

St Peter's Church Magazine

Be Kind
to one another

Ephesians 4:30-5:

Even if you
disagree on
stuff.



JUNE 2018

**David Holroyd
& friends ...**

Petertide Concert

A concert of popular organ music -
and much more!

Saturday 30th June

7:30pm

St Peter's Church

Green Lane, Formby L37 7DL

In aid of the Church's Uganda Project

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available from choir members

www.trybooking.co.uk/2824

or at the door



From the Editorial Team

Time is very much a theme running through this month's magazine.

- Mark Boyling returns after 24 years to preach at our Patronal Festival;
- Nathan reflects on the passing of his first year of ministry as a Deacon as he prepares to be ordained Priest;
- Martha laments the unrelenting passage of time in her typical homespun manner;
- The Mothers' Union celebrates its Centenary here in Formby;
- Ted takes us through a brief history of marriage;
- and we are invited to provide altar flowers to commemorate a significant event in our lives.

Time is very much a gift of God: whilst modern medicine may have increased our lifespan beyond the traditional three-score years and ten, it likewise challenges us to make the most of our increasing time on this mortal coil.

How do **you** respond to the challenge? How about contributing an article to next month's magazine?

The Editorial Team

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 24th June at 6.30 pm

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

Dear Friends,

As you read this issue of the June magazine the work team will be either on its way to or in Uganda. You will have heard me talk many times about our church being without walls. In other words, our worship in the church as a 'building' should equip us to go out to the world as **the church**. It is a great joy that so many have got excited about our relationship with St Peter's Church and school in Kalule Village as we reach out beyond our church and indeed our community and country. Revd Sheilagh Williamson – the project leader and founder – has told us that there is great excitement that a group would take the time and effort to be with them. Human relationships are so important when they are mutual and this is what we are hoping to be establishing - a two-way relationship between two worshipping communities and two schools.



Thank you to so many for your generosity giving material, wool, clothes, donations and so much else. Thank you to the children of Trinity St Peter's School for giving us pencil cases, many with notes of greeting and so obviously given with thought.

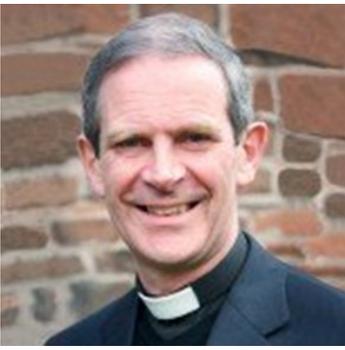
There will be a prayer diary to remember the group while in Uganda. On Sunday 17th June at the All-Age Parade Service there will be a time to hear about all that the team has done on the project. Also, depending on the internet connection, there is a plan to keep in touch through the St Peter's website and Facebook page.

Celebrating with Nathan

But no sooner will the group be back than we will be celebrating Nathan's ordination as priest in Liverpool Cathedral. Then, on Sunday 10th Nathan will celebrate Holy Communion for the first time at the morning services. At the 10 am Eucharist we are delighted to be welcoming Nathan's father as our preacher. Martin is Vicar of St James Church, Westbrook which is part of the West Warrington Church.

Welcome Back

We will be welcoming back a previous Vicar for our Patronal Festival weekend. This year the preacher will be The Very Revd Mark Boyling who is now the Dean of Carlisle. Mark was vicar of St Peter's from 1989 until he



accepted the post of Canon Precentor at Liverpool Cathedral, which he took up in January 1994. Mark then moved to Carlisle Cathedral in 2004. We look forward to welcoming Mark and Helen back to St Peter's for the Patronal Eucharist at 10am on Sunday 1st July. And as has become tradition (!) there will be refreshments in the Vicarage garden after the service.

On the weekend of our Patronal Festival there will also be a concert in the church to raise money for the Uganda project. Thank you to David Holroyd for arranging this; details are on the inside front cover.

Looking forward to our Patronal Festival it is good to remember that **St Peter** was a mixture, a bundle of paradoxes. He had his moments of greatness but also his moments of weakness. One day courageously proclaiming Jesus as "The Messiah, the Son of God," yet cowardly at another time, shouting out in fear, "I do not know the man!" Forthright about his loyalty to Jesus, yet when the soldiers came, running off with the rest. Fearless and high-principled in going to the house of the Gentile Cornelius and baptising him, yet at other times refusing to eat with Gentiles for fear of the strictures of his conservative co-religionists.

Yes, Peter had his highs and his lows, he had his light side and his dark side. But through it all Jesus loved him and believed in him and would not let him go. Which of us haven't had high moments and low moments, times when we have been incredibly strong and then times when we have been incredibly weak? And, as for Peter, so for us, Jesus continues to love us and believe in us and will not let us go.

Peter's story is our story. We are all mixtures. We all live with a certain amount of paradox in our characters. And this was certainly true of Peter. Although Jesus called him a "Rock," yet he also had to be on the move to bring the Good News to the world.

It is a great reminder for us, as for the church in Kalule, to be named after St Peter. A reminder that when we feel weak Christ is with us and calls us to rely on his strength. At other times we may find confidence in our God-given gifts and know we are called to serve. Like St Peter, God calls us to bring the Good News to our world.

Anne

*Please note the deadline for the double summer magazine (July/August 2018) is **Friday 8th June 2018**. Contributions to alisonwhiffing@aol.com please.*

Please pray for all being ordained, among them

NATHAN ANDREW THORPE

To be ordained a Priest by

PAUL, BISHOP OF LIVERPOOL

at

LIVERPOOL ANGLICAN CATHEDRAL

on

SATURDAY 9TH JUNE, 2018 at 3:00 PM.

Please continue to pray for

REVD CANON ANNE TAYLOR

and the parish and people of

ST PETER'S, FORMBY.

*Nathan's first celebration of the Eucharist with
St Peter's is on Sunday 10th June at 10:00 am.*

**'I COME TO YOUR ALTAR, O LORD, SINGING A
SONG OF THANKSGIVING AND TELLING OF ALL
YOUR WONDERS.'**

(PSALM 26:6-7)

*Refreshments after service from 6.00pm
in St Peter's Parish Hall*

1 year on...

Where does the time fly?

I have been reflecting a lot recently (and Anne has signed my paperwork) ahead of being ordained a priest.

My Ember Card bible verse last year was taken from Acts 18. St Paul had travelled on to Corinth, been joined by Timothy and Silas, and was about to preach to a hostile crowd. To a lesser extent, I felt in a similar position. I was leaving a familiar world (that of higher education), with new companions (about to be married to Poppy), and I would have to preach. My fervent prayer was that you would not become as hostile as the crowd faced by St Paul! It was a prayer amply answered when I first preached in front of a packed All-Age Parade service on the Patronal Festival.

God's reassurance to Paul also spoke particularly to me as well. A mixture of affirming encouragement and challenge. Acts 18:9 says: 'Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent.'

Well, those of you who have met me will agree that I have fulfilled this to the letter! But after a year, I feel justified in adding verse 10 to the above. It says, 'For I am with you, and no one is going to harm you, because I have many people in this city.'

It is excellent to be one of the team with Anne, the churchwardens and the PCC. They care deeply about St Peter's, and it is great to be in a place with a dual emphasis on the quality of worship and a commitment to pastoral work. This extends to all in St Peter's – who continue to work hard witnessing to Christ's love daily. My job is made easier with a welcoming church to encourage people to come to!

As a deacon, my first response is often to 'go and do.' My experience as a priest will be combining this with 'where to go' and 'how to do.' I am very grateful for your encouragement over this year; and as I prepare to begin celebrating Eucharists and weddings, my Ember Card verse reflects my feelings a year on.

'I come to your altar, O Lord, singing a song of thanksgiving and telling of all your wonders.' (Psalm 26: 6-7)

Nathan

Horizons

A recording from the 1980's was played on the radio the other day. It was an interview with Freya Stark, the explorer of the Middle East from the 1930's to the 1970's. She became famous through the many books she wrote about her experiences and was noted for always learning the language of the people she visited. During the interview she was asked why she travelled so much. The reply was, "some people look at the horizon and say that is too far, I cannot go beyond it" when others say "there is the horizon, I must see what is beyond it." This use of the horizon can have two aspects.

The first is to see the horizon as a means of reference. Michelangelo said, "Your greatness is measured by your horizons" and another quote is from Suzy Kassem, "...a confident warrior, who has found his way, will only look towards the horizon." Sailors have used the horizon to measure where they are by using the angle of a line to the horizon and a line to the sun. Without the maths which forms the basis of this navigation, sailors would see the horizon as something to be feared, just as Columbus and his crew, sailing into the unknown, thought they would sail over the edge of the world.

The other aspect of Freya Stark's comment is the dividing up of people into categories. This is always been part of how society wants to divide people such as for us or against us, for example those who like pop music or those who listen to Radio 3. There are dangers in this, of which history has many examples, yet it can be a useful approach to discover friends and helpmates.

This is the time when the Christian Church looks at the authority, strength and guidance given to the disciples who are sent out to undertake their missionary work. Christ makes it clear there is no horizon to limit their work and they are to work with all people. After all, this is why we have Christianity in this country and why we must continue to challenge any horizon or any divisions being imposed.

Rod Jacques



Formby Marie Curie Fundraising Group

Fun Quiz Night with John Nelson
at the Cricket Club Marquee on Tuesday 3rd July at 7.30pm



Tickets £5 each

All proceeds go to Marie Curie charity
Contact Pauline Price, Church Cottage

Tel: 878275 / 07740070908

Primetime

Our next meeting will be on

Wednesday 20th June 2018 at 7.30pm

in the Old School Room, St Peter's Parish Hall, Paradise Lane, Formby L37 7EH

June's Primetime will be Knitted Knockers

Please come out and find out what it means !!!

All welcome, bring a friend.

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



Thanks to the ladies of Primetime for their 'potty' evening at the Bier House last night. Thanks to Porters Fuchsias for donating the plants once again - we're looking forward to seeing them bloom & grow over the summer.

Asylum seekers' "Welcome" day



St. Peter's Refugee (ecumenical) Support Group held the first "Welcome" day of the year on 24th April. Despite the weather which prevented us taking our guests to the beach we enjoyed a most positive and fruitful time together playing games and using the craft facilities indoors, sharing stories and general conversation.

One senior member of our group wrote afterwards; "The visitors today were possibly the nicest that we have ever had. As I said to the Vicar, more bridges built today than for a very long time. Fabulous!"

Thank you to all those who continue to contribute clothing and toiletries. We took several large bags of clothes to Asylum Link Merseyside and the toiletries donated by the Mother's Union before Christmas were very much appreciated.

Our next "Welcome" occasion will be on 4th July at Elim Pentecostal Church. If anyone would like to join us, please contact Peter Paine on 01704 809517; peterspaine@gmail.com

TIMEOUT

Men, Beer & Topical Issues!



Although due to a clash of dates in the Cricket Club, we had to move to the Bier House, the new venue proved a hit with members and they have decided to stay in the Bier House, complete with 'Ted's Bar'!

We thank Richie Edwards for introducing some perspectives on Brexit and encouraging a lively discussion at our last meeting.

Our next get-together will be on an equally topical subject – FRACKING – when Dr Garth Raybould, a geologist and Reader at Holy Trinity, will introduce “FRACKING – FACT & FICTION.”

The date is Monday 18th June at 8.00 pm

St Stephen's Parish Church, Hightown

Website: StStephensHightown.org.uk

Vacancy for a Part-time Youth Worker

Friday evenings in term-time only from 6.00 pm to 7.30 pm.

3.5 hrs per week. £8.75 per hour, plus expenses.

For further information contact: Revd Jan Ashton 0151 929 3971

Closing date Friday 8th June

Little Fishes Pre-school Group

Every Friday 9:15 am - 11:30 am 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

The dates for Little Fishes are: June 15th, 22nd, 29th



Breakfast Church

Join us at Breakfast Church on Saturday 2nd June at 9 am in the Bier House.



You will be very welcome.



Children start in church (10 am) 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).

Appeal for Shoe Boxes & Greetings Cards - urgent need for empty shoeboxes please (ladies sizes). Please leave them in the porch or church office and I will collect them. Also any used greetings cards you don't mind 'recycling' could you leave them in the box in the porch please? They will be used to make gift tags which we hope to sell to raise money to SEND the Christmas shoeboxes.

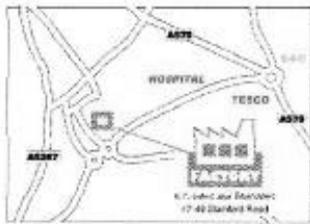
Many thanks, Vicky Hall

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THE GREEN LANE CONSERVATION AREA

The 'Green Lane Conservation Area', with St. Peter's Church in its heart, is Formby's *only* Conservation Area. Yet just how many people in this area actually realise this? It is quite common for people up and down the country to not be aware that they are living in one of the 7,000 or so areas identified as being historically special and protected by their local Council. On Saturday 16th June there will be local activities nationwide as part of 'Civic Day' to raise awareness of these special parts of our local and national heritage: Formby Civic Society, a partner of the national Civic Voice organisation, will do so in Formby and has arranged to put up a display at the Bier House from 10 am till 4 pm on that day, together with a display on Chapel Lane the day before and a children's display at Trinity St Peter School for the week before.

It can be said the entrance to the Area is between the Grapes Hotel and the Embassy Buildings. The Grapes was built in 1880 and was used as an hotel, 'Assembly Rooms,' a bowling green and a running track. The mounting block outside the main entrance reminds us that horses were once the key mode of transport. Opposite is the Embassy Building with its Art Deco façade, originally constructed as a skating rink before being converted into a cinema in 1932 and reverting to an ice rink in the late 1960s. For many years it was also a petrol station and now serves mainly as a retail destination.



May Cottage

We then come to the charming reminders of the district many years ago that are Ivy Cottage (also known as 'Thimble Hall') and May Cottage. The former building dates from 1682 but has been heavily modernised. May Cottage was once three separate homes and dates from the early 17th century and Jacobean times. At number 21 Green Lane is Church Cottage, built in the 18th century with a thatched roof and timber guttering. In former times it was a farm and had a room to house itinerant workers from Ireland at the busiest

times of the year. Number 27 Green Lane stands opposite the church: in the 18th century it was the 'Formby Arms' inn, and in the late 20th century served as the Vicarage following the sale of the Old Rectory that lies just outside the Area.

Right at the heart of the Area lies the Church and churchyard, with which you will all be familiar. Finally, in Paradise Lane are two older buildings: the old St Peter's Boys School, part of which was constructed in the mid-19th century, and the original Girls' School dating from 1849 (to replace the original 1832

foundation with funding provided by Mary Formby). The building is now used very successfully as a Parish Hall, but we can still find some beautiful elements of when it was a school.



In June, the Civic Society will present talks on Formby local history here and you are all very welcome to attend: June 7th ('My Formby' by Joan Rimmer) and 21st ('The Old Cafes on the Shore' by me), both at 2 pm.

What, then, is a 'Conservation Area?' It is 'an area of special architectural or historic interest which has been designated by the local Council to help preserve and enhance its character and appearance'.

There are about 7,000 such areas throughout the country and the aim is to provide some kind of protection to these aspects of British heritage. Local Councils have powers to maintain a watch and control over them, including managed change. For example, minor works that would not normally need planning permission outside a conservation area may need planning permission within one. This can include building demolition, removal of trees, impact on biodiversity, restrictions on advertising and for repairs and maintenance to properties being carried out. There should be no loss or damage to the buildings' character or integrity, and designation of a conservation area aims to give broader protection than just the listing of individual buildings. All the features listed or otherwise, within the area, are recognised as part of its character. Conservation Area designation is our modern society's means of recognising the importance of all these factors and the way we can ensure that planning decisions address the quality of the landscape in its broadest sense.

The Green Lane Area is a small but very beautiful component of our local and national heritage and a real treasure for all our community.

John Phillips

Formby Civic Society

Friday, Saturday & Bank Holiday Mondays

11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Last day on Monday 27th August

in St Luke's Meeting Room, Formby L37 2DF

Tea, coffee, soft drinks, cakes, sandwiches.



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**The Oberammergau Passion Play
and visit to Austria**

22nd - 29th June 2020 with Revd Peter and Mrs Carol
Paine. Arranged through McCabe Pilgrimages.

A visit to the Passion Play which is performed only
every ten years is combined with time among the lakes and mountains of Austria.
We begin with five nights in Austria in a country hotel between the villages of Lofer
and St. Martin and in the vicinity of Salzburg. Then a two night stay in
Oberammergau with top grade tickets for the performance at the end of the holiday.
There will be guided walks and excursions, including a day in Salzburg with a guide,
as well as free time to explore the city and the vicinity of our hotel with an option to
walk on the high pastures using the cable car. There is a limited number of places left
in twin-bedded rooms with our group so an early booking would be appreciated.

Please contact Peter for a full brochure, 01704 809517; peterspaine@gmail.com





ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH **Music Festival**

Saturday 30th June 7.30pm - St Nicholas' Singers

Vivaldi Magnificat - Pergolesi Magnificat

With Baroque orchestra and soloists Danielle Thomas and Clare Griffiths

Sunday 1st July 7.30pm – RSCM Combined Choirs

Rutter - Requiem

Directed by Geoff Williams

Monday 2nd July 7.30pm – Liverpool Male Voice Choir

Directed by Neil Kirkwood

Tuesday 3rd July 7.30pm – Sefton Youth Jazz Orchestra

Directed by Ged Harrison

Wednesday 4th July 4.00pm – St Nicholas School Choirs

Directed by Rachel Cunningham

(free admission)

Wednesday 4th July 7.30pm – Merchant Taylors' Girls School

Choirs, Orchestra and soloists directed by Stephen Newlove

Thursday 5th July 7.30pm – Michael Foy – Organ Recital

Traditional organ music as well as transcriptions of several well known pieces

Friday 6th July 7.30pm – Maghull Wind Orchestra

Directed by Phil Shotton

Saturday 7th July 7.30pm – Chamber Music

Performed by Kirsty Ligertwood, Edwin Paling and Rosalin Lazaroff

ONLY £5 PER CONCERT

Under 16's FREE

*Tickets available from Church, Harmonics Music & Pritchard's
Book or pay on the door*

Bridge Road, Blundellsands. L23 6SA

Reg charity: 1158819

On 16th May we celebrated one hundred years of the Mothers' Union in Formby jointly with Holy Trinity, with whom we were originally joined. The celebration includes the Deanery Festival.

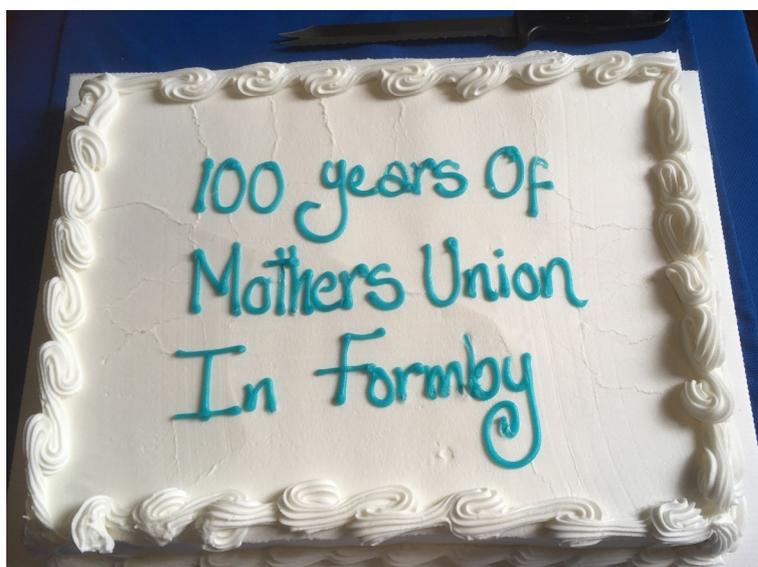
On 26th May members of St Peter's Church were invited to Beverley's annual garden party in aid of the Children's Society at her home in Blundellsands. We will report on these events in the July magazine.

The next event is the cruise on 7th June on the Shropshire Union Canal aboard the L'eau-t Cuisine. Arrangements have been made for travel to Chester by train, mini-bus or car where we meet at the Mill Hotel, opposite where we embark at 11.30 am, and sail first towards Northgate Lock whilst our starter course is served, and then return to the Mill Hotel to collect our main course, which is served while we sail towards the Hoole Lane Lock and beyond. We have been informed that the dress code is 'smart casual' and asked not to wear tee-shirts, shorts or trainers. We hope for sunny sailing.

The season closes with the strawberry tea on Thursday, 5th July, at 2.00 pm in the Bier House. The entrance fee will be £2.00 to include scones, strawberries and cream. There will also be a bring-and-buy, so please bring, and buy, whatever you can, as this event provides us with much needed funds.

All are welcome to join the Mothers' Union - not just mothers! If you are interested, please telephone Eleanor (874112).

Eleanor and Jean



The origins of our MU.

A joint branch of MU was formed by the ladies of Holy Trinity and St Peter's in 1908 and in 1934 this became two separate branches. At some time St Luke's was involved but it seems that their branch did not last terribly long.

We would love to discover more if any one has further information.

Sue Jacques

Mothers' Union celebrate 100 Years in Formby at the Deanery Festival Service in Holy Trinity Church: Revd Anne Taylor, Revd Mark Stanford, Beverley Boden (Deanery President), Bishop Cyril Ashton, Heather Sissons (Holy Trinity MU), Eleanor Gibson (St Peter's MU), Revd Poppy Thorpe and Revd Nathan Thorpe.



Le Tour de Deanerie – Prayer Trail Around Sefton North Deanery. Thank you to all who welcomed visitors to St Peter's as part of Thy Kingdom Come (and fixed bikes with Mr Sheen!). The Prayer Trail was a great success.



#PLEDGE2PRAY



How Time Flies?

A Lady asked me how I manage to fill my time as I am so old! Fill my time? There is never enough of it for me to fill, it just creeps up on me that it is bed time, and I ask myself, "Where has today gone to?"

If you live in Formby, there is so much to do and to fill the days that anyone who is bored is very unfortunate.

I don't get up as early as I used to do when I was working and had my family to feed with a cooked breakfast before we all went to work or school, but whatever time I do get up is always too late, as I have so much to get on with.

I am not a good baker, but really enjoy cooking, so whenever there is something missing from the cupboard I head off to the village for it. There I am bewildered by all the supermarkets and what they have to offer. I see something and think, "I could make such and such a thing with that," and into my trolley it goes. By the time I get home, after gossiping with people I meet in the street or supermarket, it is time for lunch.

What is next on the agenda? I wonder. The garden reaches out to me. The bird feeders need filling, the weeds under the apple tree are sapping the strength of my apples, and the bird bath needs to be cleaned and refilled. It all takes time.

My friends are to be spoken to, if not in person then on the phone and once I am on the phone I never seem to be able to stop talking! I am lucky to have so many friends left at my age, we are few and far between, so it is important to keep in touch regularly to make sure that all is well, and they don't need help in any way.

The garden is a dreadful bully and constantly needs me, as I can't pass a weed. I have lost hours of my time in the garden doing what is not seen by most people, but I know that the weeds have gone.

The embroidery class helps to fill my time once a fortnight, and the Thursday Club fills an afternoon. Church twice a week and the Police Club (my husband was a policeman) also keep me busy, and as I look back on my day I am so grateful that I am well enough to accomplish all that there is to do.

I have a cousin who is very lonely, but there is not a lot to do in a very rural village where he lives, and I feel very sorry for him, but then again, he does not try. He is full of self-pity and I get cross with him, but I think it may be a "man thing," he has always been looked after all his life and now he is alone, he wonders what has hit him. There is nothing to join there and, like me, most of his friends have "gone."

The time comes when many of us are left alone, but we have to "get on with it".

I am never alone, for I have the best friend in the world, my friend Jesus, who is always there to talk to and advise and keep me company when I need Him.

Martha

The 'SATURDAY CREW'

Needs Your Help

Beginning on Saturday 2nd June
10.30 – 12noon at The Bier House



Please join us for fun, cake and coffee while we cover shoeboxes, knit puppets/hats, make and pack gift cards and anything else we need to do!

If you have a 'can do' approach to life and have time to spare on the first Saturday morning of the month please join us as we take on new activities to support projects in our Parish.

Dementia
friendly church

All ages/abilities welcome.

Singing for Fun

All Welcome

Monday 4th June 2 - 3.30 pm
at The Bier House

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

A friendly light-hearted group singing favourites from our past, no special skills required. Coffee and cake Included! Open to all.

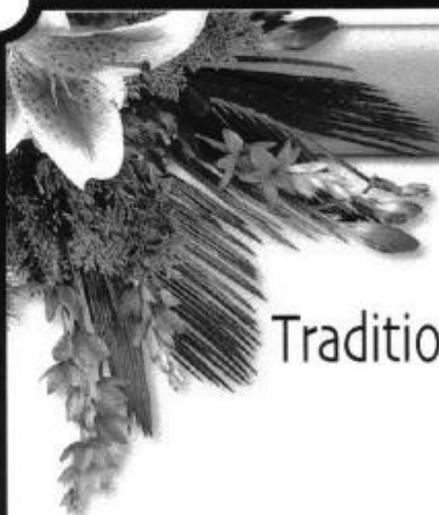
Carers and those living with memory loss especially welcome.

For further information please contact the Parish Office
on 01704 871171 or stpetersformby@gmail.com.

Website: stpetersformby.co.uk

Transport: Formby Circular Bus stops right outside the Church, parking facilities available.

Dementia
friendly church



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Traditional Independent Family Funeral Directors

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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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Kids Bible Wordsearch

Men of the Old Testament
Puzzle #6

Fit the words in the list into the diagram below reading forward, backward, up, down, diagonally, always in a straight line.

AARON
ABEL
ABRAHAM
ADAM
AMOS
CAIN
DANIEL
DAVID
ELIJAH
EZEKIEL
GIDEON
GOLIATH
ISAAC
JACOB



JOB
JOEL
JONAH
JONATHAN
JOSEPH
JOSHUA
LOT
MOSES
NIMROD
NOAH
SAMSON
SAMUEL
SAUL
SOLOMON



"If anyone objects to this union, Tweet now or forever hold your peace."

The Sunday Club leader was describing that when Lot's wife looked back at Sodom she turned into a pillar of salt, when Bobby interrupted. "My mummy looked back once while she was driving," he announced, "and she turned into a telephone pole."

Another Sunday Club said to her children, "We have been learning about how powerful the kings and queens were in Biblical times. But there is a higher power. Who can tell me what it is?" Tommy blurted out, "I know, Aces."

After explaining the commandment to honour your father and mother, a Sunday Club leader asked her group if there was a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters.

One boy, the eldest in his family, immediately answered, "Thou shalt not kill."

Lot again... A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. He read, "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt." His son asked, "What happened to the flea?"



Curate's Bad Joke Corner.....

I knew someone once who was a monorail enthusiast. He had a one track mind.

Our local Catholic church has plans to bring their parishioners to services by bus. They plan to call it mass transit.

If a wolf can take down a deer from either flank, does that make him bambidextrous?

How can you tell when a bucket gets sick? It becomes a little pale.

Keep groaning!





Year 4 visiting St Peter's for their RE lesson with their ipads and grilling the curate about parts of the church. Some super pictures and curiosity from the children. We talked about architecture, key items in churches, symbols, and atmosphere.

Nathan



Ordination

Congratulations to Dr Mark Siddall, son of Archdeacon Arthur Siddall, who will be made Deacon in Bristol Cathedral on 30th June.

Mark will serve in the Draycot Group of Parishes in Wiltshire.

From the Church Registers

Baptisms 6th May

Aria Grace Larsen,
daughter of Rory & Katie

Lucas Turnbull,
son of David & Natalie



James Arthur Jones,
son of Darren & Sarah



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.



From the Back Pew Ted Woods

FEWER CHURCH WEDDINGS IS NOTHING NEW

“Just one in three weddings in England and Wales has a religious ceremony,” stated a report from an Oxford University statistician. It was the smallest proportion recorded since national marriage registration began in 1837.

In church circles many bemoan the fact that fewer and fewer couples are choosing to have a church wedding (for financial as well as spiritual reasons!), but a glance at the history of marriage shows that church weddings weren't always the norm.

In the early days of the church, baptised Christians used the normal civil marriage procedures of the time. They wouldn't have thought of tying the knot by a special church ceremony. Marriage had to do with civil and not church laws. The role of the church and clergy was in the realm of pastoral care and sometimes the blessing of the marriage.

It was only in the 11th and 12th centuries that the church began to take any real jurisdictional and liturgical role. The earliest marriage service we have comes from the early 12th century Bury St. Edmund's Missal.

It was always recognised that the essence of marriage is the free consent of each partner to take each other in marriage. Up to the end of the Middle Ages, provided that a man and a woman accepted each other freely in marriage, they did not need either witnesses nor a blessing by a priest for their marriage to be valid and recognised as such by state and church. Indeed, up to 1753, both formal and informal marriages were celebrated and there was no overall uniformity. It has been estimated that in the middle of the 18th century a third of all marriages were solemnised informally.

When a priest and the church were involved, using one of the liturgies that had been produced, the marriage itself took place at the gate or porch of the church where it would have been a public event, thus preventing secret or clandestine arrangements. This could be followed by a nuptial mass inside the church, though that wasn't essential. In some early rites there was a third stage when the priest blessed the couple's bedchamber! In the Sarum Rite, the priest blessed the marriage chamber “when the bride and groom had gone to bed!”

It was only after the Reformation that Cranmer in his revisions of the Prayer Book put the whole service inside the church.

Informal and clandestine marriages, although legal and valid, led to disputes about inheritance and land and legitimacy of children. So, more and more the formal and recorded marriages in church were preferred.

In the Roman Catholic Church, the Council of Trent in the mid 1500's decreed that

marriages should be celebrated in the presence of a priest and two witnesses in order to be canonically valid in the eyes of that church. The Anglican Church made no such decree. Indeed, Martin Luther at the Reformation declared marriage to be “a worldly thing...that belongs to the realm of government”, and in the 17th century, the Puritans saw marriage as a purely secular matter.

Marriage ceremonies became standardised by the Clandestine Marriage Act of 1753, also known as Hardwicke’s Act (after the Lord Chancellor who promoted the Act), which stipulated that couples had to be married in a church by a minister, preceded by an announcement of their marriage by banns. Of course, the church in which they had to be married was the Established Church of England. The Hardwicke Act only applied to England and Wales, so informal marriages continued in Scotland and Ireland. Jews and Quakers were also exempt from the Act.

In 1836, the Marriage Act allowed marriages to be solemnised in churches other than Anglican, and also in civil settings, e.g. registry offices, by civil registrars.

So, for at least half of its history, the church had no formal, statutory role in marriage, and what in the last century we may have thought was always the case, i.e. weddings in churches, was relatively recent.

On the continent there is a separation of church and civil roles, with that of the church blessing the civil marriage and giving pastoral support.

At present in the Church of England clergy act as civil registrars as well as their religious role. At the General Synod in 2017, the Revd Stephen Trott from Peterborough Diocese introduced a motion to transfer the “ecclesiastical preliminaries,” i.e. the publication of banns and certifying that a couple are free to marry, to civil registrars, telling Synod that administering banns “was fraught with difficulties.” He suggested that clergy should be concerned only with marriage preparation and the service itself, and not the legal role.



But it was not to be. The Ven Cherry Vann, Archdeacon of Rochdale, argued that with 45,000 marriages a year in Anglican churches, the contact with so many couples was too good an opportunity to miss. Nobody seemed to point out that even if the legal preliminaries were done civilly, there would still be plenty of contact with couples wanting a church wedding. Indeed, my Irish experience, where the civil authorities issued licences for all marriages, meant that pre-wedding conversations with couples were more meaningful and expansive when the legalities were handed over to the state.

Maybe the early church had it right!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY JUNE

Friday 1st 2.00 pm Wedding of Stewart Lane & Laura De Matos
 6.30 pm First Friday Eucharist
 Sat 2nd 9.00 am Breakfast Church in the Bier House
 1.15 pm Wedding of Anthony Poole & Jennifer Morris



Sunday 3rd The 1st Sunday after Trinity



10.00 am Sunday Club
 Monday 4th 2.00 pm "Singing For Fun" in the Bier House
 Tuesday 5th 10.00 am Bible Study *with Ken Ward* in Bier House
 Weds 6th 2.00 pm WOW Service
 Thursday 7th 2.00 pm Civic Society Talk with Joan Rimmer in the Old School Room
 Saturday 9th 3.00 pm Ordination to the Priesthood of
 Revd Nathan Thorpe & Revd Poppy Thorpe in Liverpool Cathedral



Sunday 10th The 2nd Sunday of Trinity / St Barnabas the Apostle

10.00 am Nathan's first celebration of the Eucharist.
 Special Preacher, Revd Martin Thorpe
 10.00 am Sunday Club
 Tuesday 12th 10.00 am Bible Study Group *with Ken Ward* in Bier House
 Weds 13th 7.30 pm Bible Study *with Alison Woodhouse* in Bier House
 Friday 15th 9.30-11.30 Little Fishes in the Parish Hall
 Sat 16th 12.30- 5 pm "National Civic Day" Exhibition by the Civic Society in Bier House

Sunday 17th The 3rd Sunday after Trinity

10.00 am All-Age Parade Service & Sunday Club
 12 noon Service of Baptism
 Tuesday 19th 10.00 am Bible Study *with Ken Ward* in Bier House
 Weds 20th 7.30 pm Primetime in the Old School Room, Parish Hall
 Thursday 21st 2.00 pm Civic Society Talk with John Phillips in the Old School Room
 Friday 22nd 9.30-11.30 Little Fishes in the Parish Hall
 Saturday 23rd 2.00 pm Wedding of Michael Ansdell & Harriet Smith



Sunday 24th The 4th Sunday after Trinity

12 noon **Pet Service in Church – for all the family!**
 6.30 pm Service of Wholeness
 Tuesday 26th 10.00 am Bible Study *with Ken Ward* in Bier House
 Weds 27th 7.30 pm Bible Study *with Alison Woodhouse* in Bier House
 7.30 pm Churches Together A.G.M. in St Stephen's Hall, Hightown
 Thursday 28th 2.00 pm Halcyon House Eucharist
 Friday 29th 9.30-11.30 Little Fishes in the Parish Hall
 Saturday 30th 7.30 pm Petertide Organ Concert



Dates for the Diary

Sunday 1st July Patronal Festival 10 am Parish Eucharist with Special Preacher, The Very Revd Mark Boyling followed by refreshments in the Vicarage Garden.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE THEATRE VISIT NATIVITY: THE MUSICAL

The Social Committee is organising a theatre visit to see *Nativity: The Musical* on Friday 2nd November, at 7pm, at the Liverpool Empire.

It is 'feel-good', funny and full of Yuletide joy! Also, it is suitable for the whole family. The cost of a ticket plus transport is £37 per person. If we are to benefit from this price it is necessary to have numbers as soon as possible. A list has been placed in the porch.

If you require any further information, please see Paul McHenry or a member of the Social Committee.



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

Church Flowers

Many people have special days in the year which they commemorate. Flowers on the altar of St Peter's Church can fittingly mark the anniversary of a birth, baptism, confirmation, marriage or death, or may be used as an expression of joy or thanksgiving at any time.



We invite you to remember your family, friends, and other loved ones with a donation towards our Church flowers. Suggested donation is £20.

The occasion would be printed in the Sunday bulletin (if you would prefer not to be included in the bulletin please let us know).

If you would like to make a donation for flowers on a particular Sunday, please put £20 or more in an envelope (cheques made payable to St Peter's PCC) and write details of the special event and date on the envelope.

Please send or hand in to the Parish Office at least 3 weeks before the special date.



Pet Service



Sunday 24th June 2018 at 12 noon

All pets GREAT and small are very welcome

Pets are a very important part of many people's lives and we will gather to give thanks to God for the role they play and the joy they give.

Dogs are trained in lots of different ways from helping the blind, the deaf and the disabled to acting as companions.

All creatures great and small are welcome to attend whether four-footed, two-footed or no-footed!

As the well-known hymn says; All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.'

A service that is for all members of our families!

