

St Peter's Church Magazine November 2020



EDITORIAL

On November 11th, 1918, representatives of the main Allied Nations and Germany signed a short document that ordered a ceasefire from 11am that day. In doing so, they put an end to the global carnage that had started in August 1914 and that had killed more than ten million combatants and six million civilians.

But for most nations involved in the first world war, the armistice that day resulted in the cessation of hostilities, which is why it has become a major commemorative event across the globe.

On the first Armistice Day, November 11th, 1918, crowds cheered on the streets of Allied countries such as Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the US, France and Belgium. People rejoiced at the ending of a period of total mobilisation that had affected every aspect of their lives, inflicting hardship on soldiers and civilians alike.

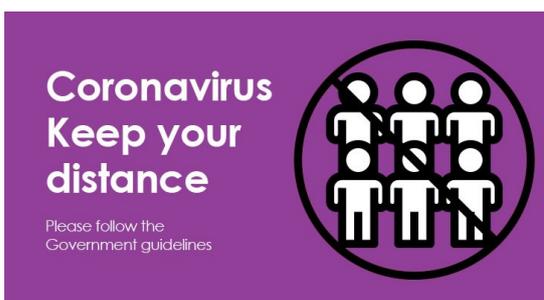
The second Armistice Day became a more formal commemoration and was often held at war memorials. People were encouraged to remember the dead with respect and solemnity. From then on, Armistice Day increasingly became known as Remembrance Day. The focus was no longer on the armistice and the end of the war; it became a day to remember, grieve and honour those who had died in both the first and second world wars.

We have five opportunities to mark this important occasion and these are detailed on the next page of this magazine.

Finally, we must thank Steve Edwards for his extended term of office as Churchwarden; and we welcome Sarah Gorman as a new colleague for Paul McHenry in this important role in the life of our church.

Stay safe and well,

The Editorial Team



*Please note the deadline for the December 2020/January 2021 edition of the magazine is **Friday 6th November 2020.** Contributions to alisonwhiffing@aol.com.*

FRONT PAGE: Poppies: Weeping Window at St George's Hall, Liverpool. 2015. Image credit - Mark McNulty

Remembrance Services



As with many important events in our lives this year we cannot mark them in the way we would like and that is certainly the case with Remembrance Sunday. In St Peter's this year we will be marking the Act of Remembrance at five different times and hope we can still show our respect and gratitude to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice and for those who continue to live with the scars of war.

Sunday 8th November - An Act of Remembrance including the Last Post and Reveille will be included in three services on Remembrance Day: during the **9am** and **10.30am** Eucharist and at **12noon** at an outdoor service around the War Memorial Cross. The outdoor service at 12noon will also include the laying of a wreath at the cross. Those attending this service are asked to socially distance in the churchyard.

On **Wednesday 11th November** at **11am** there will be an **Act of Remembrance** at the beginning of our weekly Eucharist.

Online Service - There will also be a special service online which will be available on our website.

We thank those who have made poppies to decorate the church and to Fiona Martin and Sally Payne for planning this moving tribute.

They shall grow not old,
As we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them,
Nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun,
And in the morning
We will remember them.



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Lord Jesus, you said,
'Peace I leave with you.
My peace I give to you.'
Help us to be peacemakers
in our world today.
Amen.



#WeWillRememberThem

Dear Friends,

This month's letter is a summary of what I said at the APCM. You may not have been able to attend or you may have nodded off! Either way, it gives an overview of what has been a very strange and unusual year.

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The year began with having a two months sabbatical. After being back for two Sundays I then closed the church because of the coronavirus!

I want to say a heartfelt thank you to the Standing Committee for their dedication, time and support over these past months. The Standing Committee met every Monday morning by zoom during lockdown. So, a big thank you to Churchwardens Paul & Steve, Treasurer Irvine, Lay Chair Andy & PCC Secretary Anne.

Outside of meetings there was also an incredible amount of work, especially as for all of us, from the lead up to lockdown to the recent increase again of restrictions, the situations we have been dealing with have changed, at times, rapidly. The level of procedures, recommendations and advice around COVID-19 from both the Government and the Church of England changed at times several times a week!

The closing of the church building while sad was maybe the easy part but keeping a presence in our community was much more difficult. We worked hard to keep the church visible and active.

This was helped by prayers in the porch, the cross of hope in the churchyard and our prayer tree. There were Mothering Sunday plants, the cards through the doors of more vulnerable parishioners and many phone calls, as well as helping those coping with bereavement, postponed weddings and baptisms and general isolation.

The porch as a Foodbank Collection point helped keep our ministry visible and there has been an incredible response of items donated and over £1,000 in donations.



The Easter Garden was a witness when we could not open our church for Holy Week and Easter and the churchyard became a daily mini pilgrimage for so many. There was Sunday Club at Home, magazines delivered and Zoom bible studies. Chocolates were delivered to the fire station, pharmacies, care homes on behalf of St Peter's, saying thank you to those who worked on the front line.

And most recently, harvest plants were delivered to keep contact with as many as possible. And thank you to Andy and Sonia for all their time with the website as it became a very important means of communication.

We will always be grateful to David Holroyd for learning new skills to produce the online services, and also the Zoom Evensong.

Then, of course, we went into lockdown with one Curate and we emerged from it with a different one! Nathan's farewell service was pre-recorded and he started his ministry in St Giles without any of the emotional good-byes but we will have him back in the future. We couldn't give Simon the welcome that we would have hoped for but assure him of our support and encouragement as he begins his ministry. Please keep them both in your prayers because starting a new ministry at this time is not easy.

When we could, we opened the church again for individual prayer and gradually moved to two services on a Sunday at 9am & 10.30am and our Wednesday Eucharist. In addition we are holding a Children's Service at 12noon once a month, as well as the monthly children's WOW service.

This has been just a taster of the past and future and I haven't even got started on our Uganda partnership, children's ministry, eco church silver award, outreach and discipleship. Thank you to all those who have given their support as we look to an uncertain future but with certainty that our task as a church and God's people in this place does not waver. We must work together to get a message of God's love to the people of Formby and beyond. It is by our love, care and sacrifice that we will be able to do just that and by encouraging one another whatever lies ahead.

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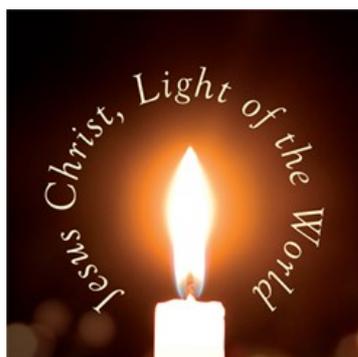
So that is the year we have had and now we look forward to the coming months. We have accepted that we will not be able to be together to mark the important occasions in our church life in our usual way but what I promise is that we will make the most of what we can do. And what a celebration it will be when we can all safely get together again!

A major focus in November is **Remembrance**. This year we will mark Remembrance Sunday in several ways (see page 3). For the first time we will have an outdoor service and I hope this helps those who do not yet feel comfortable being in church.

It is important to remember those who gave their lives in the cause of peace. Their sacrifices have been made to give us hope. We continue to remember those serving on the front line in difficult situations, both militarily and medically. The sacrifices of these and many others are to give us hope for the future.



WE REMEMBER



It may seem difficult to hold on to hope at this time but our source of energy as Christians is that, even when all seems dark and we feel despondent, Christ is the Light of our World. May we find strength in knowing that as a worshipping community, even though dispersed, we are together in God's love for each of us.

Anne

SERVICE TIMES IN NOVEMBER

Service
Times



SUNDAY

There will be a 9am and 10.30am Eucharist each Sunday

Sunday 8th November at 12noon

Outdoor Remembrance Service

Sunday 15th November at 12noon

Children's Service

WEDNESDAY

There will be an 11am Eucharist each week

The church will be cleaned between these services. Please remember to use the hand sanitiser and wear a face mask. The stewards on duty may need to ask you to move along a pew to make it possible for others to have a safe space. Please respect social distancing as you enter and leave the church. Thank you for your continued support as we make the church a safe place for as many as possible to worship.



Worship from Home

During November we will continue to record a service for each Sunday morning to watch as we continue to worship together.

Click on the link on our website home page.

<https://stpetersformby.co.uk/>

Services from previous weeks are still available by clicking on the Services tab and then past services.

Sunday Evensong 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.



November Bible Readings

Sunday 1st – All Saints' Day

Revelation 7:9-17 / 1 John 3:1-3 / Matthew 5:1-12

Sunday 8th – Remembrance Sunday

Wisdom of Solomon 6:17-20 / 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 / John 15:9-17

Sunday 15th

Zephaniah 1:7,12-18 / 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 / Matthew 25:14-30

Sunday 22nd – Christ the King

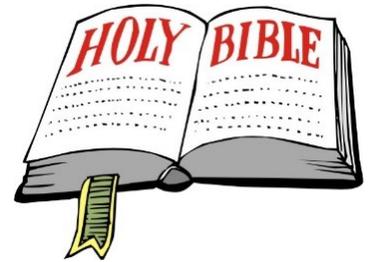
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 / Ephesians 1:15-23 / Matthew 25:31-46

Advent Sunday

Isaiah 64:1-9 / 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 / Mark 13:24-37

Andrew the Apostle (30th)

Isaiah 52:7-10 / Romans 10:12-18 / Matthew 4:18-22



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 November please pray for all who live in –

Nov 1st – Lowes Green, College Avenue, College Path, Vicarage Road

Nov 8th – Vicarage Close, Vaughan Close, Lenton Avenue, Lenton Close

Nov 15th – Barkfield Lane, The Evergreens, Holmfield Park, Holmwood Close

Nov 22nd – Holmwood Gardens, Beech Drive, Weld Drive, Holmwood Drive

Nov 29th - College Close, Firs Link, Firs Close, Firs Crescent



Our services remain open during the UK Coronavirus lockdown. You are not alone.

We know if you're scared of your partner, contacting us may be harder than normal. If safer, we can call you back on a trusted friend or family member's number at a specific time and use a code word.

nationaldahelpline.org.uk | 0808 2000 247



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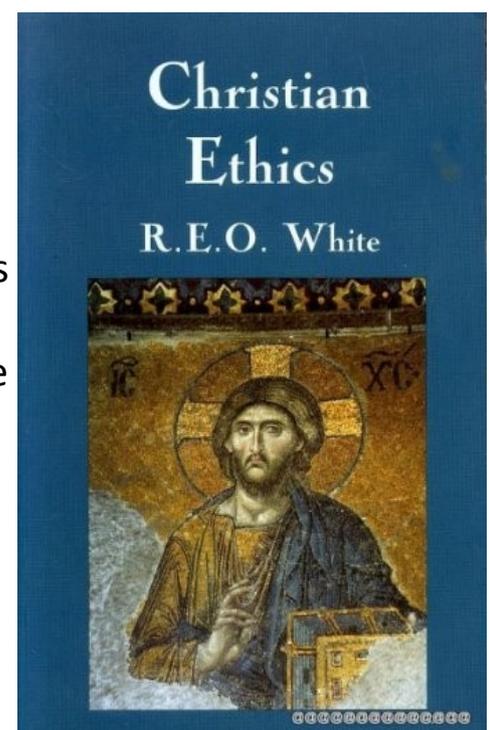


A recent report about the ill-treatment of employees on a large farm in Africa revealed appalling conditions and gross misconduct. The multinational owners of the farm responded to the killing of one man and beating of others by stating “Allegation of human rights abuses has shocked us to the core.”

These abuses were not breaches of human rights; they were crimes. The use of the whole issue of human rights is often seen as a possible cover for what is simply wrong.

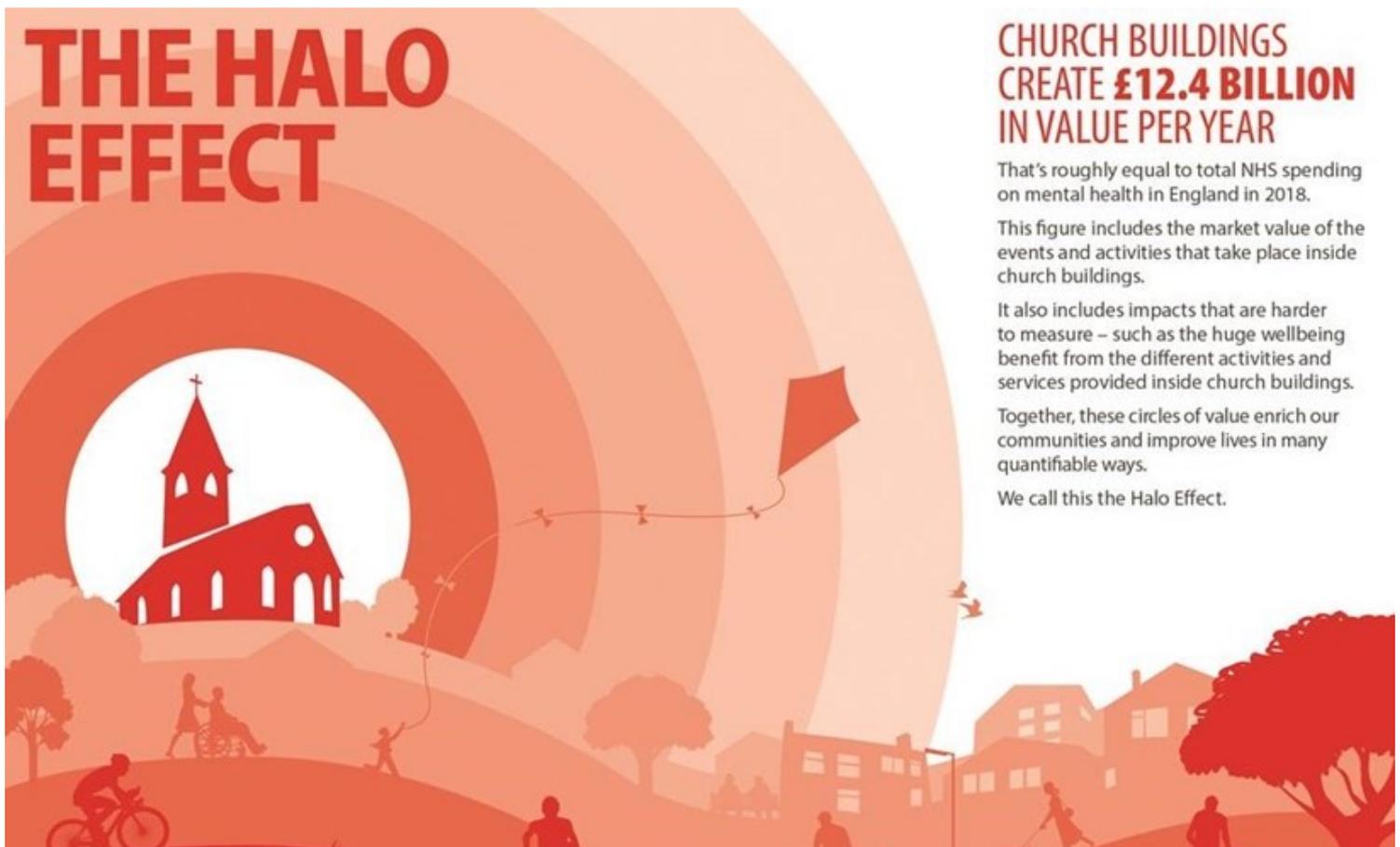
In the process of ensuring people of all nations have a safe and secure life, countries have signed up to agreements or placed in law the rights of each individual. The government will then use the courts to check that these rights are properly understood and enforced. Yet many either do not know or understand their rights or do not have the means to resolve human rights issues. Organisations have to have an approach to their relationships with employees or members which enshrines the basic principals of the rights. However it is possible for a person to fall through the cracks of these regulations. There are times when the definition of a right is not fully understood or is unwittingly ignored. All this raises the question of how far the declaration of human rights protects people.

One approach is to see that responsible government or organisations recognize their obligations to others. This goes beyond human rights and protection from crime. It places a demand that the care and support provided within society is to have a moral trust. Christian ethics starting with Christ has been important in this area and its subsequent development. In a book entitled “Christian Ethics” by R E O White the author states, “Christians came to see that Christian morality requires more than the alleviation of suffering, poverty, oppression; it requires their cure, and by an irresistible moral logic requires also their prevention, the active re-organisation of society to impede their arising.” This highlights the fact that poverty and other ills are not necessarily encapsulated in the declaration of Human Rights.



This leads to the recently released National Churches Trust's report "The House of Good", which looks at the provision of church-based projects to society. These cover the need for food, help with drugs, mental health, youth clubs, after-school care and credit unions. (The report makes the interesting point that there are more food banks than McDonald's in the UK).

It is difficult to put a price on this work but the report tries to do so and estimates that the market value is about £2.4 billion a year to the state. It highlights the enormous benefit of food banks the church runs and attempts to give this a financial outcome. All this can be placed along side the work of other Christian faiths undertaking the moral demands of Christ.



The report "The House of Good" highlights the purpose of the church building and how it is used to reach out to the community the actual church acting as a spring-board to provide services based on Christian teaching. The parable of the Good Samaritan is not about the human rights of those who pass by the injured man with their excuses, nor is it about the violated human rights of the victim. It is primarily about the obligation that the Samaritan accepted.

This is true of the services described in the report which are a response to the Christian ethic, empathy and the spirit of a church.

Rod Jacques

APCM Review 2020



The APCM this year had the highest ever number of people involved! This included people both present in church and on Zoom. Thank you to everyone who attended in one way or the other.

At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting we usually report on the events of the past year and look forward to the future but of course this year there was an emphasis on how as a church community we are coping with the pandemic.

We also make appointments and this year the following were elected –

Churchwardens: Sarah Gorman & Paul McHenry

PCC Members: Anne Cotsworth (to serve for 2 years) and Irvine Rawcliffe, Jannice Crawford, Rod Jacques, Shena Edwards & Steve Edwards (to serve for three years)

Deanery Synod Representatives:

This year we elected our representatives for Deanery Synod for the next three years: Susan Flaxington, Michael Pitts, Cliff Cotsworth & John Ryan.

Thank You

The Vicar said - There are so many people whom I could thank and I hope you forgive me for selecting three to focus on. I want to thank Margaret Dalley for her time and dedication as she has quietly arranged the flowers every week. One of those jobs that happen in the background.

We have had two retirements from the PCC this year.

I thank Nick Philpott for his dedication and again work behind the scenes. Nick while retiring from the PCC is still willing to help out with everything to do with the churchyard and more.

I thank John Medley who served as Churchwarden for 19 years, then as Lay Chair, served as a Trustee of the Educational Trust and as a member of PCC, as well as helping on the Sides Rota, the cleaning rota and organising the acolytes on a Sunday morning. John has been truly dedicated to serving St Peter's in all these capacities and more and has given so much time and energy; we thank him most sincerely for all that he has done for St Peter's.

2020 Electoral Roll - There are 186 names on the Electoral Roll (119 resident in the parish - 67 non-resident).

If you would like your name included there are forms available in church.

PCC Meeting - October 2020

At the first meeting of the Parochial Church Council after the APCM the following appointments were made.

Lay Vice-Chair - Steve Edwards; Treasurer - Irvine Rawcliffe; Secretary - Anne Cotsworth; Electoral Roll Officer - David Manning-Fox.

Sub-Committees - Traditionally we have 5 committees - Finance, Fabric, Faith & Outreach, Horizons and Social. Members of the PCC all serve on one or more sub-committees. The PCC has introduced a new sub-committee which is Eco Church. It was decided that we need to take our environmental responsibilities as seriously as say our Fabric or Social activities. Each sub-committee can co-opt people who are not on the PCC. A full list of the committees and their members will be published in the December magazine.

Election of Governor to Trinity St Peter's Primary School

We have three St Peter's Governors - Allan Jones, Sue Wong and Paul McHenry. Governors serve for four years. Paul's term of office ends this November and the PCC were delighted to recommend to the Diocese that Paul be re-elected for another term.

PROPOSALS - There were two Proposals passed by the PCC:

Expenditure on the Organ -

On a recent routine visit by David Wells (Organ Tuner) he investigated the problems we are having with the pedal action on the organ. The cause is severe corrosion on the contacts of the Pedal Jacks. These contacts should have a smooth coating of silver on them, but this has disappeared and the conductivity has been compromised, hence some notes are not working.



It was proposed that all the Pedal Jacks be replaced with new units fitted with gold contacts rather than silver, which should be far more resistant to future corrosion. We are very fortunate to have The Sybil Hall Bequest Fund which can only be used for the organ so are able to do this work.

Streaming Service for the Church -

From a technology point of view, we acknowledge how helpful virtual services have been over the last 6 months. Even during full lockdown we have been able to continue our worship online via Zoom and YouTube and we are still using this technology to reach those unable to attend our services. To take this format forward we have investigated how we can stream services live, which would be especially helpful for services such as Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, as well as regular Sunday services and special festivals such as Christmas, Easter, Harvest etc.

The technology is not meant to replace traditional attended worship, but it is needed to enhance what we can offer and also give the ability for us to reach out to those who are not able to attend in person – both now and in the future. The PCC agreed to the work that would make it possible for us to live stream services. To help offset the cost the parish will use a £1,000 grant given by Sefton North Deanery Mission Fund to each church towards anything related to managing during the pandemic.

This will be a very important facility both now and in the future.

Kate Sherman MBE

We are delighted to report that Kate Sherman, clinical lead physiotherapist in complex trauma at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Stanford Hall in Loughborough, was made a Member of the British Empire (MBE) in the Queen's Birthday Honours list, in recognition of her dedicated work with injured service personnel.



'It is clearly amazing to be recognised in my work with an honour like this. However, I wouldn't have been able to do any of it without having outstanding colleagues working with me and supporting me with the work I have done. Nor in fact without the patients that I've worked with, who have generally been keen to meet any of the challenges that I set them!!'

Kate has worked with the military since 2002 and has been part of the Complex Trauma team ever since its creation (in 2005) when it was originally based at Headley Court in Surrey.

Also, while working at Headley Court, she was involved in the development of sports as exercise, an initiative used by the Battle Back programme, as part of the rehabilitation of injured military personnel.

Speaking about her experience of working with the military and within her team, she said:

'Whether working with conflict and traumatic injuries, or through moving the entire rehabilitation unit to a different location or working with Covid-19 restrictions and finding new, more distanced ways to do our jobs, it has been a truly amazing place to work, with every day being a learning day.'

Children's Service



This is a service for children and young people once a month at 12noon.

A short children's service with a take home bag!

In normal times we would have eaten hotdogs in the Bier House and one day soon we hope we will be able to again. There will be a pew for each family to help with social distancing so do come along, you will be very welcome.

Dates: 15th November & 13th December.

Breakfast Church

meets on the first Saturday of each month at 9am in the Bier House and uses the Iona Morning Service.



This service gives time to reflect on the readings and pray for specific needs in our world, our parish or for those whom we know.

Social distancing will be in place.

Dates:
7th November & 5th December.

Everyone is very welcome.

WOW Service

Worship on Wednesday is a service designed for pre-school children.

The children from Nursery and Reception from Trinity St Peter's join us for this service which is held at 2pm.

Dates: 4th November & 16th December.

Everyone is very welcome.



SOUTHPORT FOODBANK
HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS
DEBT AND MONEY COUNSELLING PROVIDED BY COMMUNITY MONEY ADVICE, SOUTHPORT

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who has dropped items into the Foodbank boxes in the church porch or sent financial donations.

The Church Porch remains open every day from 10am to 5pm for donations. The boxes are emptied regularly during the day.

The items particularly needed are: household items (such as washing powder & washing up liquid), sweets (such as sweeties and chocolate bars), crisps, crackers, long-life milk, cordial and tinned meat.



The Foodbank has plenty of - soup, baby food, pasta, baked beans and ladies' sanitary items .

Did you know that 1 in 5 of the UK population live below the poverty line?

It is also possible to make a financial donation directly to the Foodbank by visiting their website

www.southport.foodbank.org.uk

Many thanks.

Thank you to the youngest members of the Martin family for helping with donations.

AUTUMN PRAYER SERIES

There are any number of books on prayer, but in these sessions we won't just talk about prayer, but do some practical praying as well.

There are as many ways of praying as there are people, and the best way of praying is that which works for you. As one writer put it, "Pray as you can, not as you can't!"

Last month we heard about – and practised – the Jesus Prayer, "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner", a prayer that is widely practised in the Eastern Orthodox Church.

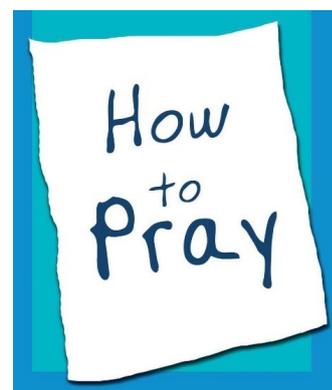
In November, we will be looking at Praying with the Bible and how Bible passages and stories can be a springboard to prayer and meditation. The session will be held in the church on

Wednesday 4th November at 7.30pm.

You can also take part in it by Zoom. The link will be put on the Parish Website. The evening ends with Compline.

The final session will be held on Wednesday 2nd December when we look at Intercessory Prayer.

All are welcome to join us either in church or on Zoom.



HORIZONS REPORT DONATIONS 2020

One of the more recent additions to our list of donations is 'Sightsavers.'

What is the work of this charity? They prevent sight loss and avoidable blindness in some of the poorest parts of the world by treating conditions such as cataracts and fighting debilitating eye diseases.

They promote equal opportunities for people with disabilities and campaign for disability rights so everyone has the chance to go to school, earn a living and be happy.

They work with governments around the world to tackle the problems at the root of avoidable blindness, and they work with local communities to support people who need it most.

They work with local, regional, national and international partners and governments. With their help, they distribute treatments to prevent disease, carry out eye operations, advocate for disability rights and improve health services to create sustainable development projects.

Their vision is of a world where avoidable blindness is eliminated, and people with disabilities have the same rights as everyone else. They can only get there thanks to the generosity of their supporters, so they aim to be as transparent as possible so you can be sure your money is being used wisely.

For more information: [sightsavers.org](https://www.sightsavers.org)





Eco tip of the month

I'm not normally a fan of housework but one household chore I will always volunteer for is hanging out the washing. I'm a firm believer in using the sun and wind for drying rather than the tumble drier and, let's face it, we do get a lot of windy days here in Formby.

We have a tumble drier for 'just in case' but rarely use it. Hanging out washing is definitely better for the environment, but I think there are many other benefits too.

The obvious examples are that it encourages regular fresh air and exercise – lifting, carrying and walking into the garden – but also a greater appreciation of nature. This year, for example, on my forays into the garden laden with laundry I spotted a blackbird fledging watching me from the top of the holly bush and was also surprised by an upclose visit by the first red squirrel I'd seen in our garden for ages.

Hanging out washing is a great way to practice mindfulness, concentrating on the task in hand. After all, who has time to worry about the woes of the world when a pegging out strategy to maximise drying effectiveness on a rotary drier must be devised? If not done in a rush it can also be relaxing - watching the sky for interesting clouds and vapour trails or listening to birdsong or children from the nearby school at playtime.

Something else that I really like about this task is that it connects me with previous generations of women (for the most part I suspect) who have battled throughout the ages to dry wet clothes long before tumble driers were even a twinkle in some inventor's eye. Weekly phone calls to my grandmother in the 1980s invariably involved news on whether she'd dried her washing that day.

The tumble drier, however, is not the only advantage we have over our grandparent's generation when it comes to drying washing. We also have the benefit of a more accurate weather forecast than relies less on a piece of seaweed nailed to the door and more on technology. Whether this is Countryfile's weekly Sunday roundup for the week ahead or rigorous use of the Met Office app, Monday is no longer fixed as washing day when we can pretty accurately plan which days in the week ahead will be good for drying.

But perhaps one of the greatest benefits of my absolute insistence on hanging washing outside is that it provides regular entertainment for my family and neighbours when my optimism and persistence are frequently tested by the forecast for Formby's microclimate which constantly lets me down!

At the time of writing the weather seems to be set to 'wet' for quite some time. Perhaps this eco tip is not overly timely. However, we will get some dry days again and so the challenge is, for those of you that can, to try and use the washing line a little bit more and the tumble drier a little bit less. You might even enjoy it.



Sonia



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WEDNESDAY: 12.00-16.30

THURSDAY 12.30-16.00

***WEDNESDAYS:** Also parked in the Lay-by on Old Town Lane outside the Chemist and Freshfield Surgery between **09.00-12.00**

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

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

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Trinity St. Peter's

Church of England Primary School

where children shine

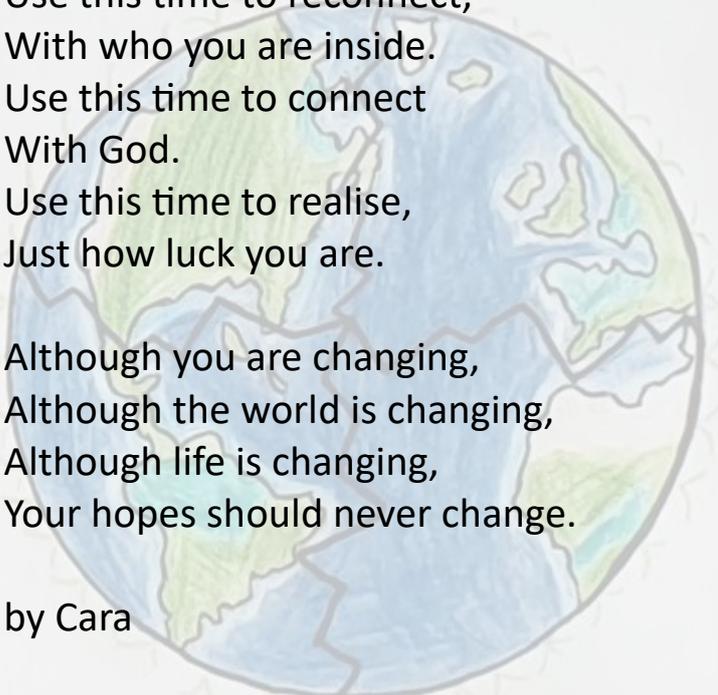
Y6 poems about Lockdown - linked to our school value of 'Hope'

This Year



Things are constantly changing,
The rules are constantly changing,
Our lives are constantly changing,
Our freedom is constantly changing.

But love will never change,
Our hopes will never change.



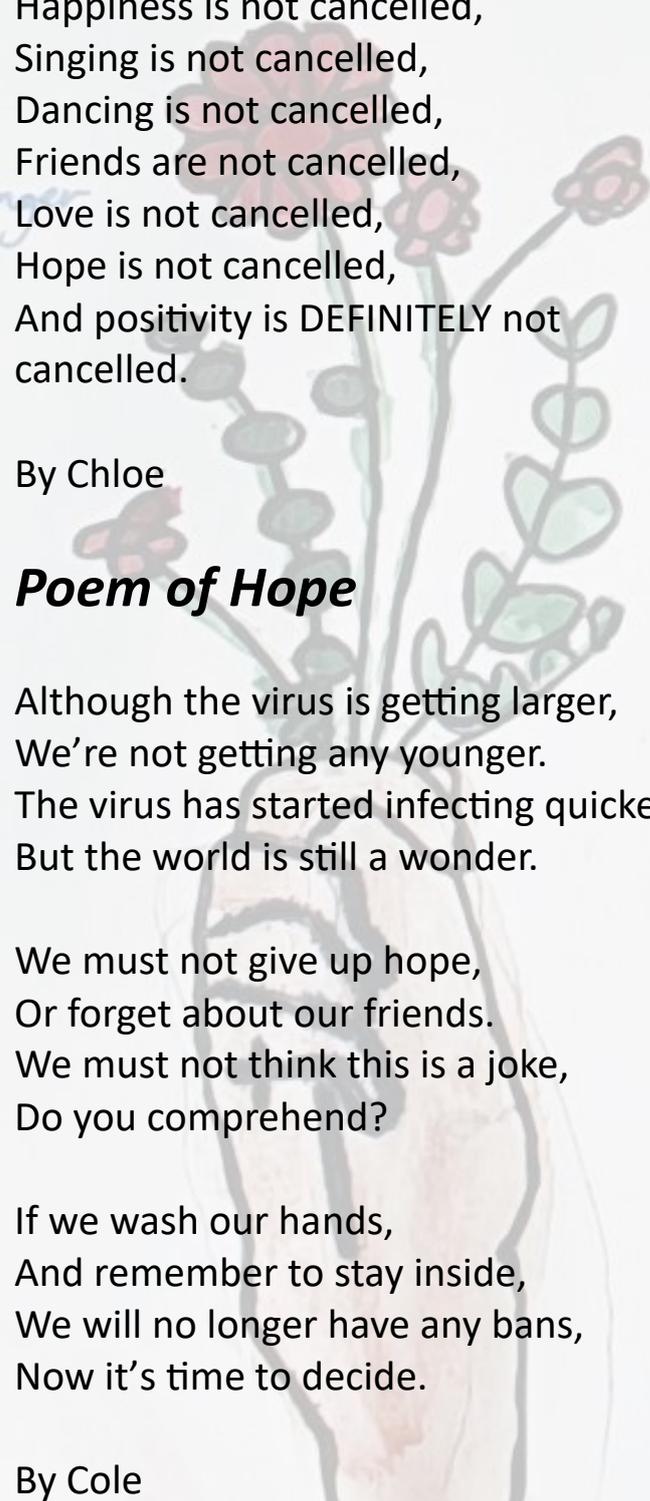
Use this time to reconnect,
With who you are inside.
Use this time to connect
With God.

Use this time to realise,
Just how luck you are.

Although you are changing,
Although the world is changing,
Although life is changing,
Your hopes should never change.

by Cara

Not Everything is Cancelled



Not everything is cancelled.
Happiness is not cancelled,
Singing is not cancelled,
Dancing is not cancelled,
Friends are not cancelled,
Love is not cancelled,
Hope is not cancelled,
And positivity is DEFINITELY not cancelled.

By Chloe

Poem of Hope

Although the virus is getting larger,
We're not getting any younger.
The virus has started infecting quicker,
But the world is still a wonder.

We must not give up hope,
Or forget about our friends.
We must not think this is a joke,
Do you comprehend?

If we wash our hands,
And remember to stay inside,
We will no longer have any bans,
Now it's time to decide.

By Cole

Things

And the people learned and did new things.
They were doing art and dancing and singing,
There were good times like birthdays and special days,
The people they wanted to see were seen in different ways,
There were Zooms and Face Times and all sorts of things,
Quizzes and parties and many other things.
Now I hope you listened carefully because this is an important story,
A new day is a new life so make everyday glory!

By Elsie

Hope

We all stayed at home.
We were all separated from each other.
We had nothing to do.
But we all kept hope.
Hope that this pandemic would end.
Hope that we will be able to see our friends and family again.
Hope that we would be able to go outside again.
We all kept hope.

By Eric

Put On Hold

All life was put on hold.
Our activities were put on hold,
Our schools were put on hold,
Our places of worship were put on hold,
Our hopes and dreams were put on hold.

But Love was not put on hold,
But Hope was not put on hold,
But Family was not put on hold,
But God's love was not put on hold.

By Pip

Change

The world was in silence and now is changing,
From Zoom to no clubs,
A lack of hugs but never not love.
Till the days we explain to our children,
No matter their age,
We will remember the day coronavirus came.

As my family waits for contact again,
I dream every night their love stays tight,
So we will all be strong and hold together,
From the 16th of March, now and forever.

By Poppy

FAIR TRADE STALL

Fair Trade Stall in Formby Elim Church on

Saturday 7th November from 10am - 1pm.

This will be a chance to buy all the usual goodies like biscuits, chocolate, including Advent calendars, dried fruits, and hand-crafted gifts. Christmas cards will be available to order.

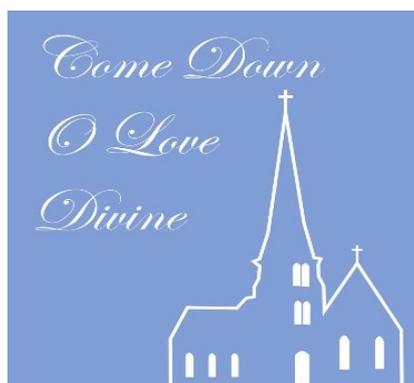
As with any other shop there will be a limit to numbers in the building at any one time, face masks will be needed and hand sanitiser will be provided.

Entrance will be directly into the main room from the car park area on the Church Road side of the building.

In these difficult times the small-scale farmers and producers are facing even bigger challenges than usual, so any sales of their goods is making even more of a difference to lives in some of the poorer regions of the world.



FAIRTRADE



Favourite Hymns

If asked what is their favourite hymn, many people will say it is "Come Down, O Love Divine." The text of the hymn was written as a poem by a 14th century Italian monk, Bianco da Siena and reflects the deep longing of the human heart for love while drawing on an image of courtly love.

The first verse invites, or even commands, "Love divine," to descend upon the soul.

*Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.*

This was the era when St Valentine's Day became associated with romance rather than martyrdom!

The text of the poem was translated into English by the Irish born clergyman, the Revd Richard Frederick Littledale. Littledale was a curate in Soho, London. Suffering from chronic ill-health he did little parish work and devoted himself mainly to writing. His published work was extensive both in volume and topic, from 'The Children's Bread, or Communion Office for the Young,' 1868 to 'The Religious Education of Women,' 1873/74 to 'The Relation of the Clergy to Politics,' 1873.

The tune to which the hymn is usually sung, Down Ampney, was composed by Ralph Vaughan Williams in 1905. Down Ampney is the name of the Gloucestershire village where Vaughan Williams was born. When Vaughan Williams died in 1958 the hymn was sung at his funeral in Westminster Abbey. The hymn remains very popular today.

We hope that our members have found hope in these strange dark months since we met, and we have all had new experiences.

We may have been away from home, settled in surroundings that are not our own, with many adjustments to be made; we may be sharing accommodation and finding that easy or difficult; or self-isolating and finding that frightening and frustrating; or discovering a new richness in our home and maybe garden, even feeling a tinge fearful of joining normal life again; but also striving to keep at bay, perhaps in the evening gloom, the dark wolf of loneliness prowling round.

The pandemic has affected all MU members worldwide and we have probably all had similar reactions. We are all a part of the Wave of Prayer that reaches all members every year - a wonderfully comforting thought.

The programme for the year to February 2021 had been agreed and the speakers had kindly agreed to postpone their talks for a further year. We do not yet know whether we will be able to resume meeting in February 2021, or indeed when.

A joyful event we could not attend together was the ordination of Simon as Deacon in Liverpool Cathedral on 26th September. We send him our congratulations and wish him a very happy and fulfilling ministry.

One change we know of is that Pat Smith has left Formby to live with her family on the Rockcliffe Peninsula in South West Scotland. We will miss her, and wish her much happiness and fulfilment there.

We hope that in our December/January report we will be able to give you more positive news about next year's programme. Meanwhile, we wish you all strength and joy.

Herbert and Jean

Look who made
the front cover of
the Church Times!



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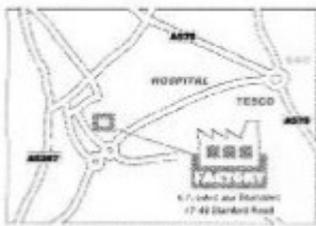
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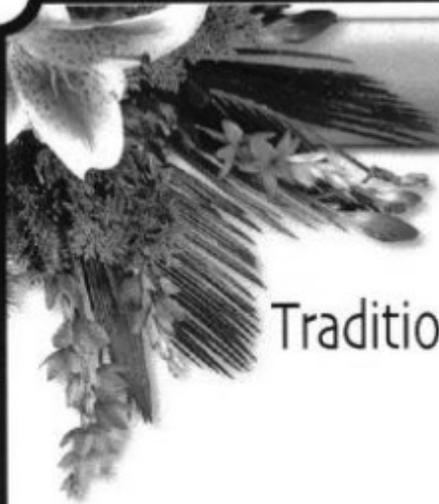


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TRIPPING THE LIGHT FANTASTIC

It was a sunny day but rain was forecast for later in the afternoon so I decided to go for my daily walk up the town before the rain came. As I walked along, near the end of the bridge I tripped over a paving stone and fell. I fell into a shop doorway, but obviously a Levite worked there as no one came to my rescue.

A Samaritan lady jumped out of her parked car and helped me onto my feet, then a man driving past stopped his car and jumped out and told us that he was a fireman and knew how to lift, so he bundled me into his car and took me home.

He was a real Good Samaritan.

Oh dear, my new knee took the full force of my fall and was swelling like a red balloon as I watched. My new glasses, only two weeks old also got the force of my head hitting the pavement and the lenses were scratched. Back to the optician next week!

In my pain and upset I forgot to ask the name of the fireman, but will try from the local fire station to find and thank him once I can walk so far.



My son and daughter-in-law were kindness itself and plied me with hot tea and brandy and put me to bed to await a “what to do with Mum” decision. They decided that I needed A & E and the nearest is twenty five miles away, but Steve insisted on taking me in case anyone with a heart attack needed an ambulance. He dialled 111, and after a long wait was told to take me to A & E at Stranraer.

“Saturday night at A & E,” I groaned, “we will be there for hours.” Not so!

A nurse was waiting for me with a trolley and I was triaged and seen by a doctor who called for an x-ray as it looked as if my kneecap had slipped round the side of my knee. The pain was sickening but the speed and kindness I was shown was wonderful. I was in an awful state of mind, thinking that I would be a burden to my family if it were broken.

As the x-ray machine was brought to my knee I shut my eyes and asked Jesus to take my hand and to do what was best for me, he would know and he did. It was not broken, but was a warning. Pride is painful and I had always refused to use any walking aids, but was glad of the crutch I was given and will use it when out walking on my own. There were no broken bones this time, only a huge blood clot.

As I lay on the pavement I thought of the man walking from Jerusalem to Jericho and the help he got from a stranger. I am a stranger here, in Scotland, but felt the warmth and kindness of my two “good Samaritans.”

I thank them with all my heart.

The whole A & E experience was so different from what I expected, it being only one hour from entry to exit with only one other person waiting to be admitted as we left. It was a wonderful, if painful, experience for me.

Martha.

From the Church Registers - Baptism

Sunday 4th October – a family occasion as mother and daughter were baptised.

Sadie Lou-Anne Taylor, daughter of Elliott and Amy.

Amy Louise Ralston, Sadie's mum.



Sunday 11th October – Simon's first baptism

Erin-May Loftus, daughter of Laura & David.

Funerals

8 th	October	Eileen Jones
12 th	October	Doreen Greer
22 nd	October	Kenneth Ridings
27 th	October	Joyce Furnivall
28 th	October	Gabrielle Hutchinson
30 th	October	Roger Pontefract

Interment of Ashes

5 th	October	Beverley Walker
14 th	October	Jim Brown
17 th	October	Jane Milles

From the Church Registers



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

Q: My child will not eat fish, what can I replace it with?

A: A cat. Cats love fish.

Q: What do you call a dinosaur that is sleeping?

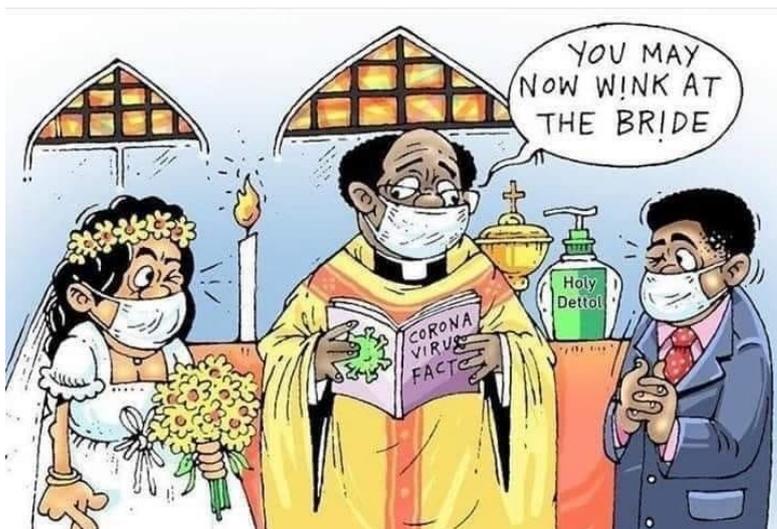
A: A dino-snore!

Q: When is a door not a door?

A: When it's ajar.



The Coronavirus ZOO



Lockdown Travel Books

Remembrance Day Wordsearch

Find these Remembrance Day words in the grid

below:

ARMISTICE
BUGLE
CENOTAPH
FLANDERS FIELDS
HEROES
HONOUR
LAST POST

MEDALS
MEMORIAL
NOVEMBER
PARADE
POPPIES
POPPY
REMEMBER

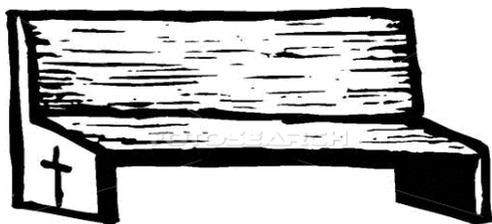
REMEMBRANCE
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SERVICE
SILENCE
WAR
WREATH

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

 Teachers' Vault
www.teachersvault.co.uk

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.



From the Back Pew Ted Woods

A BI- FOCAL FAITH

In the title song of the film “Alfie,” Dionne Warwick sings,

*“What’s it all about, Alfie?
Is it just for the moment we live?”*

This is a question that was addressed by the Revd Sam Wells, vicar of Saint Martin-in-the-Fields in London, at a recent (zoom) conference.

He put it rather starkly when he asked for how many is this life “a purposeless existence in a pointless world in a meaningless universe?”

Perhaps we wouldn’t put it in such an extreme way, but at some time or another we all should ask ourselves “Is it just for the moment we live,” or is there something more to life than the material and the physical?”



Sam Wells’ talk was on The Lord’s Prayer and he said, “The Lord’s Prayer begins with words that make sense of everything else – ‘Our Father, who art in heaven.’ This tells us that there *is* a purpose to our existence... that there is something bigger and more significant than the universe and this is called heaven.” And he went on to say that the universe will one day disappear but that heaven is eternal and that God is beyond everything.

And when we think of those two words, Our Father, we can say that the power behind all existence is personal rather than impersonal. In the words of Sam Wells, “God wants to be in a relationship with us,” both here and hereafter.

Life is going somewhere. The grave is not a dead end but a gateway into the nearer presence of God. Death is not an obliteration of the self but a release into what Sam Wells calls “heaven,” the life that lies beyond our earthly existence.

The Christian faith is bi-focal.

True, The Lord’s Prayer goes on to ask, “Give us this day our daily bread.”

We do have to focus on everyday living for ourselves, our families and our world. We have duties and responsibilities as citizens here on earth and we are called to make a full contribution to make the world a better place.

But we also have a heavenly citizenship. The writer to the Hebrews puts it this way, "Here we have no lasting city, that we are looking for the city that is to come." (Hebrews 13.14). We are *in* the world but not *of* the world.

We need to keep this double focus if we are to understand what life is all about and where it is ultimately heading.

A few years ago, on a visit to an aquarium, Anne and I came across a tropical fish called the "four eyed scale fish". It actually has only two eyes, but each eye is divided into two different parts so that the fish can see below and above the surface of the water at the same time.



And that rather neatly sums up what this article is about! It's about having a bi-focal faith, having a purpose for here and hereafter.

*"What's it all about Alfie?
Is it just for the moment we live?"*

No! Life has a purpose and meaning beyond our earthly existence.

Let's keep a double focus!

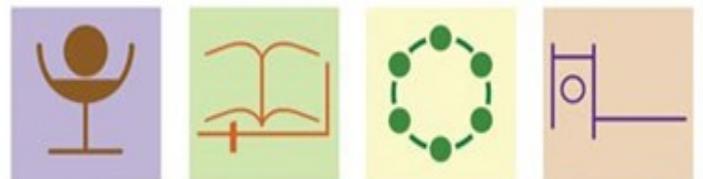


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or contact St Peter's Stewardship Team
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Mike Fletcher 07808 310834 or email:
stewardshipstpeter@gmail.com

Church Flowers

Many people have special days in the year which they commemorate and flowers on the altar of St Peter's Church can fittingly mark the special event.

We invite you to remember your family and friends with a donation towards our Church flowers. Suggested donation is £20. The occasion would also be printed in the Sunday bulletin.

Please first contact the Parish Office on 871171 for more details and to reserve your date.

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

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For further details please refer to our website:
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A Prayer for Remembrance

Ever-living God,

We remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence; may that same peace calm our fears, bring justice to all peoples and establish harmony among the nations, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

