

ST PETER'S CHURCH
MAGAZINE
FEBRUARY 2018

Thank you to everyone who took part.
Over **£300** was raised, which will go towards
St Peter's **UGANDA – TOGETHER WE CAN** project.



The winner is Tony Smith and the joint runners-up are Linda Edwards and Frances Taylor. Congratulations to them.



All the answers can be found on the website stpetersformby.co.uk (under the news section) or copies are available in church.

REFUGEE AID

We have put a collecting tin in the Bier House.

Why? Because money donated can be used to buy clothing for the refugee centre that we support through Revd Peter Paine. Your small change would be very welcome, it would buy warm clothing for people who really need it. I do hope you will be able to support us. **Phone Sue Jacques 879643 if you would like to know more.**

Church Services

Sundays

- 8.00 am Holy Communion (1662)
- 10.00 am Parish Eucharist (Coffee afterwards)
- 6.30 pm Choral Evensong

Next Service of Wholeness - Sunday 4th March at 6.30pm

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

FRONT PAGE PHOTO: The Glory Window is in the Chapel of Thanks-Giving in downtown Dallas. The chapel is part of a three-acre complex, that also includes a garden and museum, dedicated to how Thanksgiving is celebrated around the world. The chapel's spiral exterior was designed by world-famous architect Philip Johnson and the captivating interior spiral of 73 stained-glass panels was created by French artist Gabriel Loire.

From the Editorial Team

A belated Happy New Year to all our readers! Where does the time go? No sooner have we transferred Christmas to the attic, welcomed the Kings at Epiphany and sent them on their way, and Lent is upon us.

And naturally, St Peter's being St Peter's, that means a Lent Course to attend and a selection of books to read. And, in case it's all getting too hectic, Churches Together is holding a Quiet Morning at St Joseph's. See pages 6 and 7 for details.



Tricia has certainly earned her retirement from the Church Office – she has always been calmly efficient, no matter what the provocation. Well done, thou good and faithful servant!

Sunday 25th February is a special day – Anne is preaching at the Cathedral. It is anticipated that there will be strong support from St Peter's folk, especially with the prospect of a meal as well, so there will be no service at 6.30pm. The Service of Wholeness is postponed to Sunday 4th March.



And look at the back cover – a Ceilidh and Hot Pot to keep us all on our toes.

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

Please note the deadline for the March 2018 edition of the magazine is Friday 9th February 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 would first like to start this month by saying thank you to everyone who gave their time and energy to make Christmas so special. Along with the Churchwardens we have a great team who helped at services, made Christingles, put trees up (& down), played and sang, arranged flowers, delivered Christmas cards and so much more. Thank you to everyone who in any way contributed to a wonderful Christmas as we celebrated the birth of Christ.



But as Christmas seems to have only finished Lent is very nearly underway and has crept up on us quite suddenly, being so early this year. Ash Wednesday falls on St Valentine's Day so an interesting decision for some – church or romantic meal!!

This year on Ash Wednesday we will host the joint evening service with the parishes of St Luke's, Holy Trinity and St Michael's.



As New Year resolutions may be fading it is time to think about a Lenten discipline. Many may have been watching the series Blue Planet 2 featuring Sir David Attenborough which is a fascinating view of all that lives and relies on our seas and oceans. We can only marvel at the huge variety of marine life from the beach to the deepest oceans.

Blue Planet 2 excelled in reminding us just how amazing our world is but that was not all - it also reminded us how fragile our world has become.

Every year, around 8 million metric tons of plastic waste enters the ocean, where it can prove fatal to marine life.

Yet small changes that each of us can adopt really can make a difference. What I am suggesting this Lent is that we make an extra effort at looking after the world with which God has entrusted us.



How? Why not start by saying NO to straws! We really don't need a straw yet how many times do we have one put in a drink. That single-use straw will take 200 years to break down into tiny toxic particles. The UK and US throw away nearly 550 million plastic straws every day. Very little is recycled and much ends up in the ocean. Straws are one of the top ten marine debris items found on our beaches!

SMALL
changes **CAN**
MAKE
BIG *A*
DIFFERENCE

So we can say “No” to straws in our drinks and encourage bars, cafés, golf clubs, etc. not to use them, or at least buy paper straws. Wetherspoon’s has already pledged to not use plastic straws. It might not sound much but we must do something to protect our world.

Of course tiny plastic particles in body washes, plastic cutlery and cotton buds are more items that are killing marine life but let us pledge as a Lenten discipline to make a small change. Let us this Lent put faith into action and make a resolution to be aware of what we can each do to protect the world that we have been given.

Lent Talks

From faith in action to spiritual nourishment. Lent should be a time when we have the opportunity to take extra time to have our faith nourished. We have a great committee who have once again organised a series of talks to help us reflect on faith during Lent. The details are on the next page. These, along with the bible study groups, give an opportunity to journey towards Easter, being revived and renewed in our relationship with God.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has commended a digital Lent course. He writes, “These Lent reflections take you on a journey through the Gospel of John and give you an opportunity to explore what the gift of Jesus and the challenge of Jesus mean for you, in the context of your daily life.” For each day from Ash Wednesday to Easter Day there is a short reading, a pause for reflection and prayer, and an idea for a simple action that will enable the light of Jesus to shine through our everyday lives.

You can receive the daily reflections by texting Lent to 88802 or following on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, where they will be posted daily. For more information see www.churchofengland.org/lent We will also have a number of booklets available in the Parish Library.

Here’s to a useful and refreshing Lent!

Anne


#LIVELENT
LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

Do You Shop in Tesco?

If so please consider using your blue tokens to support Trinity St Peter’s School.

This is to raise funds to renovate the main playground.



ST PETER'S LENT COURSE 2018

"FAITH INSIDE OUT"



*"Go with your heart
Open your eyes
Believe you can be
Hold hands
Dance with me."*

Trinity St. Peter's School Song

- 19th February 8pm HEAD – Understanding the Bible**
Peter Paine
- 26th February 8pm HEART – Relating to God in Prayer**
Alison Woodhouse
- 5th March 8pm EYES – Seeing God All Around Us**
Ted Woods
- 12th March 8pm HANDS – Our lives in our own hands**
Nathan Thorpe
- 19th March 8pm FEET – Negotiating the bumps on the road**
Peter Hawkins

All sessions will be held in the Old School Room, Parish Hall, Paradise Lane

Everyone welcome

Churches Together Quiet Morning

Tuesday 20th February

9.30am to 12noon

**St Joseph's Prayer Centre,
Blundell Ave, Formby.**

Led by Revd Ted Woods.

Finishing with a soup lunch.

Book places through Bruni on 876038

bruni.jones@gmail.com

All Welcome!



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.



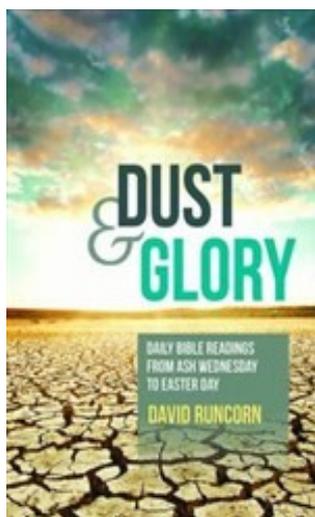
Session 1 - Sunday 11th February 4 - 6pm
(Expectations, Values, Conflict, Love Languages)
in St Luke’s Meeting Room.

More information from

Sally Nicol, New Beginnings Co-Ordinator Tel. 01704 877655

LENT BOOKS IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY

Lent is a time to reflect on our faith journey and to be refreshed and this can be greatly helped by reading one of the Lent books in our library.



Dust & Glory by David Runcorn. There is a meditation for each day of Lent dealing with the whole business of living and believing, where the questions are as important as the answers.

Lent FOR Everyone - Matthew by Tom Wright. Each passage is followed by a reflection and a prayer that will help readers to ponder the relevance of Matthew’s Gospel for their own lives.

Wisely Pray the Psalms by Ambrose Tinsley offers “a prayerful companion to reading the psalms.” He deals with personalities we discover in the psalm. His style is conversational and enthusiastic.

Lent is for Loving by Sheila Cassidy. Expanding on the words Love, Empathy, No and Thankfulness. This book for L.E.N.T helps the reader to re-focus on the disciplines that lead to a more fulfilled life.

Reflections for Lent: a meditation a day written by some of today’s leading writers on spirituality.

40 Days, 40 Prayers, 40 Words by Bruce Reyes-Chow: exploring blessings and burdens in a concise, lively manner.

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

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 February dates for Little Fishes are:

February 2nd, 9th, 23rd (No Little Fishes on 16th due to half-term)



FISHY CLUB

This Club is our after-school bible club for children in Years 4 to 6 in primary school. We meet immediately after school on a Wednesday finishing at 4.15pm. Children in Trinity St Peter's School will be collected by a leader after school. Come and join in the fun. Meeting in the Parish Hall, Paradise Lane.

Dates – 7th, 21st and 28th February

Anne Taylor 872824 revannetaylor@gmail.com



Sunday Club

Meets two Sundays each month.

Children start in church (10am) and then move to the Bier House for lots of fun.

An adult comes with the child and can join in with the activities. All children are welcome though it is designed for the younger age group (up to Year 2).

Sunday Club Dates – 11th and 18th February



HOTDOG CHILDREN'S SERVICE

Sunday 25th February 2018

A short service in Church for children & young people at 12noon; followed by hotdogs in the Bier House. *All welcome.*



Breakfast Church

Join us at Breakfast Church on **Saturday 3rd February**

at 9am in the Bier House. 30 minute service followed by toast & chat.

You will be very welcome.



Parish Administrator Retires



On the 31st December Tricia Shaw, our Parish Administrator, retired after nine years managing the Parish Office.

On 7th January we had the opportunity of officially thanking Tricia for her many years of dedication in serving St Peter's in this capacity. Tricia had a sensitive and patient way of dealing with all that landed in the office from weddings, baptisms, and funerals to rotas, bulletins and many lists!

Even though Tricia will no longer be in the office we are pleased that she is still very much part of the St Peter's family.

Liverpool Cathedral Evensong

As part of the role of being a Canon in the Cathedral, it is expected that they preach at Evensong every couple of years.

As our Vicar is a Canon, Anne will preach at Evensong on Sunday 25th February at 3pm. There will be no Evensong in St Peter's on the 25th and everyone is invited to the Cathedral.

The Cathedral is the mother church of a diocese and this is an opportunity for us to join together there in worship.

If you would like a lift to the Cathedral please put your name on the list at the back of the church. Gill Holroyd also came up with a great idea that we could go for a meal after Evensong in a restaurant near the Cathedral. If you would let Gill know by also ticking the appropriate box. We do need to know this information by the 18th. Lifts will depart from St Peter's at 2pm.



Of course you can also just come along to Evensong and there is plenty of parking space in the Cathedral grounds.

Trusting the past

The study of history has taken a bit of a bashing over the last few months. This has mainly concentrated on an article sent to a history magazine which stated there was some good which came out of empire. There is not a lot new in this and there have been other arguments supporting this approach. What was new was the vigour and heat of the opposition to this article being published. Defenders of the article demanded it be published, not necessarily because it was sound, but to support the case for freedom of speech. Those who wanted the article stopped were determined to ensure no approach to empire would allow for any form of benefit. The subjugation of a people by another was always wrong and as such would prevent any benefit.

The history of the world is in part, the way one country has dominated another but the area of concern for those preventing publication of the paper was the idea of British Empire. Interestingly it has been argued that the concept of empire, with a capital E, which could include the idea of bringing sound government, economic stability and pax Britannica did not really come into full blown existence until about 1900. Yet the principle of one nation holding another to subject status undermines any benefit.

Alongside this is the other argument we cannot really know the full truth about the past. Our own morality, understanding and culture blocks us having a proper grasp of an area of history, however well documented. For example we know a great deal about the battle of the Somme, how it was planned and executed but we do not really know why those young men who lay dead volunteered for going into battle. Was it for king and empire?

The bible was written in the period of the Roman Empire. A time of appalling cruelty which has been studied and often found to be beneficial to the states who acquiesced to be run by Rome. A lecturer in classical studies said the trial of Jesus was one of the best descriptions of a trial of that period. One argument put forward in understanding the morality of a previous age is to see if contemporary writing finds certain actions we condemn as immoral.

Much of the arguments given above were looked at by a retired bishop Charles Gore in the 1929 Gifford Lectures. He was a influential theologian and thinker. He did not accept we could have complete knowledge of the world of the past, either through science or theology. He was fully aware of the latest scientific thinking and the ideas of psychology and atheism. He argued that rational thought and reason could provide a way forward to understanding both the world and moral imperatives. Yet this was limited; we could not know all. Because of this we find any way forward has to be based on faith, even for the scientist.

It is through an open acknowledged faith that we can begin to explore the world and more importantly, morality. Gore argues through the book that the one faith which provides reason with a moral way forward is Christian faith. He says, " this reasonable faith finds its fullest satisfaction in the acceptance of Jesus Christ as the very word of God incarnate. This is my witness and my contention."

Gore's argument gives a way forward to an open declaration of faith which leads to helping to understand the world but accepting we cannot know all. It is Gore's rational faith which helps lead to prayer.

Rod Jacques

THE CHALLENGE AHEAD

Richard Blackburn, the retiring Bishop of Warrington has recently written that the Diocese Growth Agenda entitled ‘Growing in Christ’ plans to continue the growth of the Diocese in the next three years. It consolidates the work already started and incorporates some of the more recent developments around local leadership and vocations. It retains that sense of focus, that urgency that we must have to maintain if not increase momentum. Indeed, if we try to stand still it will simply result in us losing ground and, in effect, go backwards.

‘Growing in Christ’ talks frankly about the challenges ahead. It’s an urgent threefold challenge of ageing money, broken buildings and retiring clergy.

As Bishop Richard said “We have ageing congregations. The average age of our congregations is 61, significantly higher than the population’s average age of 48. This leads to ageing money. Our churches rely heavily on giving that is concentrated within this older generation.

Our clergy are retiring. 40% will retire in the next 10 years. It takes about 8 years from the first expression of interest about ordination to licensing a priest into his or her first incumbency to replace those who are retiring. So we must act now.

Our buildings are breaking, and are breaking us. They were not built for 21st century purposes. They drain time, money and energy and distract us from mission and ministry.

This is the challenge which the diocese faces and the challenge that the actions of the document seek to address through ideas to:-

- ◆ continue to maintain a high level of parish share payment in order to support mission and ministry in every parish
- ◆ develop models of leadership and encourage vocations so every worshipping community is well led
- ◆ ask, and seek solutions, to challenging questions of the health and sustainability of our parishes and suitability of our buildings
- ◆ make good appointments, resource strong mission ideas and make it easier to run parishes.

It is a challenge that includes and involves the whole diocese. One of the strongest aspects of its previous plans is the level of understanding, support and commitment given by all parishes. This has led us to being a growing diocese and a diocese in good heart able to face the future challenges head on.”

<http://www.liverpool.anglican.org>

THE ARMS INDUSTRY – A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE

Back in the October Magazine last year, Ted Woods wrote a very good article 'From the Back Pew' on the subject of a just war.....

.....which leads on to the question of whether Britain should have an arms industry. There are those who would say not, that the money would be better spent on education or health, not armaments and it is hard to counter that. This is a difficult subject, but one which I believe should be faced.

War is appalling and to be avoided at all costs, but just sometimes that cost has to be paid. The sermon from the last Battle of Britain Sunday spoke about the British fighter pilot who shot down the enemy plane but spared the pilot. Force of arms is sometimes necessary, but it should be the minimum force.

As Christians, we look forward to beating swords into ploughshares, but currently we are still making weapons of war. We have to accept that reality when scripture tells us to turn the other cheek.

There is a Latin proverb –

'Si vis pacem para bellum' Vegetius, 4th/5th Century

Which translates as :- 'If you want peace, prepare for war'.

In 1900 Theodore Roosevelt expressed the same sentiment slightly differently -

'Speak softly and carry a big stick'.

We need the ability to defend our way of life, our values and to be able to help other peoples in the world, to protect them from tyranny. We have to have that secure society within which we can run schools and operate the NHS. The country has to have that physical capability to resist aggression, to meet force with force, but it should be above all a deterrent, provided by a defence industry. Also a defence industry within our unilateral control - timescales are long, ships and planes cannot be produced overnight.

This capability is often out of public sight, though British planes are scrambled frequently over the North Sea to deter Russian planes invading our airspace to test our defences. But it is there and is the foundation for our national security.

A defence capability also underpins our standing in the world, and our international influence. At the start of the Falklands war in 1982, when asked by the Prime Minister if it was possible to recapture the islands, the Chief of Naval Staff replied that we could and that we should, because if we did not, in a few years' time we

would be living in a different country whose word counted for little.

There is certainly plenty of war imagery in in our faith and our hymns, although many people dislike that.

My last quote is unattributed, possibly said by John F Kennedy

‘For evil to flourish, it is only necessary that good men do nothing’.

We all have a responsibility to counter the conditions in which evil can flourish.

I do not suggest that war is acceptable, only that the country has to have the means to fight a just war, should that unfortunately become necessary.

Susan Flaxington

TIMEOUT

Formby Cricket Club Bar, Cricket Path, Formby, Liverpool L37 7DP
The next meeting will be at 8pm on



Monday 5th February



Topic: Rough Sleeping in Sefton

Introduced by Steve Doughty/Gretta Fenney of Sefton Rough Sleeper Service

Primetime

*Our next meeting will be on
Wednesday 21st February 2018 at 7.30pm
in the Old School Room, St Peter's Parish Hall,
Paradise Lane, Formby L37 7EH*



*All welcome, bring a friend.
For further details call Sonia, Elaine or Ali
on 833781 / 874635 / 879976*



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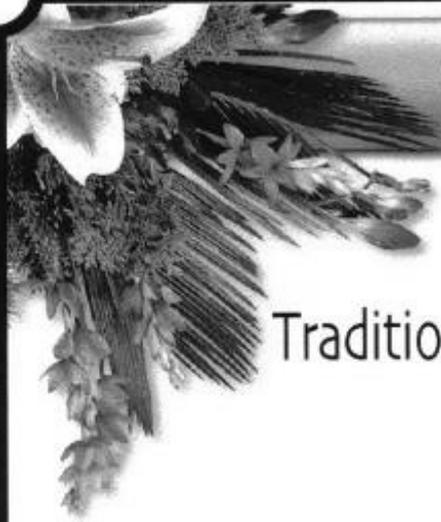


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New Beginnings

Can you believe it - February already? It seems no time at all since Christmas and all the festivities, then New Year, and already we can look forward to Spring. A new beginning for the earth to bring up bulbs and flowers, and in no time at all it will be Christmas again!

I saw very little of December and Christmas as I was laid low for five weeks with the dreaded 'flu which did its best to get me to the Crem, but I don't think I am quite ready to go yet.



It was amazing how many people rallied to my assistance when I most needed help. Ladies from Church phoned to ask if they could do shopping for me, my neighbours did the same, and I was quite overwhelmed by their kindness. It is hard when your only family live so far away and can't give a hand, but they have jobs to go to and can't take time off work to look after an old lady who is ill. I really felt like a nuisance as there are folk far more poorly than I who need looking after.

Many years ago, there was a scheme at St Peter's where we used to help lonely or old people who could not get to church. For quite a few years I visited an old lady and did a bit of shopping for her and "befriended" her until she fell off her bike and had to go to live nearer her daughter in Stafford. It broke up her week and gave her something to look forward to, and I enjoyed hearing her past exploits in life. Over the years it disappeared with interregnums and different vicars, but I decided that there must still be lonely people out there who could use a bit of company or need some shopping, so I have put my name down to volunteer. I may not be as agile as I was, but my tongue still works and I enjoy a laugh, so, it may help me as well as someone my own age group. After all, "us oldies" have lots of things and memories in common and it is good to talk.

I am starting the New Year with good intentions. My resolution not to eat sweets went out of the window the first week, but it seemed rude and ungrateful not to eat those which kind friends had given me - I won't buy anymore! Resolutions are great, but we must TRY to keep them. So, my volunteering may be as good a resolution as any I could make, and if it works out for good, then I shall be pleased. We all need people, and when there is no family, and our friends have died, then a stranger with a cheery face may make all the difference.

A Happy New Year, if a little belated,

Martha

Formby Quiet Time

1st Friday of the month 10:30am to 12 midday

Bier House, St Peter's Church, Green Lane, Formby L37 7DL

Quiet Time is based on the Quaker tradition of silent worship. The meetings are open to everyone, of faith or no faith, who would like to come and share half an hour of peace and reflection with



refreshments provided afterwards.

Sue Jacques



Christianity and science are opposed...but only in the same sense as that which my thumb and forefinger are opposed - and between them, I can grasp everything

- Sir William Bragg, Nobel Prize for Physics (1915)

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For further information, please phone: **01704 876391**; email your enquiry to: **admin.trinitystpeters@schools.sefton.gov.uk** or visit the school's website: **www.trinitystpeters.org**



Trinity St. Peter's

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where children shine



Busy making 600 Christingles!



Three busy Christingle services on Christmas Eve with 930 people welcomed into Church and over 600 Christingles distributed. Thanks to everyone who helped to make each service so special and to all who attended in support of The Children's Society.

FORMBY NATIVITY 2017

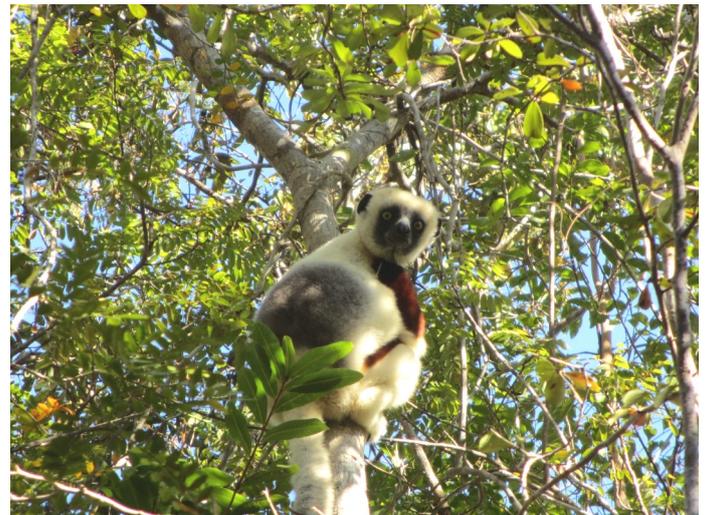


Yet another wonderful Formby Village Nativity with an added sprinkling of festive snow. New venue, new format, but still some familiar St Peter's faces!

Well done, everyone!

MADAGASCAR TRIP

Last summer, with the support of the St Peter's Educational Trust, I was blessed by the opportunity to go on a trip of a lifetime to Madagascar. This trip was incredible for both sights and cultural experience. The initial travel was 37 and a half hours long and consisted of 2 flights, 1 African Army truck ride; and 3 minivans. This long journey finished with our arriving at the Mariarano campsite on the west side of the Madagascan main island. At this camp I completed many tasks such as Arachnid trails, Butterfly hunting and lemur spotting/categorising.



After the first few days the reality of jungle life set in as the bucket showers were once every two days and the toilets were just a hole in the ground. This realisation, plus the excruciating pain of blisters, left the group longing for our break in the sandy town of Nosy Be. During the second half of the week we were in the Matsedroy camp. It was a little easier there as we were only required to do 2 trails per day instead of 4.



These trails were some of the best as we encountered exotic creatures

such as scorpions, chameleons and grasshoppers and managed to get hands-on experience.



Whilst in Madagascar we encountered another scout troop. This was a welcome surprise. Their troop was also church orientated with 2 leaders and children from 3 villages aged 10 to 16. They were based around 25 miles out from the main camp of Mariarano.



One of my highlights was that we also went to visit a school, a mile and a half away from Matsedroy. We spent an afternoon there playing with the kids and delivering our parting gifts to the school itself. As a group we donated 200 pens, 150 pencils, 50 note pads, a handful of colouring supplies, as well as some sports equipment such as footballs and cricket bats and balls. The school day was eye-opening for us. The enjoyment these children had in going to school, despite having no resources compared to the UK, was unfathomable. This

stood out because of both the class sizes and the enthusiasm. The class sizes there, were around 50 kids per teacher with the UK equivalent being 25-30 kids per class, and the children's enthusiasm to learn is incredible as each child arrived at school at 6 a.m. and left at 5 p.m. with a few walking for miles to get there. The children are also taught lots of life skills so that they can survive in their harsh environment.

When travelling from Matsedroy to Nosy Be we were whittled down to the bone as we had another 13 hour drive in the African army truck. This drive ended in a boat ride out to the island. This boat trip was great as we drove around the surrounding islands until the camp was ready for us. We then enjoyed a week long aquatic adventure where we dove to 18 metres and saw hundreds of new and exciting fish and coral species.



All of this was made possible by the generous grant from the Educational Trust to the overall cost of the trip. Thank you so much.

Ollie O'Donnell

The Crooked Spire

The crooked spire of Chesterfield's ancient church is world famous. It was our parish church when we lived in Chesterfield and our daughter, Sara, was baptised there.

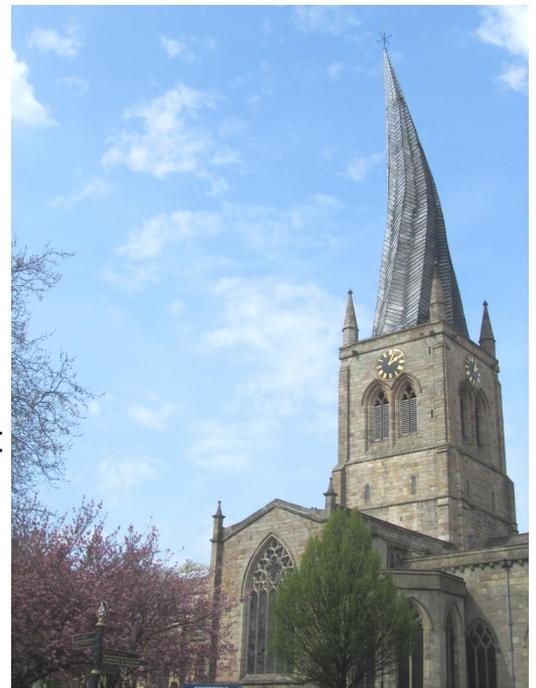
When Mary and I moved to Formby on the west coast we would drive through Chesterfield on our way to visit Mary's parents. On seeing the crooked spire appearing on the horizon, our children would demand a re-telling of the story of how the spire came to be so twisted.

Everybody in Derbyshire knows that the Devil - 'Auld Nick' -- is, like me, a Yorkshire man. One day, returning to Yorkshire from the conduct of nefarious activities in the south of England, Auld Nick alighted on the top of Chesterfield's church spire for a rest. A passer-by saw him and, terrified, he dashed into the church calling out that the Devil was on the spire.

The priest who was conducting a service did not panic. With his incense burner in his hand he strode out of the church followed by the congregation. Sure enough, far above them they could see the Devil enjoying his rest. The priest knew exactly what to do. He lit incense and wafted it upwards from the base of the spire tower. The sweet smell of incense rose upwards to the Devil. It got up his nose and caused him to sneeze a sneeze such as had never been heard before.

In a rage, the Devil rose from off the spire. He seized it in his hands and twisted and twisted it in his great fury. Then he departed, flying off in the direction of his Yorkshire home and the spire has remained twisted and crooked to this very day.

Ian Howard



What is Lent and why does it last forty days?

Lent is a season of forty days which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word lencten, which means "spring."

The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring temptation and preparing to begin his ministry.

Today we are encouraged to focus on our relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of ourselves for others and our world.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

Best wishes to you all for a happy New Year,
and welcome to the MU in 2018.



On 1st December we met together for our annual agape Christmas lunch. We are grateful to Mike Hastie for providing musical accompaniment to carols, bible readings and Christmas poems and to Ken Ward for his solo. In addition, the U3A Folk and Country group gave a concert of folk songs and carols which were much enjoyed. Thank you to all who contributed.

On 19th December some of our members attended the Deanery Christmas party at St Michael's, Blundellsands.

2018 opened with the branch meeting on 4th January when Caroline Hope spoke. She first outlined the background to her own life, and told us of the horrific accident involving a London bus when her daughter-in-law's mother was killed, her daughter-in-law injured, and her grand-daughter lost a leg, an accident which resulted in the founding of 'Elizabeth's Legacy of Hope' which provides prosthetic limbs for children in undeveloped countries. She then gave an informative and entertaining talk, 'The Buzz of Bee-Keeping', describing methods of producing honey, and showing hives and equipment used and samples of honey her bees produce. We are grateful to Caroline for stepping in at short notice in place of Rev. Peter Paine who could not attend due to family circumstances.

On 9th January Committee members presented branch subscriptions to Deanery President Beverley Boden at the annual Tributes meeting at her home in Blundellsands.

The next branch meeting will be the AGM and Bring & Buy to be held in the Bier House at 2.00pm on Thursday, 1st February. This will be followed by the talk and slides on the visit he led to Cyprus by Rev. Peter Paine, postponed from 4th January. We continue to seek new committee members who can bring fresh ideas to the committee. If you feel you could serve in this way, please contact Eleanor (874112). Again, we ask members to support the Bring & Buy on which we depend for income.

The 2018-2019 programme opens on 1st March when we look forward to a talk by Revd Nathan Thorpe.

On Friday, 2nd March, the local service forming part of the World Women's Day of Prayer will be held at 2.00 pm at St Stephen's, Hightown.

Our speaker at the branch meeting on 5th April will be John Wilson, Chief Executive of the Liverpool Seafarers' Centre.

The St Peter's and Holy Trinity branch of the Mothers' Union, then a joint branch, was founded in 1918. A joint service to mark our centenary will be held on 16th May at 2.00 pm at Holy Trinity, Formby. Bishop Cyril Ashton will be attending. We hope you will be able to take part in this service.

A reminder: the MU corporate communion continues to be held on the second Wednesday of every month in church at 11.00 am.

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

Eleanor and Jean



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Passover Full Meal Seder – Holy Week 2018

There will be a Passover Seder as part of St Peter's 2018 Holy Week activities on Wednesday 28th March 2018 starting at 7.00pm in the Bier House and lasts 3 hours. It will follow the traditional Jewish Haggadah liturgy. It will include a 3-course Seder meal, and Eucharist will be celebrated as part of the evening.

A charge of £10 per head will be made to cover costs which includes the meal. Places will be allocated on first-come first-served basis.

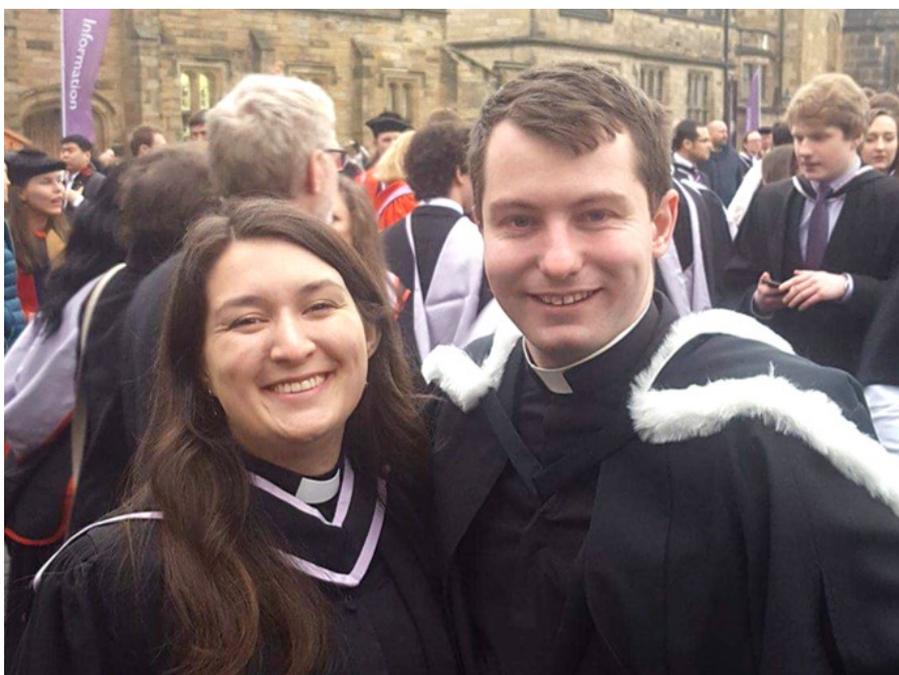
If you would like to be part of this please contact Mark Andrews, either in person, or on 01704 873809 or at mjandrews@aol.com.

Congratulations

to Nathan & Poppy Thorpe
on their Graduation at
Durham University.

They both graduated in
Theology & Ministry – BTh
and MA respectively.

Look out for Nathan's furry
hood at the next Evensong!



Keystone @ The Bier House, St Peter's Dementia Support Group in The Bier House 2.00 - 3.30pm Monday 5th February

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

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

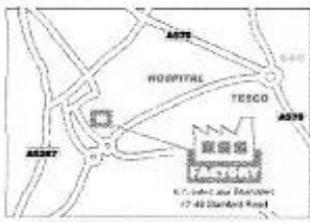
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If you would like some guidance, please feel free to come and have a chat with me, or alternatively please contact me on **07926 587776**

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

Email: cspeakman@jwals.co.uk

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A Dog Collar

A priest was invited to attend a house party. Naturally, he was properly dressed and wearing his priest's collar.

A little boy kept staring at him the entire evening. Finally, the priest asked the little boy what he was staring at.

The little boy pointed to the priest's neck. When the priest finally realized what the boy was pointing at, he asked the boy, "Do you know why I am wearing this?"

The boy nodded his head yes, and replied, "It kills fleas and ticks for up to three months."

At a Wedding

A little boy was at a relative's wedding.

As he was coming down the aisle, he would take two steps, stop, and turn to the crowd.

While facing the congregation, he would put his hands up like claws and roar.

So it went, step, step, ROAR, step, step, ROAR, all the way down the aisle.

As you can imagine, the congregation was near tears from laughing so hard by the time he reached the altar.

When asked what he was doing, the child sniffed and said, "I was being the Ring Bear."



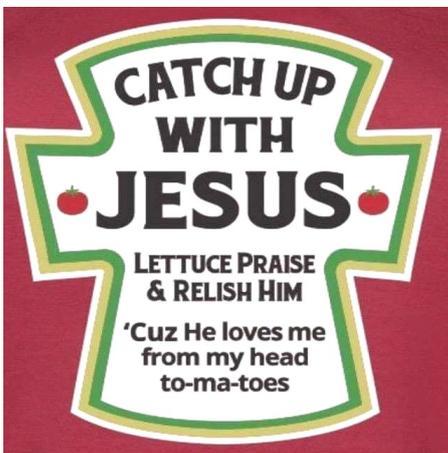
"You have fits of rage, followed by temporary spells of euphoria, all within several hours. Are you, by chance, a golfer?"



He's a bit of a perfectionist..

Keep calm.....

- ◆ When I get a headache, I take two aspirin and keep away from children - just like it says on the bottle.
- ◆ I always offer two choices for dinner: take it or leave it.
- ◆ Instead of a sign that says 'Do not disturb: I need one that says 'Already disturbed, proceed with caution.'
- ◆ Sometimes I panic and think there is a crazy person in my house. Then I realise its just me.
- ◆ I'm on a nut free diet. I avoid people who drive me nuts.



The oldest computer can be traced back to Adam and Eve.
Surprise! Surprise!
It was an Apple.
But with extremely limited memory.
Just 1 byte.
Then everything crashed.

Curate's Bad Joke Corner.....

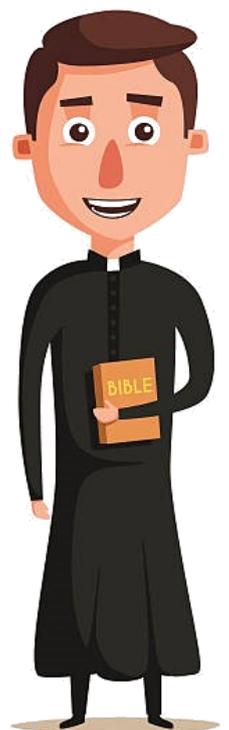
Where did Noah keep his bees?
In the ark hives

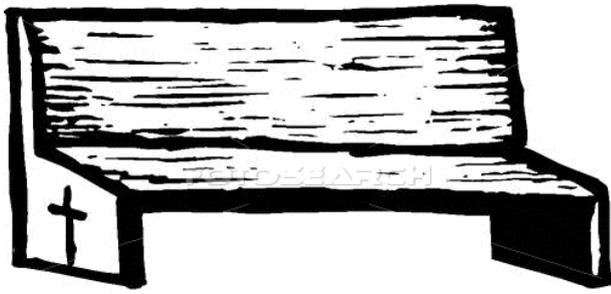
Why did Jesus stand at the door and knock?
Because Peter had the keys.

How does Moses make his coffee?
Hebrews it.

Why did the hawk sit on the church's steeple?
It was a bird of pray.

Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?
Samson. He brought the house down.





From the Back Pew Ted Woods

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

During January we delight to wish one another ‘Happy New Year!’ We probably don’t think too deeply about the greeting, but what is it that we are wishing them?

What is happiness? Is it the feeling we have when things go well, or when we have a stroke of unexpected fortune? Or is there something deeper about happiness?

One psychologist defined happiness as “the experience of joy and contentment or positive well-being, combined with a sense that one’s life is good, meaningful and worthwhile.”

While the more superficial state of happiness that comes with a fortunate turn of events is always welcome, what most of us desire is a deeper feeling of “positive well-being” that is not dependent nor dictated by the ups and downs of life – the sort of still inner peace that remains with us even though the surface of our lives may be choppy and squally.

Just the other week, I read the summary of a TED Talk on Happiness by Emily Esphani Smith (“There’s More to Life than Happiness” TED.com). She concentrates on the happiness and fulfilment that comes from having a meaning in life, and shares, what to her, are some of the essentials which help give us a deep sense of happiness and fulfilment.

First of all, she lists Belonging or Relationships. Harvard University has been conducting a study of 724 people over the past 75 years and found that they could sum up their conclusions in one sentence – good relationships are the key to happiness. The report went on to say that it is not the quantity of friends that matter but the quality of our relationships - to know that we matter to someone else, that we are loved not for what we are but for who we are. Relationships matter. Belonging matters.

Another essential for Emily Smith is having a purpose in life, which is not the same as having a job. Smith says, “It’s less about what you want than what you give...Without something worthwhile to do, we flounder.”

I remember a children’s song we used to sing,

***Love is something if you give it away, give it away, give it away,
Love is something if you give it away
You end up by having more.***

***It's just like a magic penny,
Hold it tight and you won't have any.
Lend it, spend it and you'll have so many
They'll roll all over the floor!***

The second essential of knowing deep happiness is giving rather than getting, not about how much we have amassed, but how much service we give to others. Jesus told his disciples that he came not to be served but to serve, and demonstrated it by a life of care, love and compassion.

And Smith's third essential element to find happiness is a sense of transcendence, which she defines as "finding something that can take you out of yourself, that can make you feel that you are part of something bigger." Transcendence is having a sense of a higher power and a higher purpose, knowing that life is going somewhere and has an ultimate meaning beyond the purely physical.

As I read this I couldn't help thinking that that recipe for happiness is exactly what the Church offers:- a sense of belonging to a wider family where we are (or should be) loved and valued for who we are, a place where each of us matters. True, as members of that family we can make mistakes and fall out, but the Church is also the place of forgiveness – of others and of ourselves.

Knowing that God loves us, we are to love others. The Church exists not just to save our souls for heaven but to serve others on earth in the name of Jesus.

One of my most treasured books is a slim little volume called "The Greatest Thing in the World" by Henry Drummond. This is how the book ends, "The test of a person is not 'How have I believed?' but 'How have I loved?' The final test of religion is not religiousness but love...The words that all of us shall one day hear sound not of theology but of life, not of churches and saints but of the hungry and poor, not of creeds and doctrines but of shelter and clothing (and) cups of cold water in the name of Christ."

And thirdly, transcendence: the Church is about God! It has been well said that in everyone's life there is a God-shaped hole that only God can fill. St. Augustine put it like this, "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you."

A Chinese proverb sums it up well

***Happiness is
Someone to love;
Something to do;
Something to hope for.***

A belated Happy New Year!

From the Church Registers

Baptisms 10th December 2017

Lucy Isabella Loftus,
daughter of David & Laura

Alexander Benedict Cornwall,
son of Steve & Christine



Funerals

December 15th Sue Cork

December 19th Rosemary Millington

Interment of Ashes

December 2nd Bryan Olver

December 15th David Blair

December 16th Michael Helm

December 21st Jeanette Mathias

December 30th Donald Lyon



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

Friday 22nd December

Weddings

Matthew Parkes & Sorel Huggan



↓ Sunday 3rd December

Lee Holloway & Christine Campbell



Saturday 23rd December →
Jordan Whiffing & Emily Belford

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FEBRUARY



Thursday 1 st	2.00pm	Mothers' Union AGM in the Bier House	
Friday 2 nd	6.30pm	First Friday Eucharist	
Saturday 3 rd	9.00am	Breakfast Church in the Bier House	
Sunday 4th		The 2nd Sunday Before Lent	
	10.00am	All Age Parade Service	
	6.30pm	A Service of Light for Candlemas	
Monday 5 th	2.00pm	"Keystone" Dementia Support Group in Bier House	
Tuesday 6 th	10.00am	Bible Study <i>with Ken Ward</i> in Bier House	
Weds 7 th	2.00pm	WOW Service	
	3.15pm	Fishy Club in Parish Hall	
	7.30pm	Bible Study <i>with Alison Woodhouse</i> in the Bier House	
Friday 9 th	2.00pm	Bible Study Group <i>with Peter Paine</i> in Bier House	
Sunday 11th		The Sunday Next Before Lent	
	10.00am	Sunday Club	
	12noon	Baptism of Harvey & Carter Gordon	
	4.00pm	New Beginnings Marriage Course in St Luke's Meeting Room	
Tuesday 13 th	10.00am	Bible Study Group <i>with Ken Ward</i> in Bier House	
Weds 14 th		Ash Wednesday	
	11.00am	Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes	
	7.30pm	Ash Wednesday Service in St Peter's. A joint service with St Luke's, Holy Trinity and St Michael's.	
Sunday 18th		The 1st Sunday of Lent	
	10.00am	Sunday Club	
Monday 19 th	8.00pm	Lent Course 'Faith Inside Out' in the OSR	
Tuesday 20 th	9.30am	Churches Together Quiet Morning St Joseph's Prayer Centre, Blundell Ave	
	10.00am	Bible Study <i>with Ken Ward</i> in Bier House	
Weds 21 st	3.15pm	Fishy Club in Parish Hall	
	7.30pm	Bible Study Group <i>with Alison Woodhouse</i> in the Bier House	
	7.30pm	Primetime in the OSR, Parish Hall	

Thursday 22 nd	2.00pm	Halcyon House Eucharist
Friday 23 rd	2.00pm	Bible Study Group <i>with Peter Paine</i> in Bier House
Sunday 25th		The 2nd Sunday of Lent
	12 noon	Children's Hot Dog Service in Church
	3.00pm	Trip to Liverpool Cathedral for Evensong <i>No Evensong in St Peter's</i> <i>Service of Wholeness postponed to 4th March</i>
Monday 26 th	8.00pm	Lent Course 'Faith Inside Out' in the OSR
Tuesday 27 th	10.00am	Bible Study <i>with Ken Ward</i> in Bier House
Weds 28 th	2.00pm	WOW Service – for pre-school children
	3.15pm	Fishy Club in Parish Hall

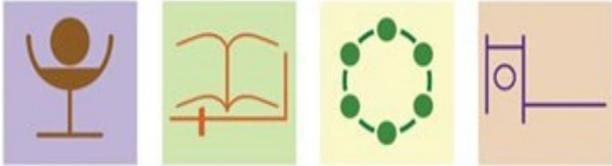


Dates to Note in March –

Next Service of Wholeness is Sunday 4th March at 6.30pm

St Patrick's Day Ceilidh on Saturday 17th March at 7.30pm in Holy Trinity Hall

Dementia Awareness Training Evening on Tuesday 20th March at 7pm in the Bier House



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If interested, the full details are at
[www.liverpool.anglican.org/
parishgivingscheme](http://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

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