

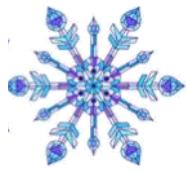
St Peter's Church Magazine

Festive Edition

December 2020 & January 2021



Dear Friends,



At the time of writing Christmas is exercising a lot of people's minds – in the sense of what are we going to do for Christmas this year? Will the family be able to gather? Will we be allowed to socialise with our friends? Even turkey producers are rearing smaller turkeys for smaller Christmas dinners and large Christmas trees are hard to get (though we have managed it!).

Church-wise we're planning to put on services with the important social-distancing in place and this will mean booking in this year for the Christingle Services. We'll also have an online Carol Service. But we still don't know definitely what will be allowed and what will not! But a plan is in place for every possibility! See the middle pages for Plan A! We also now have the added bonus of being able to live-stream our church services which will be a great help.

So, **what will we do for Christmas?** Perhaps we should reverse the question and ask, **What will Christmas do for us this year?**

I have always loved Christmas and the run-up to the festival. There's always a great buzz about. There's the charity carol singing, the lights, decorated trees, Christmas markets, cards, mulled wine.... And then there's the day itself, (and the days after) getting together with family and friends. And I haven't even mentioned Carol Services and Christingles!

It seems a lot of that won't happen this year – at least not in the ways we are familiar with.

So, what will Christmas do for us this year?

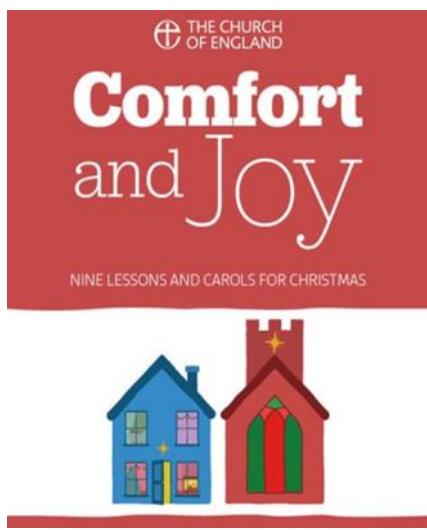
I pray that it will give us **HOPE**.

Hope that better times are coming. Even before the coming of Christ there were festivals to celebrate the passing of mid-winter, to look forward to the days lengthening, however slowly, heralding the coming of Spring. This Christmas we can have hope that as we get to Spring vaccines will be available to protect us from Covid-19.

Hope, because at Christmas we celebrate how God became one of us. He didn't enter a perfect world. It was a mess then as it is now. **But Jesus is Emmanuel – God with us.** Many chairs may be empty around our tables this Christmas either due to Covid restrictions or, for so many, loved ones have passed away, but we can know that Jesus is with us, and that his presence will give us comfort and that we are not alone. We celebrate the presence of him who is the light of the world. May this hope brighten us all this Christmas as we look outward and onward to less restricted times.

And yes, there is still so much to celebrate. Cards will be more meaningful this year, as will presents, phone calls, Zoom gatherings and FaceTimes.

And when we do get into church, even the slimmed down services will, I hope, underline the real message of Christmas – that God so loved the world – and each of us – that he gave his only Son.



However dark and difficult this Christmas may be, Jesus is the light and the love that gives us hope.

With your magazine this month we are giving you a copy of **Comfort and Joy** produced by the Church of England with reflections by the Archbishops and others and it includes a reading, a familiar carol and a prayer starting on Christmas Day. The Archbishops say “We pray that as you journey with this booklet through the Christmas season you will know God’s comfort and, in whatever your circumstances, be surprised by God’s joy.”

We hope that as we travel together through this season, its **Comfort and Joy** will bring us **Hope** and that we can each be messengers of God’s love to others as we care for one another.

Ted & I, along with Simon, hope that you will all have a very happy, peaceful and love-filled Christmas.

Anne



EDITORIAL

For many years St Peter's has been fortunate in having Pat Smith as a member of our congregation and as a regular contributor to our magazine, writing under the pseudonym of "Martha."

Her articles have always been thoughtfully written, often trenchant and occasionally provocative enough to raise eyebrows on the Editorial Team! But always homely and appreciated by her readers.

The Editorial Team is immensely grateful to Martha and are confident that our readers will join us in wishing her good health and happiness in her new home, north of the border.

Martha's final contribution can be found on page 29.

So here we are, nearing the end of a year that none of us anticipated twelve months ago. Christmas - however we are allowed to celebrate it - will be unlike any Christmas we can remember. But the Christmas message, however it is delivered, remains the same - and that is reason enough to celebrate!

Our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year!

The Editorial Team



In these difficult times, the mission and ministry work of St Peter's continues. Readers unable to attend church services may wish to donate a small sum at Christmas to help us.

Aside is a QR code which, when scanned, will take you to a safe donation site, clearly labelled. See image →

If you cannot access by QR code, the stewardship team (see contacts) can provide the weblink to paste into your browser e.g. Chrome.

Mike Fletcher



Please note the deadline for the February 2021 edition of the magazine is Friday 8th January 2021. Contributions to alisonwhiffing@aol.com.

FRONT PAGE: Liverpool Cathedral - stained glass window

Our Advent Appeal is for The Children's Society

Who are The Children's Society?



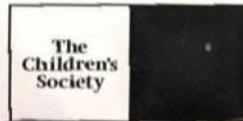
'We are a national charity working to transform the hopes and happiness of young people facing abuse, exploitation and neglect. We support them through their most serious life challenges and we campaign tirelessly for the big social changes that will improve the lives of those who need hope most. We've been doing this for 140 years and we won't stop until we've built a society where hope is alive in every child. We empower young people to make positive changes and rediscover their hope. They want a future they can look forward to and we're here to make sure they get it. Working alongside young people, their families and community, we will not rest until together, step-by-step, we've created a society built for all children.
www.childrenssociety.org.uk

Money put in the Blue Envelopes at our church services throughout December will be given to help the crucial work of **The Children's Society**.

The silent choir

No words or music by
THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

ALL I WANT FOR
CHRISTMAS,
IS TO BE HEARD



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 December & January please pray for all who live in

- 6th Dec** – College Close, Firs Link, Firs Close, Firs Crescent
- 13th Dec** – St Peter's Avenue, St Peter's Close, Oakfield Drive, Birch Green
- 20th Dec** – Larch Way, Harington Road, Squirrel Green, Proctor Road
- 27th Dec** – Gorse Way, Larkhill Lane, Dunes Drive, Blundell Avenue

+++++

- 3rd Jan** – Wicks Crescent, Wicks Green, Wicks Green Close, Harington Green
- 10th Jan** – Harington Close, Warren Green, Ince Crescent, Wicks Lane
- 17th Jan** – Hawksworth Drive, Hawksworth Close, Longton Drive, Lingdales
- 24th Jan** – Turnacre, Broad Lane, Southport Old Road, Southport Road
- 31st Jan** – For all our worshippers who live outside our parish boundaries.

Window Candles

Thank you to all the those who made poppies for the church for Remembrance Sunday and to Fiona and the team. It made the day very special and meaningful when we could not have our usual service.



For Advent we would like to cover as many church clear window panes with 'Advent Candle Art' as possible. Each candle must be no taller than an A4 sheet of paper (29cms/11.5ins) and decorated on both sides so they be viewed in or outside church and preferably transparent using e.g.tissue paper. If not make them narrower so we can cut around them and they will still let light in. If you wish to create 2-3 candles on the one sheet, that's fine too. However you produce your work of art is fine by us! And we will keep receiving them throughout the coming weeks.

Please bring them to the church or the office.

Many thanks for your continued support to help everyone feel included at this time.

Bible Readings December

6th December – 2nd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11 / 2 Peter 3:8-15a / Mark 1:1-8



13th December – 3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 / 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 / John 1: 6-8,19-28

20th December – 4th Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 / Romans 16:25-27 / Luke 1:26-38

Christmas Day

Isaiah 9:2-7 / Titus 3:4-7 / Luke 2: 1-14 (15-20)



26th December – St Stephen, deacon, first martyr

2 Chronicles 24:20-22 / Acts 7:51-60 / Matthew 10:17-22

27th December – John, Apostle and Evangelist / 1st Sunday of Christmas

Exodus 33:7-11a / 1 John 1 / John 21: 19b-25

The Holy Innocents (28th December)

Jeremiah 31:15-17 / 1 Corinthians 1:26-29 / Matthew 2: 13-18

Bible Readings January

1st January – Naming and Circumcision of Jesus

Numbers 6:22-27 / Galatians 4:4-7 / Luke 2:15-21



3rd January – Epiphany

Isaiah 60:1-6 / Ephesians 3:1-12 / Matthew 2:1-12

10th January – The Baptism of Christ / 1st Sunday of Epiphany

Genesis 1:1-5 / Acts 19:1-7 / Mark 1:4-11

17th January – 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

1 Samuel 3:1-20 / Revelation 5:1-10 / John 1:43-51

24th January – 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

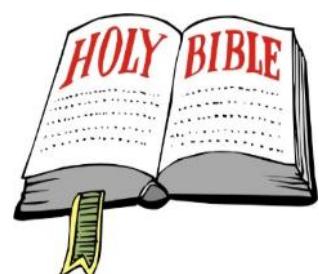
Genesis 14:17-20 / Revelation 19:6-10 / John 2:1-11

Monday 25th January – The Conversion of St Paul

Jeremiah 1:4-10 / Acts 9:1-22 / Matthew 19:27-30

31st January – Presentation of Christ in the Temple

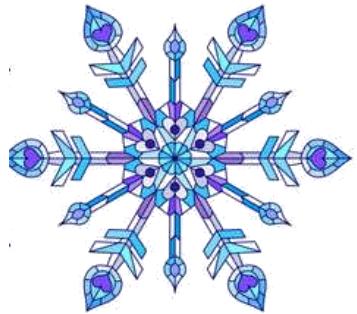
Malachi 3:1-5 / Hebrews 2:14-18 / Luke 2:22-40



Food Glorious Food

W H Auden in his Christmas Oratorio writes,

*'Tonight for the first time the prison gates
Have opened, Music and sudden light
Have interrupted our routine tonight,
And swept the filth of habit from our hearts.'*



Each Christmas a prison governor has to make a tricky decision. Once made, every effort will be made to keep it confined to just a few to stop it leaking out, yet it inevitably will, which means endless phone calls to headquarters and the press. Of course, at Christmas, it involves both money and food.

All year round the prisoners spend their small amount of earnings in the prison shop and about 10% spent is held back in a fund for their use, usually for games etc. However at Christmas the management decides to enhance the amount given for prisoners' Christmas meals. This means, for example a small Christmas cake will be given to each prisoner for tea and a bit extra for each main meal. This not only gives the prisoner an opportunity to feel some sense of the festive season without his family and the staff know that each person in their cell is heavy with food.

The problem? Well someone will leak to the press that prisoners will be eating vast amounts of food paid for by the tax payer. The phone rings and the local paper's journalist will seek clarification about this aberration. All is explained. One year the establishment was chastised when they gave an extra £2 per person. This reveals a problem about the balance between punishment and rehabilitation.

The issue of food at Christmas is so important. When Cromwell banned any celebration of the festival during the Protectorate there were riots and the whole idea of cancelling the Christmas meal proved divisive.

When Ebenezer Scrooge realised that on Christmas Day his miserly life had to change, the first thing he did was to order a huge turkey. A colleague belonged to a charity which distributed turkeys to needy pensioners. On one occasion he knocked on a door, gift in hand, but he had gone to the wrong house. When the door opened he saw real poverty and handed the bird over to an astonished and grateful lady.



At one carol service I attended I joined a group of prisoners having cups of tea. After chatting for a while one of them asked, 'What are you in for?' I wondered afterwards whether to change my tailor!

Even in the middle ages there were attempts for all to enhance their Christmas fare. Recent research has shown that the diet eaten by those living in remote rural areas was much healthier than in urban groups. Yet in the day of Christ's birth, although the arrival of Jesus would have been a moment of celebration, it is unlikely people would have been able to have had extra food. It is this blend of awareness of the poverty at the dawn of Christianity and the need to use food and family to help us through the depth of winter which brings to light the values of Christmas.

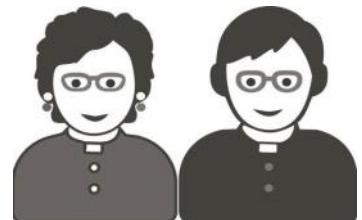
Receiving, giving, being with our family alongside the security of good meal.

Merry Christmas Everybody

Rod Jacques

Questions a Vicar Gets Asked!!

Question – Is it disrespectful to shorten Christmas to Xmas?



People often think when someone puts Xmas they are leaving Christ out of Christmas (As Christmas comes from Christ-Mass, the Church service that celebrated the birth of Jesus.) But that is not quite right!



The abbreviation Xmas for Christmas dates from the mid-16th century. The X is the Greek letter chi, the initial letter in the word Χριστός (Chrīstos) "Christ."

In the early days of the Christian church, Christians used the letter X as a secret symbol to indicate their membership in the church to others. If you know the Greek meaning of X, Xmas and Christmas essentially mean the same thing.



Knitted Angels

Do you knit? Would you like to knit some angels for Christmas?

We have a pattern available in the Parish Office or in the Church Porch. Any angels knitted this year will be given to those who are on their own this Christmas. Or if you don't finish them in time, keep knitting as it is also something we would like to do in 2021!

Bishop Paul's Christmas message

But the angel said to them: "Do not be afraid." (Luke 2:9)

This year has been marked by anxiety, chiefly of course anxiety about the Coronavirus. Will we, or our loved ones, get it badly? For some this is not an academic question - you or a member of your family may indeed have suffered from this illness - and for others there has been the deep pain of loss and bereavement, as a loved one has contracted the illness and has died. In such a world, where for months things seem to have been upside down, it is hard not to be afraid.

And yet over and over again that is exactly what we are told in Scripture: not to be afraid. The phrase is like an echo, repeated over 100 times in the Old Testament, over 40 times in the New. Within the chapters of the Christmas story Joseph, and Mary, and Zechariah, and the shepherds all hear this message of overcoming life - "Do not be afraid"..."Do not be afraid"..."Do not be afraid"... "Fear not." And in Mary's song (the Magnificat in Luke 1) we hear the pregnant young woman sing, in the midst of her bewilderment, when perhaps she was suffering over and over again the stigma of being with child outside marriage; still she sings: "...that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve God without fear."

To live without fear doesn't mean that all threat and worry vanishes, or that God will blow the virus away just because we believe in Him. And it's not a matter of will-power, as if you can force yourself not to feel what you feel. Rather it's to put the landscape of your life in a different frame - a frame that is built by God's plan and God's purposes in Jesus Christ. Do not be afraid, even if things go badly; because God is with you. Do not be afraid, because the promises of Jesus are for you. Do not be afraid, because the worst that life can throw at you is as nothing compared with the glory that has been set aside for you forever. Fear not, for (as Elisha said to his servant in 2 Kings 6) "...there are more with us than there are with them."

In the frame of God's providence and God's unfailing love, we can face the cold winds of the world for ourselves - just as Joseph and Mary did in their journey to Bethlehem. And there's more: by the Spirit of God we can be strengthened to offer hope and love to those around us, who may indeed be lost in fear and who need the joy and the quiet assurance that God truly enables us to give.

May God bless you in this anxious time - with hope for yourself and strength for your loved ones and your neighbours, and with the solid promise of eternal life. And may you indeed hear the repeated echo of Scripture speaking to you - Jesus is born, life will indeed conquer death; do not be afraid.

Happy Christmas!

Diocesan Synod 10th October 2020

This was officially held by Zoom for the first time and proved an interesting experience.



The main item on the agenda was to discuss, in informal groups in breakout rooms and then by relaying points back via chat, the Clergy Covenant for Wellbeing which had been introduced at General Synod in February 2020. The intention is that the issues raised by this document should be discussed over the coming year at Deanery Synods and by PCCs, prior to a substantive debate at the October Diocesan Synod next year. Judging by the comments made by clergy members in the group I was in, some do find themselves lacking in support during their ministry particularly in the present circumstances. It is a subject that clearly at St Peters we should be discussing at PCC to ensure that our own clergy are fully supported and have someone to whom they can apply when things get tough.

We then turned to financial matters. Because of the COVID-19 crisis, it had not been possible to finalise the 2019 Annual Report and Accounts. The Board of Finance was therefore authorised to approve the detail. Then the Budget for 2021 was presented, again impacted at parish and diocesan level by the current crisis. “Despite this, our long term strategy remains focussed on supporting the delivery of our vision, in which we are asking God for a Bigger Church to make a Bigger Difference, with more people knowing Jesus and more justice in the world.”

It was reported that in 2019, the first of a three year budget cycle targeting breakeven or better, we had in fact ended with an operating loss of £98,000 against the budgeted loss of £220,000. In 2020 we have experienced the incredible generosity and sacrifice of our churches, as numbers of parishes (including St Peter’s) paid Parish Share in advance, and many more continued to pay in full and on time despite their own major financial challenges. We are still anticipating a shortfall in Parish Share of up to 20% (£1.6 million) but have been successful in accessing funding from the National Church of £1 million and expect to cover most of the balance through savings and additional funding at St James’ House. The budget for 2021 was approved to be set within the following parameters:

A budget surplus of up to £32,000.

A clergy stipend increase of 2%.

An underlying increase in Parish Share of under 2%, with additional one-off funding for deaneries to fully offset this increase.

Michael Pitts

HORIZONS REPORT



'I trust that when this cathedral is built, it will be built not only by the rich, but also by the pence of the poor.....who will be able to look up to it and say "we helped build it", making them feel that the Church belongs to them and that they belong to Church.'

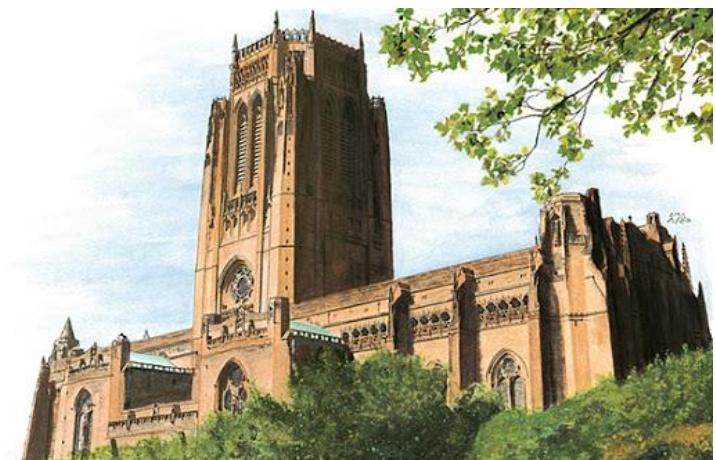
Francis Chavasse, Second Bishop of Liverpool, from his speech on 17th June, 1901 at the Liverpool Town Hall.

One of the new causes supported by the PCC this year is our own Liverpool Anglican Cathedral. The cathedral needs our help to protect what they do. The cathedral is at the heart of the civic and religious life of our city.

Covid-19 has caused the cathedral to lose over 20% of its expected donations and earned income this year. The help we provide will enable the cathedral to build back stronger – the funds are needed to continue to care for the communities right now, and protect the cathedral's heritage for the future.

Lots of people think that the cathedral receives the majority of its funds from public sources and the national church. In fact, the cathedral does not receive a penny from the government, and the main way the national church supports it is through salaries for the clergy.

Liverpool Cathedral was made possible by ordinary people putting their hand in their pocket and giving something small.



St Peter's is happy to be part of those who help to keep this wonderful building alive.

Paul McHenry



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



Christmas Card Delivery

We will be delivering Christmas cards from St Peter's to every home in the Parish during December.

Please let the Parish Office know if you are able to help deliver to a few roads. This is a really important contact and we thank you in advance for your help. Also a great way to exercise the dog!

Tel: 871171 office@stpetersformby.co.uk

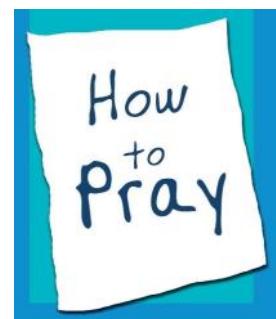
AUTUMN PRAYER SERIES

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

Last month we heard about Praying with the Bible and how Bible passages and stories can be a springboard to prayer and meditation.

Our next session will be on Intercession and will be held on Wednesday 2nd December at 7.30pm by Zoom (you can also join us by phone). The link will be put on the Parish Website or email revannetaylor@gmail.com. The evening ends with Compline.

All are welcome to join us.



REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Each day you add an item to the box and before Christmas Day you donate the contents to a foodbank.

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 4pm for donations. The boxes are emptied regularly during the day.

The items particularly needed are: Tinned meat, tinned fruit, sweets, crisps, men's & women's toiletries and toilet rolls.

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



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

It is also possible to make a financial donation directly to the Foodbank by visiting their website
www.southport.foodbank.org.uk

Many thanks.



Zoom Time Music



David Holroyd, our organist and choirmaster has continued the long Parish tradition of delighting our ears with his choice of organ pieces at the ends of services at present on Zoom or on other canned services as well as live ones in church.

In addition we have also found out in the last eight months that he has become an all-round expert in Applied Techy Christianity. He it is who filmed the outdoor services held in the church precinct back in the Summer and now films those of the congregation with speaking parts on a particular Sunday for the week's recorded service.

His knowledge and thirst for a yet wider repertoire of choral music has been a real plus for all those of us who sing in his choirs and enjoy his weekly Zoom events.

We hope that by now you have gained your second wind, David, because we just could not do without you.

Jane Pitts

Breakfast Church meets in the Bier House on the first Saturday of each month at 9am 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: 5th December & 9th January
(please note 2nd Saturday)**

Everyone is very welcome.



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: 13th December & 24th January





CAROL WAGON WILL VISIT FORMBY THIS CHRISTMAS

The Rotary Club of Formby is delighted to be able to say that Santa will be touring Formby this December in his famous Carol Wagon. Unfortunately Santa will not be able to stop and talk to individual children as happens in other years, but he will be passing by and waving his greetings.

The route Santa will use together with dates and approximate times will be published on-line (the best place to look will be the Club website - search on "Rotary Club of Formby").

There will also be a tracking app which will show where the Wagon is at any particular time so that you can wave to Santa as he passes. The app can be downloaded (for free) from www.sleightracker.co.uk or from your appstore.

Our Santa mail service should also be running so that young people can write to Santa and will get a reply. Their teachers will collect the letters to Santa and distribute the replies.

Christmas may be a little different this year - but let us all make the most of it. If you wish to make a donation to Formby Rotary's charity fund go to our website where alongside information such as routes and dates you will find a button to click to make a donation using your payment card.

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: 16th December & 13th January.
Everyone is very welcome.



1st Formby St Peter's Brownies

On 31st October we held our first socially distanced enrolment. During 'ordinary' pre-lockdown times, enrolments would take place in our Brownie meetings. However, due to the current lockdown, our Brownie group is unable to meet face to face.

Olivia was therefore enrolled in her grandparents' Sue & Patrick's garden. Fortunately, there was a window of good weather and Olivia's parents and grandparents were able to join us outside to witness the Promise Ceremony.



Barn Owl would usually pin the Promise badge onto the Brownie uniform however, in order to stay socially distanced the badge was passed to Olivia by means of a ribbon tied to a decorated 'kebab' stick.

We are looking forward to getting back together again when the restrictions are lifted. We miss our Thursday night Brownie meetings in the Parish Hall. We have been encouraging the girls to work towards badges whilst they are at home.



Here are some photos of Olivia's enrolment.

Caroline Speakman

Eco tip of the month

Christmas Cards – reuse and recycle!



Christmas greetings and news of friends and family far and wide, whether in cards, emails or phone calls, will be more gratefully received than ever this year. But did you know that every card received can have a second or perhaps even a third life?

This starts as soon as the card hits the doormat bearing that all important stamp.



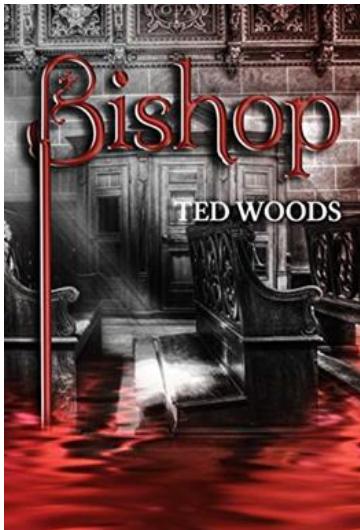
When carefully opened and trimmed without damaging the stamp (leave at least a 1cm border, preferably using scissors if possible) we can send them to the Bone Cancer Research Trust who will sell them to collectors to raise money for their life saving research. Please put stamps in the appeal box in the church porch.

After Christmas, the fronts of cards can be reused to make tags or even next year's cards if you're feeling crafty, otherwise our **Saturday Crew** will use them to make bookmarks, gift tags and greeting cards to go with shoeboxes. Please leave them in the church porch. Envelopes and the backs of cards can be recycled in your own brown bins or may be shredded to make animal bedding.

Of course, this is not limited to Christmas cards, as stamps, cards and envelopes can be reused and recycled all year round.

Thank you to everyone for your contributions.

Sonia



A Christmas Stocking Filler!



A bishop with a dark secret! Want a good read about a fictional bishop and church goings-on? Then maybe Bishop by Ted Woods is the book for you.

Ebook Edition: £2.99 available from Amazon

Paperback Edition: £7.99 available from St. Peter's Vicarage, Cricket Path, Formby, Liverpool L37 7DP.

Email Ted at tedwoods1607@gmail.com

You have your Christmas Jumper. But do you have your Christmas Face Covering?

I think it is an understatement to describe this year as surreal. Daily life has changed immeasurably, and so has the way charities and service organisations, such as Rotary Club of Formby, continue with their work. Of course, like everyone we have had to change and adapt very quickly. But we have continued to hold our weekly meetings, often with speakers, using Zoom, to fundraise for our local charities, and to plan for the popular Carol Wagon touring Formby with Santa at Christmas.

One of our projects was the making of fabric face coverings, for which we asked for a donation of £3 each. We wanted to make them affordable, and also raise funds for local charities. We began this in June and by the beginning of September, supported by our sister club Formby Squirrels, we had raised the astonishing amount of £3,177. Since 2nd September, Formby Rotary continued the project and so far, have raised a further £750.

We were then asked if we would make Christmas face coverings, and we have risen to the challenge! All profits from these will be going to **Woodlands Hospice**.

Another question we have been asked was if we could deliver the face coverings to people who are vulnerable/shielding or just unable to get out. I am happy to confirm we can, and payment can be made on delivery by cash, cheque or card. They are all handmade by our Rotarians and individually packaged, in a selection of Christmas patterns.

They are also available in the following shops, Animal World Formby, Formby Post Office, Select Office Supplies and Walkers Pharmacy.

Many thanks to all of them for their support.



Can I also, on behalf of Rotary, thank everyone who has donated to us, be it our Carol Wagon, our sponsored bike ride, or a donation for a face covering. We have supported Queenscourt, Woodlands, St Josephs, Jospice and the Foodbank, amongst other charities but we could not do it without your help.

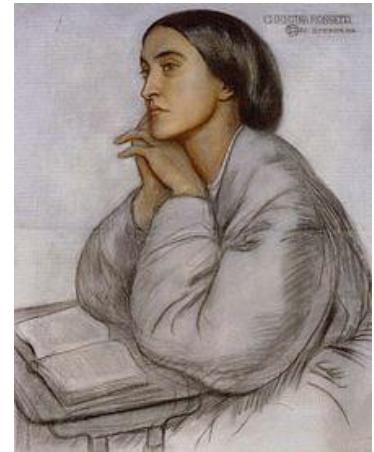
Best wishes for the coming Season,

Vicky and David/Rotary Club of Formby 01704 809238

FAVOURITE CAROLS

Two carols appear in our hymn book by the poet Christina Georgina Rossetti – “In the bleak mid-winter,” a particular favourite, and “Love came down at Christmas.”

Christina was born in 1830 and is one of the most important writers of the 19th century. Her most famous collection, *Goblin Market and Other Poems* appeared in 1862.



She was born into a family of scholars, artists and writers. Her father was an exiled Italian revolutionary who escaped to England in 1824 and later became professor of Italian at King's College, London. Her brothers William Michael and Dante Gabriel were artists. Dante painted the portrait above of his sister.

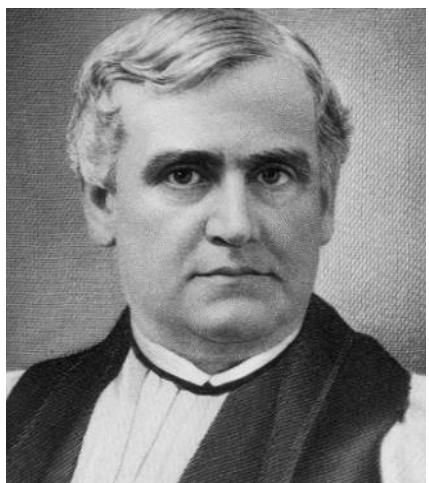
It is said that Christina dictated her first story before she could write! Her first book of poetry was printed when she was 12 years old.

From the age of 15 she suffered bouts of ill-health, which dogged her for most of her life, but did not impair her writing, which in later life focussed mainly on devotional pieces and children's poetry.

She never married, though she wasn't short of suitors. She even became engaged to one but broke it off when he became a Roman Catholic. Christina was a staunch High Church Anglican.

When her father died she devoted her life to looking after her mother while also, for many years, becoming a volunteer visitor at St. Mary Magdalene's Penitentiary Home in Highgate for "fallen women."

She died from cancer in 1894 and is buried in Highgate Cemetery.



Another favourite carol is “O little town of Bethlehem.” The writer is Dr Philip Brooks who later became Bishop of Massachusetts. Before that he was Rector of Holy Trinity, in Philadelphia. In 1865 he spent a year's vacation travelling in Europe and the East. He found himself near Bethlehem on Christmas Eve. He wrote, “After an early dinner, we took our horses and rode to Bethlehem. Before dark, we rode out of town to the field where they say the shepherds saw the star. As we passed, the shepherds were still “keeping watch over their flocks or leading them home to fold.”

It was an experience he could not forget. Two years later, he wrote the carol for his Sunday School, but it soon became famous all over the world.



Remembrance Sunday

As church services could not be held due to lockdown, the church was open for individual prayer.

There were also outside Acts of Remembrance on Sunday and on Wednesday 11th in the churchyard.



Revd Anne - the online service for Remembrance Sunday



Our grateful thanks to Lt Col (rtd) Gordon Black of Altcar Training Camp & Lillian & Stewart Brignull from Formby Little Theatre, for the loan of a cargo net, uniform and props for the Remembrance Sunday display.





Paintings from Year 6, Trinity St Peter's Primary School



ST PETER'S CHURCH SERVICES

Please check the website for up-to-date information and any changes due to restrictions. We now have the facility to live-stream our services and the details will be on the website. Services that are live-streamed will be highlighted with L-S.



Sunday 6th December

9am & 10.30am Eucharist (L-S)

6.30pm Compline by Zoom (or phone-in)

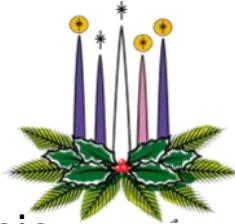
Sunday 13th December

9am & 10.30am Eucharist (L-S)

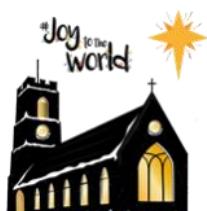
12noon Children's Service

4pm Bereavement Service (L-S)

a simple service of prayers, readings and music
for those recently bereaved.



6.30pm Compline by Zoom (or phone-in)



Sunday 20th December

9am & 10.30am Eucharist (L-S)

Carol Service – online on the website
so you can watch it whenever you want

5.30pm & 7pm Churches Together Drive-In Carol Service
(venue to be confirmed)

6.30pm Compline by Zoom (or phone-in)



Monday 21st December at 7.30pm Carol Sing-a-long by Zoom and Phone



zoom

Enjoy singing well-known carols and listening to readings & poems.
You can join on Zoom or by phoning – email the Parish Office for
the carol sheet and zoom/phone link.
Just have some mulled wine & mince pies ready!

Christingle Services – see the back cover for information

Please note it is necessary to pre-book for the Christingle Services.



Christmas Eve

11.30pm Midnight Eucharist (L-S)



Christmas Day

10am Parish Eucharist (L-S)

Sunday 27th December

9am and 10.30am Parish Eucharist (L-S)

Please note no evening service.

Each Wednesday there will be an 11am Eucharist

(from 2nd December)

January Services

Each Sunday 9am & 10.30am Eucharist (L-S)

6.30pm Evensong (L-S)

For further information please contact:

Parish Office: 01704 871171

email: office@stpetersformby.co.uk

**or visit our website: www.stpetersformby.co.uk
for full details of all our services**

**Comfort
and Joy**



The church will be cleaned between services.

Please remember to wear a face mask.

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.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS WALL

With all good wishes for Christmas and 2021 to everyone
at St Peter's Formby; with best wishes from

Graham
& Diane
Leech

Mike
Fletcher

Lyndsey,
James &
Louis Casey

Nick
& Ros
Philpott

David & Pip
Manning-Fox

Fred &
Linda Nye

David
& Gill
Holroyd

Fiona &
David
Martin

Anne &
Ted

The
Whiffing
Family

The
Belford
Family

Rod &
Sue
Jacques

John &
Helen
Fahey

Glyn &
Mon
Jones

Elaine,
Rachel &
Michael
Almond

Ray &
Judith
Aspinwall

Anne &
Cliff
Cotsworth

Caroline
Speakman
& family

Ray & Jill
Harvey

Joyce &
Richard
Sherman

Glennis &
David
Poole

**THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR
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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS WALL**

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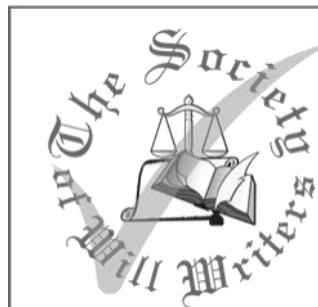
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If you would like some guidance, please feel free to come and have a chat with me, or alternatively please contact me on **07926 587776**

Caroline Speakman Member of the Society of Willwriters

Email: cspeakmanestateplanning@gmail.com
Phone: 07926 587776
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Super Silver Seven Cubs



Cubs returned to face-to-face meetings during October, after the approval of the necessary COVID-19 Secure Risk Assessments.

Three separate groups of excited Cubs have been meeting on Mondays with a fourth Group of the Senior Cubs meeting on a Sunday afternoon pending their transfer to Scouts. The majority of the Cubs have returned and indeed the Pack has gained new members, such is the draw of Scouting.

Although, it has been many months since the last face-to-face meeting, that didn't mean Cub Scouting ceased, indeed over 150 badges of various flavours have been earned from Equestrian and Book Reading to the County CRE8 Challenge Award. These however are all topped by the Chief Scout's Silver Award which is the highest Award a Cub can earn in the section.

I am proud to say that seven Cubs have achieved the Award, two of whom, Lewis and Seb, completed their Award while in lockdown, which was a great achievement.

So, it was a great pleasure finally to be able to present the Cubs with their badges and Certificates at their first meeting back. Unfortunately, further interruptions by local and National Covid-19 lockdowns have prevented two of the Cubs, Izzy Cruickshank and Louie Wilson, from being presented with theirs.

Mark Sheil

Cub Scout Leader, Assistant Scout Leader, 9th Formby (St Peter's) Scout Group



Pictured are Hayden McIlhone, Lewis Owen, Sebastian Dawson, Thomas Bond and Pip Charnley, five of the Super Silver Seven, receiving their Awards.

What next, I wonder?

Christmas and New Year are nearly upon us once again. It is twenty years or more since I started to write my little messages (words of wisdom?) in the magazine. It was very different in those days, just a paper sheet with adverts on it and notices from the vicar of forthcoming events. An old neighbour asked me to get one for him but said that he didn't know why he bought it as it was always just the same old adverts. He said that I should write something in it, so that started me off.



In my thirty-seven years as a member of St Peter's family there have been many changes. There have been a couple of interregnums, during which I saw a lot of regular communicants leave and go to other churches, as people like stability and don't like change.

There have been many changes and improvements that various vicars have made too, for example a new pulpit, candles in the choir stalls, the organ refurbished, and the bell recast. The Bier House has gone from a derelict ruin to being a lovely, well decorated and refurbished meeting room. The graveyard has been tidied up and a beautiful cross put in the new garden with seating for those who wish to sit for a while in contemplation.

WOW!

What next, I wonder?

No-one knows what this Christmas will bring, or 2021, but we do know that St Peter's will be there when all this is over. I hope the Congregation will still be there for the church. I hope so, for to me it is "home."

It is with a sad heart that I leave you all and go to pastures new, knowing no-one here but my immediate family. At present there is no chance in the near future to go anywhere or to make new friends. I am, however, taking my best friend with me. He has always gone with me, wherever I have gone, and I know that He is always at my side to comfort me at this lonely, sad time of my leaving Formby.

Martha is retiring, but I send all my wonderful friends at St Peter's my love and best wishes for the future.

A very sad Martha.

Handwritten signature of Martha.

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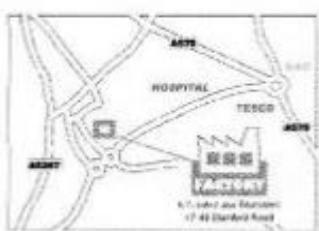
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St Peter's Shoebox Appeal 2020

Many thanks to everyone who has donated to our Shoebox Appeal this year, and thank you to everyone, Anne, Churchwardens and our office team for collecting so many envelopes!

So far we have raised over £1,000, which means over 200 shoeboxes!

We do not know in advance where they will go, but they will be for a mix of boys and girls of all age groups.

They will be transported by International Aid Trust, and usually go to the Ukraine, but we will keep you posted through the magazine when we know when and where they have gone.

Again many thanks to all!



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

Are you in need of some daily hope during this lockdown?

We have a new FREE telephone line for you to ring to hear comforting hymns, daily prayers and reflections.

0800 804 8044

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Visit smile.amazon.co.uk

When you shop at smile.amazon.co.uk, Amazon Donates



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 Church Registers

Funerals

5 th November	Harry Aspinall
5 th November	Jim O'Hara
24 th November	Elizabeth McCullough
26 th November	Jim Rhymes
30 th November	Bill Thorpe
3 rd December	Geoffrey Broadbent
7 th December	Freda Flynn
8 th December	Joyce Cain



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

Churches Together this Christmas



There will be a **Drive-In Carol Service** on Sunday 20th December at 5.30pm and 7pm in a local car park. Come along and stay in your car and join a great sing-a-long of Christmas carols. Booking will be required. More information to follow on the churches' websites.

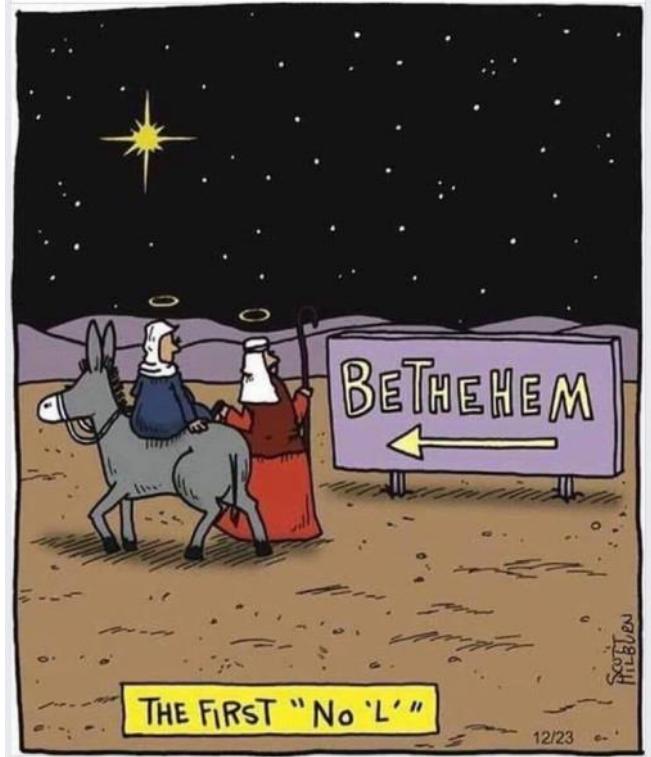
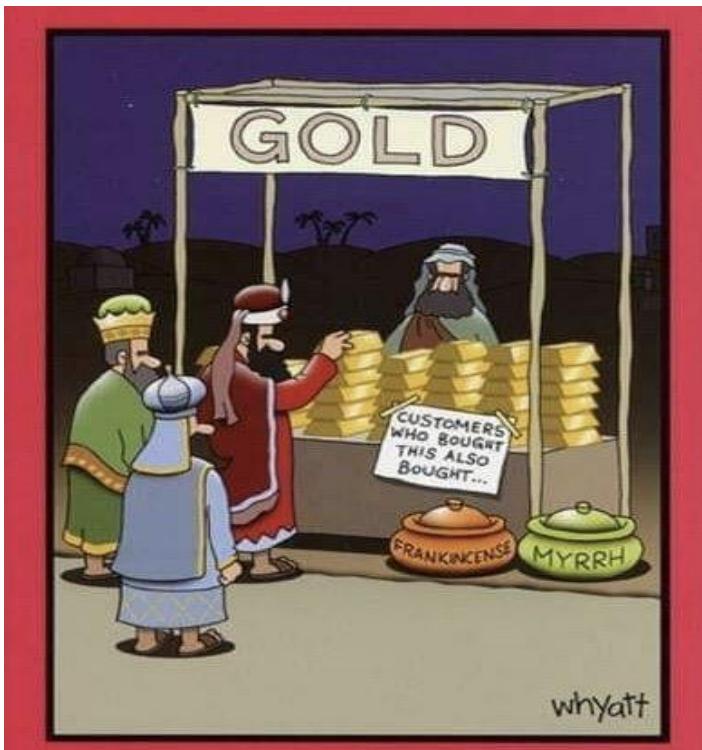
Formby Nativity throughout the years - a compilation of highlights of the Formby Nativity from 2006-2019 is now on the YouTube channel of Churches Together in Formby, Altcar and Hightown.

Look out for a series of short reflections on what the nativity story is saying to us today. These will be put on social media one every few days throughout Advent.

Shop Windows – when you are in the Village look out for the decorated windows depicting the Christmas story.



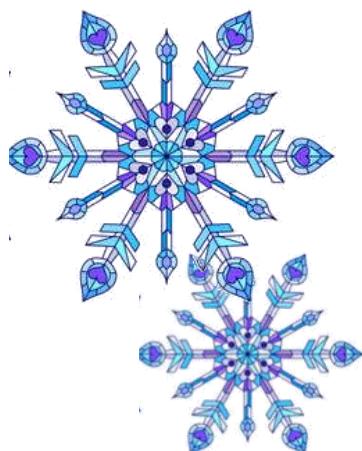
If interested, the full details are at www.liverpool.anglican.org/parishgivingscheme
or contact St Peter's Stewardship Team who will be happy to discuss the scheme.
Mike Fletcher 07808 310834 or email: stewardshipspeter@gmail.com



The Birth of Jesus

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7 (KJV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 2:1-20



SAVIOUR
CAESAR
CHILD

CENSUS
SON
SHEPHERDS

MARY
JOSEPH
ANGEL

MANGER
MESSIAH
BETHLEHEM

BORN
ROOM
BABY



CHRISTMAS SMILES

The four stages of Christmas are:
You believe in Father Christmas.
You don't believe in Father Christmas.
You are Father Christmas.
You look like Father Christmas.



Why is Christmas like a day at the office?
You do all the work and the fat guy with the suit
gets all the credit!

Please note: Christmas has been cancelled this year.
Apparently you told Santa you have been good this year.
He died laughing.

Christmas is the season when you buy this year's gifts
With next year's money.

You can tell a lot about a person by the way they handle three things:
a rainy day,
lost luggage,
and tangled Christmas tree lights.



From the Back Pew

Ted Woods



GROWING CHURCHES

Many are the reports that emanate from the church, and many are those which collect dust on church bookshelves.

Two reports have recently been published. One has been widely heralded, although it is only an interim report – the Living in Faith and Love project on human sexuality. The other has received little mention, though its contents may be equally transformative.

The latter report is entitled *Growing Good: The future of the Church?* and was compiled by Hannah Rich, a researcher exploring the relationship between church growth, social action and discipleship. 66 parishes and 337 individuals were interviewed across the whole of the Church of England, including St Helens, Widnes and Warrington deaneries in our diocese.

The report identifies four characteristics of churches that are growing and flourishing:

Presence. The report found that the church grows in number and depth when it is present in and connected to its local area, which may be manifested through its social action.

Churches which are visible, or are recognised as being active in giving to their community, are more likely to grow. The church needs to be perceived as open to and willing to serve the local community.

Perseverance. It takes time! The report notes that congregational growth often occurs after years of focused activity or engagement in meeting the needs of a community.

Hospitality and generosity are significant for church growth. This means a genuine willingness to engage with and invest in the community as it is. There is no place for a preachy or paternalistic attitude. “Congregations that grow through their social action are also likely to be adaptable and embracing of life’s complexities.”

Participation in social action can also offer a practical route into faith for people who weren’t previously part of the church community and might not have considered exploring faith before. Volunteering in church-based projects or activities can draw people into faith who may previously never have considered a religious faith. In any volunteering project all people should be accepted regardless of whether or not they have a faith.

The research for the report was undertaken before Covid-19 hit us, and the uncertainty, insecurity and economic problems of the last nine months have only underlined the need for the church to be involved in social projects, connecting to their local communities in such things as social friendship schemes and collecting for local foodbanks.

During the pandemic we have had to find new ways of doing things – online services, zoom meetings, both formal and informal. There has been a greater awareness of family, friendship and community. When the present pandemic is controlled these new ways will integrate with the familiar. We will have evolved!

Writing in the foreword to the report, the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, says that the Church of England will also have to evolve.

He is worth quoting in full:-

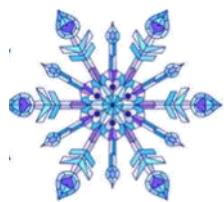
"The future shape of both the country and the Church is yet to be defined. Like many other institutions, the Church of England will have to evolve. I firmly believe this evolution lies in a more simple and humble church whilst remaining Christ-centred and Jesus-shaped. I long for us as Christian sisters and brothers to be a Church vibrantly fulfilling its mission to form disciples who are compelled to love their neighbours. This will evidence itself in a variety of ways, from small and unsophisticated acts of kindness to the large-scale charitable projects in which many of our church communities are engaged. As Christians, we can't help but show our love in this way because God, our Heavenly Father first loved us."

In a fractured society, where people increasingly only relate to those within their own tribes, social action creates meaningful relationships spanning divisions of race, faith, social class, and political ideology. Participation in it, as this report emphasises, has the potential genuinely to transform both individuals and communities."

Whilst the report recognises that there "is not a single, infallible way to grow a church," it suggests that "social action can be a route to church growth in both numerical and spiritual terms. It is one of the key ways in which congregations can build wider networks of relationships which can result in people initiating a faith journey and joining the church.

Three cheers for a practical and positive report!

A weekly load of donations for the Foodbank from St Peter's



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.

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.

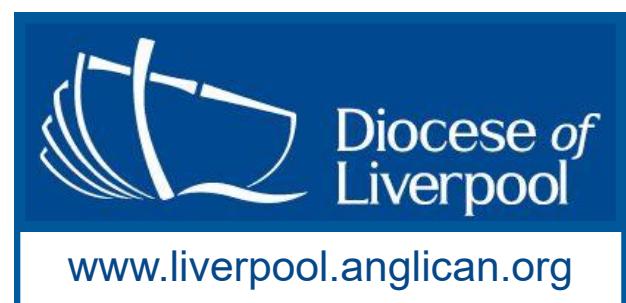
Please first contact the Parish Office on 871171 for more details and to reserve your date.

We would be grateful if you would make donations either by yellow envelope marked "Flowers" or direct to the following account:



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Thank you to everyone who has already given donations towards the weekly flowers.



Contacts at St Peter's

		(01704)
Vicar	Revd Anne Taylor, St Peter's Vicarage (email: revannetaylor@gmail.com)	872824
Curate	Revd Simon Macaulay (email: revdsimonmacaulay@gmail.com)	643884
Wardens	Paul McHenry Sarah Gorman	871722 875013
Parish Office	St Peter's Parish Hall, Paradise Lane, Formby L37 7EH (opposite Trinity St Peter's School) Open Monday to Friday 10am to 12noon office@stpetersformby.co.uk Sonia Greenyer Caroline Speakman	871171
Stewardship	Mike Fletcher stewardshipstpeter@gmail.com	879755
Director of Music	David Holroyd email: david@davidholroyd.org	07702 346735
Treasurer	Irvine Rawcliffe	870569
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