

St Peter's Church Festive Magazine

December 2021 ~ January 2022



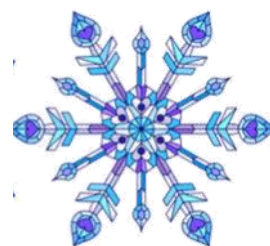
St Peter's Church, Green Lane, Formby L37 7DL

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Advertising Elaine Almond



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.



871171



office@stpetersformby.co.uk

We are now able to accept donations by contactless payment.





With Advent Sunday we begin a new liturgical year - so may I begin by wishing you very happy new year!

The Church year is often presented as a linear progression which works through from the beginning of the year on Advent Sunday until it ends with the Feast of Christ the King. At school we were taught a useful acronym to help us remember the order of the different feasts and observances of the liturgical year.

The initials **ACE LEAPT** standing for the seasons:

Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost, Trinity.

In reality neither the life of the Church nor our own lives progress in such a simple fashion. Each of the Church's seasons points to something which we should carry with us through and beyond its allotted place in the calendar. The spirit of self-examination and penitence on which Lent focuses, for example, should be a least an element of our everyday life. The powerful mystery of Christ's resurrection and our sharing in it, which is the focus of Easter, is something which we commemorate every Sunday, and is a universal truth which, though rooted in history, transcends the bounds of time and space.

In this light Advent is much more than a preparation for Christmas. Of course, during Advent, we look to the coming of Christ at Christmas - Christ's 'advent,' but Advent calls us to examine some deep and difficult concepts. The traditional themes of Advent are Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell - tricky questions to consider at any time of year, and definitely an interesting juxtaposition to the commercialism and glitter of much of our Christmas preparation! Of course, these are questions with which we wrestle all the time. For example, these past months have made us examine our relationship with life and death in a new way, as COVID 19 has presented challenges for the medical profession, the caring services, and the Church, as well as for everyone in their homes and everyday lives.

Advent calls us from darkness to light - and the light into which we are called is Christ, who illuminates not only Christmas and Easter, and all the other joyful festivals, but also, Lent and Passiontide. Christ's light shines in our darkest times. Indeed, it can be darkness which allows us to see that the light is shining.

The new beginning with which Advent presents us is an opportunity to connect afresh with the eternal truths - God's love, and the hope offered to us in Christ. It is also a great opportunity to take a fresh look at our faith, learn and ask questions about God and our faith.

In January we will begin a **Christian Basics Course (see page 7)** which will be an opportunity for those who are new to faith, or those who want to refresh their knowledge, can meet to do just that. As we often say, there are no stupid questions - only opportunities to learn!

Simon

*Please note the deadline for the February 2022 edition of the magazine is
Friday 7th January 2022.*

Contributions to magazine@stpetersformby.co.uk

Dear Friends,

I recently heard this story of a yacht club, situated beside a small harbour which was well used by boating enthusiasts. Being well frequented and popular with sailors its facilities had become a bit worn. But it was homely and convivial and welcoming and sailors loved to come in and relax after a day on the sea.

A new management committee was elected who decided to refurbish the clubhouse – which they did in style. Solid wood furnishings replaced plywood veneer. The floor was laid with expensive carpets and plush upholstered chairs replaced the rather shabby and cracked faux leather seating. A new chef and bar staff were appointed.

Everyone admitted it was a lovely job, but then the committee introduced new rules about the use of the clubhouse and who would be allowed in and in what attire. The cost of food and drink went up to pay for new staff and to offset the cost of redecoration.

Soon it was less and less used. It had lost its homeliness and relaxed atmosphere. It no longer appealed to the sailors who used the harbour. It was a beautiful building but before long it was empty. It had turned in on itself.

Next year our 275th anniversary of the consecration of the present St Peter's is a wonderful opportunity for us a church to reach out to the community of Formby and to open our doors in welcome for the many events that have been organised – see page 6 for the details for your 2022 diary.

We are so fortunate to have a beautiful church with its unique blend of Georgian and Gothic (Victorian) architecture; a church which has been and is carefully and lovingly maintained and enhanced over the years.

We want its doors wide open next year to invite and welcome in the people of Formby and beyond and for them to celebrate with us this important milestone in the history of Formby's first parish church.



The 275 committee has been working hard to organise a programme to suit all ages and interests. We have prepared a welcome leaflet for every visitor which, as well as advertising the programme of events, contains a short history of St Peter's and what to look for as they walk around the church.

Commemorative items such as tea towels, tote bags and wine glasses will be available and for beer lovers Rock the Boat Brewery in Crosby has brewed a special 'Churchwardens' Ale' for the celebrations. The present St Peter's was built opposite an inn!

Roll on 2022! It will be a massive effort and we will need help for the various events and will be looking for volunteers. There is a job for everyone and it is a great way to get to know people. Watch this space!

Please consider offering when the appeal goes out.

However, in the meantime, there is Christmas!

There are a number of dates to note:

Advent Sunday at 6.30pm we have a special service
From Darkness to Light.



Christmas is a very difficult time for those who have been bereaved and are experiencing the pain of missing loved ones. A few years ago we recognised this and moved our bereavement service closer to Christmas. This service will be a time to remember those whose funerals have been in St Peter's but also other names can be added.

The service is on Sunday 12th December at 6.30pm.

Carols by Candlelight service will be on Sunday 19th December at 6.30pm.

Christmas Eve - no booking a seat this year for the Christingles!

Christmas Day - 8.30am and 10.00am Christmas Eucharist

There will be just one service at 10.00am on Sunday 26th December which is St Stephen's Day. Unless your church is dedicated to St Stephen, he tends to get forgotten about, but not this year!

House Communion - if you would like communion at home for Christmas, please give me a ring (872824) and Simon or I will arrange a date to visit you.

We also have Christmas Invitation Cards to deliver around the parish for a bit of pre-Christmas exercise!

**At the heart
of Christmas**



Before Christmas we will have booklets available called '**At the Heart of Christmas.**' The booklet is an invitation to everyone to ponder what the extraordinary events of the first Christmas might mean for us now and in the years ahead. This booklet draws us close to the heart of Christmas through stories, bible readings and reflections from Christmas Eve to Epiphany. One of the prayers - Jesus, born among us, may your life-changing love be at the heart of our lives this Christmas and always.

Amen.

Please collect your free copy from the church porch.

It's going to be a busy year, but what an opportunity for us in St Peter's, unlike that yacht club, to open our doors and put St Peter's at the heart of the community of Formby.

On behalf of myself, Ted and Simon, we wish you a very happy and peaceful Christmas and an exciting New Year.

Anne



ST PETER'S 275 CELEBRATIONS

The year 2022 marks the 275th anniversary of the consecration of St Peter's Church.

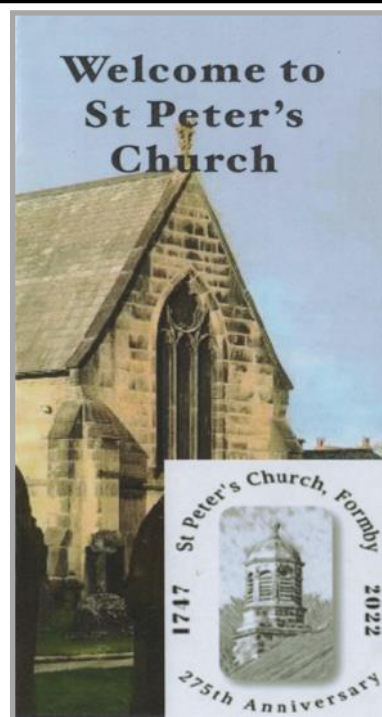
The origins of St. Peter's can be traced back to the 12th century when a chapel existed near the sea. The chapel was destroyed in a storm in 1739, and the decision was taken to build a replacement church further inland – the site of the present church, opposite Church Cottage which was then an inn.

A committee has been meeting throughout 2021 to plan a year of celebration for this milestone in our history.

Here is the programme for the year:

| | |
|---|--|
| Saturday 26th February | Demonstration of the Pipe Organ |
| Mon 28th March - Sat 2nd April | Heritage Week |
| Sunday 10th - 17th April | Holy Week & Easter |
| Saturday 21st May | "Last Night of the Proms" |
| Sunday 5th June | Pentecost Sunday. Preacher: Revd Joan Foster |
| Weds 8th - Sunday 12th June | Flower Festival & Art Exhibition |
| Sunday 3rd July | Patronal Festival. Preacher: The Rt Revd Kenneth Kearon |
| Friday 8th July | Festival Dinner in Marquee at Formby Cricket Club |
| Sunday 17th July | Consecration Sunday. Preacher: The Rt Revd Beverley Mason |
| Saturday 3rd Sept | Community Fun Day in the School Grounds |
| Saturday 24th September | Harvest Cabaret in Holy Trinity Hall |
| Sunday 25th September | Harvest Thanksgiving & Scarecrow Competition. Preacher: Canon Alastair Graham |
| November - Date tbc | Parish Vision Day |
| Sunday 13th November | Fauré's Requiem at 6.30pm |
| Sunday 12th - 18th December | Christmas Tree Festival |
| Sunday 19th December | Carol Service |

www.stpetersformby.co.uk





CHRISTIAN BASICS **COURSE**

In January we are going to have a Christian Basics Course.

Maybe you have started coming to St Peter's and would like to know more about faith. Maybe you have had your child baptised. Maybe you just want to know what Christianity is all about. Or maybe you want a refresher course or are thinking about Confirmation.

Whatever the reason you will be welcome. No previous knowledge is required, just an interest to know more about the basics of our faith. No group discussions though an opportunity to ask questions if you wish.

The four topics will be:-

God & Jesus; The Bible; Baptism & Holy Communion

The root meaning of religion is 'relationship' – a relationship with God. We will learn more about God as we look at Jesus, read the Bible and discuss the Sacraments, especially Baptism and the Eucharist.

The session will be light and informal, but, hopefully, informative, and will be held in the **Bier House (beside the church gate), on Mondays 17th, 24th and in Church on 31st January at 7.30pm.** No need to book, just come along.

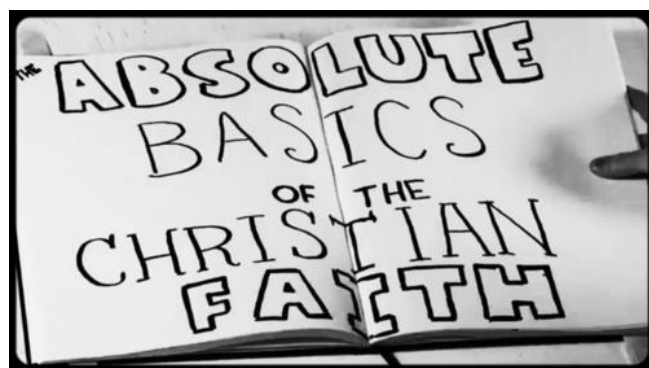
Everyone is welcome.

If you would like further information please contact the Vicar –

Revd Anne Taylor 872824 or

Revd Simon Macaulay 643884

☎ 871171 ✉ office@stpetersformby.co.uk



Sunday 12th December - 6:30 pm

Bereavement Service

**A simple service of prayers, readings and hymns,
with the chance to light candles
in memory of loved ones.**

Refreshments served after the service

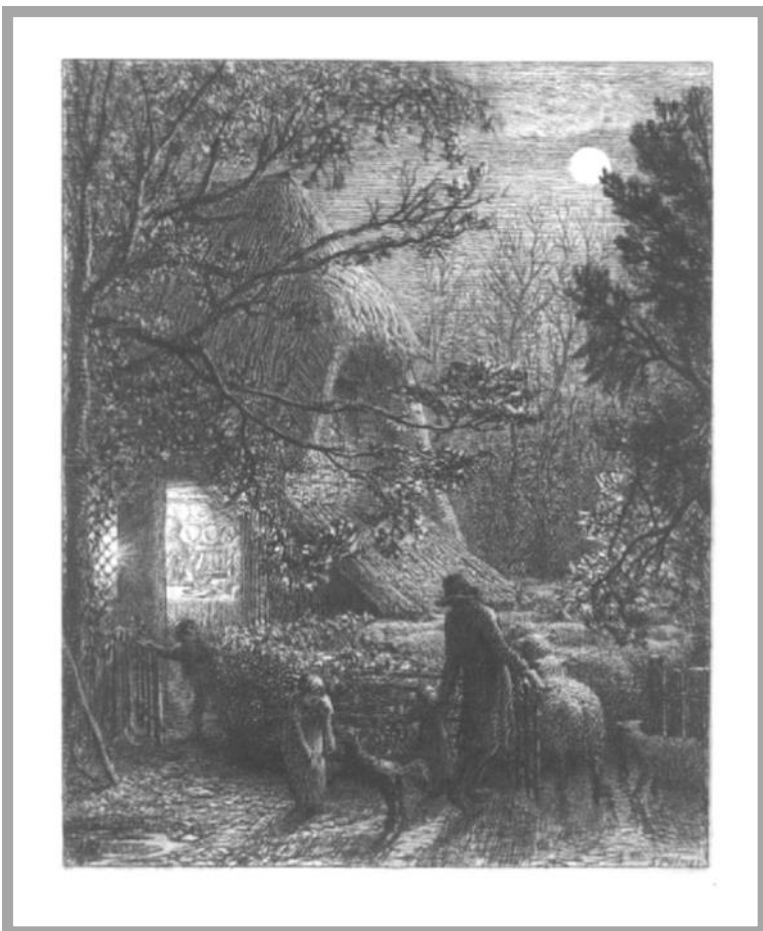
ALL WELCOME

The Lonely Tower

Much of our Christian tradition comes from the Victorian period which emphasised the family gathering, a good meal, children delighted and the move to church. So many pictures convey all these values and they are fully represented in Christmas cards. Many Christmas cards are chosen to endorse these Christian values.

It was the Victorians who ensured that the books for children and the periodicals of that period were fully illustrated. So much of the skill of those who made woodcuts and etchings was to provide illustrations to stories or show how the news should be viewed. This concentration on conveying realistic images created a backlash among artists. They wanted to produce prints which would be seen as fully acceptable works of art in their own right. Such an artist was Samuel Palmer.

He went through three stages of artistic development. Much influenced by William Blake, he produced coloured images of bucolic delight where farm workers and such were placed in an idyllic setting. He influenced many and his images are still popular. His next stage was to travel widely and produce detailed watercolour pictures, mainly landscapes. These were generally seen as overwrought.



His final stage was to move to etching, where his originality and skill produced masterpieces. His etchings are quite dark and you have to really look into them to see what Palmer is saying, yet there is always light within them. There are not many but there are two which link with the idea of a card for Christmas.

Palmer was a committed Christian and suffered from depressions and therefore conveyed use of light to lead us forward.

One of his etchings directly concerns Christmas. In this picture he shows a shepherd leaving his flock at the end of the day heading towards his cottage with the door open showing light and security.

It is based on the poem which has these lines,

***Old Christmas comes, to close the waned year,
And aye the shepherd's heart to make right glad;
Who, when his teeming flocks are homeward had,
To blazing hearth repairs, and nut-brown beer;***

Many today would see this as sentimental twaddle but it isn't. Everyone in winter wishes to return to a warm and secure home after a day's work.

The second image is called "The Lonely Tower." It shows an evening scene, again with a flock of sheep with shepherds and across a narrow valley a tower with a single light. It is up to the viewer to interpret this and there are many ways. However at Christmas it seems to provide an interesting aspect.



In this tranquil country image the evening is passing yet this could have been the setting for the shepherds at the time of Christmas.

In the light of the moon and the single distant light there comes another one which will light up the world. The shepherds are told of the Christ child which will be a light for them and everyone including those in the tower.

Rod Jacques

Primetime

Come along and join us for some festive fun on
Wednesday 15th December at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall.
Newcomers always welcome.



**The first meeting in 2022 will be on
Wednesday 19th January.**

Looking forward to seeing you, **Elaine, Sonia and Alison.**

Changed New Method for Calculating Parish Share

What is Parish Share?

Parish Share is the way the Church of England pays for mission.

It is made up of 2 parts: approximately 37% is a fixed amount, which pays for Curates, Bishop's Appointments (not St James' House Admin Staff), Training of Clergy, Mission and Growth Fund, Church Schools and Mission Grants, Clergy Housing; approximately 63% is a flexible amount and depends on the number of full time equivalent (fte) clergy that the Deanery chooses to appoint across the deanery. Currently we have 10.5 fte posts in Sefton North.

How is Parish Share set for each Parish?

Until a few years ago the diocese set the parish share for each parish, this was based on 5 criteria:

1. The weekly attendance in each parish
2. The socio-economic factor of each parish
3. A restriction on how much a parish share would go up or down each year
4. An upper limit on what a parish should pay
5. A lower limit on what a parish should pay.

Now, however, the responsibility has been passed to the deanery. The deanery tells the diocese each year how many fte clergy posts it will have, and based on that the diocese asks the deanery for a set sum of money. In 2021 this was just over £800,000. The deanery then has the responsibility of allocating the parish share to each parish.

Parish Share Working Group

The deanery is aware that parish share is not only missional giving, but also very sacrificial giving. For every parish, it is their largest item of expenditure. There was, therefore, a strong desire to consult with the parishes on the fairest way to allocate the deanery's share among the parishes.

The deanery consequently set up a working group and asked for a representative from each parish. This group was tasked with creating a formula which could be used to allocate the parish share each year.

The new Parish Share formula that was recommended and unanimously agreed at the Deanery Synod in October included the average weekly attendance, initially this will use the 2019 figures due to great fluctuations due to Covid; the number of Clergy allocated to a Parish, this means those Parishes with part-time clergy or multiple churches will pay a smaller amount, curates are paid by the diocese and are not included in the deanery allocation; and the socio-economic factor of each parish.

As a church with a growing congregation, St Peter's will see an increase in our Parish Share payments over the next couple of years.

Andrew Greenyer

Confirmation

Confirmation is the completion of baptism in the sense that, for those who were baptised as infants and for whom promises were made on their behalf by parents and godparents, those same promises are now made personally by the individual.

In confirmation we 'confirm' that we are ready to dedicate ourselves to Jesus and to live the Christian life as best we can; and God 'confirms' that he loves us and accepts us, and bestows on us afresh the Holy Spirit to help and strengthen us all our days. Confirmation is an affirming of faith and a very meaningful step. Confirmation is available to anyone who feels ready to make this decision from Year 6 through to adulthood.

Those who wish to be confirmed, either as a young person or an adult, please contact the Clergy.

For young people in Year 6, preparation for Confirmation will be arranged after school.

For any adult or teenager who would like to be confirmed it is recommended that they attend the Christian Basics Course in January (see page 13).

So whatever age you are, if you are interested in being confirmed or if you have further questions, please do contact us. We do not have a date for the service yet but it will be May or June.

Revd Anne Taylor

Revd Simon Macaulay

☎ 871171



office@stpetersformby.co.uk

Weekly Prayers for our Parish

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



During December please pray for all who live in –

- 5th Dec** St Anne's Road, St Anne's Path, St Anne's Close, Brewery Lane
- 12th Dec** West Lane, Stanley Road, Rimmers Avenue, Massams Lane
- 19th Dec** Gregsons Avenue, Queens Avenue, Argarmeols Road, Argarmeols Grove
- 26th Dec** Mersey Avenue, The Birches, Fisherman's Close, Stanlawe Road

During January please pray for all who live in –

- 2nd Jan** Montagu Road, Golf Road, Timms Lane, Timms Close
- 9th Jan** Cricket Path, Mayfield Court, Red Barns, Cummins Avenue
- 16th Jan** Victoria Road, Victoria Way, Shireburn Road, Fairways Court
- 23rd Jan** Tower End, Badgers Rake, Grange Lane, Derby Road
- 30th Jan** Old Town Lane, Rymers Green, Piercefield Road, Freshfield Road



Christmas Chocolate/Treats Appeal at St Peter's for Southport Soup Kitchen



Last year, we had a chocolate appeal on behalf of Southport Soup Kitchen; it was so successful we are repeating it this year!

We collected chocolate Santas, Christmas chocolates, mini-Christmas cakes and lots of other goodies which were distributed to the local homeless. Anything Christmassy, and in date is fine, the more variety the merrier. There is a box in the Porch for your contributions. Thank you for everything you do.

Vicky Hall

Bible study helps us see how scripture can support us in our everyday lives. It is more fun to study and journey together and all that is needed is a willingness to read the passage.

There are three groups, each meeting at a different time in the Bier House, so there is a group to suit everyone.

So if you haven't already considered it, please think about joining a group. Please approach one of the group leaders to say that you would be interested.

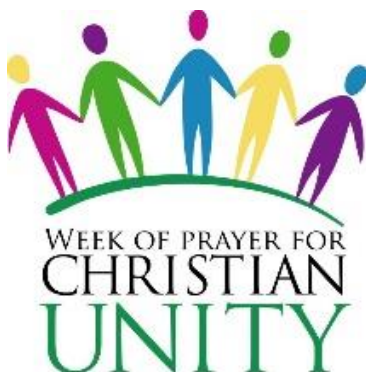


Tuesday Bible Study Group (weekly) at 10am
7th, 14th and 21st December, and 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th January.
Contact Ken Ward on 871927

Wednesday Bible Study at 7.30pm
8th December, 12th and 26th January.
Contact Ted Woods 872824

Friday Bible Study Group will re-start on Friday 28th January 2pm in the Bier House. From February 2nd & 4th Fridays.
Contact Peter Paine 809517

Christian Unity Week - 17th to 22nd January 2022



There will be a short service each morning at 9.15am in a different church – all are welcome.

17th St Peter's Church; 18th Formby Elim; 19th URC; 20th St Luke's; 21st St Michael & All Angels; 22nd Methodist Church. Then on Sunday 23rd there will be a service 4pm in Our Lady of Compassion.

The Sunday service is hosted by the church who is chairing the Churches Together Committee.



Clergy Manoeuvres

Welcome to Revd Hilary Smith who will be joining Revd Peter Lyth as one of two ministers allocated to the Southport and Formby United Reformed Team of six churches. Hilary was serving at the United Reformed Church pastorate in Parkgate and Neston, Wirral.

Congratulations to Revd Dr Mark Siddall, son of Archdeacon Arthur Siddall, who has been appointed Priest-in-Charge of the Parish of St James, Quedgeley, Gloucester. The Institution will take place on 15th May 2022. Mark has completed his Curacy in the Draycot Benefice in the Diocese of Bristol.



An Appeal for Mince Pies!!!

In St Peter's we love to offer hospitality and we are hoping you will be willing to help by providing mince pies for the Carols by Candlelight Service on 19th December.



We would like to receive any donations of mince pies by 13th December. Please bring them to church or leave in the Parish Office.

Many thanks.

Little Fishes Pre-School Group

The Little Fishes pre-school group is a drop-in group on a Friday morning in school term time from 9.30am - 11.30am in St Peter's Parish Hall. Parents, grandparents, guardians with children from 0 – 3 welcome for play, songs, stories plus a light snack and drink.



Volunteers – it would still be great to have one or two more volunteers to help set-up, tidy away, make coffee etc who are not also keeping an eye on children! Would you like to join our team either for the morning or just the beginning or end? Even if you can help for one or two Fridays a month it would be a help and it is also great fun. More information from Caroline Collins - email address office@stpetersformby.co.uk



TIMEOUT

Timeout – an opportunity to share ideas and a pint in the Bier House at Ted's Bar.

Monday 6th December at 8.00pm.

Topic: "People who are seeking asylum"

Noah Dowling of Asylum Link Merseyside will introduce a discussion on Refugees and Asylum Seekers.

All welcome.

(There will not be a meeting in January).

'Using Amazon for Christmas Shopping?'

Support The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of St Peter, Formby

Visit smile.amazon.co.uk

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



Report from Saturday Crew

On the 6th November, the Saturday Crew met for the first time since February 2019. They were privileged to hear two guest speakers, one being Julie Rowlandson from International Aid Trust and the other, Mary Bowler from Bowler's Riding School for the Disabled.

Both talks were very interesting, informative and entertaining in their own right. Julie gave us an update on the latest consignments of food, clothes, shoeboxes etc, delivered to Transylvania, Moldova and Ukraine, whilst Mary shared her joy at the recent visit of the H.R.H. Princess Anne, patron of the Riding for the Disabled.

We all enjoyed looking at Mary's photograph album and gift commemorating the Princess' visit.

We hope to have a pop-up stall after the Parade Service on the 12th December to include the sale of Christmas novelties, decorations, gifts and Lucky Dips. Proceeds will go towards the purchase of Shoebox items for 2022.

Meetings take place on the 1st Saturday of each month in the Bier House from 10am to 12 noon. New members will be made very welcome. We would be grateful to receive used Christmas/Greetings cards which are recycled into gift tags.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Ann Skarratt, The Saturday Crew.



ANY OLD PHOTOS?



As part of the St Peter's 275th Anniversary Celebrations in 2022 we will be holding a Heritage Week at the end of March. This will include a Photographic Exhibition of the life of the church community over the years.

Do you have any old photos or other illustrations which could be reproduced for the exhibition? The older, the better. We will be copying any material, so there will be no pin-holes in your valuable pictures!

The photos might include church events, Trinity St Peter's School. I am hoping to have a section on The Uniformed Organisations, so any old pictures of those would be welcomed.

Please don't dash off to your attic to dust off those old albums just yet. It would be better if you get in touch with me first to let me know the type of material you have.

Nick Philpott Mobile number is 07979 892626

Or contact  **871171**  **office@stpetersformby.co.uk**

The Sign of the Cross

One of the most obvious Christian signs is the cross. Almost every Church contains at least one cross, some contain many. We have a prominent cross at the altar, and another is carried in procession. As well as the cross in metal or wood, the *sign of the cross* has been a common feature of Christian worship throughout the centuries. Most commonly perhaps the cross is used in this way at the blessing. The priest will often make the sign of the cross over the people, and a traditional response is for them to sign themselves.

At other moments during the liturgy the sign of the cross is also often made. At Baptism, those who are baptised are signed with a cross - showing that they are Christ's, and share in his resurrection.

In the Eucharist too the sign of the cross is common. The priest may make the sign of the cross at various points during the consecration prayer at the Eucharist, and the congregation may also choose to sign themselves - often at the words of Christ in the Eucharist, 'do this in remembrance of me,' and at the very end of the consecration.

Making the sign of the cross is a non-verbal way of identifying ourselves with the sacrifice and resurrection of Christ. It is a way of showing thanks and also a way of demonstrating acceptance of God's gift of grace to us. While making the sign of the cross has tended to be associated with 'high church' practices within Anglicanism, it is a common practice throughout Christendom. Indeed other actions - especially the lifting up of hands - are also common within Christian worship. Archbishop Cranmer wrote in the First English Prayer Book of 1549:

'As touching, kneeling, crossing, holding up of hands, knocking upon the breast, and other gestures: they may be used or left as every man's devotion serveth without blame.'

So, when we worship together in Church, whether we choose to make the sign of the cross or not, let us always be thankful for the passion, death and resurrection of Christ, and God's extravagant gift of grace to all of us.

Making the Sign of The Cross



Simon

Keep Those Pedals Turning!

In Chapel Lane, at the unearthly hour of 6.00am on Saturday 13th November, the pedals began turning on a pair of static cycles as a succession of riders set off at half-hour intervals.

The aim was to burn calories and raise financial support for Prostate Cancer UK.

Formby Rotary Club had set up the event, arranged fair weather and was rewarded with enthusiastic support throughout the day.

It was encouraging to see St Peter's parishioners playing their part, and the target of 6000 calories was passed early in the afternoon; in fact, the total calorie burn exceeded 10,000!

More importantly, the event was a financial success, with a total of over £2,000 raised.



*Pam Ashton & David Manning-Fox
Formby U3A Cycling Group*



Revd Anne Taylor



Claire Hocking

If you missed the event, you can still contribute via the JustGiving website:

<https://justgiving.com/fundraising/Simon-Matthews42>

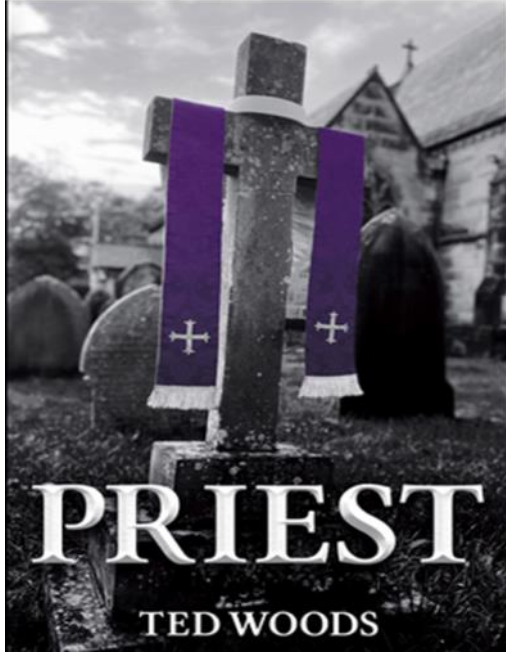
David Manning-Fox



Do you live in the Harington Road area?

We will be singing carols on Saturday 4th December at 4pm at the Harington Road shops.
Please do join us.

LOOKING FOR A CHRISTMAS PRESENT OR STOCKING FILLER?



Here's a book that might fit the bill!

Being single, ordained and in sole charge of a parish can often be lonely, as Revd Wendy Morris knows all too well. It's a situation not helped by having an egotistical and ambitious archdeacon, whose interference fuels rather than quells the criticism and conflict Wendy deals with as rector of St Olaf's.

Following the resignation of her crabby, disgruntled organist, Wendy appoints a former RUC officer to succeed him. Things further look up with the arrival of a new clerical neighbour and his family.

A new era of cooperation begins...and rapidly falls apart as a story of revenge and murder unfolds.

Featuring characters who will be familiar to readers of Ted Woods' first novel *Bishop*, *Priest* is a stand-alone murder mystery set in the fictitious Church of Ireland diocese of Daneford.

***PRIEST* will be launched by Bishop Paul Bayes in St Peter's Church on Tuesday 7th December at 6.00pm.**

Everyone is invited to the launch. Wine and nibbles will be provided.

Copies of Priest will be available @ £7.99 at the launch or can be ordered at

Paperback: <https://www.beatentrackpublishing.com/shop/proddetail.php?prod=priest>

eBook: https://www.beatentrackpublishing.com/shop/proddetail.php?prod=priest_format

Amazon: http://mybook.to/Priest_TedWoods



SEARCHING FOR THE LIGHT

An Advent Art Adventure with paintings and reflections by
Richard Popplewell and John Turner.

**St Luke's Church, Liverpool Road,
Crosby, L23 5SE**

Displayed throughout Advent

Wednesdays 1st, 8th & 15th December 10am - 2.30pm

Saturdays 4th, 11th & 18th December 10am - 12.30pm

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December Bible Readings

5th December – 2nd Sunday of Advent

Malachi 3:1-4 / Philippians 1:3-11 / Luke 3:1-6

12th December – 3rd Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20 / Philippians 4:4-7 / Luke 3:7-18

19th December – 4th Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-5a / Hebrews 10:5-10 / Luke 1:39-55

Christmas Eve

Isaiah 52:7-10 / Hebrews 1:1-12 / John 1:1-14

Christmas Day

Isaiah 9:2-7 / Titus 2:11-14 / Luke 2:1-20

26th December - St Stephen, Deacon and First Martyr

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

27th December – St John Apostle and Evangelist

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

28th December – The Holy Innocents

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



January Bible Readings

1st January – The Naming and Circumcision of our Lord

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

2nd January – 2nd Sunday of Christmas / Epiphany

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

9th January – The Baptism of Christ

Isaiah 43:1-7 / Acts 8:14-17 / Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

16th January – 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Isaiah 62:1-5 / 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 / John 2:1-11

23rd January – 3rd Sunday of Epiphany – Christian Unity Week

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 / 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a / Luke 4:14-21

25th January – The Conversion of St Paul

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

30th January – Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

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





St Luke - A New Christmas Tradition

It has been said that of all the Gospel writers we would most like to meet, it would be St Luke who would come first.

He was a Gentile by birth, in fact he is the only writer in the New Testament who is not a Jew. He was a doctor by profession and a Christian by conversion. Luke became the companion of St Paul and worked with him.

But what he is most remembered for is that he is the writer of the 3rd Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles. He is often called Luke the Evangelist – Luke the Bearer of Good News and his Gospel is full of encouragement.

Firstly, his Gospel has been described as the **Universal Gospel** as he shows that Jesus is for all people without distinction of race, gender or creed. Luke records Jesus as saying that in the Kingdom of God people will come from north, south, east and west. He also recalls that Jesus said that the greatest faith he had encountered had been that of a pagan centurion. Jesus is for all people, everywhere.

Secondly, Luke's Gospel has been called the **Gospel of the Poor**. Luke has great sympathy for the underdog. In the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, it is the poor man who is received into heaven. It is the contrite Zacchaeus who is forgiven. It is the penitent thief who is assured of eternal life, and it is only St Luke who records the parable of the Prodigal Son. No one gets lost in the crowd with Jesus. No one is too minor for Jesus to notice and to love.

Luke also gives a special place to women at a time when their status was very much inferior. He tells of the woman who anointed Jesus' feet; how Jesus commended Mary, the sister of Martha; and gives an important place in Jesus' ministry to Mary Magdalene.

Then Luke's Gospel is supremely the **Gospel of praise and joy**. The phrase 'praising God' occurs more often in Luke's Gospel than in all the rest of the New Testament put together. Three of the great canticles of praise that we use to worship – The Benedictus, the Magnificat and the Nunc Dimittis - all come from St Luke's Gospel. There is joy at the beginning of his Gospel as the angels announce "**good tidings of great joy**" to the shepherds. There is joy in the middle as Jesus tells of the great joy in heaven over one sinner who repents; there is the joy of finding the lost coin, the lost sheep and the lost son. And there is joy and praise at the end of his Gospel as, after the Ascension, the disciples return to Jerusalem, "**filled with great joy**" spending their time in the Temple "**giving thanks to God.**" So...

A NEW CHRISTMAS TRADITION

Beginning 1st December, read one chapter of the Gospel of Luke each evening. There are 24 chapters. On Christmas Eve you will have read an entire account of Jesus' life and wake up Christmas morning knowing why we celebrate.

Anne



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS WALL

With all good wishes for Christmas and 2022 to everyone
at St Peter's Formby; with best wishes from





**THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE
CHRISTMAS GREETINGS WALL
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Celebrating 50 Years of Ministry

There was a wonderful service on Sunday 31st October, celebrating with Canon Alison Woodhouse her 50th anniversary in ministry. Fifty years ago women could not be ordained and the only option was to become a Parish Worker and then a Deaconess.

Alison began her ministry in Christ Church, Bayston Hill, Lichfield and then in 1981 moved to Liverpool and became a Deaconess in St Luke's Church, West Derby. The ever-evolving titles for women in ministry meant that between 1986 to 1995 Alison was a Deaconess, Parish Deacon and then Curate at St John's Church, Burscough. Then before Alison retired in 2007 she was Vicar of St Luke's Church, an Area Dean and served as a Chaplain to The Queen.



On your behalf we gave Alison a voucher for a local restaurant near to her new home in Lytham St Annes along with flowers and a cake. We pray for Alison God's blessing in this new chapter of her life.

For many women their journey in ministry was a complicated one. The Church of England agreed to ordain women to the diaconate in 1987, to the priesthood in 1992 and as bishops in 2014.

Many have benefitted from Alison's ministry and it was a great day to give thanks not least for her time with us in St Peter's during her retirement.



The Parochial Church Council (PCC)

The PCC is the executive committee of a parish.

A brief report on the November meeting of St Peter's PCC

Safeguarding: Update about the new Church of England rules – DBS clearance will be every three years (was every five years). In addition to the Basic Awareness Course, all PCC members now need to complete a Foundation Course.

School Governor: Allan Jones has been re-appointed as a Governor at Trinity St Peter's School.

275th Anniversary Celebrations: A Programme of Celebrations was shared and the need for good publicity emphasised.

Restrictions for rest of year including Christmas: The PCC decided to continue the precautions in place and to encourage people to test regularly. No plans at the moment to bring the chalice back.

Vicar's Items: The Vicar encouraged the PCC to be aware of new members of the congregation and to help them become part of our community. Also when new neighbours moved in to deliver a parish magazine with a welcome card which can be collected from the Parish Office.

Uganda Committee: Following the last PCC meeting, the agreed prospective payments for Vivian's penultimate hospital visit in November; the additional furniture for the teachers; and Richard's bonus were paid. When lockdown ends, the Term 2 payment to school of £673 will be made to the school.

Diversity: A Diversity Statement was agreed by the deanery and each PCC has been asked to look at it in the light of its own parish. Putting forward the concept of Diversity. There will be a discussion at the next PCC meeting.

Finance: Parish Share Working Group formula proposal on how the parish share should be allocated to the churches in the Sefton North Deanery has been approved and will be applied from January 2022.

Fabric: There was a new banner for Remembrance Sunday. A new Incumbents Board has been mounted in the Formby Chapel. A socket has been installed at the back of the Church for the contactless payment machine.

Faith and Outreach: The annual collection of chocolates and sweets for the Soup Kitchen is getting a great response. The support for the Food Bank has been maintained. Afternoon Tea Boxes will be delivered again in January. The monthly Eucharist in two care homes has re-started.

Horizons: The blue envelope Advent Collection will go to The Whitechapel Project.





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On All Saints' Day at the 10.00am Service the preacher was MU Member and former Church Study Group Leader Alison Woodhouse who was celebrating fifty years of ministry in the Church of England. We were delighted to wish her well on her retirement to Lytham St Annes and thanked her for the inspiring service she has given to St Peter's.

Her theme was Perseverance. She recounted how, in spite of her parents' misgivings, she had given up a career in teaching to study for ministry in the Church of England.

Perseverance had taken her from Parish Worker and Deaconess, through ordination and into appointments as Curate in West Derby, Vicar of St Luke's, Formby, Area Dean, and Chaplain to Her Majesty The Queen.

Our meeting on 4th November was opened by Meryl Petrie and Herbert, who together led us in a short service. Ken Ward then talked about his visit to the WW1 Battlefields, illustrated with pictures of the British and German Battlefields and the totally rebuilt City of Ypres. An acutely moving demonstration of the horror of War.

Our next meeting is the Christmas Party on Thursday, 2nd December, at 1.00 pm in the Parish Hall. Committee Members are asked to arrive at 12.00 noon to prepare. Ken will arrange Carols and entertainment. If you would like to contribute music, poetry, or a reading, please let Ken know (Tel. 871927)

A reminder for your diaries:

Thursday, 13th January 2022, 1.45 pm

AGM and Bi-Annual Bring-and-Buy.

Thursday, 3rd February 2022, 1.45 pm

Revd Peter Paine will talk on the visit he led to Ethiopia.

Any suitable item may be contributed for asylum seekers.

Corporate Communion is held on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 11.00 am

Visitors are welcome at all meetings (Tel. Herbert 873367)

The 2022-23 Membership Card is in preparation and it is hoped to issue this at the AGM.

We wish you all Peace, Joy and Hope at Christmas and in the New Year,

Herbert and Jean.



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Why did Caesar Augustus go to Bethlehem?

So he could come to his census!

Jokes about sugar are rare. Jokes about brown sugar?

Demerara!

The umbrella was originally going to be called just brella.

But the inventor hesitated.

Wall's of Jericho isn't the only mention of ice cream in the bible...

The person going after the lost sheep and leaving 99, is another!



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE



who donated items during the Harvest Thanksgiving and to everyone who brings items each week.

Your generosity is very much appreciated. The Church Porch is open every day from 10am to 4pm for donations. Or, those who use the Bier House, please leave any items inside in the foodbank donation box.

www.southport.foodbank.org.uk

Many thanks

SHOPPING LIST

Tinned custard
Tea (80 bag packs)
UHT milk
Crackers
Crisps
Pot noodles
Brown sauce
Tomato sauce
Toilet roll (4 packs)
Laundry tabs (small packs)
Shower gel
Deodorant (men's and women's)



Think Green this Christmas

Recycle the not-needed gifts! We are collecting for raffle prizes and hampers, so any excess gifts, unopened biscuits, chocolates, bottles of wine or other drink would be gratefully received. They will be used during our 275th anniversary year. Please bring to church or to the Parish Office.

Christmas wrapping – check that the wrapping paper you buy can be recycled.

Crackers - choose eco-conscious Christmas crackers.

Christmas Dinner - buy local and free-range.

Party time - avoid disposables, balloons and glitter.

Christmas Cards & Stamps – leave in the church porch and they will be re-used for charities.

Christmas Presents – instead of buying more things why not 'Sponsor a Puppy' and give the gift of hope.

www.guidedogs.org.uk



Or help conservation and adopt an animal at Chester Zoo
www.chesterzoo.org



REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

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

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.

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

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.



Tea & Memories

Bringing the past to life through
conversation



A new initiative where you can get together over a cuppa to watch archive footage from the 1940s to the 1970s... holidays, transport, work, the home, sport, hobbies and much more. It's a great opportunity to swap stories, share connections and spark conversation.

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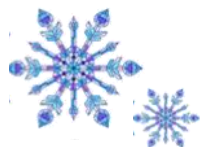
**Monday 6th December
1.30pm - 3.30pm**



For more information about Tea & Memories, please call Fiona 01704 877311 Joanne Painter 07831 990 653 or email j-painter@abbeyfield.com

www.abbeyfield.com/tea-and-memories

Diary Dates - December 2021



Wednesday 1st

11.00am Eucharist with Mothers' Union prayers *followed by refreshments*

Thursday 2nd

1.00pm Mothers' Union Christmas Lunch meet in the Parish Hall

Friday 3rd

9.30am Little Fishes Pre-school Group in the Parish Hall – *every Friday (term time only)*

Saturday 4th

4.00pm Carol Singing at the Harington Road shops – please do join us.

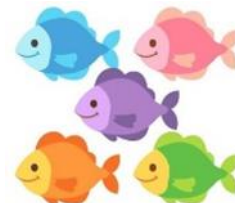
Sunday 5th The 2nd Sunday of Advent

8.30am Eucharist (BCP)

10.00am Parish Eucharist (CW) and Sunday Club

12noon Service of Baptism

6.30pm Compline



Monday 6th

10.00am Churchyard Clean Up Group - *first Monday of the month*

8.00pm Timeout – men, beer, topics – in the Bier House

Tuesday 7th

10.00am Bible Study Group *with Ken* in the Bier House – *every Tuesday*

11.00am Woodlands Care Home Eucharist

6.00pm Book Launch by Bishop Paul Bayes of 'Priest' by Ted Woods in church



Wednesday 8th

11.00am Eucharist with Yr4 from TSP *followed by refreshments*

7.30pm Bible Study Group *with Ted* in the Bier House

Saturday 11th

10.00am The Saturday Crew (all things crafty!) in the Bier House

11.00am Formby Village Nativity, Formby Pool Gardens

Sunday 12th The 3rd Sunday of Advent

8.30am Eucharist (CW)

10.00am All-Age Parade Eucharist *followed by refreshments*

12noon Service of Baptism

6.30pm Bereavement Service

Wednesday 15th

9.20am School Christmas Service for KS1 in church

11.00am Eucharist *followed by refreshments*

2.00pm WOW – service for pre-school children in church

7.30pm Primetime – women's group in the Parish Hall



Thursday 16th

1.30pm Carol Service in Halcyon House

2.30pm Carol Service in Woodlands Care Home

Friday 17th

9.20am School Christmas Service for KS2 in church

3.00pm Wedding of Richard Danver & Julie Rice

Saturday 18th

12noon Wedding of Sam Sutton & Maria Botterill



Sunday 19th The 4th Sunday of Advent
 8.30am Eucharist (BCP)
 10.00am Parish Eucharist and Sunday Club
 6.30pm Carols By Candlelight *followed by mulled wine & mince pies*



Wednesday 22nd
 11.00am Eucharist *followed by refreshments*

Christmas Eve

3.00pm, 4.30pm Christingle Services for pre-school & primary school age children
 6.00pm Christingle Service - All-age service with the choir
 11.30pm Midnight Eucharist

Christmas Day

8.30am Eucharist (CW)
 10.00am Parish Eucharist with carols



Sunday 26th St Stephen, Deacon and First Martyr

10.00am Parish Eucharist
 Please note there will be no 8.30am or 6.30pm service

Wednesday 29th No Eucharist

Diary Dates - January 2022

Sunday 2nd Epiphany / The 2nd Sunday of Christmas

8.30am Eucharist (BCP)
 10.00am Parish Eucharist
 6.30pm Choral Evensong

Monday 3rd

2.00pm Halcyon House Eucharist

Tuesday 4th

11.00am Woodlands Care Home Eucharist

Wednesday 5th

11.00am Eucharist with Mothers' Union prayers *followed by refreshments*

Sunday 9th Baptism of Christ / The 1st Sunday after Epiphany

8.30am Eucharist (CW)
 10.00am Parish Eucharist & Sunday Club
 6.30pm Choral Evensong

Wednesday 12th

11.00am Eucharist *followed by refreshments*

Thursday 13th

2.00pm Mothers' Union in the Bier House

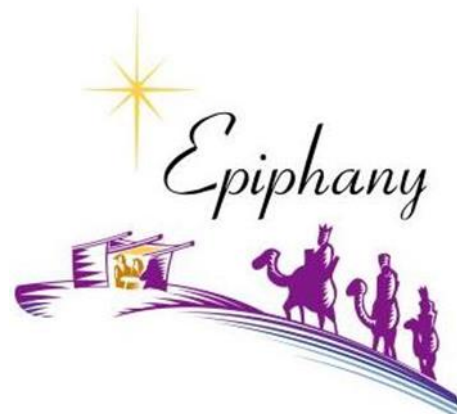
Sunday 16th The 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

8.30am Eucharist (BCP)
 10.00am Parish Eucharist & Sunday Club
 6.30pm Choral Evensong

17th to 23rd Christian Unity Week

Monday 17th

7.30pm Christian Basics Course (Topic – God, Jesus & Holy Spirit) in the Bier House



Diary Dates - January 2022 continued...



Wednesday 19th

11.00am Eucharist *followed by refreshments*

Sunday 23rd The 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

8.30am Eucharist (CW)

10.00am Parish Eucharist

4.00pm Christian Unity Service in Our Lady's Church

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Monday 24th

7.30pm Christian Basics Course (Topic – The Bible) in the Bier House

Wednesday 26th

11.00am Eucharist *followed by refreshments*

2.00pm WOW – service for pre-school children in church

7.30pm Bible Study Group *with Ted* in the Bier House

Sunday 30th The 4th Sunday of Epiphany

8.30am Eucharist (CW)

10.00am All-Age Parade Service

6.30pm Candlemas Service

Monday 31st

7.30pm Christian Basics Course (Topic – Baptism & Holy Communion) in the Church

7.30pm PCC in the Bier House



Morning Prayer – there is a short service of Morning Prayer in the Form-by Chapel in Church at 9am on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday.

Please check our website for up-to-date information:
www.stpetersformby.co.uk

From the Church Registers



Funerals:-

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 4 th November | Shirley Longworth |
| 8 th November | George Sandys |
| 8 th November | Elsie Lowe |
| 18 th November | David Oliver |
| 22 nd November | Frederick Martin |

Interment of Ashes:-

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| 11 th October | Tony Heaton |
| 5 th November | Ed Trickett |
| 17 th November | Thomas Allen |

From the Church Registers ~ Baptism

31st October – Johnathan
James Kevin McFadden,
son of Amy & John



From the Church Registers ~ Wedding

Congratulations to
Elliot Ketteringham &
Lauren Towle who were
married on Friday 5th
November.





From the Back Pew Ted Woods

MAKING SENSE

“I suggest that the Christian faith is the practice of making sense of (our) lives that makes sense of the world,” wrote Rowan Williams, a former Archbishop of Canterbury.

In the rush and bustle of life with so many competing demands, it's often difficult to find time to sit back, or stand back, and try to make sense of our existence as humans.

We trundle along in an unquestioning rut and sometimes it is only when something tragic happens that shatters our lives that we begin to question what life is all about.

Can faith help us to make sense of our lives and of the world?

Let's start with God and creation.

The first thing to say is that the opening chapters of Genesis are not an early scientific attempt to describe creation. So much of Christianity has been debunked because of a wrong understanding of Genesis. It is all parable up to the time of Abraham. Science tries to answer WHAT, while faith tries to answer WHY.

What Genesis tells us is that God is relational, setting in motion the process of creation so that he could share his love and care with us humans, planting within our make-up a 'spark of the divine' by which we can relate to God and he to us. We are both physical and spiritual beings.

To us, he also gave free-will and choice. Love is never enforced, only offered.

And while there have been periods of obedience and faithfulness to God, in the history of the human race there have been more times of rebellion and rejection.

Throughout the centuries, appeals to turn to God were made by prophets and preachers, without success. So God made the ultimate appeal. He came to earth in human form in Jesus to show us his love and assure us of salvation.

In a memorable phrase, “Jesus is the body language of God.”

Not only does Jesus call us to know God in a relational way, he also calls us to be his agents in the world. Or, as St Paul put it, we are to be the Body of Christ, his hands, his feet, his voice. God can usually only effect change through us. He is not a heavenly puppeteer pulling strings to make things happen.

Not only has he given us humans choice, he has also imbued the whole of creation with a certain degree of freedom which is necessary for evolution and development. As one scientist put it, “The process that enables some cells to mutate and produce new life will allow other cells to mutate and become malignant.” (John Polkinghorne). As a geneticist once told me, “This makes life a bit of a lottery.”

God is not aloof from all of this. As shown by the birth of Jesus in a stable, he is present in the midst of life at its dirtiest, and by his cross he shows that he understands and identifies with our suffering.

The cross confirms the infinite love of God for us and that he is willing to forgive us and restore us to himself. Though he cannot change the past, he can forgive the past and help us start afresh.

But Good Friday’s cross was not the end. It was followed by the resurrection on Easter morning when Jesus rose from the dead. St Paul assures us that as Christ was raised from the dead, so shall we be.

Death is not the end, rather it is the beginning of a new type of existence, in the life of the world to come, where, we are told, we will be given spiritual bodies. That means that there will be personal continuity, that there will be recognition and communication with all who have gone before.

An American doctor, Eben Alexander, experienced a near-death experience after being struck down by a rare form of bacterial meningitis, and he describes the after-life like this, “My experience showed me that the death of my body and the brain are not the end of consciousness. Human experience continues beyond the grave...under the gaze of a God who loves and cares about each one of us, and about where the universe itself and all beings within it, are ultimately going.” (Proof of Heaven)

Life continues on, and in the life of the world to come wrongs are righted, hurts are healed, evil is overcome and we are given the opportunity to become our true selves and be in relation with God.

Faith enriches life, gives it meaning and purpose, enabling us to overcome rather than be overcome, to hope rather than merely cope.

As Rowan Williams suggested, “The Christian faith is the practice of making sense of (our) lives that makes sense of the world.”



St Peter's Church
Formby

Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 19th December
6:30pm

followed by
Mulled Wine & Mince Pies

Christmas Eve 2021

Friday 24th December

St Peter's Church
Formby

Christingle Services

at 3:00pm, 4:30 pm & 6:00pm

Midnight Eucharist

at 11:30pm

All welcome

