

St Peter's Church  
Magazine

April 2020



Please note the deadline for the May 2020 edition of the magazine is **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2020**. Contributions to [alisonwhiffing@aol.com](mailto:alisonwhiffing@aol.com)

Recent reports in the national newspapers stated that the demand for food banks is as great as ever. So much so that food banks are reporting shortages of certain items including long-life milk, rice, tinned vegetables and meat as well as other basic food items. They also are pleased to receive toiletries and nappies.



The shortage problem may be associated with a tendency to stockpile food as a consequence of the recent coronavirus outbreak, plus the usual collection points are not all available.

Whatever the reason, it is important that we remember those less fortunate than ourselves.

Many thanks for all your support in the past.



Donations can be left in the box in St Peter's Church porch which is open each day from 10am to 5pm. Outside those times you may also leave donations on the vicarage doorstep on Cricket Path.

Of course if you are self-isolating this is not possible but for those out for a walk you might consider leaving an item in the box. Thank you – any help is appreciated.

**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 [office@stpetersformby.co.uk](mailto:office@stpetersformby.co.uk).

This is a way to help us keep in touch.

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



### Churches Together are on Facebook

Look for Churches Together in Formby, Altcar and Hightown to keep up with all the events.



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.

## *Dear Friends,*

We are living in and through strange and difficult times which are putting a strain on people of all ages. Some of you are self-isolating, or being confined to your homes for 12 weeks. All of us are conscious of abiding by the Government's advice of keeping our hands washed and observing social distancing, and not congregating in groups.



It can be particularly difficult for those living alone, for grandparents not being able to care physically for their grandchildren and vice versa, and for family members not living at home to have to keep physically isolated from parents and friends.

But, thank goodness for phones and the internet! We would encourage everyone to keep in touch this way, not only with our families, but also with those we know who live alone and may be particularly vulnerable or lonely. At times of crisis we see so much good in people and we thank everyone who has reached out to help others. I thank the amazing team who delivered our Mothering Sunday plants. We have had so many phone calls and emails saying how much they were appreciated. Our building may be closed but the church is alive.

We are using our parish website ([www.stpetersformby.co.uk](http://www.stpetersformby.co.uk)) to offer you **Worship at Home**. There is a form of service each Sunday and also the sermon that would have been preached that day. There are also some hymn links to click on. For the children there is a **Sunday Club at Home** page with a story and activities.

We recognise the heroic work that is being done by doctors, nurses, scientists, pharmacists and community volunteers, and by all who are keeping essential stores open.

I would like to emphasise that Nathan and I are willing to help in whatever way we can and we also have a list of volunteers willing to chat or shop. Please do not hesitate to contact us. You can be assured that you are all in our thoughts and prayers at this stressful time.

Advice changes from day to day. All churches have been asked to close for all services, including weddings. We have now been instructed to close for private prayer and also for funerals which, reluctantly, I have to accept. As clergy we will conduct funeral services at both crematoria and gravesides. Only ten people are allowed to attend the Sefton crematoria. However, I suggest that when all this is over, we can hold thanksgiving services when friends and family can gather to celebrate and remember the

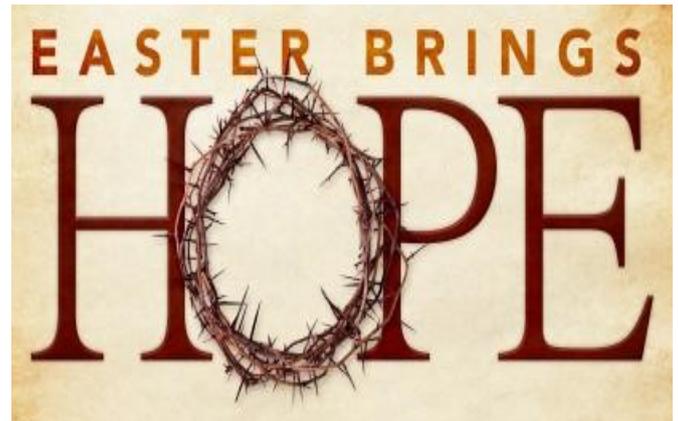
passing of a loved one.

It is said that seven days without prayer makes one weak! So we have included in this magazine a centre page for daily prayer based on the acronym **PRAY** with readings and intercessions. I hope that you will find this useful – and strengthening.

Holy Week and Easter will be very different this year. There is something very moving about meeting in church each evening of Holy Week to wait and watch with Christ in his passion, death and resurrection. We will use the parish website and Facebook for a daily reflection in Holy Week.

I appreciate that not everyone uses a computer and if you would like the weekly service or Holy week reflections posted to you please let me know and I will happily organise it.

Although we can't gather in church or even outside to celebrate Easter, let us remember and take to heart the Easter message of Hope.



Someone once described Christian hope as “intelligent optimism” – not whistling in the dark full of fear and dread and thinking the worst, but an intelligent optimism because we know that Jesus overcame the terrors of Good Friday and rose from the dead on Easter morning, is alive for evermore, and promises to be with us whatever the situation or circumstances we have to face. His arms, open wide on the cross, embrace us all.

As Christians we are not promised a trouble-free life or world. But hope is about finding inner resources and strength because we know we don't have to face them alone, but with the presence of the risen Jesus who dwells in our hearts through the Holy Spirit.



We have erected our Easter Garden early this year and moved its location to nearer the gate of the church so that all who pass by on their daily exercise may see it as a sign of Christian hope. Our doors may be shut but the tomb that held Jesus is open!

G.K. Chesterton once wrote, "As long as matters are really hopeful, hope is a platitude. It is only when everything is hopeless that hope begins to be a strength at all...Like all the Christian virtues it is as unreasonable as it is indispensable."

Our Lent series, which ironically was about experiencing God's love in difficult times, had to be cut short halfway through, but in her session Alison Woodhouse used this poem:-

God didn't promise days  
without PAIN, laughter  
without SORROW, nor  
sun without RAIN.



*But He did promise*  
STRENGTH for the day,  
COMFORT for the tears,  
and LIGHT for the way.

Everybody has had plans changed and disrupted because of the virus outbreak and that of course includes Nathan who is due to be licensed as Vicar of St Giles, Aintree in May. This will go ahead but it will only be Nathan and the Bishop rather than a public service. When the threat of the virus has passed two public services of celebration will happen, firstly, he will be installed as Vicar in St Giles and, secondly, we will have Nathan back to St Peter's to give him a proper send off. We have started a collection for his leaving gift and there will be time to contribute in the coming months. And our congratulations to Poppy who has been appointed Vicar of The Church of the Good Shepherd, West Derby.

You are all in my thoughts and prayers at this very difficult time and please do not hesitate to get in touch.

*Anne*

Phone Numbers

Vicar 872824, Curate 461841, Parish Office 871171

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St Peter's Parish website [www.stpetersformby.co.uk](http://www.stpetersformby.co.uk)

# Bishop's Easter Letter

## Let's catch and share love and joy this Easter

The Bible tells us that perfect love casts out fear, "for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love." (1 John 4:18). At a time of world-wide fear, when the spread of the Coronavirus is testing relationships between nations as well as between individuals, Christians have a responsibility to look to life and to choose life.

This can have very simple consequences, as we ask God for the grace to make a difference in the world. Our mood can really shape us and how we interact with each other. Mood is infectious and contagious, our happiness can help others shine; sadness can cast a shadow over us all.

The Easter story takes us on a journey through many emotions, rooted in fear and rooted in love. We have the thrilling, loud and triumphant entry into Jerusalem, we have the quiet and agonised reflections of Jesus with his disciples, the fearful atmosphere of the betrayal and trial of Jesus and the overpowering grief when Jesus is crucified.

But then comes the decisive moment. We see the revelation of the empty tomb and the joy of the disciples knowing in their hearts and seeing with their eyes the perfect love that casts out fear. Jesus had risen; Jesus is risen. The joy that spread through Jesus's followers and through the world over centuries becomes the central message of hope that Christianity offers the world. And it's a hope that shines most brightly in times of fear.

It's a hope founded in the knowledge that each and every one of us is seen by God as uniquely and wonderfully made. The hope that no matter who we are, what our background is, we are welcome to the table of the Lord, where we are abundantly provided for in life and in death. That we are loved without condition.

One of my favourite lines in the liturgy is the resounding message of joy we offer congregations from Easter to Pentecost. Alleluia, Christ is Risen. We share the Church's confident cry of joy. We celebrate that through all the struggle and strife, fear and anxiety God is good. We remember that God is victorious and that we and all the world can share in the love God gives so freely and so generously.

As we ask God to make the difference in the world through us, then part of God's answer to our prayers will be the strength and motivation to show that difference to the world in the way we live. As you know, in our Diocese we are asking God for a bigger church to make a bigger difference, and we say "more people knowing Jesus, more justice in the world."

With this in mind we constantly encourage one another - as difference-makers we encourage one another to "do ten things" that will show and share God's love. It's why we follow our Rule of Life with its inner and outer journeys. When we have received food from God through our prayer, our reading and learning then we are sent to tell, serve and give so that more and more people may know what it means to live in the knowledge that Christ has risen.

As I write this we are rightly being encouraged to follow medical and scientific advice on the Coronavirus. Some of this advice is to distance and isolate ourselves from one another, if by doing so we can keep this illness away from those who are most vulnerable. That is of course a sane and sensible response. But it is also a response that can inevitably leave the vulnerable feeling alone and unloved. As a community of people who gather together around our Lord when we can, this challenges us in the Diocese to find other ways to look at how we share the love of Jesus. Using technology - from a simple phone call to messages of love and solidarity on social media - let's look at how we can daily show the love that casts out fear.

Epidemics have come and gone in the past, and they have brought the best and the worst out of human beings and human society. As we move towards Easter, may we all commit ourselves to sharing in the life that conquered suffering and death - the risen life of Jesus which we celebrate at Easter and seek to share at all times. May God bless you with courage, health and hope, and with the resurrection life which nothing can defeat. Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
Bishop Paul Bayes



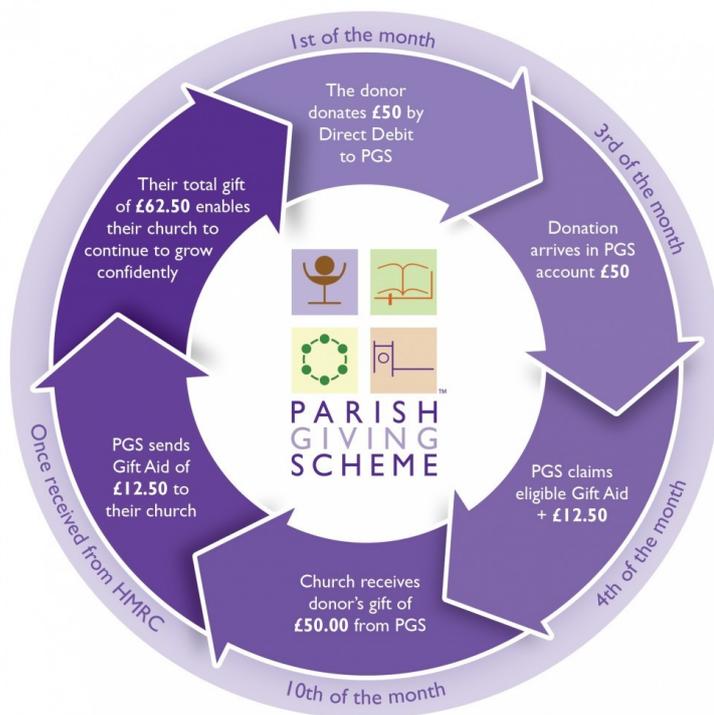
# Have you ever thought of a regular donation to the church?

St Peter's has been a member of the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) since March 2015. Around two thirds of the current members of our stewardship scheme donate their gifts via PGS.



We are sure you are well aware of the financial pressures on the church, and how your gifts help towards the delivery of our mission and ministry. The PGS is an answer to our prayers because it simplifies the process, addresses static levels of giving and reduces our administration work.

Joining the PGS involves setting up a direct debit to replace your existing method of giving. Regular donations from supporters help us plan much more effectively for what we will and what we won't be able to afford in the future. In addition, if you are a UK taxpayer, setting up a direct debit to the PGS means that they can reclaim the tax you paid on your income within just a few days and get it back to us. This greatly helps our cash-flow situation.



Quite simply your gift is given on the 1st of the month and by the 10th of the month the gift, complete with Gift Aid where applicable, is sent directly to our church bank account. Gifts can be monthly, quarterly or annually.

You can leave the scheme at any point or change the size of your gift just by contacting the PGS team by post, telephone or email. Your gift, with your permission, can be automatically increased annually in line with inflation.

You also have the option to give your gift anonymously although we would prefer you NOT to tick the box to remain anonymous in order that your Stewardship Team can potentially communicate with you.

The PGS scheme has now been rolled out in 28 Dioceses across the Church of England and in 70% of churches in the Liverpool Diocese. There is a small information pack in the porch which points to the next step if you wish to join the scheme.

Please do get in contact if you have further questions by email, by text or by telephone.

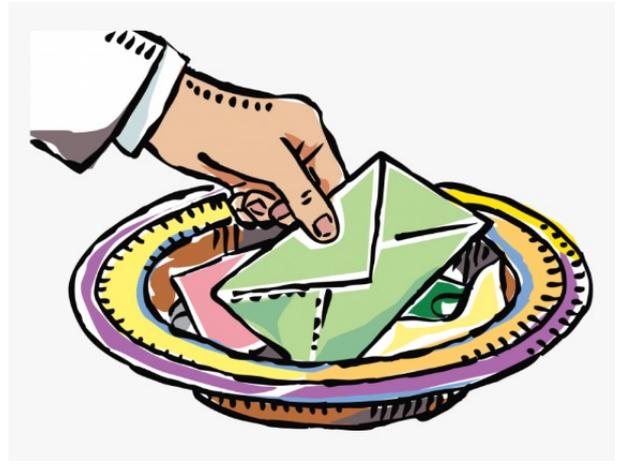
**Caroline Speakman and Mike Fletcher**  
**Stewardship Team**

Email: [stewardshipstpeter@gmail.com](mailto:stewardshipstpeter@gmail.com)  
Mobile: 07808 310834

# Church Collection

With church services cancelled and hall rentals stopped the income of all the churches has dropped significantly.

We are very fortunate in St Peter's that so many joined the Parish Giving Scheme but we are still losing rental and envelope income.



If anyone who usually use the yellow or brown envelopes or put cash on the plate would like to send a donation this can be done by cheque made out to 'St Peter's PCC' and posted to St Peter's Parish Office, Parish Hall, Paradise Lane, Formby L37 7EH – or put through the Vicarage door.

If you want the parish account number to do this electronically please email the Parish Office for the details [office@stpetersformby.co.uk](mailto:office@stpetersformby.co.uk). Many thanks.

At the first branch meeting of the MU year on 5<sup>th</sup> March Colin Adams, Professor of Ancient History at Liverpool University, gave a fascinating talk on Ancient Egypt. He covered roughly the first 300 years BC following the conquest of Egypt by Alexander, the rule of the Ptolemy's and then the Roman occupation.



Colin has researched the 'dustbins' of history, the letters of ordinary people to children, wives, parents, friends that have been discovered, preserved on the papyrus on which they were written. He showed letters following life from birth to death. People's concerns were remarkably similar to our own, pregnancy, a father telling his wife that when he receives his pay he will send money to his family, a teenager writing to his father that if not taken on a journey he will never speak to him again, a friend mourning a death - though today a letter from husband to pregnant wife would be unlikely to include an instruction to look after a male child but if female to cast it out!

We will need to wait and see when it will be safe to hold our meetings again. Certainly the April, May and June events will be cancelled.

Wishing you all joy at Easter and renewal of faith, hope and courage in meeting the perils now facing the World. We pray that all our members stay safe and encourage you to contact the Clergy or Parish Office if you need help.

***Herbert and Jean***



## Street Pastors at Southport

*I attended a talk given by a member of the Street Pastors at Southport and was impressed by their work and dedication. I asked the speaker to send me a short note of their work. Rod Jacques.*

A street pastor is a volunteer who cares for, listens to and helps other people, particularly in the night-time environment, in busy areas where people are drinking, partying and moving between pubs and clubs.

We are a group of people from different backgrounds, different churches, different life experiences. But we share a heart for our local community and the people that are a part of that community.

We care. We listen. We help.

Because we care, we want to walk amongst people on their night out, listening to their stories, sharing in whatever part of their life they want to talk about.

But...sometimes a night out doesn't always go to plan, and we're there to help anyone who is vulnerable, hurting, lonely, sad, drunk or just generally having a bad time for whatever reason.

Because we have received the love of Christ, we want to show that love and care for others. One act leads to another. SP is a story of small gestures. People see us helping someone and then they ask how they too can be of help. Everyone has a story to tell and it's important that people are listened to.

These are the Street Pastors: caring; listening; helping.

And this is the church in action – taking its faith on the streets.

**A few random quotes from Les Isaac's book** describing his work as founder.

'Knowledge comes when we get out and explore the wider community in which we live.'

'A street pastor is someone who is able and willing to build bridges between individuals in times of conflict or need.'

'Street Pastors are a fixture on the night-time high street: friendly faces and a reassuring presence, defusing tension and helping people get home safely.'

## Questions a Vicar Gets Asked!!

**Question – ‘Why is 20 + C + M + B + 20  
Written in chalk on the Bier House wall?’**

I was asked recently about the mysterious series of letters and numbers on the Bier House wall. It looks like an equation inscribed in chalk.



Epiphany marks the occasion of a Christian tradition of “chalking the doors.” For 2020 it is: **20 + C + M + B + 20.**

The letters have two meanings. First, they represent the initials of the Magi - Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar - who came to visit Jesus. They also abbreviate the Latin phrase, *Christus mansionem benedicat*: “May Christ bless the house.” The “+” signs represent the cross, and the “20” at the beginning and the “20” at the end mark the year. Taken together, this inscription is performed as a request for Christ to bless the building and all who use it throughout the entire year. Most commonly, it is performed on the traditional Feast of the Epiphany — the Twelfth Day of Christmas.

## *A.P.C.M. & Electoral Roll*

After Easter signals the time for the parish to hold the Annual Parochial Church Meeting which is basically our A.G.M. New Church Rules say that this meeting must happen during April or May but of course recent events have put everything on hold. The Bishop has the authority to postpone the APCM and it is likely that it will happen in October.



The Electoral Roll is the basic list in every parish of all those entitled to vote on elections within the Church of England. Those entitled to have their names on this roll have to be 16 years of age or more and they must reside in the relevant parish or be regular worshippers in church whose roll they wish to join. Forms will be available to join the Roll once services have started again.

The AGM is important because it's an exercise in democracy in the church. The parish is not about 'them'; rather it's about 'us.' Everyone has a say in the life of the parish. So that is something to look forward to in the autumn!

**Revd Anne Taylor**

# Objects

There is a vogue at present to write history by using objects to illustrate an event or culture. Regimental colours which had been carried at the battle of Laing's Nek during the Boer War were still being paraded in the 1960's. The colours carried the history of a regiment, its emblems and listed its battle honours, they were a rallying cry that held troops together and were a measure of the culture of the regiment. In the late 60's the colours were laid up and new ones issued due to the amalgamation of regiments.

Some objects are easy to see as a sign of a time or event such as a First World War helmet, and it would be easy to elaborate about that war. Some objects are so common that they do not warrant special status. One example could be a garden fence panel. In this country it signifies a boundary, possibly a healthy approach to neighbourliness, but it could also be a symbol of cutting oneself off from neighbours.



Neil MacGregor has written several well received books using objects as a way of looking at history and culture. His latest, "Living with the Gods," considers how a range of religions have used objects. He looks at Christian images and considers artefacts and paintings as an important help to understanding faith.

One which he does not mention, conveying a deeply significant aspect of Christ's passion, is a picture by Hieronymus Bosch called the "Crowning with Thorns" and sometimes the "Mocking of Christ." It is a picture which conveys a powerful image and it demands that we look beyond the immediate.

Except for the old man the three tormentors look like normal everyday people. Their dress may be 15 Century Dutch but their expressions are to be seen on the streets everywhere. Christ accepts what is happening to Him and is surrounded by those who are condemning an innocent man. What they are doing is criminal. But as we know this is only part of the passion, behind the picture are many good men, the disciples of Jesus. Jesus returns after the crucifixion to allow good men to discover how to acquire strength and purpose and for those who fall to find redemption.

## Rod Jacques



# Refugees and Asylum – the bigger picture

I hope this article helps us understand the refugee situation in the world right now. The Refugee Welcome Group at St Peter's is doing what it can with the means at its disposal but the scale of this problem is huge and only bigger forces than at St Peter's can change it!

Most of the world's refugees are looked after by the developing (poorer) countries of the world who can least afford to do so. We only have to remember that over one million Rohingya refugees fled the worst treatment at the hands of the Myanmar regime (fronted by a Nobel Peace Prize winner!) and are now living in appalling conditions in Bangladesh, a country which cannot even look after its own people let alone such an influx of people with absolutely nothing. Palestinian refugees are spread across many countries in the Middle East, with 2 million in Jordan alone.

The refugee problem would be bad enough even without understanding that 50% of the world's refugees are children. The Syrian conflict began on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2011, and therefore many 8 year-old children have known nothing else, and many young adults of 16 have had their adolescence ruined by social upheaval and lack of education. Such trauma stores up massive problems in the future which may affect us all!

And now there is Idlib, in Syria. Whatever the politics and military considerations, 900,000 people, mainly women and children, are on the move and there is nowhere for them to go. Turkey has already taken 3.5 million refugees and, perhaps rightly, thinks it has done more than its share and has closed its border.

In 2018 just 5 countries were the source of two thirds of the refugees and they included Syria, Afghanistan and South Sudan as the top three.

**There is no such thing as an 'illegal' or 'bogus' asylum seeker.** Under international law, anyone has the right to apply for asylum in any country that has signed the 1951 Refugee Convention and to remain there until the authorities have assessed their claim. The Convention recognises that people fleeing persecution may have to use irregular means in order to escape and claim asylum in another country and it guarantees everybody has the right to apply for asylum. It has saved millions of lives. No country has ever withdrawn from it. The EU has a law stating that asylum must be sought in the first EU country the seeker enters but the UK is no longer a member so....?

In summary nearly 71 million people were classified as displaced (refugees) in 2018 i.e. forced to move from where they have traditionally lived, and of these nearly 26 million (10 million in 1985) have been forced to leave their country.

In the next article I shall try to outline what the UK is doing for refugees.

This article is based on one recently published in the Diocesan Bulletin and references are available.

**Mark Andrews**



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# HORIZONS REPORT

## **MIND**

*'Mind' provides advice and support to empower anyone experiencing a mental health problem. It campaigns to improve services, raise awareness and promote understanding.*

*There are around 125 'Local Minds' in England and Wales: each one supports people in their community. The range of services include supported housing, crisis helplines, drop-in centres, employment and training schemes, counselling and befriending.*

*'Mind' is a charity and it relies on donations.*

*For further information go to:  
[mind.org.uk](http://mind.org.uk)*

## **SEFTON ADVOCACY**

*What is Advocacy?*

*It is a one-to-one partnership between a trained, independent advocate and a person who needs support in order to secure or exercise their rights, choices and interest.*

*How can you use Sefton Advocacy?*

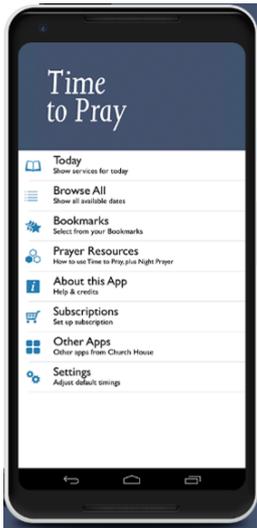
*If you are 60+ and would like to have a voice within your local community then Sefton Older Persons' Forums are for you. They meet every month in one of 6 locations across the Borough to give everyone the opportunity to be involved. You can take part, gain information on relevant issues, influence local planning and participate in your community.*

*For more information go to:  
[seftonadvocacy.org](http://seftonadvocacy.org)*

**Paul McHenry**



# PRAYER PAGES



## Time to Pray - Free App

*Time to Pray* presents everything you need for Prayer During the Day, with variations according to the day of the week and the season of the Church's year. **The app is compatible with smartphones and tablets.**

Access Prayer During the Day, together with full text of psalms and short readings from *Common Worship: Time to Pray*.

Follow a simple pattern of daily prayer that varies according to the season and day of the week.

**Time to Pray is completely free to use.**

## April Bible Readings

**Palm Sunday**

Psalm 118:19-24 / Matthew 21:1-11

**Monday of Holy Week**

John 12:1-11

**Tuesday of Holy Week**

John 12:20-36

**Wednesday of Holy Week**

John 13:21-32

**Maundy Thursday**

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 / John 13: 1-17, 31b-35

**Good Friday**

John Chapter 18 & 19

**Easter Day**

Acts 10:34-43 / John 20: 1-18

**19<sup>th</sup> April**

Acts 2: 14a, 22-32 / John 20:19-31

**St George's Day**

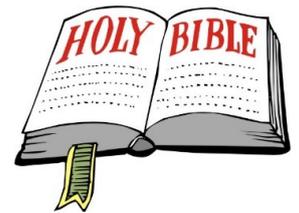
2 Timothy 2:3-13 / John 6:1-15

**St Mark's Day (25<sup>th</sup>)**

Ephesians 4:7-16 / Mark 13:5-13

**26<sup>th</sup> April**

Acts 2:14a, 36-41 / Luke 24:13-35



## Weekly Prayers for our Parish

**5<sup>th</sup> April** – Dunes Dr, Blundell Ave, Wicks Cres, Wicks Green & Wicks Close

**12<sup>th</sup> April** – Harington Green, Harington Close, Warren Green, Ince Cres, Wicks Lane

**19<sup>th</sup> April** – Hawksworth Drive, Hawksworth Close, Longton Drive, Lingdales and Turnacre

**26<sup>th</sup> April** – Broad Lane, Southport Old Rd, Southport Rd, The Spinney, Heather Close





**P** stands for **Pause** – starting prayer with a few moments of quiet, recollecting the presence of God and **Praise & Thanksgiving** – a good way to start our prayers.

**R** – (1) **Reflect**. From praising God for his goodness and love we are reminded of how often we miss the mark (the meaning of 'sin'). We come before God aware of our own shortcomings and assured of his forgiveness. (2) **Read a passage from Scripture** – perhaps start St. Mark's Gospel. Scripture is one way that God speaks to us.

**A** – (1) **Action**. Prayer and action go together. Has anything we read in Scripture nudged us to do something? (2) **Asking** – it's only a part of prayer. Each day there are suggestions for topics and, of course, our own personal prayers.

**Y** – **Yield yourself**. End with a time of quiet, opening yourself more and more to the love of God to be used in his service and in the service of others.

## **MONDAY**

**Pause** *Light a candle / listen to piece of music / settle in a chair.*

**P Praise** The Lord's name be praised from the rising up of the sun to the going down of the same. Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth, for evermore. Amen My Thanksgiving list.

**R Reflect & Read the Bible**

**A Action & Resolution** Praying for the world, our Country, all in authority.

**Y Yield yourself to God**

## **TUESDAY**

**Pause** *Light a candle / listen to piece of music / settle in a chair.*

**P Praise** Blessed be the Lord God Almighty who does wondrous things; and blessed be his glorious name for ever. Let all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen My Thanksgiving list

**R Reflect & Read the Bible**

**A Action & Resolution** Praying for our community, those who work in the NHS, in education, in research, those keeping shops open.

**Y Yield yourself to God**

## **WEDNESDAY**

**Pause** *Light a candle / listen to piece of music / settle in a chair.*

**P Praise** I will magnify you, O God, and I will praise your Name for ever and ever. Every day will I give thanks to you, and praise your Name for ever and ever. Amen My Thanksgiving list

## **R Reflect & Read the Bible**

**A Action & Resolution** Personal Relationships, home and family life, children, neighbours and those we cannot spend time with at the moment.

**Y Yield yourself to God**



## **THURSDAY**

**Pause** *Light a candle / listen to piece of music / settle in a chair.*

**P Praise** O praise the Lord with me and let us magnify his name together. My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord, and let all people give thanks to his holy name for ever and ever. Amen  
My Thanksgiving list

## **R Reflect & Read the Bible**

**A Action & Resolution** For all churches that while they cannot open their doors the message of God's love will still be heard.

**Y Yield yourself to God**

## **FRIDAY**

**Pause** *Light a candle / listen to piece of music / settle in a chair.*

**P Praise** I will sing to the Lord as long as I live. I will praise my God while I have my being. O give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious; and his mercy endures for ever. Amen.  
My Thanksgiving list

## **R Reflect & Read the Bible**

**A Action & Resolution** The suffering, the hungry, refugees, prisoners, the persecuted, all who seek to bring care and relief at this time.

**Y Yield yourself to God**

## **SATURDAY**

**Pause** *Light a candle / listen to piece of music / settle in a chair.*

**P Praise** Who is like unto you, O Lord, who is like unto you, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders? Let old and young together, young men and women alike, high and low, rich and poor, one with another, let them praise the name of the Lord. Amen.  
My Thanksgiving list

## **R Reflect & Read the Bible**

**A Action & Resolution** For people in need, the sick, those in despair, those with special needs, those who mourn, remembering those who have died.

**Y Yield yourself to God**

# SOME OTHER PRAYERS

Fill us, we pray, with your light and life that we may show forth your wondrous glory. Grant that your love may so fill our lives that we may count nothing too small to do for you, nothing too much to give, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O Lord our God, grant us grace to desire you with our whole heart, that so desiring we may seek and find you; and so finding you we may love you; and loving you may have joy in living for you; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord of the loving heart, may mine be loving too. Lord of the gentle hands, may mine be gentle too. Lord of the willing feet, may mine be willing too. So may I grow more like you in all I say and do. Amen.

## Sunday

*There is a new order of service on our website for each Sunday including a sermon and hymns, but here is a simple service. [www.stpetersformby.co.uk](http://www.stpetersformby.co.uk)*

## **Opening Sentences**

O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall proclaim your praise. The night has passed, and the day lies open before me.

*Pause for reflection as you offer the day to God.*

As I rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set my heart on fire with love for you; now and for ever. Amen.

## **Praise**

Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness; through your gentleness we find comfort in fear. (Anselm c.1109)

## **The Word of God - Reflect & Read the Bible**

**Prayers** - for the world, those in leadership, the church, all in need, the lonely & anxious, for family and friends and for ourselves.

God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful: watch over us and hold us all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## **The Lord's Prayer**

The Lord bless us, and uphold us and keep us in everlasting life. **Amen.**

# Book Review

## CRUMBS FOR THE JOURNEY:

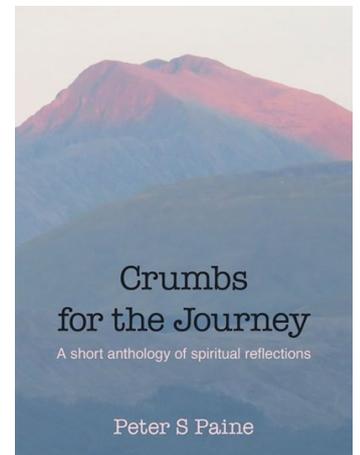
a short anthology of spiritual reflections

by Peter S. Paine

New City £7-50 (CT bookshop £6-75)

978-1-905039-41-8

Available from a number of online book sites.



Don't let the title put you off this gem of a little book: the author has, I believe, given us more than mere crumbs but real solid food. He draws on his nearly 50 years in parochial ministry in a variety of parishes, urban and rural, time spent living and working in India, and more recently, leading pilgrimages to 'holy places' in both Western and Eastern Europe.

A quick look at the index of authors gives an idea of the wide variety of writings represented in the book: Augustine of Hippo, John Austin Baker, the Venerable Bede, Anthony Bloom, T. S. Eliot, Victor Frankl, George Herbert, Mother Julian, C.S. Lewis, Thomas Merton, Michael Ramsey, Oscar Romero, Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy, Angela Tilby, Vincent van Gogh, W. H Vanstone..... and the whole book is interspersed with memorable offerings from the Desert Fathers.

In his foreword, Bishop Gordon Mursell writes: 'If we are to cope when suffering or sorrow comes our way stories from the past can offer us priceless food for the journey'. I would not disagree but I would also want to say that this book is also suitable for times when we feel happy and elated – indeed there is some lovely humour in this book, for example, 'a sermon remembered' - a lay preacher's sermon delivered in Acle Methodist church in his distinctive and lovely Norfolk accent.

This is an ideal book for those who like a '3<sup>rd</sup> lesson' in the daily offices and would be an ideal (and inexpensive) Confirmation or Ordination gift.

## How you can make a lasting difference to the work of St. Peter's

Once you have made provision for your loved ones, you have the opportunity to make a lasting gift to God, by leaving a legacy to His church.

Leaving a gift in your Will is one of the most valuable and lasting ways you can continue to support the mission and ministry at St. Peter's.

Please pick up one of our Legacy Leaflets in Church for more information.

# HOPE IN KALULE

With so much gloom and doom around because of the coronavirus, it is heartening to be able to share some good news.



The first is about Vivian, a pupil in the school in Kalule. Vivian had an accident on a boda bike. Bодas are motorbike taxis operated by boys in Uganda. They carry as many passengers – and more – than fit on the saddle, not to mention goods and furniture. Passengers travel at their own risk!

As a result of her accident Vivian's foot was badly injured, which would have left her on a crutch for life.



As she had her whole life in front of her, we, as the Uganda group, decided to pay for her to have an operation at a hospital in Kampala.

It depleted our funds somewhat and cost £1150, but we felt it would enable her to fulfil her full potential in life. Vivian had her operation on 12<sup>th</sup> March and is now on the road to recovery.

On a similar theme, we met Prossy, a member of the Women's Project, on our last two trips. Prossy is disabled and tries to get around in an old and rickety wheelchair, which on the rough paths around Kalule is not easy. We have provided her with a new wheelchair which cost £233.



While we cannot help everyone, and it is not our policy to help individuals as such, we felt that in these two situations, financial help was justified.

Other good news is that the chickens have arrived for the Women's Project and the School. They are being reared at the moment and won't produce eggs for five months. But at least all is under way.

We continue to fund a scheme for orphans in the school to help with their education and school meals. The money (£300) is sent out at the beginning of the school year and has already been transferred for 2020.

There have been changes in personnel in Kalule. There is a new principal in the school whose name is Agnes and the church has a new lay reader.



We had not planned to go out this year which is fortunate, but hope to have a team for 2021.

We have had this message from Kalule, "Thanks for financial assistance, gifts in all forms, advice and the good set up to crown the Kalule community in a lovely style. Thanks to everyone in St. Peter's who have helped in any way, which is really appreciated."

We continue to fund some building projects to get them completed and become fully operational. When the coronavirus pandemic is over we will start again to raise funds so that our work in Kalule can continue.

But, again, thanks for all your support.

**Ted Woods**



Dear God, I'm like a Goldfish  
(As I'm very sure you know)  
These days I'm with my family  
We haven't far to go;  
But even in this little tank  
There's lots of things to do  
Like taking care of everyone  
(And they all mind me too!).  
I pray today for gentleness  
For thoughtfulness and grace  
To wash my hands, and make fun plans,  
And give my family space.  
And God, I pray for those I love  
- The ones I cannot see,  
Bless everyone throughout the world  
.. and Goldfish just like me!

**Dear God...  
I'm like a Goldfish**





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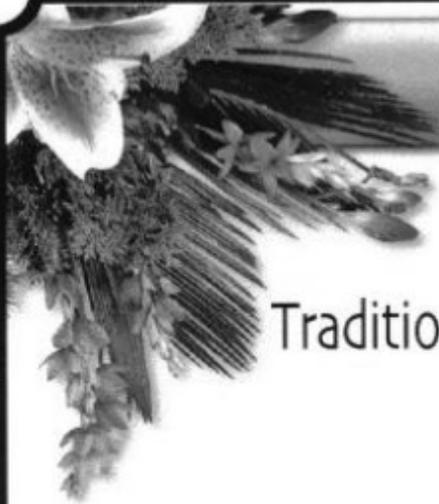


*Matthew Dean*  
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## Caroline Speakman Member of the Society of Willwriters

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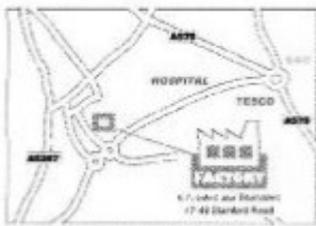
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## Dealing with **Loneliness** and **Isolation: FIVE TOP TIPS**



**1. Pray – light a candle, if safe, and pray for hope, faith and strength to keep loving and caring for each other during this time of struggle.**



**2. Talk about how you feel.**

This may be difficult if you are self-isolating, but use the phone, internet and social media. If you need to contact a counsellor, this can be arranged by your GP, local agencies or privately. Samaritans are there 24 hours a day, every day, and it's free to call them on 116 123.



**3. Focus on the things that you can change, not on the things you can't.**



**4. Look after yourself – physically, emotionally, spiritually.**

Plan things that you enjoy at regular intervals during the day – a TV programme, a phone call, a book, a favourite dish, a game.



**5. Look after others – even if only in small ways, but do what you can:**  
a smile, a kind word, writing a letter or an email.

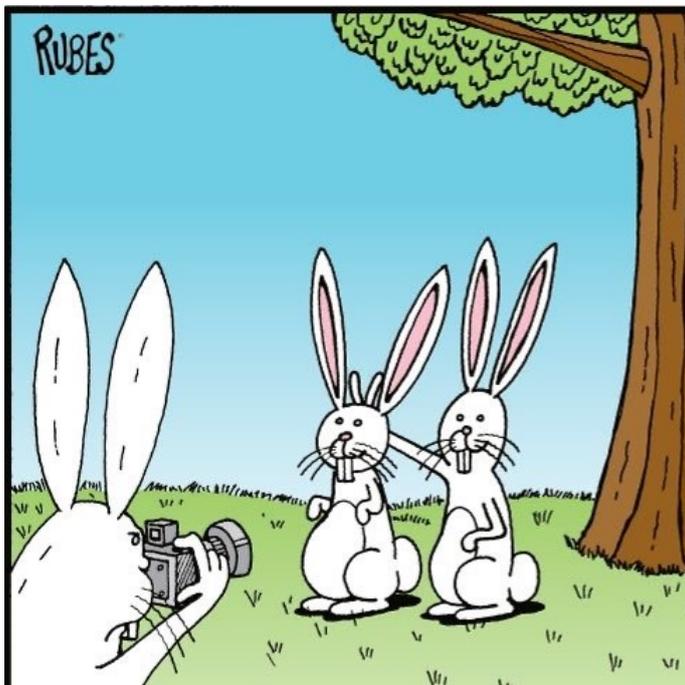
# Easter Word Search

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

APOSTLES  
 CROWN  
 LAMB  
 PRAYER  
 RESURRECTION  
 SON

CHURCH  
 FAITH  
 MARY  
 REDEMPTION  
 RISEN  
 SUNDAY

CROSS  
 JESUS  
 MIRACLE  
 REJOICE  
 SAVIOR  
 TOMB



## Curate's Bad Joke Corner...

The advantages of easy origami are two-fold.

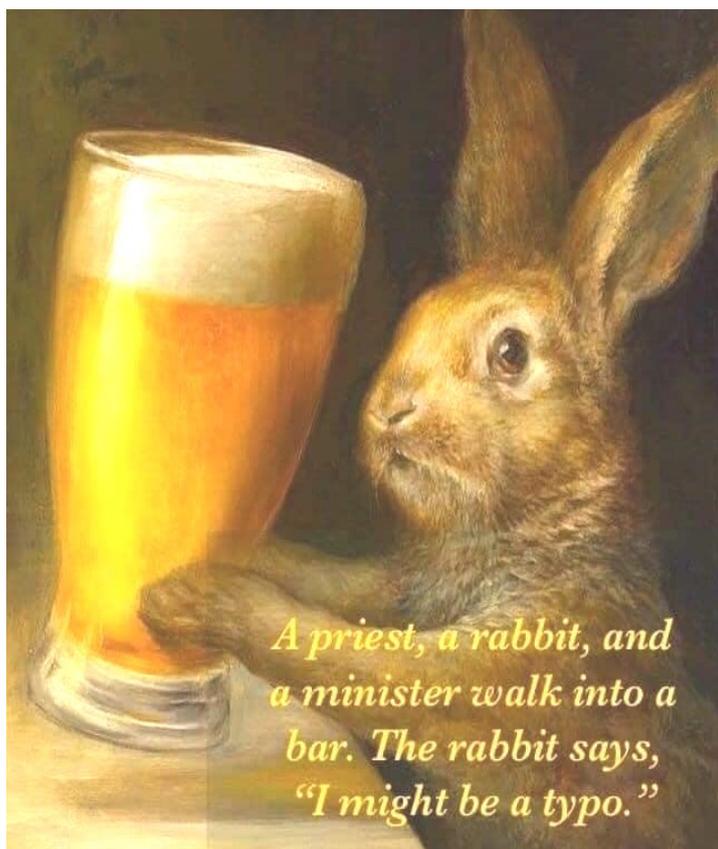
There's a sale on at the magic shop. It's buy wand, get wand free.

I saw a sports car being driven by a scantily clad sheep. It was a lamb bikini.

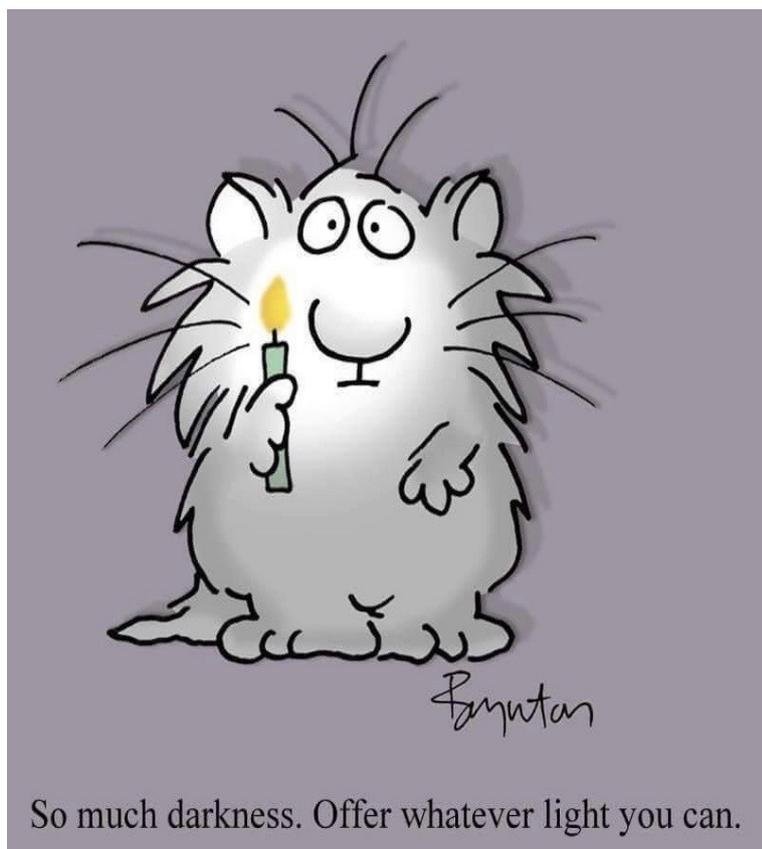
I love the BBC's programmes about space and time...I hope they continuum.

What do you call the medical condition where your feet go to sleep? Coma-toes.

**Keep groaning!**



*A priest, a rabbit, and  
a minister walk into a  
bar. The rabbit says,  
"I might be a typo."*



So much darkness. Offer whatever light you can.



**Sunday Club at Home for Children on our Parish Website**

**Also check out a great Free Kids App -**

**God for Kids - Bible based puzzles and games.**



# From the Back Pew Ted Woods

## SOME ST PETERS' DOWN UNDER



A long drive to Wellington at the bottom of the North Island. Check into hotel. It's Sunday, let's go to Evensong at Wellington Cathedral. Quick sprint to the cathedral on the other side of town. Arrive with five minutes to go. The building is empty except for a lady on the welcome desk. "We're here for Evensong," we announce cheerfully. "Sorry! Evensong is cancelled for January- it's the holiday season. The choir are away and most of the clergy are on holiday." Oh well, our intentions were good.

Later, walking more leisurely through the city we came across a St Peter's on Willis Street. It was open so we wandered in.

There were a few people inside, not waiting for a service to start, for these were homeless people for whom this St Peter's was a refuge and a safe place to be. Inside the main entrance were "Take or Leave" shelves where people could leave clothes or shoes for the needy to take – for nothing.

Passing the church again the following evening there were a good number of people in the grounds, again mostly homeless, collecting fresh sheets of cardboard to use as mattresses from the church's "Free Store".

Here was a church with a heart for people – of all sorts and conditions.

St Peter's on Willis Street describes itself as "a church for and of Wellington, focussed on the city, committed to engaging with the diverse range of people and needs in our context. As part of this purpose we will remain open to all as a place of safety and peace."

They state that "as a group of Anglican Christians we align ourselves with the values and concerns of Jesus" – as simple as that. They go on to say that they meet regularly on Sundays to support one another, learn from one another, welcoming the company of all people who are on a journey of faith and who wish to explore their journey with them, including "those who no longer feel they fit or are welcome in other churches."

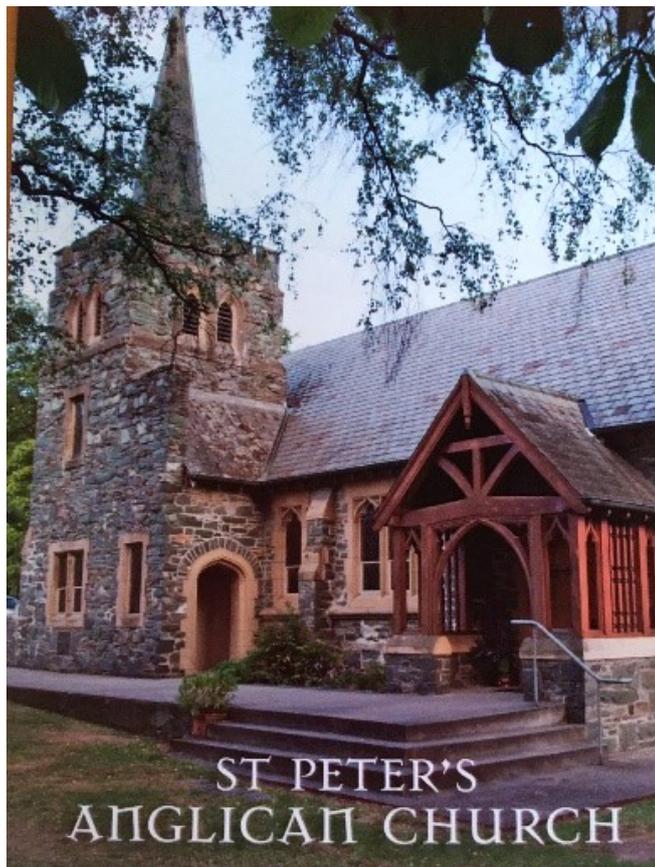
St Peter's on Willis Street has been there since 1848, and the area has seen much change as residents moved from the city centre to the suburbs. In 1897, the Vicar wrote to his parishioners lamenting the falling off of attendance at the mid-day service.

This decline he attributed “to the bicycle. But I cannot see why cyclists cannot so arrange their rides on Sunday as to be able to attend divine service.” However, today they have recovered a vibrant ministry and employ three co-vicars, a deacon, a director of music, an office manager and a sexton.

They proudly state that they stand for “inclusiveness, irrespective of gender, sexual preference or faith tradition...listening to what is important to others, championing the rights of the down-trodden...good liturgy that brings us a little closer to the divine in, under and beyond life ...intelligent and stimulating preaching, support not judgement.”

The cathedral, proud and splendid in a prime site beside the Houses of Parliament, was closed for business, but St Peter’s was “open all hours” and definitely in the business of serving others – just as Jesus would.

We also came across a St Peter’s in Akaroa, a beautiful bay south of Christchurch.



This St Peter’s claim to fame was that it had withstood recent earthquakes, and, like the Gospel it proclaimed, was “sure and steadfast” and enduring.

Our final visit to a St Peter’s was in Queenstown on the shores of Lake Wakatipu. Built in 1863 it describes itself as “the worshipping community in the Anglican tradition with many nationalities warmly welcomed to its services.” Interestingly it had a centenary banner which showed an inverted cross – tradition has it that St Peter was crucified upside down as he said he was not worthy to be crucified in the same manner as Jesus had been.

But it was St Peter’s on Willis Street that most impressed us, and from which we felt we could learn the most. It’s not enough for the building to stand to be a witness to God. Much more effective it is when the people inside witness to Jesus by word and action to those outside.



## From the Church Registers Baptism

1<sup>st</sup> March  
Ada Rose Kirkland,  
daughter of Paul & Kirsten



## From the Church Registers

### Funeral

30<sup>th</sup> March Eileen Margaret Abram  
2<sup>nd</sup> April Sandra Anne Mawhinney



### Interment of Ashes

1<sup>st</sup> March David Mahon  
Daniel & Edith Ellis

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# Contacts at St Peter's

		(01704)
Vicar	Revd Anne Taylor St Peter's Vicarage (email: revannetaylor@gmail.com)	872824
Curate	Revd Nathan Thorpe (email: nathanthorpe1@hotmail.co.uk)	461841
Wardens	Paul McHenry Steve Edwards	871722 870840
Parish Administrators	(office@stpetersformby.co.uk) Sonia Greenyer Caroline Speakman	871171
Parish Office	Paradise Lane, L37 7EH Open Monday to Friday (10.00am-12 noon) email: office@stpetersformby.co.uk	871171

**For further details please refer to our website:  
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*St Peter's Church was originally "The Ancient Chapelry of Formby, St Peter Apostle and Martyr." It dates from the 12<sup>th</sup> century and was situated very close to the sea. St Peter's was part of the Parish of Walton, which is why the Rector of Walton is still our Patron. This chapel became "ruinous" and a new church, on the present site, was built in 1746 and consecrated on 19<sup>th</sup> July 1747.*



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