girlguiding) website below:

<https://enquiryym.girlguiding.org.uk>



At our meeting on 2nd November Revd Chris Quine gave a talk, sparkling with humour, entitled 'All Saints' on bereavement and its profound effects, based on his own life and experience.



Our next event is the Christmas agape lunch to be held on Thursday 7th December, at 1.00 pm in the Parish Hall. This will be followed by carols, readings, music and entertainment. The entry fee is £1.50, which includes wine.

We look forward to our opening meeting of 2018 on Thursday, 4th January, at 2.00 pm in the Bier House when Revd Peter Paine will talk about the visit he recently led to Cyprus.

The AGM and Bring & Buy are on Thursday, 1st February, in the Bier House. We depend on this twice-yearly event for income to keep the branch running, so hope you can find suitable items for sale.

If you have not already paid your subscription for 2018, please bring a cheque to the Christmas party. Cheques for £21.50 should be made payable to 'St Peter's Mothers' Union'.

Two further reminders: as our 2017 project, we continue to collect toiletries for refugees in Liverpool and these can be brought to the Christmas Party; the yellow bucket in aid of holidays for disadvantaged children will also be there, happy to receive any loose change that may be burdening your purse.

Again, we always welcome visitors and prospective new members.

We look forward to seeing you at the party on 7th December, and wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Eleanor



Christmas Coffee Morning with Gift and Cake Stalls

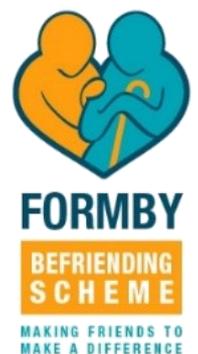
Saturday 2nd December 10am-12noon

**Formby Methodist Church,
Elbow Lane, L37 4AF**

Admission £2

Proceeds to Formby Befriending Scheme (Charity Number: 1171771)

For more information, please telephone 07437 479417.





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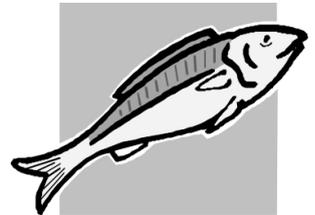


If you wish to donate to St Peter's, please send a text to 70070 with the text message STPT99 followed by a space and the amount you wish to give - up to £10 (send in a single text).



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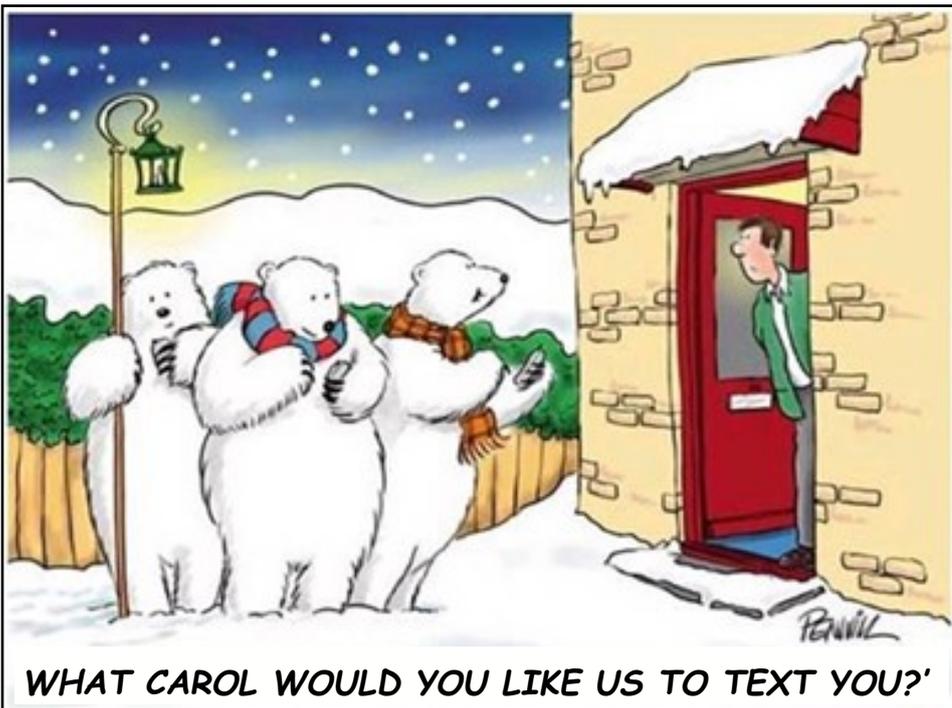
MeCycle is a social enterprise run by Autism Initiatives and is a registered charity which St Peter's Church helps to support.



Beside their cycle and coffee shop by Ainsdale Station, they take donations of bikes, refurbish and sell them. Some of the work is done by adults with autism who are supported by qualified mechanics as part of their work placements with MeCycle.

Custom and support enables MeCycle to offer meaningful work opportunities within a supportive environment for people with autism – seeking to increase their own skills, knowledge and enhance their lives.

Any bikes for donation can be dropped off at their shop (59 Station Road Ainsdale PR8 3HH). Alternatively, they can be collected. MeCycle contact details are as follows telephone 01704 579353 and emailus@mecycle.co.uk.



If interested, the full details are at 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



The Christmas Parrot

I once received a parrot as an early Christmas gift, but this parrot had a bad attitude and an even worse vocabulary.

Every word out of the bird's' mouth was rude, obnoxious and laced with profanity. I tried and tried to change the bird's attitude by consistently using only polite language, playing soft music and anything else I could think of to 'clean up' the bird's vocabulary.

Finally, fed up, I yelled at the parrot. The parrot yelled back. I shook the parrot and the parrot got angrier and even more rude. In desperation I grabbed the bird and put him in the freezer. For a few minutes the parrot squawked and kicked and screamed.

Then suddenly there was total silence. Not a peep was heard for over a minute. Fearing that I'd hurt the parrot, I opened the door to the freezer. The parrot calmly stepped out onto my outstretched arm and said, "I believe I may have offended you with my rude language and actions. I am sincerely remorseful for these transgressions and I fully intend to do everything I can to correct my rude, unforgivable behaviour."

I was, frankly, stunned at the change in the bird's attitude. Just as I was about to ask the parrot what had made such a dramatic change in his behaviour, the bird asked, very softly, "May I ask what the turkey did?"

CHRISTMAS SUMMED UP

Census summons
Home to Bethlehem
Royal David's line.
Inns impossible,
Snowy stable
Transforms to
Maternity manger.
Animals attend
Star celebrates

CHRISTMAS

by U.A. Fanthorpe

NEW YEAR QUOTES

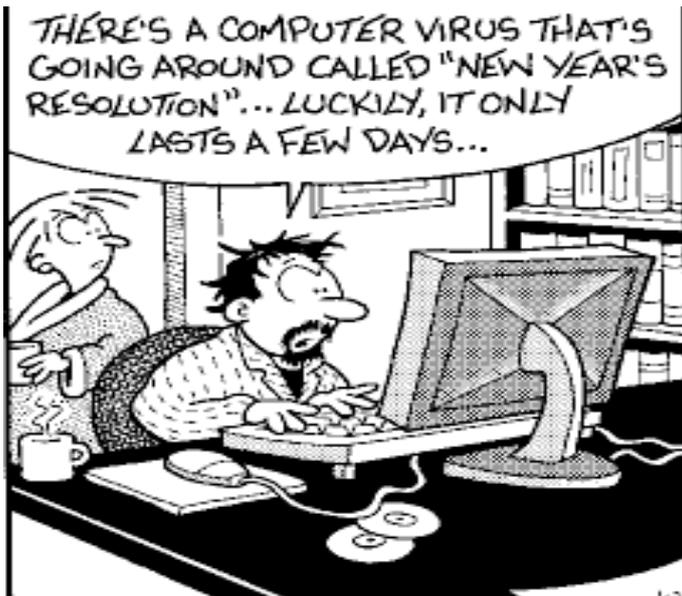
'May all your troubles last as long as your New Year's resolutions!'

'A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one Year and out the other.'

'I'm a little bit older, a little bit wiser, a little bit rounder, but still none the wiser.'

'Many people look forward to the New Year for a new start on old habits.'

'Youth is when you're allowed to stay up late on New Year's Eve. Middle age is when you're forced to!'



O LORD, IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME AGAIN! A PARENT'S PRAYER

O Lord, it's Christmas time again.

Give me the grace to keep my sense of humour when I can't find my Christmas card list, a parking space or the pastry cutter. Keep me sweet when old Ho Ho Ho seems to conspire to put me in the poor house, when the tree lights tangle and when I lose the end of the sellotape.

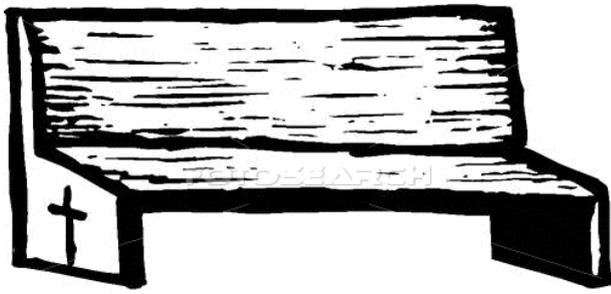
Help me find the spirit of Christmas without making a fool of myself or becoming a menace on the road.

Seal my lips when the turkey spits at me from the oven, when I find a lollipop under the armchair cushion, when the children begin to sound like an entire menagerie and when the dog knocks over the tree.

Give me the energy to shovel snow, cook, clean, pick up, settle down and find endless socks, gloves, batteries and bits of Lego.

Help me to give gladly and receive graciously; to sing ancient carols, though I sound like a frog with a sore throat; to take time to enjoy the wonderment in a child's eye and grandma's gentle memories.

Preserve me from letting the season develop into a commercial carnival, and let me remember throughout the season that I am celebrating the birth of Christ, the Prince of Peace, through whom is found the only just and lasting peace. Amen.



From the Back Pew Ted Woods

WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN!

Preparing for our “Formby Folk” presentation I was given a number of books and booklets about St. Peter’s past history by Mike Brian, our archivist. Incidentally, Mike is doing a magnificent job in putting order into all the papers that were dumped into the archive room in the Parish Hall. Everything can now be found and is readily accessible.

One little booklet, dated 1920, was circulated to parishioners by the then vicar, Revd Charles Wright. Its aim, he wrote, was “to make clear to you all what the present needs and defects of St. Peter’s are, and how those needs can be supplied, the defects remedied and the Church so improved, as to enable it to meet the demands of the future, which undoubtedly will be greater than those of the past.” Who couldn’t read on after that introduction?!

To start with, Mr Wright wanted two entrances to the church. He felt a church of St Peter’s size needed an extra entrance and he was very critical of the present porch of wood and glass which had been built in 1840. In his view (and many since) “it does not match the general character of the church”.

His second gripe was about the galleries on the north and south walls of the nave. Neither were in the original plans (nor was the south gallery). They darkened the interior of the church, hiding “the Georgian windows, probably matchless in England for proportion and design”.

The old box pews had been removed when the Revd Lonsdale Formby built the new chancel and Formby chapel in 1872, but in the vicar’s opinion they were situated too near the chancel steps at the front and too close to the font at the back.

And fourthly, the choir vestry was inadequate. There was nowhere for the men and the boys to sit down (obviously an all-male choir then), and nowhere for their hats and coats. The fire smoked resulting in a “shocking abuse” of choir robes which could never be kept clean!

But the clergy vestry was even worse, he declared! It was too cramped. And further, Mr. Wright went on, “this diocese now has two Bishops. Therefore episcopal visits may be more frequent in future”. You couldn’t have their Lordships with not enough space to get all their gear on!

The vicar’s solution was the addition of a side aisle and (another) chapel on the north side to take the place of the galleries which should be removed. New choir and clergy vestries should be built. He also wanted the “charming Georgian turret (to be restored) to its original state” by removing “the unsightly erection of

plaster which was inserted between the columns of the portico...It will probably be found that there was a door leading from the portico into the west end of the nave." Indeed, further research has shown that, originally, the main path to the church was from the road outside the present "Church House" to the west portico, and not as at present to the south porch.

He goes into considerable detail in his pamphlet about how all this could be done but perhaps the drawings below explain it better. The scheme would have ended up with three doors! But note the original portico and door under the bell tower.

It must have been a great disappointment to Mr. Wright that none of this happened! When his Formby predecessors were vicars, services were simple and plain. Responses were repeated after the clerk, "the services rendered ponderously and slowly", and the Formby's didn't like the novelty of hymns!

But Charles Wright was a reformer of liturgy as well as of buildings, and he introduced lots of changes making the services in St. Peter's "more ceremonial in the Anglo-Catholic tradition".

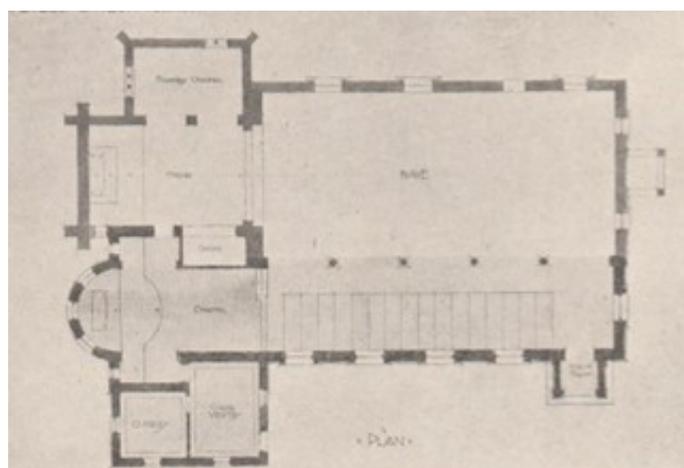
The trouble was that not all his parishioners liked the changes and walked with their feet and went to the other churches in Formby. The need for extra space was not so urgent, and more decisively, with fewer people the church finances suffered, and his plans had to be shelved.

The only thing he managed to do was to install a new "oaken Holy Table" together with oak panelling in the sanctuary, in memory of old boys of St. Peter's School and members of the choir who had died in the 1914-18 war.

Charles Wright died in office in 1928. His immediate successor, Canon Coop, died before he was instituted, and was then succeeded by Canon Harold Barsley. Canon Barsley increased the congregation, put the parish finances on a firm footing and initiated the removal of the north and south galleries in 1935, re-ordered the pews to their present configuration and had a new organ installed.

The side aisle was never built, nor was the west portico restored to its former glory. Bishops obviously became more humble, but a new choir vestry was built in the 1960's.

Oh, what might have been!





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NEW 'Little Fishes' Pre-school Group

Every Friday 9:15am - 11:30am in the Parish Hall, Paradise Lane.

Little Fishes is a group that extends a warm welcome to parents, grandparents and carers with children from birth to three. Contact Leah Wilson at leah.mahon1@gmail.com or the Parish Office for more information.

The December dates for Little Fishes are:

1st Dec - Free Play (hot snack)

8th Dec - Song & Music (cold snack)

15th Dec - Christmas Party

January dates 12th, 19th & 26th



From the Church Registers

Baptisms

22nd October Reece Harrison
Ward, son of Jonathan & Louise

5th November Milan Young,
son of Dean & Yasmin

12th November Thomas Murray
Stockwell, son of Richard & Clair



Funerals

30th October Gladys Hodson

10th November Bryan Tattersall

16th November Thomas Baines

27th November Michael Helm

Interment of Ashes

22nd November Annette Cowan



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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

December 2017



Friday 1 st	9.15am	Little Fishes Toddler Group in Parish Hall	
	6.30pm	First Friday Eucharist	
Saturday 2 nd	9.00am	Breakfast Church in the Bier House	
	10.00am	Church Clean & Churchyard Winter Tidy	
	12noon – 4pm	Trinity St Peter's School – Christmas Fair in Parish Hall	

Sunday 3rd

	10.00am	Advent Sunday All Age Parade Service – Toy Collection	
	1.00pm	Wedding of Lee Holloway & Christine Campbell	
	6.30pm	Advent Carol Service	
Monday 4 th	2.00pm	“Keystone” Dementia Support Group in Bier House	
Tuesday 5 th	10.00am	Bible Study <i>with Ken Ward</i> in Bier House	
Weds 6 th	7.30pm	Bible Study <i>with Alison Woodhouse</i> in Bier House	
Thursday 7 th	1.00pm	Mothers' Union – Christmas Party in Parish Hall	

Sunday 10th

	10.00am	2nd Sunday of Advent Sunday Club	
	12noon	Baptisms of Lucy Loftus & Alexander Cornwall	
	2.00pm	Village Nativity Play – Churches Together	
Tuesday 12 th	10.00am	Bible Study <i>with Ken Ward</i> in Bier House	
Weds 13 th	2.00pm	WOW service for pre-school children	
	7.30pm	Primetime Christmas Party in Bier House	
Thursday 14 th	2.00pm	Halcyon House Carol Service	

Sunday 17th

	10.00am	3rd Sunday of Advent Sunday Club	
	2.30pm	Dementia Friendly Christmas Service followed by refreshments	
	6.30pm	Carols by Candlelight	
Monday 18 th	6.00pm	Trinity St Peter's School Carol Service in Holy Trinity Church	
Tuesday 19 th	10.00am	Bible Study <i>with Ken Ward</i> in Bier House	
Thursday 21 st	2.00pm	Eucharist in Halcyon House	
Friday 22 nd	2.00pm	Wedding of Matthew Parkes & Sorel Huggan	
Saturday 23 rd	11.30am	Wedding of Jordan Whiffing & Emily Belford	

Details of all Christmas Services can be found on page 20

NB There will be no Wednesday Eucharist on 27th December

Sunday 31st

1st Sunday of Christmas
No Evening Service

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

January 2018



Thursday 4 th	2.00pm	Mothers' Union in Bier House
Friday 5 th	6.30pm	First Friday Eucharist
Saturday 6th		The Epiphany
Sunday 7th		The Baptism of Christ
Saturday 6 th	9.00am	Breakfast Church in the Bier House
Monday 8 th	2.00pm	"Keystone" Dementia Support Group in Bier House
Weds 10 th	7.30pm	Bible Study <i>with Alison Woodhouse</i> in Bier House
Friday 12 th	9.15 to 11.30am	Little Fishes pre-school Group in the Parish Hall



Sunday 14th		2nd Sunday of Epiphany
	10.00am	Sunday Club
Weds 17 th	2.00pm	WOW service
	7.30pm	Primetime in the Old School Room
Friday 19 th	9.15 to 11.30am	Little Fishes pre-school Group in the Parish Hall



Sunday 21st		3rd Sunday of Epiphany
	10.00am	Sunday Club
	6.00pm	Christian Unity Service in St Stephen's, Hightown
		<i>No Evening Service in St Peter's</i>
Weds 24 th	3.10pm	Fishy Club – for children Yr 4 to 6
	7.30pm	Bible Study <i>with Alison Woodhouse</i> in Bier House
Friday 26 th	9.15 to 11.30am	Little Fishes pre-school Group in the Parish Hall



Sunday 28th		4th Sunday of Epiphany
	12noon	Hotdog Children's Service
	6.30pm	Service of Wholeness
Weds 31 st	3.10pm	Fishy Club – for children Yr 4 to 6

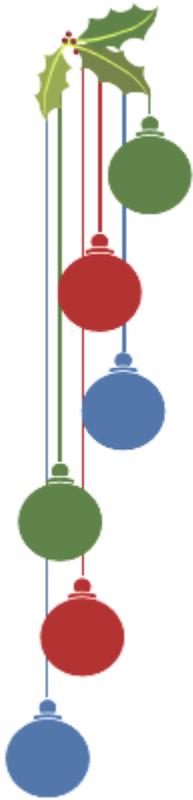


Key Amnesty

If anyone has keys for the church, Bier House or Parish Hall that they no longer need would you please give them to the Clergy, Churchwardens or Parish Office. It will save money when we need to get further keys cut.

Many thanks

Happy Christmas from St Peter's Church



With this greeting comes an invitation to join with us for any of our Christmas Services which are listed on page 20.

St Peter's is an inclusive church and welcomes all who wish to worship with us.

Christmas is a time to remember and to rejoice in God's love, and you will find a warm welcome in St Peter's.



Revd Anne Taylor, Vicar

Revd Nathan Thorpe, Curate



Jesus, child of the crib,
with Mary who gave birth to you,
with the innkeeper who found room for you,
with Joseph who protected you,
with the animals who watched over you,
with the angels who sang of you,
with the shepherds who ran to you,
with our brothers and sisters
throughout the world,
we welcome you.
Jesus, Saviour of the world,
we welcome you.
Amen.

