

St Peter's Church Magazine

July and August 2018



**Uganda Report Back Evening at 7.30pm on Wednesday
11th July in the Old School Room, in the Parish Hall.**

**All very welcome to join us to hear from the team about the
trip to Kalule as well as the plans for the future.**



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.



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ANNE SKELTON (SECRETARY) @ 01704 877833

OR ALISON GIBBON (CHAIR) @ 01704 870497

OR ANY MEMBER OF THE CHOIR

WWW.SEFTONLADIESCHOIR.ORG.UK

Church Services

Sundays

- 8.00am Holy Communion (1662)
- 10.00am Parish Eucharist (Coffee afterwards)
- 6.30pm Choral Evensong
- Next Service of Wholeness - Sunday 22nd July at 6.30pm

Weekdays

- 9.00am Morning Prayer
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday
- 11.00am Wednesday Eucharist (Coffee afterwards)
- 6.30pm Eucharist 1st Friday of each month
- 9.00am **Breakfast Church** – 1st Saturday of each month

From the Editorial Team

Here is our edition of the magazine for the two months of July and August. I cannot believe the following one will be September's! The summer is rushing by.

We hope you will enjoy the wonderful pictures, our thanks to everyone who has contributed. They are certainly wide-ranging, indeed there is world-wide coverage. Nathan and Poppy's ordinations in Liverpool, the MU's mini-cruise in Chester, Marilyn's visit to Bulgaria and of course, the visit to Uganda. Where will members of St Peter's visit next? We are always happy to have accounts of your adventures to share with our readers.

The annual shoe box appeal has started and Formby provides hundreds of these Christmas gifts for those in real need, each box sends a message that they are not forgotten.

The article on the First World War reminds us that in November we mark the end of that terrible conflict. We will remember them.



Two members of the editorial team have returned from a visit to Swaledale. Not exotic perhaps but stunningly beautiful. The local parish magazine was delivered to the cottage and on the cover it said, where you would expect the price to be, 'Priceless'. We hope you similarly find our efforts 'Priceless' in the best possible way,

Enjoy the summer,

The Editorial Team

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

*Please note the deadline for the September 2018 edition of the magazine is **Friday 20th July 2018.***
Contributions to alisonwhiffing@aol.com please.

Dear Friends,

A lot of this month's magazine is devoted to our parish project – **"Uganda Together We Can"**. This is a first for St Peter's as we commit ourselves to getting alongside and helping another St Peter's – in Kalule, Uganda.

"A lot done, and a lot more to do" would be a good summary of last month's trip.

Among the tasks achieved were:-

3 classrooms redecorated and desks repaired.

Help with learning to knit and planning for the Women's Project.

A new tap and guard provided for the water tank.

A much needed pathway provided outside the junior classroom.

The 3 teachers from our church school spent a lot of time with the teachers and pupils of Kalule.

2 sports days for the children of church and school.

A shoe making/repair project set up and funded for some pupils of the school.

A promise of funding a chicken rearing scheme for teachers and pupils once training on how to care for chickens had been provided.

Lots of fun had with the children playing sport and doing art & crafts which is not included in their curriculum.



But equally important were the friendships made with the community in Kalule – the church, the school and the Women's Project. Alongside the inspirational example and leadership of Revd Sheilagh Williamson the Project Founder.

Initially suspicious at the arrival of 11 "musungus" (white people), their reserve quickly melted as we assured them that we were there to listen and to work with them. Groups of musungus had arrived before to impose their own ideas and then disappear, but we assured them that we would be back, and by the end of our time, after lots of talking, we had, thanks to Pete Hawkins, a 5 year plan!

Evelyn, the Head Teacher on our front cover, went from being sceptical about us at the beginning of our visit to giving us presents and saying “thank you for loving our children”.

There is lots to share, both about last month’s trip and what is planned for the future, so do please come along to our **Parish Report Back Evening at 7.30pm on Wednesday 11th July in the Old School Room, in the Parish Hall.**

The Bishop of Luwero, Eridard Nsubuga, emailed us after our return, “Thank you for all the development that has so far been done that has obviously made a big impact on the community at Kalule....The group is most welcome next May”. Hard work, energy and fun made it a memorable first trip. Thanks to all who made up the St Peter’s Team and to all who supported the project by your prayers, donations and contributions.

There was then an immediate return to life in our own St Peter’s!

We congratulate Nathan & Poppy on their ordination to the priesthood – two days after returning from Uganda! Thanks to the Social Committee for a very great reception in the Parish Hall for their families, friends and parishioners. It was also a great joy for us all as Nathan celebrated for the first time on the Sunday morning. Such a special and moving experience for a newly ordained priest and for us all to share.

By the time you are reading this we will have welcomed back the Very Revd Mark Boyling for the Patronal Festival and have enjoyed the Patronal Organ Concert the evening before.

I know that holidays are looming over the coming weeks but there are a few future dates for your calendars.

This year’s Harvest Festival will be on Sunday 30th September when we will have an Irish bishop! The Rt. Revd Paul Colton is Bishop of Cork and he will preach at the morning All-Age Parade Service and the evening Community Harvest. Both Ted and I are old friends of Paul and his wife, Susan, and we look forward to welcoming them. Paul has local connections for his aunt was a midwife in Southport!

Following on from last year’s “Formby Folk”, the organising committee has been busy preparing “Voices from the Graveyard” for the weekend of 5th & 6th October. This will be a walk around the graveyard to “meet” and hear about some of the “residents” and their interesting and amusing stories.



In the meantime, enjoy your holidays, and we can all come back refreshed and enthusiastic for a new season in September!

Anne

Thank you to everyone who came to the cathedral, to Myra for presenting me, those who arranged the party afterwards, washed up, congratulated us or worshipped on the Sunday with us at St Peter's. It was quite overwhelming - and a brilliant event. Our families and friends have commented how well they were made welcome. It is something we will carry with us throughout our ministries - so thank you all, again!

And also for the beautiful green chasuble from St Peter's!

Nathan



Deanery Confirmation Service
Monday 21st May 2018 at Liverpool Cathedral
Oliver & Jonathan are with Bishop Cyril Ashton

STUDENT PLACEMENT

I am a first year Ordinand with the Liverpool Diocese studying part-time with All Saints College on their three-year Diploma in Theology, Ministry and Mission course. It has just been agreed that I will have the pleasure of coming to St Peter's Church in Formby for my second-year placement, that runs from September until December this year.



I have a great affection for Formby, as when I moved from the North Coast of Scotland to England in 2013, I lived in the town for my first year here. You will have probably rightly guessed that this means the addition of a Scotsman to your existing pool of talent but, unlike Anne and Nathan, I am but a novice so hope that you will make some allowance as I continue to learn all that Ministry entails.

My background over a 26 year period was in Social Work and management of some Community Care services, mainly for Older People, though in the last five years I have worked with two different Church charities, managing the services they provide to their local communities.

I very much look forward to joining you in September, and hope to learn and experience as much as I can about your tradition of worship here at St Peter's.

Gordon MacLeod

The Rotary Club of Formby held a presentation evening to honour one of its founder members, Jim Charnock.

Jim has been a Club member since the club began, 50 years ago. To mark this special achievement, Jim was presented with a certificate signed by the President of Rotary International recognising Jim's long service. He was also presented with a Paul Harris Fellowship Award. This award is the highest award Rotary can give and is given for service above and beyond what is normally expected of a Rotarian.





Much of our identity can be linked to the groups we belong to, or wish to join yet joining a tight-knit organisation can be fulfilling or sometimes it can threaten us or stifle our hopes. Some organisations or institutions demand we surrender to a strict order with stern discipline and submission to authority in everyday life. These enclosed institutions can be joined voluntarily but not always. Perhaps prison is an obvious example of holding involuntary 'inmate'. On entry every item of property is taken from the prisoner, including a wedding ring; institutional clothing and other items linked to an authoritarian regime are issued.. This is similar to the armed forces which are now made up of volunteers; they undergo an induction similar to a prisoner's but they have the chance of leaving the barracks. Entering a monastery can have the same process of surrendering part of one's independence to gain membership and to find a fulfilling life.

At the other end of a continuum from strict self-denial there is the idea of belonging to a loose, free group who have no rules other than allowing others to have no rules. These refuse to accept absolutes in moral codes and react against any attempt for authority to impose demands. There are, of course, several degrees of freedom within this setting.

These two ends of seeking identity and belonging have been used in some ways to see the future of the church. It has been argued that as the church is now a minority organisation under threat from militant atheism it should withdraw into a close group supporting itself and unaffected by external pressure which set out to harm it, a sort of open monastic group accepting recruits and after initiation holding them within a protective wall.

The other future expressed for the church is to see it as an open-ended organisation without declared absolutes in moral codes and sort of muddling through with society's changes. There is, of course, a possible middle way.

The Archbishop of Canterbury in his latest book looks at the question of faith and how we should see a Christian community in a contemporary society, struggling with constantly changing values. He says, "The churches especially, as well as other faith communities, are at the centre of retaining a sense of legitimate diversity of views. The resulting conflict and confusion is healthy for all in society, because it tests assumptions and requires relativism to prove itself against the claims of revelation and against the demands of a vision of life that has teleology, a clear destination. And which is accountable not only in this world but thereafter."

This argument allows us to find ourselves dealing with a fast changing moral maze but how is our identity seen as belonging to a church. The church allows Christians to understand God's grace and to express this in services and service to others. The theologian Karl Barth faced this in Germany before the Nazi government attempted to destroy the independence of their church. He wrote, "Grace is patient. But grace is also stormy. Because it is grace, it will point out and open up new ways to the Church, which dare not cut itself off from walking in these new paths: new ways of seeing and addressing men concretely; new ways of soberly estimating human things in general and also political and social things, fearlessly calling them by name in the contexts".

Rod Jacques



St Luke's Meeting Room, Formby L37 2DF
Friday, Saturday & Bank Holiday Mondays
11am to 4pm
Last day on Monday 27th August
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Primetime



Our summer meetings will be on

Wednesday 18th July at 7.00pm

- a meal out at The Cross House, Three Tuns Lane, Cross Green, Formby L37 4BH. Please let Sonia know by Saturday 14th July if you would like to go.

Wednesday 15th August at 7.30pm

- an evening in the garden..... details tbc

All welcome, bring a friend.

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

Alone - but not lonely!

A recent government report stated that the largest medical condition, larger than cancer and heart disease combined, was the disease of loneliness. Apparently millions of people of all ages, genders and social status are afflicted and this can be a root cause of other medical conditions.



I was reminded of this when I read Martha's excellent article in last month's Parish magazine when she stated *I am never alone for I have the best friend in the World ... Jesus.*

As I looked back over my years in the Ministry, I thought of the people who had encouraged me with similar thoughts. It was as a student at theological college that I was sent as part of my pastoral training to visit a housebound lady living in an attic overlooking a busy street in the centre of Birkenhead. Apart from her carer she had few visitors and in the course of our conversation I asked her if she ever felt alone, confined to this attic. "Young man," she said (which shows how long ago it was), "God was not in the wind nor in the fire but in the still small voice; if I ever feel I am alone, I listen to the still small voice and I know I am not alone".

It is almost sixty years now since I made that visit but I have never forgotten that woman's words.

When I was a vicar in Liverpool, as part of my ministry I used to visit a lady who lived in the middle of a Council estate. Owing to her disabilities she was unable to leave her home but exercised a wonderful ministry of care and prayer in that if she was aware of somebody who was in trouble or just needed a helpful thought she would send them a letter. Even the occupants of 10 Downing Street or Buckingham Palace were recipients of her letters if she felt there was something that needed their attention. Each day she would set time aside for prayer and bible reading, and she told me that she regularly remembered me in her prayers (when did you last pray for our clergy?). One day she was aware of a group of young people causing a nuisance in the street, so instead of complaining she invited them into her home, let them loose in her kitchen and invited them to join her in her living room. She did this on a regular basis and as a result the amount of anti-social behaviour on that estate went down. Incidentally, at no time did any of those young people abuse her hospitality.

When I was a vicar here in Formby, there was a lady with a multitude of medical conditions but who had a sincere and uncomplicated faith in the Lord Jesus. She was such an inspiration that I used to say to my curates, if they ever felt downhearted, "Go and visit Audrey and you will come out rejoicing!"

She too was a woman of prayer and every visit I made had to have a time of prayer; even when the district nurse came to attend, she had to wait while we finished our prayers. Was she ever alone? Yes, frequently. Was she lonely? No, for, as Martha told us last month, she too had the best friend in the World, Jesus, who kept her company whenever she needed Him.

Chris Quine

Pet Service Sunday 24th June

A wonderful turnout for our annual Pet Service - A hamster, a cat, 4 fish, woodlice and lots of dogs - a great celebration of our pets and wildlife. Thank you to all who helped with the lunch afterwards.

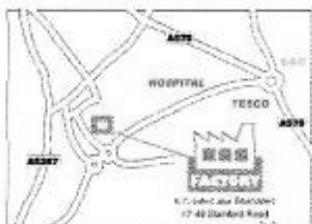


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Welcome to St Peter's, and many thanks to Anne Skarratt, who is helping us with our Shoebox Appeal. This year we are sourcing and covering our own boxes, and we are very grateful to Anne for volunteering to help us with this.

If you fancy covering boxes, making gift tags, or tackling simple knitting projects (we can teach you if you can't knit), please join Anne and Vicky in the Bier House on the first Saturday of the month 10.30am-12noon. Cake and refreshments are provided.



Our new Saturday group met on Saturday 2nd June! Many thanks to those who came along to cover shoeboxes, make gift tags-and eat cake! The group will meet on the first Sat of each month, in the Bier House. **All welcome.**

FORMBY LIBRARY

We have an Afternoon Tea planned **instead** of our coffee morning on Thursday 5th July, 2-4pm.

Our Board games group will now be on Tuesday afternoons, 2-4pm.

We will also have various Beehive related events throughout Spring and Summer including days where volunteers of any age can come to learn about the hive with our resident Beekeeper Andrea.

Please contact the library on 01704 874177 for more information.


Singing for Fun

All Welcome

Monday 2nd July and Monday 6th August

2 - 3.30pm 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

HOLIDAY AT HOME

Sunday 19th August – Sunday 1st September 2018

FOR OLDER PEOPLE IN FORMBY, HIGHTOWN and INCE BLUNDELL

Formby Befriending Scheme and Formby Luncheon Club, in association with Churches Together, are offering a 'Holiday at Home' for older people during the last 2 weeks in August.

Throughout the year, Formby Luncheon Club provides a hot meal and an opportunity for many older people in our community to socialise with other people. However, when it closes for 2 weeks at the end of August, many of those people are left without company and miss out on a hot, nutritious, home cooked meal.

There are many older people who are no longer able to enjoy a 'holiday experience' because of poor health or reduced mobility. The idea of a 'Holiday at Home' is that people can enjoy some of the fun and friendship of a holiday, while returning home to sleep in their own beds each night.

We have put together a 2-week programme of social activities, with support from Churches Together and other local groups. The programme will be available as a printed booklet from Churches, GP Surgeries, Formby Library etc. from 1st July. A variety of events will take place so that, just like on holiday, people can choose what they would like to attend. Many of the activities will provide food and entertainment. Some of the events will require pre-booking.

Transport will be available for less mobile people, and for some trips, but it is essential that this is pre-booked.

For more information, or offers of help, please contact either:

JEAN JONES Tel: 01704 635129

Email: 12jean@sky.com or

WINNIE PICKERING Tel: 07437 479417

Email: winepickering@btinternet.com



**BOOKINGS will be taken 1st – 31st July
by Fiona Wood at Formby Luncheon Club**

Tel: 01704 877311

Email: info.formbycvs@talktalk.net

Appeal for Shoe Boxes & Greeting 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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Interested in learning new skills?

Do you want to make new friends

Looking for new opportunities?

On 16th May we celebrated one hundred years of the Mothers' Union in Formby. Over eighty people joined us for the centenary service in Holy Trinity Church, led by Bishop Cyril Ashton, who gave the address.

On 26th May some of our members attended the garden party in aid of the Children's Society given by our President Beverley Boden in her lovely garden in Blundellsands.

Thursday 7th June was a glorious day, sunny but not too hot, for our sail on the Shropshire Union Canal aboard the L'eau t-Cuisine. We were well shaded as we glided along the canal enjoying an excellent four-course lunch in a comfortable restaurant.



Our next event is the Strawberry Tea on Thursday, 5th July, at 2.00pm in the Bier House. The entry charge will be £2.00 to include strawberries, scones and cream. This will be followed by the twice-yearly bring-and-buy on which we depend for funding, so please bring any spare items you have, and buy what you can. All are welcome to attend.

On Tuesday, 21st August, we are invited to the get-together garden party for the Deanery given by Beverley in her garden at 40 Spinney Crescent, Blundellsands. This is always a happy event in a beautiful garden and we hope a number of our members will be able to attend.



The new season will open on Thursday, 6th September, at 2.00pm in the Bier House when the speaker will be from Rainbow House, Ormskirk, which specialises in helping people with disabilities.

We wish you all a very happy and refreshing summer.

Eleanor and Jean

St Peter's is supporting the on-going development of the village school in Kalule, Uganda in association with the local St Peter's Church.

The school is an Anglican run primary school nearby with around 200 pupils which is in need of painting and refurbishment, together with general repairs needing to be made.

A group from St. Peter's Church and Trinity St. Peters School visited in May 2018, to help with some of the following tasks:

- Paint the school and do necessary repairs.
- Teach the children games.
- Help the teachers.





Before and after.

Easy to make a difference - the team and the pupils - work together.

It is great to provide classrooms that will stimulate learning. Education gives hope.

Ted

Over the short period of time I spent with these ladies I felt I got to know them regardless of the language barriers. This picture was taken on Sunday after church.



What a wonderful way to spend an afternoon, sitting under a mango tree discussing our families, planning how we could help sell their crafts and at times sitting in companionable silence.



I may have taught them how to knit but there was so much more I learnt from them.

Shena





This photo portrays the innocence of children and trust the children and community had in us being with them and their appreciation; also I feel it shows the love and care I think we all felt and taking that small child's hand - for that small moment everything is good!

Donna

Here is the photo I've chosen.

It's my favourite because the children are so engaged and interested. They were all giggling as I made monster noises and loved looking at the pictures. This was whilst we were cleaning books and the children just couldn't wait to be able to read them.

We hadn't even been there half a day and the children were so keen and excited to be a part of what we were doing which made our hard work even more worthwhile!



Sam

When I first arrived at Kalule I immediately noticed how open and friendly the children were, it was no time before they were helping us with our chores. My new friend Jonathan helped me all day mixing cement, collecting sand and carrying tools. In the photo you can see him levelling a new concrete step on which he wrote his name!

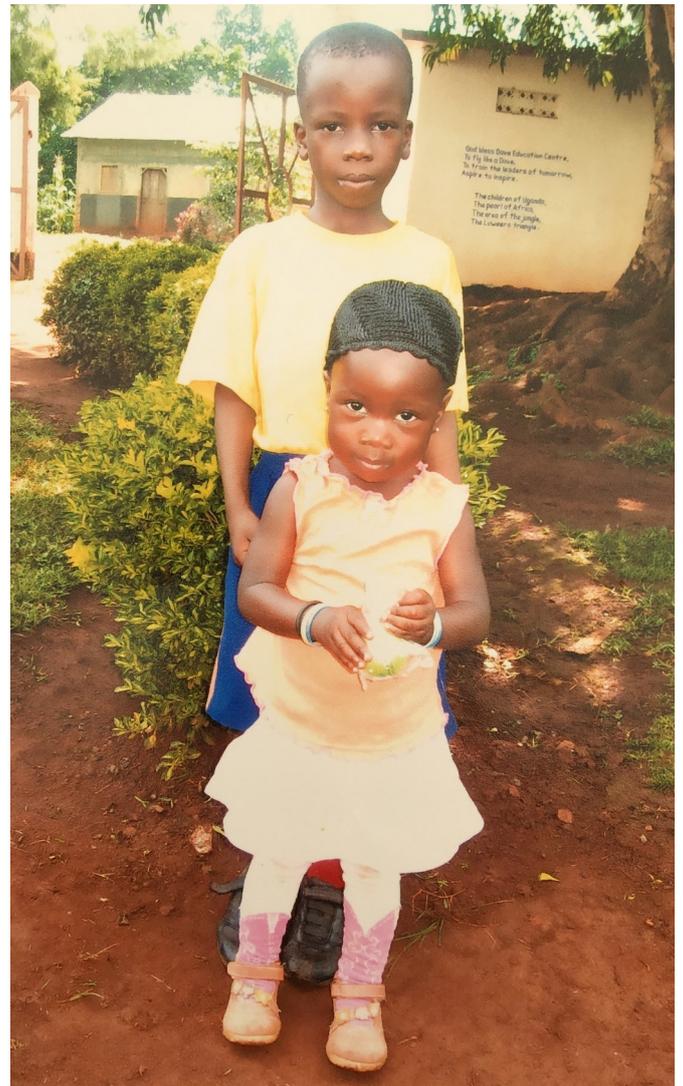
At the end of our visit to Kalule Jonathan gave me a lovely letter which on the envelope he wrote "To love one another is a blessing from God". I think that is a lesson to us all!

These children have so little but they do have love and faith in God, which they share freely.

Steve



Jonathan with his sister Betty.



Sunglasses selfie:

Just a break in the sun, to have some fun. The children in Uganda were fascinated by our accessories and loved taking pictures, or being shown pictures. After several days of being shy, it soon evaporated so that we were able to take this picture - of them pulling off the shades better than me!

Nathan



I've picked this photo because it encapsulates the exceedingly warm welcome we received wherever we went. Upon arriving at this house there was a ribbon cut, confetti thrown, much singing, cheering, clapping and various musical instruments were being played.

Everywhere we went, we were made to feel like long lost family members reuniting rather than strangers meeting for the first time!

Poppy



Every child was delighted with their gift of a pencil case but the greatest gift each child said they received was simply our love we shared with them.

Pete

The joy of giving and receiving is shown in these faces.

Paul

This sums it up for me. The visit made them all so happy and really made a difference.

Sheilagh





It was wonderful to see the creative abilities of the children flourish.

Anne

This picture is my favourite because we look so happy teaching and the children are all engaged and enjoying themselves.

Ella







A Soldier in the Churchyard

I had never heard the name 'Herbert Holme' until a few weeks ago, though probably I had passed his grave when walking through the churchyard. St. Peter's Churchyard is very ably recorded online for parishioners and researchers. As a member of Formby Civic Society I have been involved in various initiatives to mark that war and remember the contributions and sacrifices of the people of our community. I have looked at life in the Home Front and the names on the War Memorial, yet I had never come across Private Herbert Holme 42237 of the 3rd Battalion of the KLR – until one day I saw his name on the welcome page of the 'Merseyside Roll of Honour' website. Each day, the website identifies one person who died and provides some information about them.

That is what is so important when we look back at people from former times, the fact that they were people and not just names or numbers or tales to be told. They had parents, spouses, children, friends; they had lives and jobs and hopes and fears; they lived in a community. They were real people, just like us. In the week that I am writing this, the remains of 2nd Lt. Eric Henderson were laid to rest in Belgium over a century following his death at the Battle of Messines. His remains were discovered by road engineers near Ypres and identified by a silver half crown on his body on which he had engraved his name and regiment. His mother wrote in her diary at the time, "Tread Softly O'er My Beautiful Eric's Grave For A Mother's Love Lies Here."

Herbert Holme died in 1917, yet in WWI the bodies of soldiers who had died at the Front were buried near where they fell. The lovely wooden battlefield cross in the Churchyard is an example of men being buried near to where they fell. That cross, the story of which has been so well researched and recorded by Nick Philpott, stood outside a dressing station in Ginchy, France, after the deaths of the 8 King's (Liverpool) Regiment men named on the metal plaque. Their names are now officially recorded on memorials in France, and the wooden cross was brought over to Formby probably by the family of 2nd Lt. George Thompson though no records exist of the 'how' and 'why' this happened. So, we can reasonably ask how someone who had enlisted in the army should come to be buried in his own churchyard in 1917?

We may not know very much about Herbert Holme, but we can find the answers to these questions. He was a Formby resident during the war but had been born in Roby in 1882 and had five siblings: Thomas, Charles, Rowland, Emily and Albert. His father was a station master at Roby and later an inspector for the tramways in Seaforth, but Herbert went in a different direction. He became a gardener and, as we know, Formby was an ideal employment opportunity for young gardeners. He found lodgings at 4

Rimmer's Avenue with John Jackson, a professional golfer. By the time that he was 29 he had met Esther Gardner of Willow Grove and they married at St. Peter's in April 1911. They lived at 21 Old Mill Lane, and Herbert enlisted in 1915. However, he was not physically in good shape and was never posted abroad to active service. On 6th March 1917, he was discharged from the army as 'physically unfit': he was suffering from a heart condition that was not associated with military service. He had had pleurisy when he was 21 and began to suffer shortage of breath afterwards. The medical report stated that, "His general condition is good but he has a distinct mitral pansystolic murmur". His general condition may have appeared to be good, but it was not really. Only a fortnight later, he died and was laid to rest in the churchyard.

Just a few months after Herbert's death, Esther gave birth to their only child, Thomas. She eventually re-married and lived to be 86. On the 24th July 1941, their 23-year-old son Sergeant Hebert Thomas Holme 966817 of 50 Squadron, RAF Volunteer Reserve, lost his life off the Norfolk Coast whilst returning from action in Frankfurt.

If you use the church website you will easily locate the official war grave of Herbert Holme, who volunteered but never saw action and whose son lost his life for his country in WWII.

John Phillips
Formby Civic Society



Memorial stone NCYDOY 19

Would You Like To Help at Baptisms, Weddings or Funerals?

We have a terrific team of vergers who help at these services.

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But we could do with a few more to help as vergers.

Would you be interested in joining a rota to help at these special services?

Full training guaranteed! You can join all three rotas or just one or two.

All help will be very much appreciated.

Please let the Vicar, Curate or the Parish Office know you are interested.

BULGARIA TRIP

I had not given Bulgaria much thought prior to reading Peter Paine's little introduction to his proposed tour in the St Peter's Parish Magazine last year. I thought this could be a very interesting trip and indeed it was, and far more fascinating than I and other's had expected. Bulgaria is slightly smaller than England and is surrounded by Romania, Turkey, Greece, Macedonia and Serbia, and not forgetting the Black Sea. The landscape is very varied, ranging from agricultural plains (including fields of roses) to lovely coastal scenery and chains of mountains with true wilderness inhabited by wolves and bears (no, we didn't see any of those although two of our party had an encounter with a scary snake).



Sixteen of us, led by Peter and Carol set out at the end of April for our very varied 12-day tour. We had three city tours, the current capital Sofia with its magnificent St Alexander Nevski Cathedral. We were intrigued by the icon of a local saint in her national dress in the Church of St Sofia. Veliko Turnova used to be the capital in the Middle Ages and is situated on a hillside with its impressive fortress and lovely old houses. It was near here that we enjoyed a meal at a local family's home with traditional food and homemade wine. Plovdiv was settled by Thracians in the 5th Century BC and was then overrun by the Romans, followed by various other nations. It is particularly noted for its Roman remains and I was struck by the way the Roman stadium had been preserved in the centre of the main shopping area.

Amongst the most memorable sites we visited were those of three amazing monasteries, the most outstanding of which was the Rila Monastery which is tucked away in a valley in the Rila Mountains. All the monasteries featured churches with very ornate iconostases and frescos; not only inside but outside as well, under porches and canopies. Being a retired librarian, I was pleased to have the opportunity there to have a short visit to the library and meet the librarian.

We were able to visit various other historic churches and a couple of Mosques including a beautiful mosque in Plovdiv. We even saw a replica Thracian tomb with lovely wall paintings inside; the original now is sealed off to preserve it.

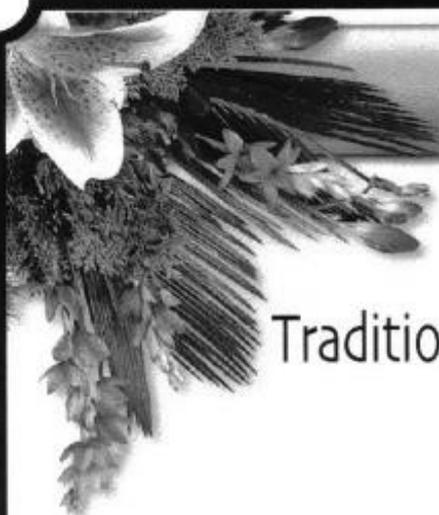
We were not looking at historic buildings all the time as we were able to enjoy the countryside, not only from the coach as we travelled along, but we also got out and about in the open air. We were blessed with very warm sunny weather and were able to appreciate the lovely green countryside with its beautiful array of flowering trees and shrubs everywhere as well as displays in gardens of irises and other colourful flowers. A trip to an interesting bird reserve one afternoon was appreciated and also a tranquil boat ride we had through a nature reserve on the Ropotama River where we saw wild tortoises and a deer.

A rather more energetic visit was up quite a lot of steps to see the 8th century Madara Horseman. This is a rock relief which features on Bulgarian currency. Some of us were rather gluttons for punishment as we then climbed a very steep, stony path up the cliff to see an 8th century Bulgar fortress on top. You couldn't keep us away from interesting historical sites, beside which, the view from the top was super. I'm glad the view at the top was so good as I needed to sit and get my breath back!

We were able to have fellowship together (Compline and Holy Communion) some evenings and it was good to be able to attend part of a service in Blagovestie church in Bourgas (their services are very long). There were 5 of us from St Peter's and it was good also to meet people from other churches as well. We really appreciated Peter and Carol's input into this wonderful trip and I look forward to the next one.

Marilyn Siddons-Smith





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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**

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Curate's Bad Joke Corner.....

- He was simply the best scarecrow ever. He truly was out standing in his field.
- Two armed robbers raided a bank yesterday, only to find the vaults empty - except for one root vegetable in the middle of the room. That certainly was a turnip for the crooks.
- I had a very nervous guitar playing friend. He was always fretting about something.
- What kind of aftershave do genetic scientists wear? Eau de clone.
- There was a ghost at the hotel, so they called for an inn spectre.
- Whether it's a pancake or a cricket team, the secret is to start with a good batter.
- I was offered a job making venetian blinds, but I turned it down, because it sounded like a shady business.



Keep groaning!

Peter's Confession of Christ

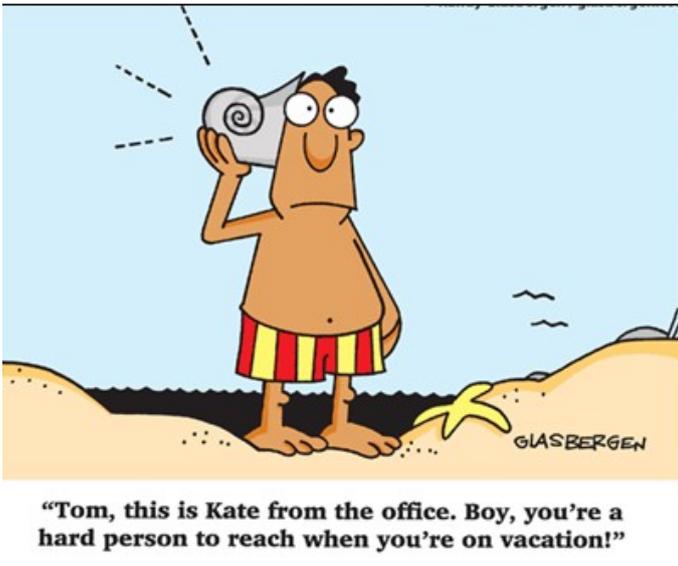
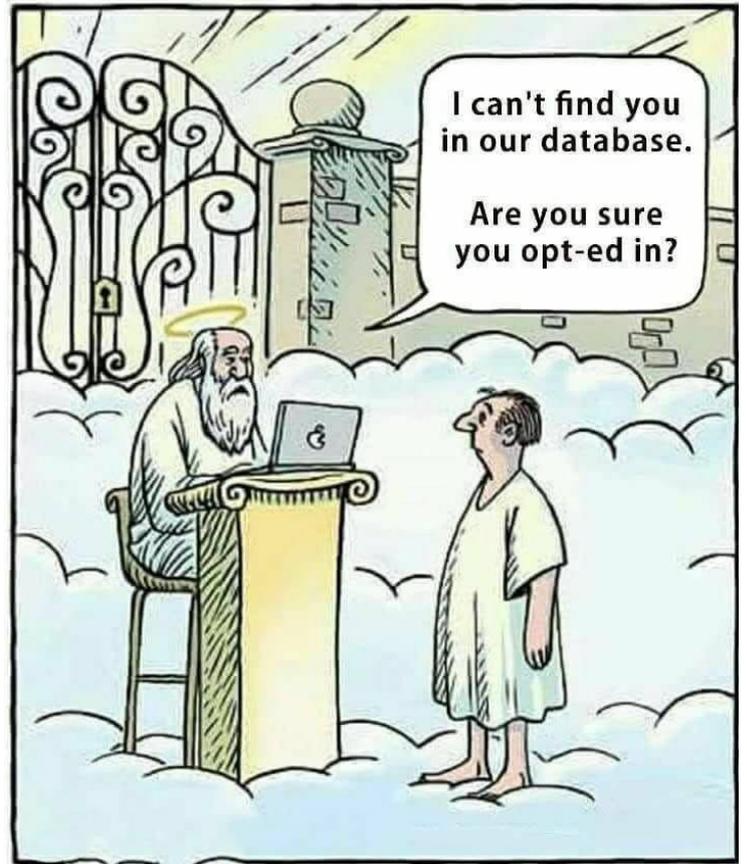
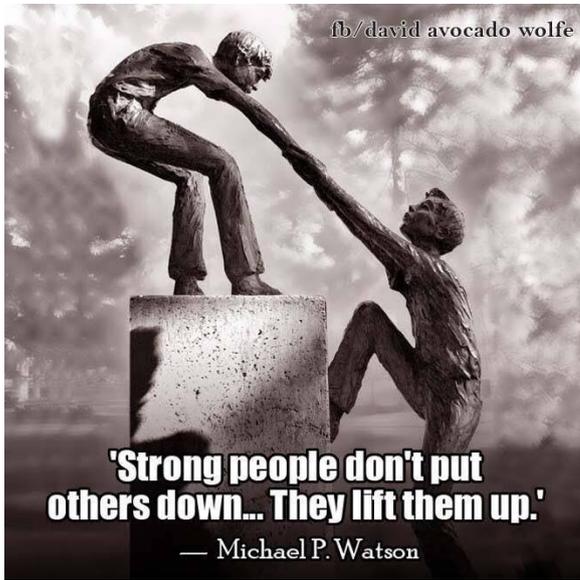
"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Matthew 16:15 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 16:13-20 (NIV)



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

| | | | | |
|---------|---------|--------|----------|----------|
| CHRIST | EARTH | SON | PROPHETS | PEOPLE |
| BLESSED | KINGDOM | CHURCH | GATES | BAPTIST |
| LIVING | ROCK | FATHER | HADES | ELIJAH |
| JOHN | HEAVEN | PETER | KEYS | JEREMIAH |



DIETER'S PSALM

Strict is my diet, I must not want.
It maketh me to lie down at night hungry;
It leadeth me past the refrigerator; it trieth my will power.
It leadeth me in the paths of starvation, for my figure's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the aisles of pastries,
I will buy no chocolate éclairs, for they are fattening.
The cakes and pies they tempt me.
Before me is a table set with green beans and lettuce.
It filleth my stomach with liquids;
My day's quota runneth over.
Surely, calories and weight charts will follow me all the days of my life
and I will dwell in the fear of the scales forever!

From the Church Registers

Baptisms

Sunday 17th June

Gracie Rose Denise Rimmer,
daughter of Gerard &
Catherine.



John Anthony Elcombe, son of
John & Alison. Pictured with
Great-Granny Hilda and Great-
Grandad Derek.



Golden Wedding Anniversary

David and Pip
Manning-Fox

Married 27th July 1968
Christ Church, Woking

50 years of love and
laughter



From the Church Registers Weddings

Friday 1st June
Stewart Lane & Laura De Matos



Saturday 2nd June
Anthony Poole & Jennifer Morris



Saturday 23rd June
Michael Ansdell & Harriet Smith

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



JULY

Sunday 1st

10.00am Patronal Festival
Patronal Festival with The Very Revd Mark Boyling followed by refreshments in the Vicarage Garden.

Mon

2nd

10.00am
7.30pm

Sunday Club
PCC in the Bier House

Thurs

5th

2.00pm

Mothers' Union Strawberry Tea in the Bier House

Friday

6th

9.15-11.30

Little Fishes in the Parish Hall

1.00pm

Wedding of Adam Baker & Shona Stanley

6.30pm

First Friday Eucharist

Sat

7th

9.00am

Breakfast Church

10.30-12noon

Saturday Crew in the Bier House

2.00pm

Wedding of Ray Corish & Carolyn Parry



Sunday 8th

10.00am

The 6th Sunday after Trinity

Sunday Club



12 noon

Service of Baptism

Tues

10th

7.30pm

9th Formby Scout AGM & BBQ in the Parish Hall

Weds

11th

7.30pm

Uganda Feedback Meeting in the Parish Hall

Friday

13th

9.15-11.30

Little Fishes in the Parish Hall



Sunday 15th

1.00pm

The 7th Sunday after Trinity

Wedding of Matthew Bateson & Amy Warner

Weds

18th

2.00pm

W.O.W – pre-school & Reception Service

7.30pm

Bible Study with Alison Woodhouse in Bier House

7.30pm

Primetime

Thurs

19th

6.00pm

Trinity St Peter's School Leavers Service in Holy Trinity Church



Friday

20th

9.30-11.30

Little Fishes in the Parish Hall – finishing for the summer

Sat

21st

2.00pm

A Service of Blessing for the Marriage of Warren & Sayuri Evison

Sunday 22nd

6.30pm

The 8th Sunday after Trinity / St Mary Magdalene

Service of Wholeness

Weds

25th

7.30pm

Bible Study with Alison Woodhouse in Bier House

Thurs

26th

2.00pm

Halcyon House Eucharist

3.30pm

Woodlands Lodge Nursing Home Eucharist

Sat

28th

1.30pm

Wedding of Jack Osborne & Sian Williams

Sunday 29th

The 9th Sunday after Trinity

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.

AUGUST



Friday 3rd 6.30pm First Friday Eucharist
 Sat 4th 9.00am Breakfast Church
 10.30-12noon Saturday Crew in the Bier House

Sunday 5th 12noon **The 10th Sunday after Trinity**
 Service of Baptism
 Tues 7th 10.00am Bible Study Group *with Ken Ward* in Bier House
 Weds 8th 7.30pm Bible Study *with Alison Woodhouse* in Bier House

Sunday 12th **The 11th Sunday after Trinity**
 Tues 14th 10.00am Bible Study *with Ken Ward* in Bier House
 Weds 15th 7.30pm Primetime



Sunday 19th **The 12th Sunday after Trinity**
 12 noon Service of Baptism
 Tues 21st 10.00am Bible Study *with Ken Ward* in Bier House
 Weds 22nd 7.30pm Bible Study *with Alison Woodhouse* in Bier House

Sunday 26th **The 13th Sunday after Trinity**
 Tues 28th 10.00am Bible Study *with Ken Ward* in Bier House
 Thursday 30th 2.00pm Halcyon House Eucharist
 3.30pm Woodlands Lodge Nursing Home Eucharist

SEPTEMBER DATES TO NOTE

Saturday 1st 9.00am Breakfast Church
 Sunday 2nd 6.30pm Service of Wholeness
 Wednesday 12th 7.30pm Bible Study Autumn term begins *with Alison Woodhouse* in Bier House
 Saturday 22ⁿ 7.30pm St Peter's & Friend's Choir Concert

From the Church Registers

Funerals

May 31st Kenneth Dumbell
 June 1st Leslie Weaver
 June 12th Geoffrey Dickinson
 June 18th Edward (Eddie) McLachlan

Interment of Ashes 13th June Jennifer Hall





A wonderful weekend!

Nathan's Ordination to the Priesthood in Liverpool Cathedral on Saturday 9th June was followed by refreshments in the Parish Hall.

Sunday 10th June was his first Eucharist celebration in St Peter's.



On behalf of the parish we presented him with a green chasuble to mark this special occasion.

