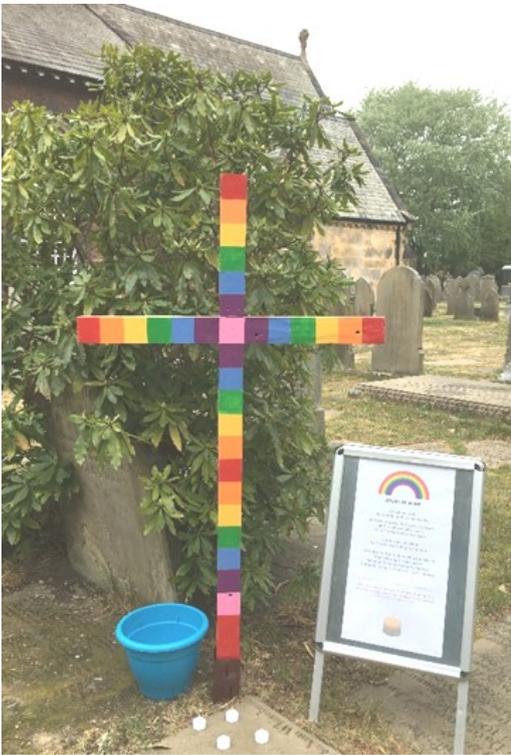


St Peter's Church Magazine May 2020



Sunday Club at Home
www.stpetersformby.co.uk



Dear Friends,

I hope, like me, you can't help noticing how many windows in houses, schools and churches have pictures of rainbows in them.

The idea apparently began in Italy last March as they struggled with the coronavirus pandemic, and the painting of rainbow signs has caught the imagination of people across the world.

In the Bible the rainbow that appeared after the flood in Noah's time was seen as a symbol of hope and a sign of God's covenant with Noah. It was a sign of better things to come.

And that's what we need to hold on to today – that this pandemic will pass – that there are better times ahead – we must continue to hope.

Which is why on the path up to the church we have replaced the Easter Garden with a rainbow coloured **Cross of Hope**.

Many people stopped and paused for prayer at the Easter Garden over the past four weeks. We hope that the Cross of Hope will also be a focus for people to stop and pray, and we have provided battery powered candles that can be placed on or at the foot of the cross.

In the Wizard of Oz, Judy Garland sang "Somewhere over the rainbow" – a place where "dreams come true", and where "troubles melt like lemon drops". Unfortunately, that only happens in fairy stories, like the leprechaun with the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow!

However, in the real, difficult times of today's pandemic we pray that, reflecting on the rainbow coloured cross, we may, like Noah, come to know the strength of God's presence with us and to hope for better times to come.

Our thanks to David Holroyd who has masterminded our virtual services and zoom evensong each Sunday, and these have been very helpful to so many and also been much appreciated. We look forward to the time when we can come together in church but until that time **'we are still worshipping together.'**

In my Easter Day sermon I explained about why the church as a physical building is so important to us, especially in difficult times: "Churches bear the imprint of the past...the pattern of timeless moments. Those that have stood for centuries have borne witness to birth and death, joy and suffering, peace and war, over the course of many generations. And borne witness as well, of course, to pandemics." (Tom Holland: Historian). And, we could add, our church buildings are real symbols of survival and hope.

Church communities have nurtured and encouraged generations and have been there through times of joy and sadness. For a Vicar, you never forget the churches you have served and certainly never the one where you started your ministry!

In fact it is said that the parish where you serve your curacy and your Training Incumbent mark you for life!



May is a sad yet exciting month as Nathan is licensed as Vicar of St Giles, Aintree. Sad because we will all miss him. He has been a wonderful colleague and I know you have all benefited from his ministry over the past three years. He has a natural gift for pastoral ministry, has become a competent preacher and St Giles are very fortunate to be welcoming him as their vicar.

So sad that we must say good-bye but exciting as you have all had a part to play in encouraging and supporting Nathan as he began his journey in ordained ministry.

It was July 2016 that he first came to meet me and have a sneaky look at St Peter's. It only took that one meeting for us to agree that he should come to St Peter's to serve his curacy and we never looked back. He quickly became a valued part of the St Peter's family, becoming involved in every aspect of parish ministry. Little did Nathan know that would involve getting dressed up as an elf and a teddy bear for our children's ministry! It was also great to have both Nathan & Poppy as part of the Uganda Team. Nathan has a ministry and a personality that means he can work with all ages and his time in St Peter's has affirmed his enjoyment of being a parish priest. I think I can say we couldn't have packed much more into the couple of years!

Of course we can't give him the send-off in May that we would have hoped but when the restrictions are lifted I will be asking Nathan back on a Sunday morning so we can give him a proper farewell. In the meantime his last Sunday will be **10th May** when he will preach at the pre-recorded morning service and at the 6.30pm Zoom Evening Service.

Please remember him as he is licensed (electronically) by the Bishop on 12th May.



So life is changing for Nathan & Poppy and for all of us but in all the change let's remember how important it is to keep hope alive.

Anne

Nathan's Farewell Gift – if you would like to contribute to the collection for Nathan's farewell gift, please put it in an envelope marked 'Nathan's Farewell Gift' and deliver /send to the Vicarage – deadline for contributions is 7th June.

(Re)collections of curate

There was a poem in the magazine from July/August 2017 called 'The Curate' by Archbishop Donald Caird.

*The work of a curate is never done,
From the glow of the East to the setting sun.
But on the whole his lot is a happy one,
Unlike the poor policeman of Penzance!*



That much is true – there have always been things to do – even when we find ourselves in lockdown! Being St Peter's curate has confirmed to me that I really enjoy parish work, and Poppy and I have been very happy in Formby...

*Curates come in all sizes and shapes –
From retiring angels to raging apes,
Those who sip Earl Grey with a dowager,
To those who'll lower a pint with a gouger!*

I will leave you to decide which of us is which, according to the poem. Curacy is a time to learn – who you are and also how parishes work. St Peter's officers and PCC are committed to serving the community they are in and ensuring that St Peter's shows God's love in whatever way we can.

As a side-effect, I have learnt the mechanics of throwing a good parish 'do' – is it patronal Pimm's or patronal prosecco?

*It isn't so many years ago
When a curate was always a 'he'.
But now with recent canonical change,
Some are rightly referred to as 'she.'*

In many ways, my positive outlook would not be possible without the support and training I have had from Anne. I am very aware of how fortunate I have been and how glad Poppy and I are that we took the first choice offered by the diocese!

Not only has Anne had to put up with my jokes without the filter of the magazine but we have really worked on my organisational skills together – no mean feat! Her encouragement and supervision mean that I now enjoy preaching, am confident creating and leading services and so can look forward to the future with confidence. Having the choir while learning those skills has been a big bonus – as has a supportive and patient congregation!

I hope you saw a little of that development during Anne's sabbatical...

*The problems they meet they can solve on their feet.
But if the matter becomes too resistant
They can always rely on the standard reply
'But I'm only the curate assistant.'*

I hope St Peter's has benefitted from my time with you. At one stage, I worried that I had done nothing but funerals! But, looking back, I am pleased to have encouraged the 'Little Fishes' group and to have dipped my toe into youth work with the 'Humans vs Zombies' night.

Other joys have been being a member of Alison's Bible Study Group and being involved in the Lent Study Series and the Bible in a Nutshell.

I have really enjoyed being involved with TSP through Assemblies, Fishy Club and preparing several children for confirmation. On paper, getting the Church-School Partnership with Poppy looks good but my most enjoyable moments have been talking to classes about anything from communion to neurodiversity!

I have enjoyed the discussions in Ted & Pete's "TimeOut", the annual carol-singing in The Grapes, and swearing-in Cadets at 611 Squadron.

It has been an incredible experience to be involved with the "Uganda: Together We Can" project – visiting Uganda twice – and seeing what can be achieved through partnership. Being part of, and watching others be part of, such an incredible experience was phenomenal. I will continue to be involved with the deanery link with Uberlingen-Stockach at St Giles!

I don't have room to include the next 2 verses, but the last verse of the poem goes:

*'When at last he's in sight of a golden crown
He will look for a church of his own.
Interviews done, he'll wait by the phone.
Will the call make him cheer or bemoan?'*

With those foundations, I feel excited for the next chapter of ministry. I did not need paying to commend St Peter's to the next curate, Simon. I will see you over the summer after lock-down to say good-bye and thank-you in person!

Revd Nathan Thorpe





A HUGE THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who has dropped items into the Foodbank boxes in the church porch or sent financial donations. Your help is very much appreciated and helps the most vulnerable at this time of national crisis. Many of the usual sources of donations for the Foodbank are not operating at this time and the Foodbank is really pleased with the extra help that has been provided by St Peter's.

The Church Porch is open 10am to 5pm each day for donations. The boxes are emptied regularly during the day.

Outside those times there is a box on the Vicarage doorstep on Cricket Path.

Items particularly needed are: nappies (Size 5 and 6), tinned vegetables, tinned cold meat, fruit squash and jam .

For those self-isolating, donations are appreciated either directly to the Southport Foodbank – www.southport.foodbank.org.uk - or to the Vicar and items needed by the Foodbank will be bought on your behalf. If you are out for a walk you might consider leaving an item in the box.

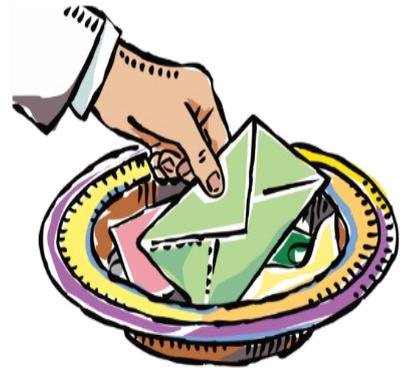
OUR HEARTFELT THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HELP.



**SOUTHPORT FOODBANK
HELPING LOCAL
PEOPLE IN CRISIS**

Talking Money

THANK YOU to all who have continued to give financially to the work and mission of our parish through the Parish Giving Scheme, bank transfers, cheque donations and numbered envelopes.



With church services cancelled and hall rentals stopped the income is very important and very much appreciated.

Questions have been asked about how to continue to give and hopefully the information below will provide the answers. If you need further information please phone or email the Parish Office, the Stewardship Team or the Vicar.

Bank Transfer – if you would like to make a direct electronic transfer then please use the following with a meaningful reference - St Peters PCC Pledge Account - Sort Code 40-52-40 - Account No. 00020671

Yellow Envelopes – for those who would like to use the yellow envelopes they are available by contacting the Parish Office. These can be posted back to the Office or left in the Vicarage.

Brown Numbered Envelopes – The numbered envelopes have all been delivered to those who give in this way. Envelopes can be either left to the Vicarage or kept until we are open again.

Cheque Donation – cheques should be made to ‘St Peter’s PCC’, adding name and address on the reverse and be posted to the Parish Office or to the Vicarage.

Parish Giving Scheme – if you would like to join the Parish Giving Scheme please contact the Stewardship Team – Mike Fletcher 879755 or stewardshipstpeter@gmail.com

Coming Soon! We are now very close to putting a donation button on the website that will say Donate Now. This will hopefully be possible over the coming weeks.

Gift Aid – if you are a tax payer St Peter’s can claim 25% gift aid on your donation. This will happen automatically with the yellow and brown envelopes. If you would like to discuss Gift Aid or would like a Gift Aid form please contact the Stewardship Team (details above).

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Post can be sent to – St Peter’s Parish Office,
Parish Hall, Paradise Lane, Formby L37 7EH

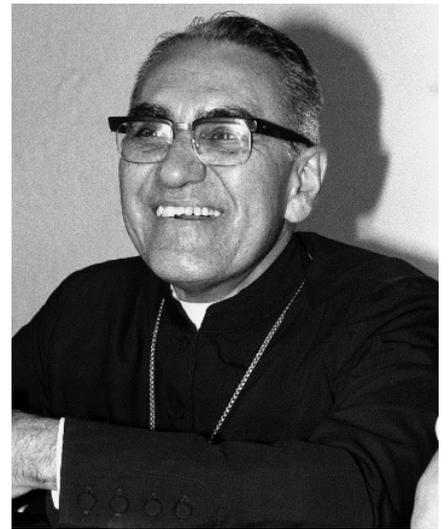
Or cheques / envelopes may be hand delivered or posted to
the Vicarage - St Peter’s Vicarage, Cricket Path, Formby L37 7DP

For further information please phone the Parish Office 871171
or email office@stpetersformby.co.uk.

Heroism for a few, but self-denial for all

by Paul Vallely, CHURCH TIMES

On Tuesday 24th March, as it was the 40th anniversary of the day on which Óscar Romero was martyred, I was reading a sermon on the new saint by the great Dominican preacher, the late Herbert McCabe, when an item flashed up on my phone. It was news of an Italian priest, Fr Giuseppe Berardelli, who had died of the coronavirus after giving up his respirator to a younger sufferer.



The confluence was poignant. In Italy, some 30 priests have died from the virus after ministering to people during the pandemic. But Fr Berardelli did more than minister: like Romero, he acted in full knowledge of the consequences of what he was doing. He had been in hospital for several days on a ventilator, which had been bought by his parish to help him fight the infection. Aged 72, he volunteered to give up his machine when he heard of a younger patient without one. He died soon after.

Most of us are not called to acts that are so heroic. Fr McCabe spoke in his sermon of how “God so loved the world that he sent his son, not to set the world to rights but to be one of us.” Most of us live in a world that is considerably more banal than that of St Óscar Romero or Fr Berardelli.

An enclosed Capuchin nun, serendipitously called Sister Romero, revealed recently that she was often contacted by people outside her cloister who asked her to pray for them because of some particular problem. With the world increasingly in lockdown, she reported, the predicament about which she was now being asked to pray by outsiders in self-isolation was that they might be saved from being “bored.”

Coping with isolation is clearly going to require us to draw on inner resources that have gone largely uncultivated in our culture. Another cleric inspired by Romero offers us some pointers on how to do this in a moving sermon broadcast on Radio 4’s *Sunday Worship*.

The Revd Edgardo Colón-Emeric, a Methodist who teaches at Duke University in the United States, has just published *Óscar Romero’s Theological Vision*, which draws parallels between the witness of the murdered Archbishop and that of John Wesley. He recalls how, when Romero was assassinated at the altar of his hospital chapel, he had just finished preaching from John 12: “Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.”

That fruit, in our humdrum quotidian world, is the fruit of a quieter kind of sacrifice. “Prayer can turn a kitchen into an altar, a quarantine into a Lenten pilgrimage, a hospital room into an Upper Room, and an ordinary person into a witness,” was his Passiontide message. “The Word who is Christ remains in the voice of his witnesses.”

Yes, it can be heard in the nurse who risks infection and burnout for the sake of caring for the sick. But it also “sounds like the voice of a young person risking loneliness and depression for the sake of protecting others from becoming sick.” Just because we are restricting ourselves to our own homes does not mean that we have turned our back on the world.

This article was featured in the Church Times 27th March 2020 and is reproduced by kind permission of the Editor.

The Church Times has a special offer - £1 a week for 10 weeks.

That includes UK delivery, and there is no obligation to renew.

www.churchtimes.co.uk

During this time of pandemic, we are seeing an extraordinary level of generosity from many different people!

During Lent, we hold a seasonal collection for Train-A-Priest (TAP). Last year, churches and Church Times readers raised £67,000 to assist ordinands and their families while they train for ministry.



Since 1952, the TAP Fund has supported ordinands and their families in England and over the years raised more than £4.7 million to help relieve C of E ordinands of financial worries – car maintenance, clothing, rent, etc.

Nothing is charged for administration, which means the entire amount is distributed to those training for ministry. However, this year due to a substantial legacy totalling £412,000, all the money raised will go to support clergy training in Africa.

It will be administered by Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa (CAPA) who have partnered with other organisations on programmes that include capacity-building for strategic leadership, theological education and advocacy in areas such as human trafficking and migration, child protection, gender-based violence, interreligious and intercultural dialogue.

CAPA operates in 25 countries throughout 13 Anglican Provinces including Uganda – so we may be indirectly helping St Peter’s church in Kalule for their future too!

The £1,940.62 that was raised by St Peter’s Lent Appeal will go towards this helpful cause – and thought it might interest you to know about it!

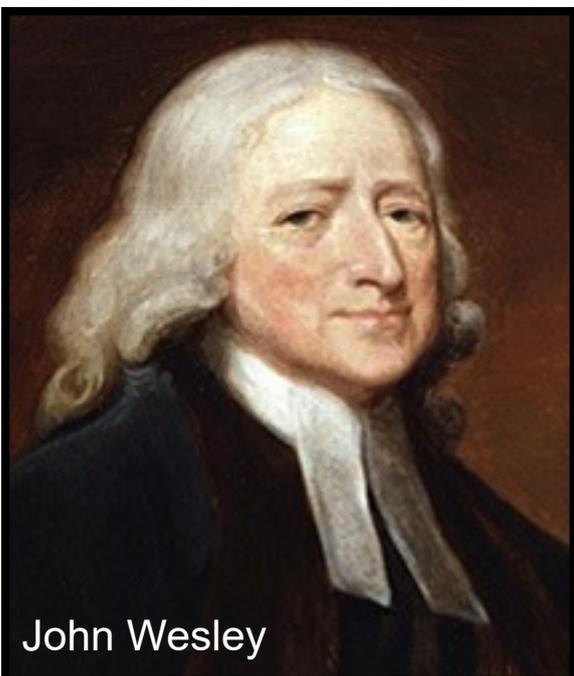
Revd Nathan Thorpe

A Challenge.

During the 1700's the family firm of Samuel Galton had been manufacturing hand-held guns in Birmingham, the famous Brown Bess is a typical example. These were made in hundreds of thousands and during the Napoleonic war over three million were distributed. Birmingham became an important centre for manufacturing weapons and such was their wealth that eventually the Galton family became bankers. Against the backdrop of the industrial revolution this would appear to be another example of a family developing an iron and metal fabrication industry. Yet there was a constant nagging problem - the Galton family were devout Quakers.

Samuel Galton, his father and uncle had attended Quaker meetings all their lives and were seen as significant members in their meetings but the Birmingham meeting in 1795 sent a letter asking Galton to explain his selling of guns as such trade went against the Quaker principle that war and aggression against others and its encouragement was wrong. It is not difficult to understand Galton's bewilderment and surprise over this, especially as it is still possible to read his printed answer. His 'Address to the Friends of the Monthly Meeting of Birmingham' was printed so all people could understand his position.

The main arguments he put forward were firstly that he was against war and that the manufacture of weapons did not cause war; it should be seen as a neutral activity. Next he argued that his family had been linked to the arms industry for decades so why were there objections now? The one point he wanted pushed home was that most Quakers were involved in the support for the war because they all paid their taxes which were used to provide an aggressive army. Galton wanted to be able to make his own mind up over the context of the Quaker principles.



John Wesley

The Birmingham Meeting rejected his address and stated he could no longer take part in their business meetings. He continued to attend prayer meetings and gave large donations to Quaker charities. It was important for the Quakers to see the works of their members closely linked to their teaching. Their demand not to be part of violence was to remain a beacon.

The demands of the Birmingham Meeting were reflected in the preaching of John Wesley, a contemporary of Galton. He argued Christians were to "help each other work out their salvation, doing no harm, avoiding all evil,

doing good and being merciful in every possible way to all possible men...” He challenged all to find individual faith in Christ, a faith which demanded charity, the reaching out to the needy and doing no harm. Wesley influenced Quakers including Elizabeth Fry who was impressed by Wesley’s constant preaching in prisons.

All this evangelical pressure influenced the 1700’s in this country and lay alongside the imperial wars of that period. Two quotes from Wesley’s writing,

Beware you are not swallowed up in books! An ounce of love is worth a pound of knowledge.

**Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.**

Rod Jacques



Worship from Home

Each week there is a Sunday morning service to watch as we continue to worship together. Click on the link on our website. There are also two services each week that can be printed.

Still worshipping together.



Sunday Evening Service by Zoom

You are welcome to join our Sunday evening Zoom congregation at 6.30pm each week by clicking on the Zoom Services Link on the website Home page.

There will be an Ascension Day Zoom Service at 7.30pm on Thursday 21st May.



Sunday Club at Home for Children on our Parish Website

Each week there is a story,
activities, prayer and a song along
with a puzzle sheet. Using
cartoons, games and lots of fun!

May Bible Readings

St Philip & St James (1st) Ephesians 1:3-10 / John 14:1-14

Sunday 3rd Acts 2:42 – 47 / John 10:1-10

Sunday 10th Acts 7:55-60 / John 14:1-14

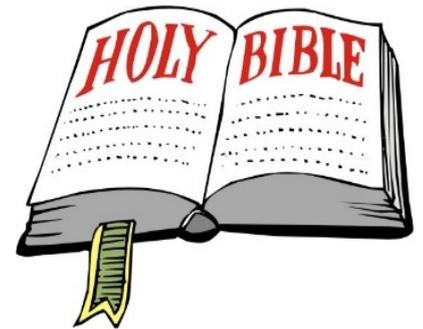
St Matthias (14th) Acts 1:15-26 / John 15:9-17

Sunday 17th Acts 17:22-31 / John 14:15-21

Ascension Day (21st) Acts 1:1-11 / Luke 24:44-53

Sunday 24th Acts 1:6-14 / John 17:1-11

Pentecost (31st) Acts 2:1-21 / John 20:19-23



Weekly Prayers for our Parish

Each Sunday we pray for the residents who live in our parish and during the year every street is included in our prayer rota.

During May please pray for all who live in -

3rd May –

The Rydinge, Brackenway, Heatherways, Heathfield Close.

10th May –

Gorsefield, Spymers Croft, Dales Walk, Paradise Lane

17th May –

York Close, Kenton Close, Old Lane, Wrigleys Lane

24th May –

Wrigleys Close, Green Lane, The Paddock, Canterbury Close





A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

A CHRISTIAN PRESENCE IN EVERY COMMUNITY

The Archbishop of Canterbury has launched a free national phone line as a simple new way to bring worship and prayer into people's homes while church buildings are closed because of the coronavirus.

Daily Hope offers hymns, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.

The line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind. The service is supported by the Church of England nationally as well as through the Connections group based at Holy Trinity Claygate, Surrey and the Christian charity Faith in Later Life.

Although thousands of churches across the country are now running services online, many people – especially older people – do not have access to the internet. The line also recognises the impact of social distancing restrictions and self-isolation measures on those suffering from loneliness.

Callers will hear a special greeting from the Archbishop before being able to choose from a range of options, including hymns, prayers, reflections and advice on COVID-19. A section called Hymn Line offers callers a small selection of hymns, updated daily. An option entitled 'Hymns We Love,' provides a hymn and reflection.

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***.

This is a way to help us keep in touch.

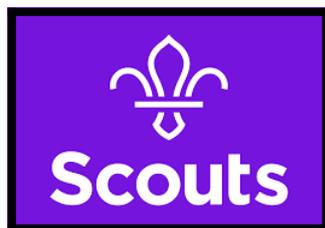
Email addresses will be used only by St Peter's.



9th Formby Scouts were involved in the 'Hike to the Moon' Scout Campaign which was part of the BBC's Big Night In Appeal.

We look forward to seeing the badges when we have our next Parade Service.

"Well done to all" who completed the hike.



Lockdown didn't stop 9th Formby from renewing the Scout Promise during the virtual St George's Day Parade





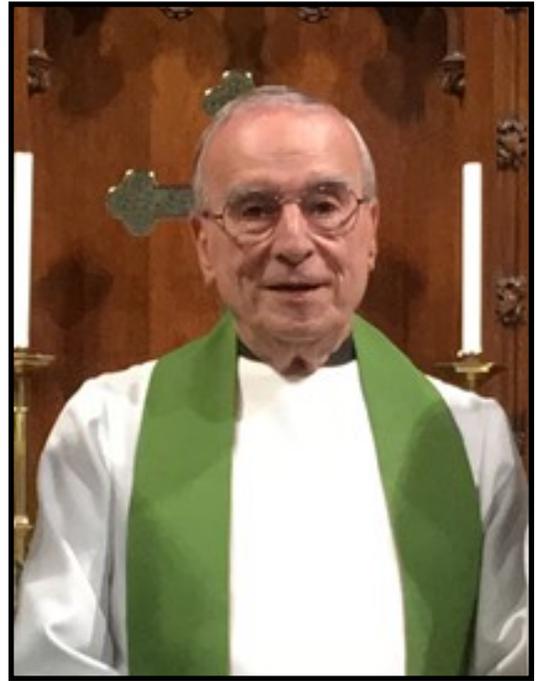
The Youngest Member of the St Peter's Family

Congratulations to Matt & Amy on the arrival of Arthur (Arty) Anthony Bateson who was born on 17th April.

Arty was 9lb 4oz. He is pictured with his proud big sister, Amalie.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY 90TH

Happy 90th Birthday
to Canon Raymond Lee on
29th May



Doreen Gillett

Doreen was 100 on 1st April.

We send her a magazine every month.

Perhaps our oldest reader?

Doreen was a member of St Peter's Church for many years, and now lives at Noble House in Worcester near her son Alan and daughter Jean. Due to the lockdown they were unable to celebrate but did manage to take this picture on the day.



HORIZONS UPDATE

At a recent 'Zoom' Standing Committee meeting, it was agreed that some charities would benefit from an early donation from the Horizons budget.

A list of 10 charities was created; charities that we thought would benefit greatly at this difficult time. The Horizons Committee and the PCC approved the list and a donation of £300 was sent to each charity. A list can be found at the foot of this article.

During my investigation of which charities would qualify, I had occasion to speak with one of them. The lady at the other end of the phone was absolutely delighted that somebody was thinking about them as funds were low.

The fact that our church can help others in some practical way should give us all a sense of pleasure and a warm smile in our hearts.

THE LIST

Citizen Advice Bureau

Sefton Women's and Children's Aid

Southport Food Bank

Queenscourt

Asylum Merseyside Link

Southport Samaritans

Sefton Advocacy

Whitechapel Centre

Refuge Women Connect

Shelter

Paul McHenry

Scared of your partner or ex?



Talk to us any time, day or night.

Freephone 24 hour National
Domestic Abuse Helpline

Confidential,
non-judgmental support

Or reach us online:

www.nationalDAhelpline.org.uk

Refuge

For women and children.
Against domestic violence.

WAR GRAVES IN THE CHURCHYARD

In preparation for the 75th anniversary of VE Day, Mike Fletcher has written a short but comprehensive booklet about the ten Commonwealth war graves to be found in St Peter's graveyard, and on the back page he has included a helpful map to where they are situated.

Interested in genealogy, Mike has thoroughly researched the soldiers and airmen buried in St Peter's graveyard. Included in the list are Walter Alexander Dixon, a Canadian, who was posted to RAF Woodvale, John Alfred Entwistle who as well as being a rear gunner had also been a chorister and server in St Peter's in Canon Barsley's time and Harry Lovelady, also a Formbyite who thought he had married Mary Moon in Holy Trinity Church, but it later turned out that her surname was Johnson! Her father's name was recorded on the marriage certificate as "John Moon" but it was subsequently altered to Daniel Johnson!

A hugely valuable and informative booklet, it is available, free, in the Church porch, on the parish website or contact the Parish Office for a copy to be sent either by email or post.



“

**Try to be a rainbow in
someone else's cloud.**

Maya Angelou

”

A registered charity

SAMARITANS



Some Memories of VE Day - 8th May 1945

For the 50th anniversary of VE Day, St Peter's produced a pamphlet with some memories from parishioners of VE Day. Sadly they are no longer with us but it is very special to have their memories recorded.

+++++

On May 8th, 1945 I was 11 years and 3 days old, and I vividly remember standing with my mother and grandmother (father was in the army) in a packed Whitehall, opposite the (old) Home Office cheering and calling for Winston Churchill, who made repeated appearances, waving his cigar, and making the Victory V sign.

Later in the day, with thousands of others, we made our way to Buckingham Palace to see the King and Queen, with the Princesses on the balcony. Everyone was laughing and cheering and dancing.

I do not remember how we got home to Balham as there were very few buses. Perhaps we walked the six miles. It was certainly very late but nobody minded; there was very little sleep that night as we were much too excited.

Margaret Brian

+++++

On 8th May, 1945 I was a Watch Keeping Officer on a Fleet Destroyer escorting the British Pacific Fleet in the Pacific Ocean somewhere off the Philippine Islands.

Victory in Europe did not register with us, for the war in the Far East still had 3½ months to go. Not until the beginning of 1946 was I back in the UK to join in the celebrations.

Graeme Spiers

+++++

On VE Day in 1945 I was at school at Ellesmere College in Shropshire. After breakfast on the day we all assembled in Chapel for a Service of Thanksgiving. I remember how moving the service was and that the choir sang the Stanford "Te Deum." Memories of the war flooded in at that service. Brothers of pupils present, fathers and masters had been killed or wounded. You could tell by looking at the sad faces of some of the boys present at the service which were the ones that had suffered loss.

After chapel we were all given packed lunches and were allowed to leave school until early evening. Some of the older boys sampled the local Shropshire brews. As I was only 14, nearly 15, at the time, my days of sampling had yet to come!

David Garmon-Jones

+++++

My wife Myfanwy and I, both on leave, were on our second honeymoon in Grasmere. I was just back after 3 years in India. Our first honeymoon was 3 days Embarkation Leave in 1941. On the morning of the 8th May we attended a magnificent Victory Service in St Oswald's Church in Grasmere. Our overwhelming thoughts were of thankfulness that the long war in Europe, in which our country had fought and endured so much, was over. Myfanwy and I could start to look forward to the day when we could begin our lives together. We had both lost many friends, but it was a time of rejoicing and high hopes for the future, though we all knew that life was going to be very different from the England in which we had grown up; and so it proved to be.

H.W. Hawkins (Bill)

+++++

VE Day 75th Anniversary Celebrations

**STAY AT HOME
STREET PARTY !**

**Decorate your house in red, white & blue and
enjoy a picnic in your front garden.**



Whilst in Lockdown we need to keep ourselves busy ...

Sorting out



Start sorting your glasses out.

After lockdown is over your glasses can be left at opticians throughout the country and they will be recycled to raise money for Vision Aid's work in the developing world to fund eye tests and perception glasses.

You can donate them at branches of Vision Express, Specsavers and Boots Opticians, as well as many independent opticians.

www.visionaidoverseas.org

Alison Belford

DONATE YOUR OLD STUFF
Chucking out your old stuff?
Give it to us instead.

We'll turn it into cash for our projects.



We're a charity dedicated to improving life for street and slum children.

Start sorting out your stuff for when the lockdown is lifted.

- 1. We send you a recycling address label**
- 2. You use the label to post out your package**
- 3. The cash from your stuff keeps our work alive**

STUFF WE CAN RECYCLE

Coins & Currency

Banknotes and coins, any currency UK or foreign, of any age/unchangeable currency.

Jewellery

Unwanted gold and silver including damaged items, costume jewellery and watches.

Mobile Phones, Cameras & Gadgets

Mobile phones, video cameras, old film cameras, digital cameras, sat navs, game consoles, mp3 players, and tablets.

Stamps

Loose single stamps, albums, first day covers/presentation packs, collections, postcard collections.

and much more ... visit our website

<https://povertychild.org/>



Whilst Gardening you could build a bug/insect den



It can be made in a cardboard box using all or some of these

- **Choose a good spot for your insect home.** Firstly, because most insects like cool, moist conditions, a shady area next to a hedge or under the tree works well. Secondly, make sure the home has a firm base, because it will end up quite heavy. Thirdly, choose a spot where the insect home can remain.
- **Dead wood** makes a great home for wood-boring beetles, such as the majestic stag beetle and larvae. It also supports fungi, which can break down the natural material. Centipedes and woodlice can burrow under the bark.
- **Hollow stems, canes, and holes** drilled into blocks of wood are all ideal spots for solitary bees to lay their eggs. These bees help pollinate flowers (so helping your plants produce fruit and vegetables) in the garden. Because solitary bees like sunny spots, place these on the sunniest side of the insect home.
- **Stones and tiles** provide lovely cool, moist conditions for frogs and newts. They might be best lower down, on the shadiest side of the insect home.
- **Hay and straw** give insects a good place to burrow and hibernate.
- **Dry leaves** provide homes for insects, just like leaf litter on the forest floor. Ladybirds hibernate here over winter - and they're great for eating aphids in the garden.
- **Rotting wood and bark** is where beetles, centipedes, spiders and woodlice love to be. Because woodlice and millipedes break down woody plant material, they're an important part of your garden recycling system.
- **Corrugated cardboard rolled up inside a lemonade bottle** will attract lacewings, which are really good at eating pests.





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

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

Email: cspeakmanestateplanning@gmail.com

Phone: 07926 587776

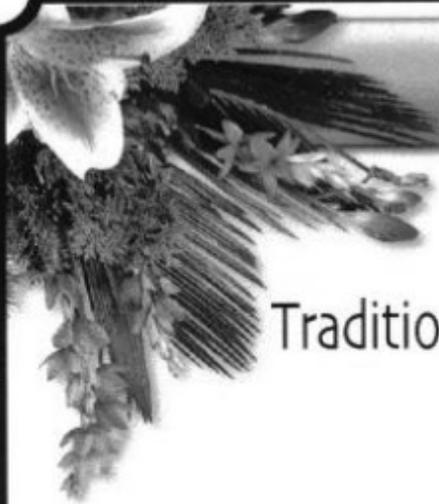
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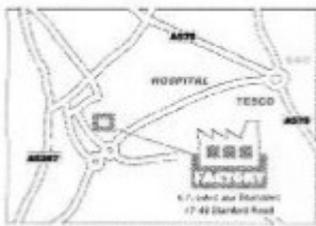
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I'm just going to Nanna's ... haven't seen her for over 2 months... what's your problem... 😬



"I'm going out. Do you need any voles?"



Curate's Bad Joke Corner...

How many tickles does it take to tickle an octopus?
Tentacles!

You know what the loudest pet you can get is? A trumpet.
Sometimes I tuck my knees into my chest and lean forward.
That's just how I roll.

What's red and bad for your teeth? A brick!

What did the pirate say on his 80th birthday? Aye Matey.
I saw this advert in a window that said: "Television for sale,
£1, volume stuck on full. " I thought, "I can't turn that down."

Keep groaning!

The Day of Pentecost

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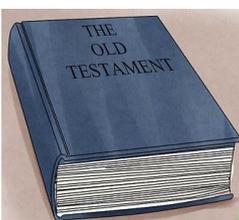
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HEAR
AMAZED

Fifteen anagrams of Books of the Old Testament



Burns me, Chair haze, Eds jug, Evil is cut, Hail Mac, Hurt, I jam here,
On gloom of sons, Our needy Tom, Rich clones, See sign, Select as
ices, Threes, Tom anneals it, Used ox.

Answers - see bottom of page 34



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From the Church Registers



Funerals

15th April

Shirley Dixon

28th April

Yvonne Hilditch

The funeral service sheets can be viewed on the parish website in the section marked Funeral Services.

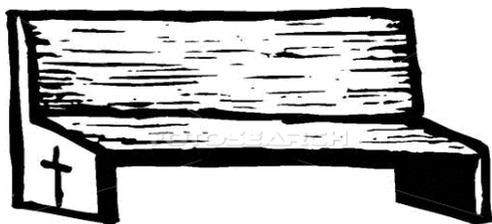


I think that when
the dust settles, we will
realise how little we need, how
much we actually have, and
the true value of human
connection.

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From the Back Pew Ted Woods

GOD AND THE CORONAVIRUS

To say that we are living in perplexing and uncertain times is a bit of an understatement as we are exposed to something that is, as yet, outside our control to eradicate. And yet this generation is not unique in what we have to face. Pandemics are nothing new in the history of mankind.



In the 14th century the Black Death caused between 70 and 100 million deaths worldwide. In the early 20th century the Spanish flu resulted in between 20 and 50 million deaths. Much earlier in the 6th century the Plague of Justinian, a bubonic disease, left 25 million dead.

Every so often in the history of our world pandemics seem to strike with devastating results.

If religion is to make sense of existence, especially in times of suffering and pain we, as people of faith, have to ask “Where is God in all of this?” Can we believe in a God of love when there is so much innocent suffering and death?

In short book, just published, “Where is God in a Coronavirus World?”, John Lennox, a professor of Mathematics at Oxford, makes the distinction between “moral evil” and “natural evil”.

He describes moral evil as the suffering for which we as humans are responsible – war, terrorism, violence, exploitation, abuse, murder and so on, whereas natural evil (which he admits is not the best description) is the suffering for which humans are not directly responsible and he mentions earthquakes, tsunamis, cancers – and coronavirus.

So what about God and natural evil?

I don’t remember all the stuff I had to learn at Theological College! But I do remember one principle that I had to grapple with in the course on the Philosophy of Religion and that was that just as God has given us humans the gift of freedom of will, so too there is an element of freedom in nature itself.

And this answered a lot of questions for me years later as I tried to wrestle with the problem of innocent suffering.

Why do bad things happen to good people?

The Reader in our last parish has a doctorate in genetics and she explained it this way: for life to develop molecules have to have two attributes. First, constancy, and second, an ability to change. They had to have a form of life that was constant and stable, but yet also have the ability to adapt to our changing environment. But with the freedom to evolve comes risk – for good and for bad. Her conclusion was that whereas, on the whole, our world is stable, secure and predictable, yet there is inbuilt into its very structure an element of instability and freedom which can result in “natural evil.”

God has given the universe a certain freedom, just as he has bestowed on us humans the freedom to choose and to make decisions, which, while sometimes good and beneficial to mankind, can sometimes result in “moral evil.”

The Archbishop of York elect, Stephen Cottrell, has put it like this: “We live in a universe that God has created to create itself. Creativity is the hallmark of God’s creation,” and he goes on to point out that this inbuilt creativity or energy brings with it volcanoes, earthquakes, tsunamis and we could add, coronavirus. He says that these are part of the way the “creative universe must be, if we are to be.”

John Polkinghorne, a former professor of Mathematical Physics at Cambridge has written, “God does not bring about everything that happens in the world. Because God is a God of love he allows creatures to be themselves and to make themselves. This has a cost....The process that enables some cells to mutate and produce new forms of life allow other cells to mutate and become malignant,” even though according to some scientists, out of the millions of viruses – which benefit mankind - less than 1% are harmful to human existence.

Professor Polkinghorne describes the good and bad possibilities as “a package deal. We think it’s very easy – here are the good things: keep these. Here are the bad things: throw them away. But in fact they are mutually entangled.”

We live in a world where human freedom can result in so much good and also so much evil. We also live in a world where nature’s freedom can result in an amazing ability to adapt, evolve and thrive but also, unfortunately, can result in innocent suffering, such as we experience today.

Neither we nor nature are robotical. In love, God gives freedom to us and to nature. As Professor David Wilkinson, a theologian and astrophysicist, has written, “God is omnipotent but limits his power to give us freedom.” Love is always a risk. Ask any couple, ask any parent!

Our 5yr old grand-daughter, Esme Evans, has completed a fund-raising bike ride for the NHS.

So far she has raised over £1,600 and the total is still rising!



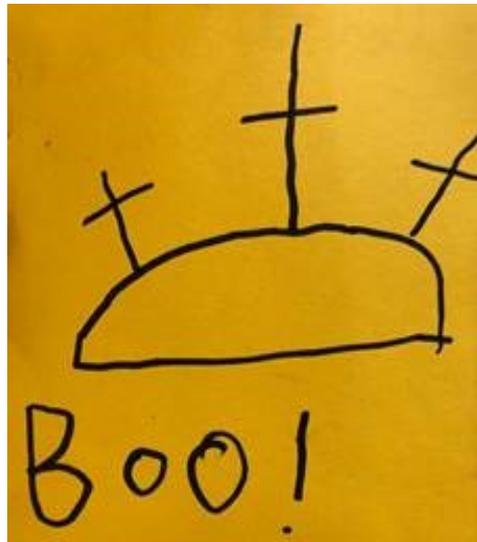
Endurance cyclist and broadcaster, Mark Beaumont, spoke to Esme via video link and thanked her for her fund raising bike ride. Such a lovely thing for him to do!

We are such proud grandparents!
Pat & Lawrence Downey



Find us on
Facebook

A parishioner's 6 year old granddaughter's grasp of the Easter story.



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Diocese of Liverpool

Diocese of Liverpool Website
www.liverpool.anglican.org

Numbers, Zechariah, Judges, Leviticus, Malachi, Ruth, Jeremiah, Song of Solomon
Deuteronomy, Chronicles, Genesis, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Lamentations, Exodus.

Fifteen anagrams of Books of the Old Testament - Answers for Page 29

Contacts at St Peter's

| | | |
|----------------------|--|-------------------|
| Vicar | Revd Anne Taylor St Peter's Vicarage (email: revannetaylor@gmail.com) | (01704) 872824 |
| Curate | Revd Nathan Thorpe (email: nathanthorpe1@hotmail.co.uk) | 461841 |
| Wardens | Paul McHenry Steve Edwards | 871722 870840 |
| Parish Office | office@stpetersformby.co.uk Sonia Greenyer Caroline Speakman | 871171 |
| Stewardship | Mike Fletcher stewardshipstpeter@gmail.com | 879755 |

**For further details please refer to our website:
www.stpetersformby.co.uk**

St Peter's Church was originally "The Ancient Chapelry of Formby, St Peter Apostle and Martyr." It dates from the 12th 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 19th July 1747.

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.

**If you would like to see the magazine in full colour, go to our website
www.stpetersformby.co.uk**

*Please note the deadline for the June 2020 edition of the magazine is
Friday 8th May 2020. Contributions to alisonwhiffing@aol.com*

THANK YOU!



NHS & KEY WORKERS



Thank you to everyone who expresses their thanks to the NHS and keyworkers on a Thursday

Let us help all those who are working so hard to keep us safe and well, know that we appreciate them.

