

ST PETER'S CHURCH MAGAZINE MARCH 2018



Holy Week
Journey Together

The magazine is an important means of outreach and keeps everyone informed and in touch with the life of St Peter's Church. The magazine is free, though it would be appreciated if you would like to give a donation towards production costs. If you would like a magazine delivered to your home, please contact the Parish Office.



SATURDAY 17TH MARCH 2018

FROM 7.30 PM

**AT HOLY TRINITY PARISH HALL,
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OR CHURCH OFFICE**

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

From the Editorial Team

At last the flowers are coming out in the graveyard a welcome addition to the beginning of spring.

We welcome Caroline Speakman to the post of Parish Administrator who joins with Sonia in running the office.

Arrangements are in hand to print the Easter service cards which are distributed to all houses in the parish. Please let the office know if you are willing to help distribute them.

Arrangements for the donations for refugees clothing have had to be changed. If you would like to donate money or suitable clothing please contact Sue Jacques or Peter Paine.

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



Please note the deadline for the April 2018 edition of the magazine is Friday 9th March 2018. Contributions to alisonwhiffing@aol.com please.

Dear Friends,

This letter comes to you in the middle of Lent and I hope you are able to take this opportunity as a time of reflection and refreshment.

It is not a coincidence that throughout the Bible and indeed history, there are accounts of those who took themselves away from the fuss and rush of everyday life. These were times to take stock of life and to reflect on what is really important. So many 'things' can take over our attention that we can find ourselves focussing on the minutiae of life rather than the big picture of what God is calling us to do and to be. Times of reflection can help us to re-evaluate what is really important and what is just an emotional drainer in our lives.

One who sought solitude is Julian of Norwich (1342-c.1416) who is known to us almost only through her book, *The Revelations of Divine Love*, which is widely acknowledged as one of the great classics of the spiritual life. She is thought to have been the first woman to write a book in English which has survived. We do not know Julian's actual name but her name is taken from St Julian's Church in Norwich where she lived as an anchoress for most of her life. In Christianity, an anchoress is a



woman who chooses to withdraw from the world to live a solitary life of prayer.

Yet for someone who lived a solitary life from a relatively young age she could write, "The greatest honour we can give Almighty God is to live gladly because of the knowledge of his love."

But there are also places of solitude and one such place has now also been made famous by the recent Star Wars films. Skellig Michael is an island off the coast of Kerry in Ireland which has now seen a rush of film fans wanting to see where Luke Skywalker landed up! There was a Christian monastery founded on the island at some point between the 6th and 8th century and it remained continuously occupied until it was abandoned in the late 12th century. Even today, the crossing is not for the faint hearted, so this was a place of solitude for those who gathered there. They must have hoped that, by being there, the 'force would be with them!' (Apologies - a Star Wars joke!!)

But whether we seek to use Lent as a time to be alone or to go somewhere for refreshment we should take this opportunity to do something that renews us spiritually. Reading a book for Lent, going to the Lent Talks, taking a short time each day to reflect, maybe using the booklet in the library 'Live Lent Let Your Light Shine.'



In the centre pages of our magazine are the services for Holy Week and Easter. On Palm Sunday, apart from the morning Eucharist and Procession of Palms, there will be a service of music and readings in the evening focussing on some famous paintings. On three evenings of Holy Week we will be thinking of three famous films and plays to help us on our faith journey. We have a wonderful opportunity on the Wednesday so be involved in a Passover Meal. On Good Friday, along with the Walk of Witness, there will be the service to mark Jesus' last hour on the cross. Then we have an Easter Eve Vigil as we prepare to celebrate Easter Day.

Let us not waste this opportunity to make a difference to ourselves and so to others. Which reminds me, have you given up straws and unnecessary plastic as a Lenten discipline? Let us journey together during this very special time.

Anne



There is an opportunity to be confirmed on Monday 21st May 2018 at 7.30pm in Liverpool Cathedral. Confirmation is a way for someone to re-affirm their baptism vows and grow deeper in their faith.

We ask that candidates are in Year 6 or older through to adulthood. If you are interested, then please contact me to discuss how we might begin to prepare you for this next step in your faith journey.

Revd Nathan Thorpe 461841 nathanthorpe1@hotmail.co.uk

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

26 th Feb	8pm	HEART - Relating to God in prayer <i>Alison Woodhouse</i>
5 th March	8pm	EYES – Seeing God All Around Us <i>Ted Woods</i>
12 th March	8pm	HANDS – Our lives in our own hands <i>Nathan Thorpe</i>
19 th March	8pm	FEET – Negotiating the bumps on the road <i>Peter Hawkins</i>

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

Everyone welcome

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 lasting 3 hours. It will follow the traditional Jewish Haggadah liturgy and include a 3-course Seder meal. 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.

New Parish Administrator

We are delighted to announce that Caroline Speakman is our new Parish Administrator.

Many of you will already know Caroline through her involvement in the parish and being a member of the choir, a Brownie Leader and on the Stewardship Team.

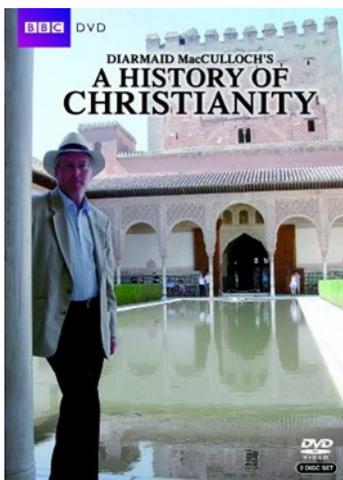
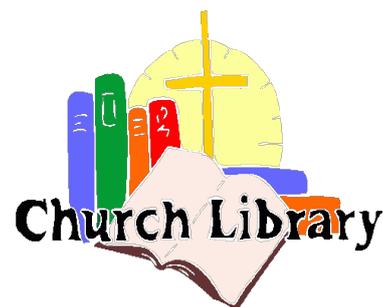
Caroline will be in the Parish Office Wednesday to Friday while Sonia Greenyer works Monday and Tuesday.



CHURCH LIBRARY – Watch a DVD for Lent!

The library has a selection of DVD's as well as books for adults & children.

Both the BBC and ITV have produced many excellent religious documentaries and films. Two of the selection we have in our church library are–



A History of Christianity – presented by leading historian Diarmaid McCulloch (BBC) - one of the world's leading historians - reveals the origins of Christianity and explores what it means to be a Christian

The Story of Jesus – narrated by David Suchet (ITV) with stunning contemporary footage. The series explores the truth about the man who claimed to be the only Son of God by examining the accounts of Jesus life according to the four Gospels and comparing these with the latest historical and archaeological evidence.

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 March dates for Little Fishes are:

March 2nd, 9th, 16th (Finish for Easter)



Breakfast Church

Join us at Breakfast Church on
Saturday 3rd March

at 9am in the Bier House.

30 minute service followed by
toast & chat.

You will be very welcome.



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
4th and 18th March

St Peter's Dementia Support Group

in The Bier House 2.00 - 3.30pm

Monday 5th March

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



Parish Visitor Training

17th & 24th March, 10am to 3pm

The volunteers who are working with the Monday support group will be undertaking training run by Diocesan Trainer, Bob Banton, which includes good practice guidelines. If you are interested in the role of a parish visitor which may mean bringing someone to church, calling to sit with someone who is ill or many other ways, we can care for those in our community, then please consider coming along to the training days.

Talk to the Vicar for more information.

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, 14th and 21st March

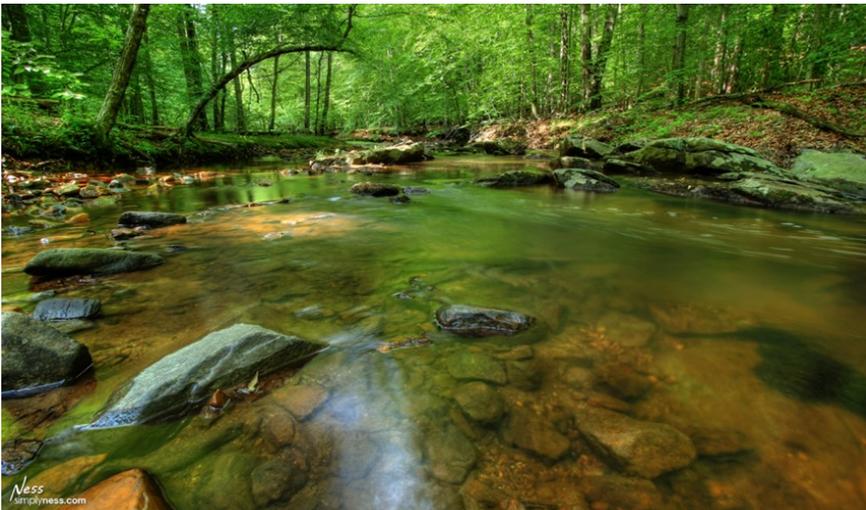
Anne Taylor 872824 revannetaylor@gmail.com



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**

MAMMON

Last year the Archbishop of Canterbury published a book*, recommended for Lent reading, which considered the problem of money becoming an end in itself and this leading to the selfish acquisition of wealth to the exclusion of others. He refers to this as 'Mammon ruling society,' a rule which needs to be dethroned. This argument is part of a new art exhibition at the Walker Art Gallery. Two artists known as the Singh sisters have put together a series of life size portraits on fabric which highlight the relationship between Britain and India.



Their pictures are full of extraordinary detail and colour. One portrait of an Indian woman has blue as the dominate colour but what, on the face of it, is a lovely portrait with a detailed border, also reveals the uses of Mammon.

The blue is indigo which was grown in India and used in Britain in the textile industry. Indian agriculture used more and more land to meet the demand for this dye. Such was the extent of the demand by Britain and the need of the Indian farmers to have an income it undermined the need for a balanced source of food and resulted in one of the terrible famines in Bengal. Justin Welby would argue that Mammon dominated.

An account of the history of the community on St Kilda provides another example. The small society of St Kilda had survived for several hundred years by using island birds for food. Each year the representative of the laird, known as the factor, called to collect the rent which was paid by the oil and feathers of the birds and cloth made from the sheep's wool. The factor would sell the goods keeping money for the rent and buying seed corn for the community on the island. The society did not use money and shared all the goods harvested. This traditional way of life was undermined when, in the 1850's, visitors came and wanted to buy the handmade goods and they often gave money to help meet the islanders' needs. The use of and need for money meant that the islanders began to see their barter economy as having a monetary base.

By the time of the First World War money became more important when a signal station came to the island and insufficient crops were being produced. With a declining population, visitors and others decided that the

island should be evacuated. Eventually this was agreed and the island was abandoned in 1930.

St Kilda's population becoming more reliant on money, coupled with a high mortality rate for children and poor harvests, led to those who advised and supervised to believe that the islanders would be too poor to continue living in such a remote place. The problem of Mammon was not the hoarding of wealth but the failure to ensure that the richest country in the world, with the largest empire, was not prepared to ensure that this tiny population had proper investment. Even the thousand sheep belonging to the islanders, taken to the mainland at the time of the evacuation, were sold to pay for the cost of moving the population off St Kilda.

In Justin Welby's book the author has to face the question of the future of a capitalist economy. He sees it as a necessity but it has now become subject to the rule of Mammon, in other words greed, which involves us all. He states it is not money which corrupts but the love of money. He argues that financial systems are not ends in themselves but a means of providing a just society. Christians must give a lead in this. He gives as an example the coming together of the churches with others and demanding the cancelling of debts held by poor countries. In some ways the book wants to show that a Christian approach to the world's economy is not necessarily undermining it, but an attempt to ensure that it is the means to achieving a just society.

**Dethroning Mammon, Making money serve grace. Justin Welby, Bloomsbury*

Rod Jacques

Primetime

Our next meeting will be on

Wednesday 21st March 2018 at 7.30pm

in the Old School Room, St Peter's Parish Hall,

Paradise Lane, Formby L37 7EH

Our speaker, Vicky Hall, will be giving a talk entitled 'What Gem are You?'

A lighthearted activity to remember the person within.

All welcome, bring a friend.

For further details call Sonia, Elaine or Ali

on 833781 / 874635 / 879976



An Indian Enigma

Many years ago I recall a Personnel discussion in the Bank concerning the kind of questions to ask graduate recruits and others of similar academic standards. The questions needed to be challenging and thought provoking and would need to present no obvious answers. Such questions could be 'what is better, to do nothing or to have nothing to do?' Although this is a rather dated example now you can get the gist.

A recent trip to India has left me with many unanswered question and perhaps you can help.

As we left a railway station in Delhi we were approached by a very small girl. Her hair was matted and her clothes little more than rags. Her face was expressionless and she was silent yet her eyes were wide open, almost in wonder. Now, I have to confess to being putty in the hands of any child and those wide eyes looking into mine still haunt me. She touched my arm briefly and gently and then took her hand away. Why? She was just one of the many children sent out by their parents who hail from the countryside, to beg; a rather profitable endeavour with all those tourists about. The families were, no doubt, illiterate themselves.

The Indian government is very keen that all children should receive free education, free school uniforms where appropriate, and a free hot meal every day. The government asks that you do not give money to children begging, as the parents will then have little choice other than to send their offspring to school to ensure that such children get, at least, one good meal every day.

Here is the enigma: -

Do you give money to these beggars to ensure that they and their whole family are able to eat for a day?

Is giving money to a child beggar depriving that child of an education and limiting its future prospects to ignorance and poverty?

Some good Christian reasoning may find the answer. What do you think?

Cliff Cotsworth

Dementia Awareness Training

Tuesday 20th March - 7pm to 9pm in the Bier House

Sally Nicol will be helping us better to understand what it means to live with dementia. How to recognise the signs and symptoms and how we can help those living with dementia and those caring for them.

Rough Sleeping

At a recent meeting of Timeout we were given a talk on the issues surrounding rough sleeping by Steve Doughty, who is the Rough Sleeper worker for Sefton. He is funded by Sefton and is part of the Light for Life charity based in Southport. Steve's task is to deal with rough sleepers who are known to sleep in the open overnight and are referred to him within Sefton. He visits the site of the sleepers, offers them essential services and refers them to other agencies. Steve relies on being informed about a rough sleeper and will act as quickly as possible to provide care.

If you want help a rough sleeper then contact Light for Life at 01704 501356 or directly to Steve 07918746042 or, if you are uncertain about giving money directly to a rough sleeper, then the charity Light for Life will ensure donations are used to provide support and care.

Their address is
Light for Life, The Housing Centre,
68 Eastbank Street, Southport,
PR8 1ES.



Rod Jacques

St Peters donated £855 to the Whitechapel Centre, a Liverpool charity which provides care and advice to rough sleepers and the homeless. Last year they provided over 8,500 breakfasts for rough sleepers, supported 1,174 homeless people into the right accommodation and provided 4,000 travel passes so the homeless could attend medical appointments and accommodation meetings. The charity has experienced over the past five years a 52% increase in those needing their services.

In their letter of thanks they say, "We are very grateful to the parishioners of St Peter's church for thinking of us."



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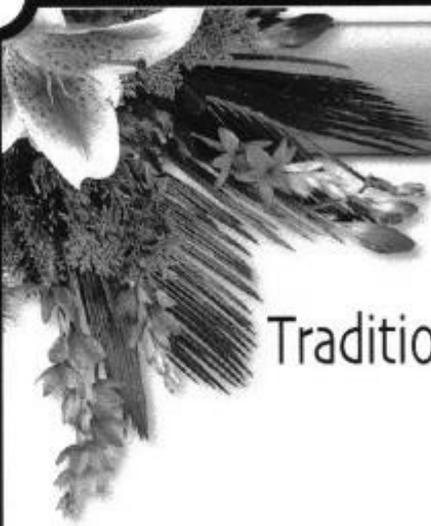


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A House Through Time

Liverpool is a city that people feel comfortably sure that they 'know'. In BBC2's 'A House Through Time' David Olusoga built a superb, fine-grained portrait of Liverpool. Yes, there was the slave trade, and the Toxteth riots, but there was so much more, as seen through one house: 62

Falkner Street, over 180 years. It missed a trick with the soundtrack: surely John Lennon with 'life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans', or the Spiders song 'Neighbourhood' would have neatly complemented it with a scouse accent.

My contribution to the programme was on John Bowes, who died from cholera in 1854, which we filmed at the Liverpool Medical Institution (114 Mount Pleasant). I've learned from past experience as a 'Telly Don', that only 5% of what we film will be used. We didn't keep in the inconvenient fact that Bowes actually died in Poulton-le-Sands, which means it's unlikely he contracted cholera in Liverpool. I forgave the producers that editorial decision when I saw the final version.

Some amazing stories emerged through the four hour-long episodes. There was the cotton broker Wilfred Steele, who abandoned his step-children in the workhouse when he fled to the US after his bankruptcy in 1857 – that provoked howls of outrage on Twitter. The economic decline of Liverpool in the twentieth century was reflected in the subdivision of the house into single rented rooms, and the hand to mouth existence of their occupants such as the docker Jack Greenall. For the final episode, which covered the years after the Second World War, David interviewed the lovely octogenarian June Furlong, who reminisced about the vibrant multicultural clubs of the area in the 1960s. One of the most poignant sections was on Mark Merino, a young gay man who lived and died at 62 Falkner Street in the 1980s.

In this short TV series, which had to entertain more than educate, it was difficult to show the wider history that I work on, such as the impact of the welfare state after 1948 or the persistence of inequalities. One of my grandmothers (the northern one, of course) had a favourite saying: 'Laugh and the world laughs with you; cry and you cry alone'. Liverpudlians, as the residents of 62 Falkner Street demonstrated, don't do that: community and family have always been strong supports at times of need. The series left viewers with a better sense of the beauty of the city and the resilience of its people – a more nuanced view than the usual journalistic shorthand of the Toxteth riots (and yes, we have more Georgian houses than Bath).

Sally Sheard

Andrew Geddes and John Rankin Professor of Modern History
University of Liverpool sheard@liv.ac.uk

Thanks Chaps....

Here we are in Lent already. Next it will be Easter and the beginning of a new year for us Christians, with the rising of Jesus from the grave.

It was Mary, his mother, who stood at the foot of the cross and watched His life slowly drain away in agony. She did not shirk her motherly duty that day, but waited for His last breath before being taken, heartbroken to her home.

It was the women who washed His wounds and prepared Him for the tomb and it was another woman who discovered that He was no longer in the tomb but had risen.

Women are in many of the bible stories, both in the Old and New Testament; they are often in the background, but not in the front line. There was Rahab who spied and had to escape in a basket down the Walls of Jericho, Ruth and Naomi, Miriam who watched over baby Moses and persuaded the princess to keep him alive. Then there were Martha and Mary, Jesus' friends, lots of women who are mentioned.

This year is the 100th anniversary of women getting the vote. It took a lot of hard fighting and even dying for, but we got it. My granny was a Suffragette, way back. She did not do anything violent but did march and carry banners for the cause.

She always told me that when I was old enough I must vote, because of those who fought and died to win it for us. She died when I was 17 so never went to the Polling Booth with me when I reached 21. But even if there is no one worth voting for I go and destroy my voting paper so that no one else can use it. They were strong courageous women and must be remembered.

Our history tells us of many distinguished women who did great and wonderful things, like Boudicca, queen of the Ancient Britons, who lead her troops into battle herself, Elizabeth I who was a great woman, who got to the throne after a long struggle. Our own Queen Elizabeth II who has served us, not ruled us, but served us for over 60 years. A wonderful woman indeed!

Now we have a lady vicar. She, like Boudicca leads us from the front, holding the cross high for us at the front, not at the rear. How times have changed, it is not long ago that there were no women priests in the Church, but where would we be now without them?

I am not decrying men at all, but in this centenary year of us getting the vote can we have a bit of thought for what women down the ages have done please?

Thanks chaps, no offence meant!

Martha

HOTDOG CHILDREN'S SERVICE

Sunday 25th March 2018

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



All welcome.



New Dean of Liverpool Cathedral



The next Dean of Liverpool will be Revd Canon Dr Sue Jones. Sue comes to Liverpool Cathedral from the Diocese of Derby where she currently serves as Director of Mission and Ministry.

Sue was born in Wales. As well as being a very experienced priest she comes with plenty of cathedral experience having served as Acting

Dean at Derby Cathedral and prior to that Dean of Bangor.

Sue said, "When I came to be interviewed for this role I was struck by how suited Liverpool Cathedral is for the city. Its imposing physical stature is matched by the strong desire to serve the community. A people-centred cathedral called to serve the people is a place that I felt God wanted me to be.

I am proud to follow in the footsteps of illustrious predecessors stretching back to Dean Dwelly. I am looking forward to starting properly in the summer, working with the talented teams of volunteers, staff and clergy to continue the important work of the Cathedral".

Canon Sue will become the 8th Dean of Liverpool Cathedral when she is installed by the Bishop of Liverpool on May 5th at 3pm.

The Icon

Those of you who attend the Midnight Christmas Eve Eucharist will have noticed the icon of the Virgin Mary above the altar. You may well have wondered where it has come from.

John William Frost was an engineer with Matthew Platt of Manchester and in the years 1860 – 1870 was concerned with constructing a cotton mill near Moscow. When the work was complete he remained in Russia as manager and after some years his daughter married into a Russian family. Following custom, Elizabeth was given an icon when she married. She died in childbirth and the icon passed on to her family.



The Frost family returned to England in 1905 and the icon eventually became the possession of the Worrall family as their descendants.

The icon was donated to St Peter's Church, Formby, in the incumbency of the Revd Jack Thomas and was displayed in church at Christmas for the first time in 1979 during the incumbency of the Revd Kevin Eastell.

As well as at Christmas you will see the icon on Mothering Sunday which is very appropriate as the icon depicts Mary with Jesus.



St Peter's Church, Green Lane, Formby

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES 2018

25th March – 1st April



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

Palm Sunday

10.00am **Parish Eucharist**

– with palm procession from the church gate.

2.30pm **A Relaxed Easter Service**

– a 30 minute service followed by refreshments for older people.

6.30pm **The Way of the Cross**

– looking at Holy Week through Art, Music & Scripture.



Holy Week through the Lens of Stage & Screen



Monday 26th

10.00am

Eucharist

7.30pm

On Stage - Les Misérables Short Evening Service & Reflection

Tuesday 27th

10.00am

Eucharist

7.30pm

On Screen – Lincoln Short Evening Service & Reflection

Wednesday 28th

11.00am

Eucharist

7.00pm

Passover Meal

(see page 6 for details - pre-book call Mark 873809)



Maundy Thursday

10.00am Eucharist
7.30pm **On Stage – Oliver** Eucharist
followed by Vigil of Prayer until midnight



Good Friday



10.15am **Walk of Witness** from the Bier House to the Village. Tea & toast available from 9.45am in the Bier House

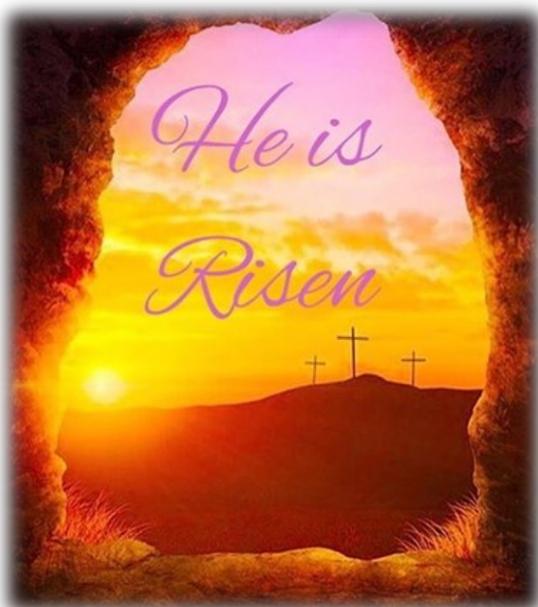
11.00am **Passion Play** (Formby Pool grounds)

2.00pm **An Hour by the Cross**; a service of reflections and music to mark Jesus' last hour on the Cross.

Easter Eve

6.30pm **Resurrection Vigil**
- a service of readings and music to reflect on the Resurrection of Jesus; and to renew our baptism vows ahead of the joy on Easter Sunday.

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



Celebrating the Resurrection Easter Day

8.00am Eucharist (BCP)

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

6.30pm Festal Evensong



Sunday 4th February.
A busy Parade Service
with all of our youth
groups well represented
and just an added touch
of Star Wars!

**MAY THE FORCE
BE WITH YOU**
(AND ALSO WITH YOU).

611 Squadron (Woodvale) ATC

611 Squadron has been very fortunate to receive a cheque for £800 from St Peter's Formby Educational Trust. St Peter's is our local Church and the Reverend Anne Taylor is the Padre for 611 (Woodvale) ATC. The Educational Trust for St Peters is a Charity that exists for the education and development of young people in the community of Formby.

Our Chairman, Sharon Brown, applied to the Trust for a donation towards the cost of replacing Outdoor Equipment (new tents, stoves etc) and this was accepted by the Trust. In thanking the Trustees for their generous donation, she said what a help the contribution would make.

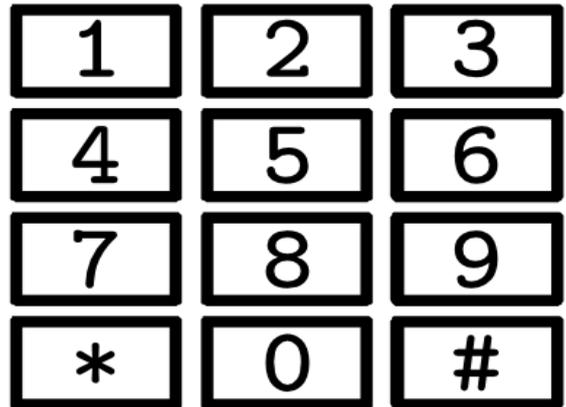


In the photo you can see;
Reverend Anne Taylor and Reverend Nathan Thorpe of St Peter's Church, Formby,
Flt Lt Tipping, Ms Sharon Brown and a few cadets and recruits of 611 (Woodvale).

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The Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 1st February was well attended. Marion Ashcroft and Hilda Boyd have retired from the Committee.

We thank them for the service they have given, particularly in sending birthday and Christmas cards to members, and for volunteering to continue this. We welcome two new committee members, Herbert Blundell and Ken Ward. The officers and committee were confirmed in office.

The meeting was followed by a talk by Revd Peter Paine on the visit he led last year to the Turkish part of Cyprus. We enjoyed his informative and entertaining talk, illustrated by some splendid slides.

Our next branch meeting is on Thursday 1st March at 2.00 pm in the Bier House when we look forward to a talk by Revd Nathan Thorpe. At the meeting on 5th April, John Wilson from the Liverpool Seafarers' Centre will tell us about the work of the Centre.

The international, inter-denominational, annual Women's World Day of Prayer service will be held this year on Friday 2nd March at 2.00pm at St Stephen's, Hightown.

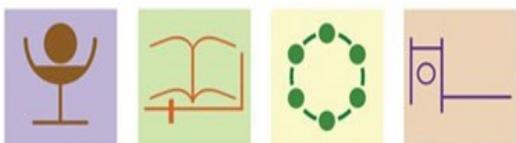
A special forthcoming event is the Centenary Service of the Mothers' Union in Formby, to be held on Wednesday, 16th May, at 2.00 pm at Holy Trinity Church.

Copies of the blue membership card containing details of the year's programme are available in the Church porch and there is one copy on the notice board. If are thinking about joining the MU, please take a copy.

For more information, telephone Eleanor (874112). All are welcome.

We are always glad of volunteers to assist with providing refreshments at children's WOW services held on specified Wednesday afternoons at 2.00 pm in Church.

Eleanor and Jean



PARISHGIVINGScheme

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

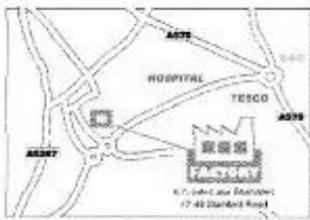
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If you would like some guidance, please feel free to come and have a chat with me, or alternatively please contact me on **07926 587776**

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Looking back to an older Formby and the setting up of a new School for girls

The poem **The Legacy** by Mary Formby (which formed part of St Peter's recent harvest entertainment - **Formby Folk**) celebrates the opening of the new Female School and next door house for the School Mistress in January of the year 1850. The poem makes clear where the money to build came from – a bequest from Mary's father, the Revd Richard Formby, the squire, born in 1760. In his twenties he “took holy orders.....that he might constitute himself father of his people in spiritual matters as he was by inheritance in matters temporal.”

In fact, according to Neville Carrick's (a former parishioner) history of St Peter's Church, published in 1998, this new school was closely followed in 1858 by the completion opposite in Paradise Lane of a new National School for Boys built on land provided by the same Mary Formby.

All this was just part of an educational provision for this agricultural community which dates right back to 1659 when a school room was built in School Lane by the then Lords of the Manor, Henry Blundell and Richard Formby. A century later in 1789 the accommodation was rebuilt and enlarged. It was a free school - both a grammar school for teaching the classics and a primary school teaching basic skills. By 1828 there was an Upper School on the School Lane site (presumably the present Balti House) and a Lower School much closer to Ainsdale.

In 1812, with the encouragement of the Revd Richard Formby, the three Formby sisters (their brothers by this time spread out both locally and also quite far afield) established a Sunday School for girls which was soon extended to provide teaching for two half days during the week. It began after their father “had caused a garden tool-house behind the south garden wall to be made fit for that object.” There was also a willow-fenced playground beside it. “Its little tenants in simplest cottage dress, and old Esther Brown the worthy mistress, herself a cottager, in “bedgown” and “lindsey” coat, untrained by government rule, but skilled in all rustic craft of the needle.” It was this school which moved house to Paradise Lane in 1850 as Mary describes in her poem.

It is interesting to note that, according to Formby Reminiscences written by a niece of Mary Formby, life seemed harmonious and settled. Although she was not the eldest of the three sisters, Mary “had at all times taken the more active part in the family: she had been her father's secretary and now (after the death of their father) on her was laid all the active management of the property. It was she who superintended the carrying out of the improvements of the two (she and her elder

sister) in common. Their main aim was to help by giving employment . . .”

Later on the 15th January, the day of the celebration party to mark the new school's opening, Mary wrote a long letter to her niece describing in considerable detail the occasion's events. After describing who was there – more than four hundred including many children, what they ate, how they were all dressed in their best, what the music was like, she writes “To be allowed to complete my dearest father's plan, and far more, to extend it much beyond his ideas, was delightful, and the conviction that so much good may be done to the rising generation by giving them the words of Life, now, in their young hearts.”

In these quotations from Formby Reminiscences we have a glimpse of what life was like in a society where inequalities were great like ours but quite different. It was a simpler, still pre-industrial, hierarchical community where people then accepted, perhaps because they had to, 'to do my duty in that state of life unto which it shall please God to call me' as the Catechism in Book of Common Prayer has it. This precept seems to have been sewn into the lives, not only of the cottagers, but also of the Formby squirearchy itself at this time and was conspicuous in the care and loving Christian concern it showed for all its people – as, for their part, the local people exhibited for the squire and his family.

Jane Pitts

INDIA AND NEPAL TOUR

20th October to 8th November 2018

A bespoke tour of INDIA and NEPAL is offered for a small and select group. We plan to visit: Amritsar with the Sikh Golden Temple; Mussorie in the Himalayan foothills, the finely carved temples at Khajuraho which is a world UNESCO site; the Hindu funeral rites on the Ganges at Varanasi; Kathmandu the capital of Nepal, Chitwan National Park in Nepal home of the single honed rhinoceros, view of the high Himalayas from the lake at Pokhara.



The tour is arranged with Emma Horne Travel. If you would like the full brochure please contact Peter Paine on 01704 809517 or email peterspaine@gmail.com



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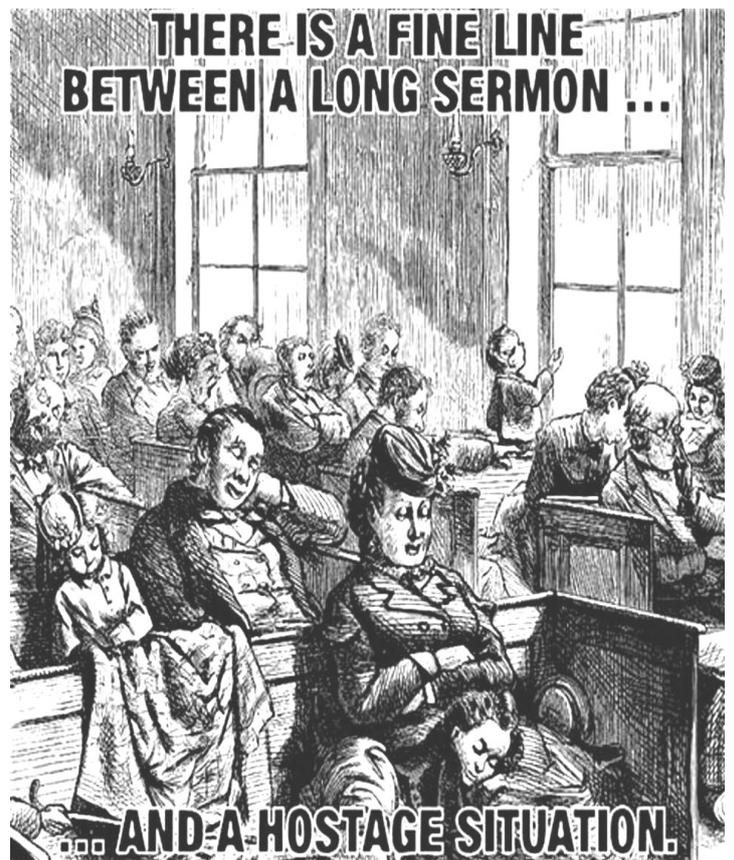


Early
 dark
 stone
 Lord
 teacher

first
 Mary
 moved
 woman
 Father

day
 Magdalene
 angels
 crying
 brothers

week
 tomb
 white
 gardener
 disciple



The Preacher and the Taxi Driver

A preacher dies, and when he gets to Heaven, he sees a New York cab driver who has more stars in his crown.

He says to an angel, "I don't get it. I devoted my whole life to my congregation. Why did the taxi driver get more stars than me?"

The angel says, "We reward results. Did your congregation always pay attention when you gave a sermon?"

The preacher says, "Once in a while someone fell asleep."

The angel says, "Right. Well, when people rode in this guy's taxi, they not only stayed awake, but they usually prayed!"



Curate's Bad Joke Corner.....

I'd like to make a philosophy pun...But I Kant.

If Iron Man and Silver Surfer teamed up...they'd be alloys.

Definitions you may not know:

Avoidable: What a bullfighter tries to do.

Bernadette: The act of torching your mortgage.

What's green, fuzzy, and if it fell out of a tree it would kill you?
A pool table.

A friend of mine tried to annoy me with bird puns, but toucan play at that game.

Apparently you can't use the password 'beefstew,' because it's not stroganoff.

Keep groaning!



From the Back Pew Ted Woods

MOTHERING SUNDAY

The curate was down to preach on Mothering Sunday, and he thought of a novel way to introduce his sermon. Entering the pulpit he produced a bottle of champagne, popped the cork, poured a glass of bubbly, and began "Here's to the best years of my life, spent in the arms of another man's wife!" There was a sharp intake of breath from the congregation. And then he continued, "My mother!"

A bishop in mufti happened to be in the congregation that day, and thought to himself, if he ever had to preach on Mothering Sunday, that the curate's introduction would be a good one to remember. A few years later he was asked to preach on Mothering Sunday, and as he entered the pulpit he remembered the curate's opening lines. He hadn't thought to bring a bottle of bubbly but holding up a glass of water, he began, "Here's to the best years of my life, spent in the arms of another man's wife!" The congregation suddenly became more interested, but then the bishop's memory failed him, and he continued "Now whatever was the lady's name?!"

Mothering Sunday falls on the 4th Sunday of Lent and has an interesting background - which was outlined some years ago in an article by Florence Hill for the Mothers' Union.

The church in the Middle Ages was very strict about observing Lent and no let up on fasting was allowed, except for one Sunday half-way through Lent. One of the ancient laws of the church made it obligatory for everyone to attend services in their Parish Church.

Now, as in Formby years ago, outlying churches were 'chapelries' or chapels of ease to the Parish Church (in our case, Walton). So on the 4th Sunday of Lent parishioners would make their ways, or in some cases, process, to the mother church where they would present their Lent offerings and tithes. Those who had moved away from home would also find their way back and there would be great family reunions.

In the 16th century these processions were stopped, but the day continued to be marked by family reunions. It was also the day that sons and daughters who were in service or living away would be allowed home to visit their parents. As they walked along the lanes they would pick bunches of wild flowers to give to their mothers. Sometimes they would also buy a small gift out of their hard-earned wages. The whole family would attend church and then break their Lenten fast to enjoy a meal of roast meat, lentils and Simnel cake.

In some places it was the custom to set out drinks and cakes in the church porch for the refreshment of the returning serving girls and apprentices. Hence Mothering Sunday is also called 'Refreshment Sunday.'

In 1912 the daughter of a Nottinghamshire vicar started a movement to revive some of the religious customs connected with the 4th Sunday in Lent and encouraged local clergy to keep Mothering Sunday in their churches, and our present way of observing the festival has grown from that.

On Mothering Sunday, thanks are offered for three mothers:- Mother Church; Mary, the mother of Jesus, and our own mothers. And the custom still remains of presenting mothers with flowers.

Americans keep "Mothers' Day" on the second Sunday of May each year, and it is a much later tradition, starting in the late 1800's, to honour and celebrate motherhood and mother figures. Much of the commercialisation of Mothers' Day in the States quickly spread to our shores and it is now a 'big' day for card manufacturers, florists and restaurants.

We will be celebrating Mothering Sunday in St Peter's on **Sunday 11th March at 10.00am**, when posies will be available for sons and daughters to present to their mothers, grandmother or guardians. It's also a Parade Service, and guess what – our curate is preaching!!

The following poem by Rosemary Stephens sums it all up.

*In days of old, when servant girls
And young apprentice lads,
Were sometimes working far from home,
They missed their mums and dads.*

*And always they were given leave
Upon this special day
To go back home. Then each would stop
To gather on the way*

*Some violets and leafy ferns
To make a posy sweet:
They called it 'Going Mothering'-
It gave the mums a treat.*

*And Mother, waiting by the door,
Would take the flowers with joy
And give a slice of simnel cake
To every girl and boy.*

*Then off they went to Mother Church
(For the church is called 'our Mother')
To sing and offer thanks to God
For giving them each other.*

*So every boy and every girl
To your local church all come!
And take some flowers back to show
How much you love your Mum!*

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MARCH

March

Thursday 1 st	2.00pm	Mothers' Union in the Bier House	
Friday 2 nd	9.15am	Little Fishes in Parish Hall	
	6.30pm	First Friday Eucharist	
Saturday 3 rd	9.00am	Breakfast Church in the Bier House	
Sunday 4th		3rd Sunday of Lent	
	10.00am	Parish Eucharist & Sunday Club	
	6.30pm	Service of Wholeness	
Monday 5 th	2.00pm	St Peter's Dementia Support Group in Bier House	
	8.00pm	Lent Series in OSR	
Tuesday 6 th	10.00am	Bible Study <i>with Ken Ward</i> in Bier House	
Weds 7 th	3.15pm	Fishy Club in Parish Hall	
Friday 9 th	9.15am	Little Fishes in Parish Hall	
	2.00pm	Bible Study Group <i>with Peter Paine</i> in Bier House	
Sunday 11th		Mothering Sunday	
	10.00am	Mothering Sunday All Age Parade Service	
Monday 12 th	8.00pm	Lent Series in OSR	
Tuesday 13 th	10.00am	Bible Study Group <i>with Ken Ward</i> in Bier House	
Weds 14 th	3.15pm	Fishy Club in Parish Hall	
	7.30pm	Bible Study <i>with Alison Woodhouse</i>	
Friday 16 th	9.15am	Little Fishes in Parish Hall	
Saturday 17 th	7.30pm	St Patrick's Day Ceilidh	
Sunday 18th		Passion Sunday	
	10.00am	Parish Eucharist & Sunday Club	
	6.30pm	The Crucifixion by John Stainer	
Monday 19 th	8.00pm	Lent Series in the OSR	
Tuesday 20 th	10.00am	Bible Study <i>with Ken Ward</i> in Bier House	
	7.00pm	Dementia Awareness Training Evening in the Bier House	
Weds 21 st	11.00am	Eucharist <i>with the children of Year 5 from TSP</i>	
	2.00pm	WOW Service	
	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	
Sunday 25th		Palm Sunday	
	12 noon	Hot Dog Service in Church	
	2.30pm	Relaxed Easter Service	
	6.30pm	Service of Readings & Reflections	
Thursday 29 th	2.00pm	Halcyon House Eucharist	

Full details of Holy Week Services in the centre pages.

Future Date to Note

April 22nd Annual Parochial Church Meeting after the 10am service

From the Church Registers

Baptism

11th February
Harvey Patrick & Carter
John-Paul sons of Barry
& Emma Gordon



Funerals

25 th January	Jennie Murdock
31 st January	Joyce Cross
8 th February	Joyce Trueman
23 rd February	Gerald Harris

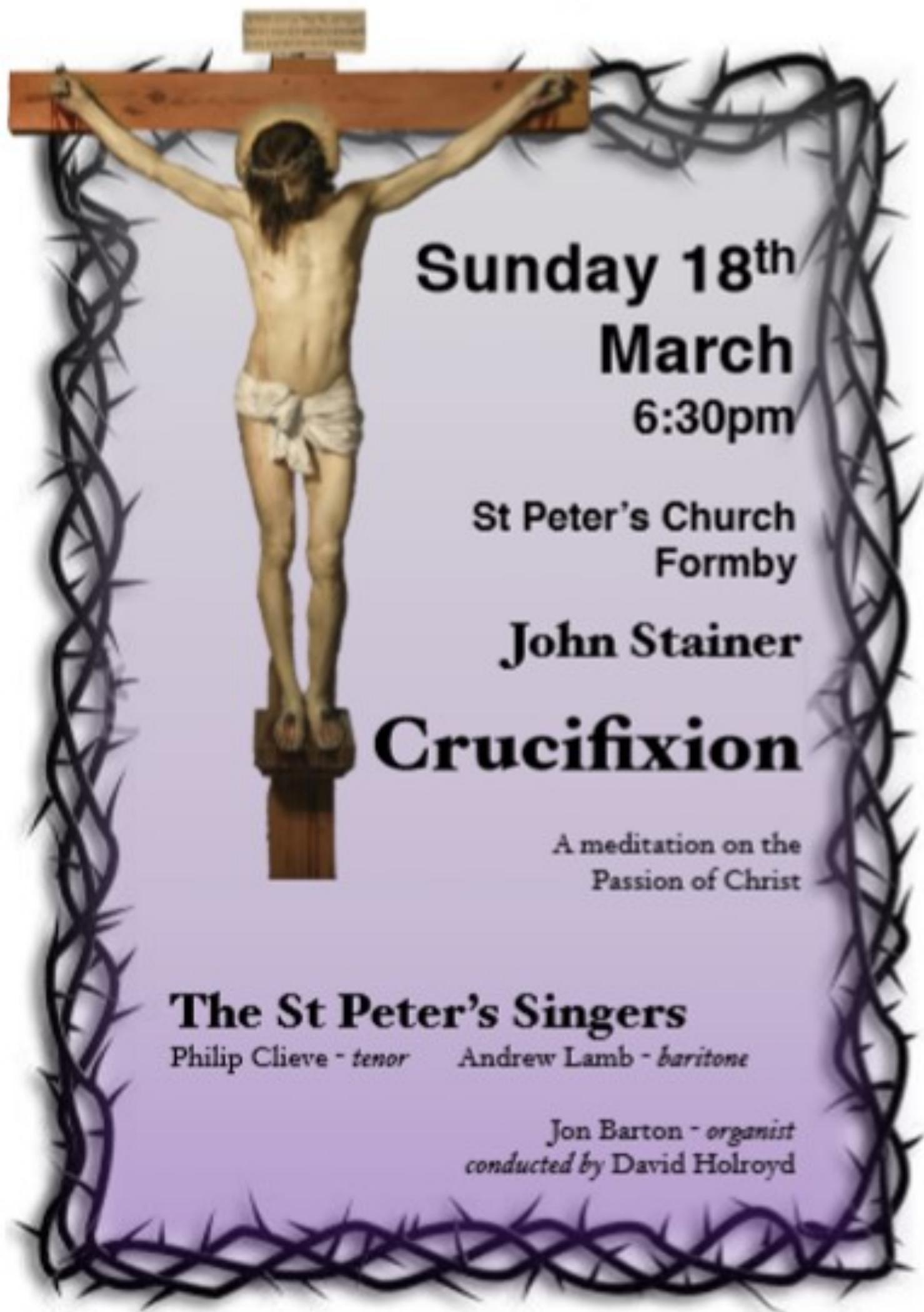
Interment of Ashes

12 th February	Margaret Thorpe
17 th February	Rosemary Millington

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.

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



**Sunday 18th
March
6:30pm**

**St Peter's Church
Formby**

John Stainer

Crucifixion

*A meditation on the
Passion of Christ*

The St Peter's Singers

Philip Clieve - tenor Andrew Lamb - baritone

*Jon Barton - organist
conducted by David Holroyd*