



Heritage Week

Monday 28th March - Saturday 2nd April
Photographic Exhibition in Church 11am - 4pm daily

Monday 28th March at 2pm John Phillips

Formby - A Glimpse Over Time - An overview of the history of Formby from Viking settlement to the thriving town of today

Tuesday 29th March at 7.30pm - Sally Sheard

From Cradle to Grave: Formby Health Histories

Wednesday 30th March at 2pm - Tony Pawson

Formby in World War I

Thursday 31st March at 7.30pm - Joan Rimmer & Nic Dickson

Formby Memories - An engaging presentation with images of old Formby, songs, poems, chat and humour

Saturday 2nd April at 10.30am & 12 noon

Further Voices from the Churchyard

See **www.stpetersformby.co.uk** for more information

Contacts at St Peter's

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EDITORIAL



Welcome to Spring, Everyone,

Some gardens have decided it is Spring already with daffodils out half way through February, and we wish our Welsh parishioners a Happy St David's Day for 1st March. We must not forget the Irish amongst us too, who will be celebrating St Patrick's Day on the 17th March.

Our 275th Anniversary Celebrations continue this month with our Heritage Week. Please check the dates on our front cover and come along to learn things about Formby that you never knew before.

As well as our Anniversary Celebrations the Lent talks are taking place on Monday evenings in the Bier House throughout March. (See page 6 for details). Look out for our other Lent events too.



We would like to welcome Lilly Nelson, who has a placement in our church whilst discerning ordained ministry. Please look out for her and show her how wonderful St Peter's Church is to worship in.

The Pandemic has caused many to suffer mentally as well as physically and there are some very useful 'Lessons' on page 25 with links to give us new strategies for living with COVID and the effects it has on us all.

Next time you're in the supermarket please add an Easter Egg to donate to our Easter Chocolate Appeal for the homeless. Nearly everyone loves and deserves chocolate! Please place your gift in the box in the Church Porch.

With Best Wishes from

The Editorial Team

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



St Peter's Moving with the Times and Going Contactless!

Fewer people now carry cash and instead use contactless payment machines in shops. St Peter's now also has a contactless payment machine for donations at services; it is situated near the door of the church.

*Please note the deadline for the April 2022 edition of the magazine is **Friday 11th March 2022.***

Contributions to magazine@stpetersformby.co.uk

Dear Friends,

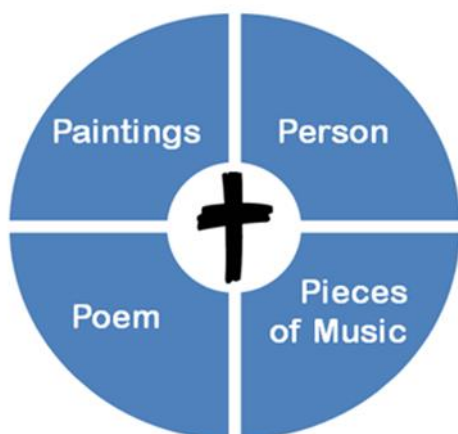
Before I write about Lent and our 275th Anniversary celebrations, I would like to acknowledge how sad we are that our curate, Revd Simon Macaulay, has decided that ordained ministry is not for him and has resigned his curacy. He wants everyone to know that he has greatly appreciated the love and support that he received from everyone in St Peter's. But a curacy is a time of discernment as well as training, where the reality of parish life and all its demands is experienced. We wish Simon well for the future and thank him for his time with us in St Peter's and he knows that he will be welcome to visit us anytime.

St Peter's is recognised as a great place to discern and train in ministry. Matt Parkes has been with us as part of his Reader training and we will welcome Matt back later in the year. Three years ago Revd Gordon McLeod was with us on placement while training for ministry and he will be spending time in St Peter's over the next year. Gordon's Training Incumbent retired and I have been his supervisor for the last year. During March we also welcome Lilly Nelson who will be with us as part of her discernment for ministry. It is such a privilege for all of us to be involved at such important times in people's lives as they discern God's calling.

This year's joint Ash Wednesday Service will be held in St Stephen's Church. This is one of the services where we join with our friends from the other Anglican churches and I ask that you make the short journey to Hightown village as we begin Lent together.

After two years of in-zoom Lent Series meetings, it's so good to be able, once again, to have in-person evenings.

This Lent we have a very interesting series of four talks based on 4 P's – a Person, a Poem, a Piece of Music and a Painting. See page 6.



Canon Rod Garner is an Anglican priest, writer and theologian and he begins our series with a look at John Henry Newman who wrote the poem *Gerontius*. Rod's most recent book is *Bright Evening Star: A Portrait of John Henry Newman* and copies of this will be available at his talk on Monday 7th March.

The following week, 14th March, Canon Kath Rodgers who retired from All Saints' & St Frideswyde's, Thornton, last year will speak about her favourite parable and painting – *The Prodigal Son* by Rembrandt.

Then we have two home-grown speakers. On 21st March our Director of Music, David Holroyd, will look at Pieces of Music for the Passion; while on 28th March Rod Jacques will discuss Paintings of the Passion.

All talks are in the Bier House at 7.30pm.



The first of our 275th Anniversary events will be on Saturday 26th February at 7.30pm in the church, when David Holroyd will give An Illustrated Demonstration & Concert on the Pipe Organ. What makes an organ work? How many pipes are there? What's the difference between the Great and the Swell, the flues and the reeds? This will be followed by a concert of popular organ music. An organ was first installed in St Peter's in 1885. Our present organ dates from 1949 and was installed in memory of parishioners who died in World War II. It was re-built in 2002.

Before organs were used in churches, music was provided by a band in the west gallery consisting of a fiddle, a flute and a drum. A memoir of the time says that the music they produced was of "doubtful melody!"

And then, at the end of the month, from Monday 28th March to Saturday 2nd April, we will be holding our Heritage Week. There will be daily talks on the history of St Peter's and the village of Formby from John Phillips, Sally Sheard, Tony Pawson and Joan Rimmer and Nic Dickson. The week will conclude with two performances of new "Voices from the Churchyard", when some of churchyard residents will come to life to tell their stories!

Throughout Heritage Week the church will be the venue for a Photographic Exhibition of times past in St Peter's which has been organised by Nick Philpott.

Refreshments during the week will be available in The Bier House. If you can help with "church sitting" or providing or serving refreshments please phone the Parish Office or add your name to the list in church.

St Peter's Churchwardens' Ale has been brewed and commemorative tea towels and bags will be available for sale at all functions.

Special 275th wine glasses can be ordered from Shena Edwards.

Please spread the word about our 275th anniversary celebrations by word, email, Facebook, pigeon; whatever way you communicate, shout about our fabulous year of celebrations.

Anne





2nd March 2022

11.00am Eucharist in St Peter's Church

7.30pm ~ A Joint Ash Wednesday Service in St Stephen's Church, Hightown
Joining with the people of St Stephen's, St Luke's, Holy Trinity & St Michael's.
Churches worshipping together as we begin the journey of Lent.

THIS YEAR'S LENT TALKS

The Lent Series is back after a two-year break because of Covid and we have an interesting and thought-provoking programme for Lent 2022 as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter.

We are basing the talks on 4 P's –

Person, Poem, Paintings and Pieces of Music

The talks will take place in The Bier House on Monday evenings at 7.30pm

Monday 7th March

Newman The Poet: 'The Dream of Gerontius'

led by Canon Rod Garner

Monday 14th March

The Prodigal Son by Rembrandt

led by Canon Kath Rogers

Monday 21st March

Pieces of Music for the Passion

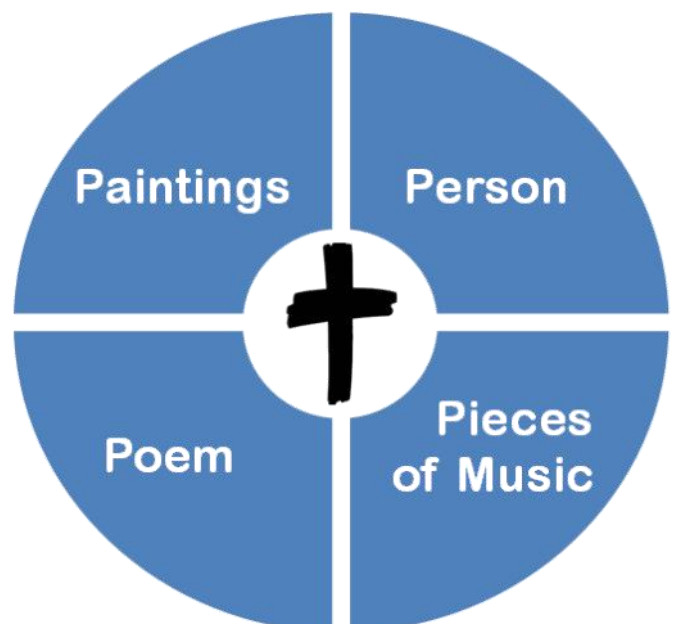
led by David Holroyd

Monday 28th March

Paintings of the Passion

led by Rod Jacques

Everyone is welcome!



Ministry Placement - Lilly Nelson

Hello! My name is Lilly and I am looking forward to sharing in your church life as part of my placement while discerning ordained ministry. I currently work in chaplaincy with our Student communities across Liverpool City Centre, working for The Team Parish of St Luke in the City. As you can appreciate, this is a very urban environment in which to serve and to worship, so I am looking forward to observing the beautiful St Peter's in it's very different worship style.



My previous experience in Chaplaincy includes NHS Mersey Care (2017-2019), as well as serving as Chaplaincy Assistant at Liverpool Hope University (Creative Campus Chaplaincy) 2018-2021. I have a keen interest in Music Festival Chaplaincy (including Download Festival 2018 and Leeds Festival 2021) and seeing God's work and God centred conversations in unexpected places! Any questions, please do come and chat!

We will be welcoming Lilly to St Peter's on placement from Ash Wednesday through to Easter Day.

A Lenten Quiet Morning "Holy Week through the Lens of Stage and Screen"

Ted Woods will lead the Churches Together Quiet Morning on Tuesday 29th March starting at 9.30am at St Joseph's Prayer Centre, Blundell Avenue.

This will be a morning of Prayer and Reflection. Attendance is limited.

To book phone Bruni Jones 876038.

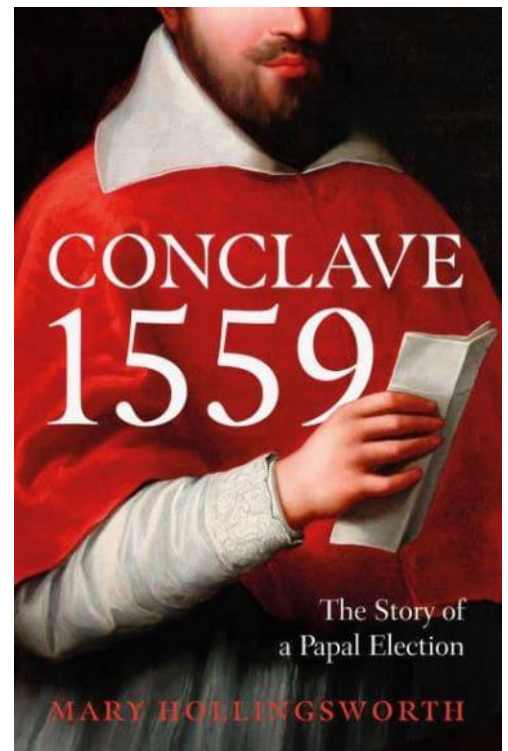
LENT
A Season of Renewal

Selection

'The average member of the Anglican community is a woman in her mid-twenties who lives in Africa.' This statement was made when there was a discussion on how the next Archbishop of Canterbury was to be selected. It illustrates how diverse the Anglican church is and how restricted the potential group of candidates can be. The history of how we select leaders, elders, priests and ministers can be very varied.

Acts gives two examples of how leaders were chosen. The first was the conversion of St Paul who was directly selected by Christ. The second was the use of a vote to replace Judas. The criterion for selection was that the candidate had to have been present throughout the ministry of Jesus to his ascension and resurrection. Two candidates were chosen, prayers were offered and the vote taken, Mathias was chosen. Since early times the majority of appointments have been made by those in authority.

Selection for the papacy has been by vote of Cardinals since the eleven hundreds when the procedure was laid down and virtually followed ever since. In a newly published book* there is a detailed examination of how this was carried out in 1559. During this period a cardinal was not just a prince of the church but often a powerful political aristocrat. The book follows Cardinal Ippolito d'Este who was closely related to the Italian aristocracy and had become an influence in Paris supporting the French king. This was important as Italy had become the battle ground between France and Spain, and as the papacy controlled the states of central Italy, both Philip of Spain and Francis of France wanted their candidate to be elected.



Ippolito was a man of immense wealth, owning a vast estate in Italy and having several church appointments, but oddly enough he was not a priest and nor were a third of the 49 cardinals who voted. The conclave, where all cardinals had to live in a few restricted rooms until a decision was made, was the longest, lasting sixteen weeks. Once locked in their rooms all their food, and goods were searched by bishops before being allowed entry. They did not go without. His cubicle measured 13x11 feet contained over 50 cushions, gilded silver plates, chests of clothes, nine footstools, wine coolers and three clocks, plus his clothing which included five coats trimmed with sable.

To ensure the right messages and decisions were made holes were knocked in the outer walls so the ambassadors from Spain and France could ensure the cardinals were offered tempting bribes to vote their way. This extended to offers of cardinals hats to teenagers and political positions. After the pope had been selected, Ippolito was well rewarded for having ensured that the French interest won. This is all a long way from when the current pope was selected; for as he moved forward to accept the new robes he passed one cardinal who said to him, "Remember the poor."

A hundred years later the Puritans in England were arguing for recognition of all to be involved in choosing leaders and attacking excess. One Quaker wrote "Excess in Apparel is another costly folly. The very Trimmings of the vain World would clothe all the naked ones." During a major debate among Cromwell's soldiers one said, "All government is in the free consent of the people,.... No person that is under a just government or hath just his own, unless he by his own consent be put under that government." Yet, despite this, promotion and appointments were mainly made by furthering an interest or personal ambition.

Even within our lifetime this was true of parish appointments. Patrons of livings had power of veto. These were usually landowners who inherited the rights within the village or market town and could use this power to ensure the candidate would be a support to his approach as to how the community should be governed.

There was, however, a flaw in the past hundreds of years in selecting leaders which takes us back to the women in Africa. This was the continual exclusion of women from having leading roles in the church. Women were allowed to run convents and the writings of some were influential but for the most part women were seen as subordinate to men. In 1867 Mary Dodge wrote an angry response to a critic of her position, "He (Christ) looked upon women, he treated women as a human being. Nothing that he ever said could be constructed into a concession of inferiority to man." At the same time another wrote, "No utterance of his (Jesus) marks a woman as ineligible to any position in the church he came to found."

The church needs to ensure it listens to the voice in the back pew when deciding who should lead a congregation. In the main it is successful in doing this but it is not easy to find a leader to hold together different approaches and keep a good balance. At an interview board the question asked to senior appointees to an institution was 'how do you maintain an accepted high standard when changing the top person?' Not an easy answer yet the church will provide one through prayer and listening to its congregations.

* 'Conclave 1559' by Mary Hollingsworth

Rod Jacques

Lent is a season of renewal and together we acknowledge that our own lives, our communities and our world stand in need of God's redeeming and transforming power.

LIVE LENT **Embracing** **JUSTICE**

Live Lent: Embracing Justice is the Church of England's theme for Lent 2022. It invites us to examine our own lives truthfully, to see the world more deeply and to pray – for the church and the world far and near – that 'justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream' (Amos 4.24).

THE LIVE LENT EMBRACING JUSTICE BOOKLET offers a daily Bible reading, a short reflection and a prayer, as well as a practical challenge for each day of Lent. Each week follows a different thread through the many stories of justice in the Bible to explore how God works with humanity to bring justice, wholeness and salvation to all.

Please help yourself to a free booklet available in the Church Porch.

A PRAYER FOR LENT

Loving God,
I commit this coming season of Lent to you
And ask you to show me what I need to turn away from,
And what I need to turn towards.
Shine your loving light in those dark parts of my heart,
And bring new life, new hope and new possibilities.
Help me to walk more closely with Jesus,
To know that I am deeply loved,
And to share his love with others.
Amen.

ARCHBISHOP JUSTIN WELBY



Report for Meeting held in the Bier House.

Fifteen members and two guests attended.

Herbert welcomed everyone and led a short service.

The Revd Peter Paine gave an enthralling talk on a visit he led to Ethiopia before the current Civil War broke out, illustrated by some beautiful photographs of buildings, birds, squirrels and baboons.

We continue with our three projects. Peter says the collection for refugees is reduced and is much needed. In April we will concentrate on toiletries, particularly soap.

The subscription for 2022-2023 is £26.00. This is more accurately described as a charitable donation as the diocese spends it mostly overseas and only 20p is retained by the parish.

The next meeting is on **March 3rd at 2.00pm in the Bier House,**
– speaker '**Inside Stories from a Radiographer**' by Gill Holroyd.

Visitors are welcome at all meetings. (Please tel. Herbert 873367).

Herbert and Jean



Churches are vital in helping The Children's Society be there for young people who are hanging on to hope. Through fundraising, campaigning, awareness-raising and prayer, we are helping improve the lives of children who grow up in poverty, get abused or neglected, or struggle with mental health.

It is time for the annual return

If you would like your box emptied and monies included in this year's return, please bring your box to church or I can collect from you.

It would be helpful if boxes can be counted by **Sunday 27th March 2022**. Completed boxes will be returned to the church porch for your collection.

If you would like to have a box, at home, to collect your change – please contact me, as below.

Thank You all for your continuing invaluable support.

Tricia Shaw (833013)

tricia55er@hotmail.com

The Children's Society representative for St Peter's Church

Our diocesan prayer

Loving Father,
by your grace we long to see
more people knowing Jesus,
and more justice in your world.
Help us to live as your disciples in the
power of the Spirit
and to work to your praise and glory.
Amen.



Bible Study enables us to see how scripture can help 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 thought about 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

Every Tuesday. Contact Ken Ward on 871927

Wednesday Bible Study at 7.30pm

9th and 23rd March. Contact Ted Woods 872824

Friday Bible Study Group at 2pm

March 11th and 25th. *Please contact Peter Paine on 809517 to check whether the group is meeting.*



Bingo Group for the elderly which is held twice a week in the Parish Hall on Paradise Lane. The Bingo group runs on

Sundays at 8pm - 9.30pm and

Mondays at 2pm - 4pm

Tickets are 50p each

Refreshments are available – 20p for Tea and Biscuits.
Contact Pat Boardman office@stpetersformby.co.uk

Easter Chocolate Appeal

Spring, and our lovely Easter celebrations are not far away, so from the beginning of March, we will be placing a box in the porch to collect Easter eggs, and Easter treats. Last year, our parishioners were so generous that we were able to support Southport Soup Kitchen, and the many people who rely on them, and many others in our community. I cannot imagine an Easter without chocolate, and I know the homeless were particularly pleased to receive an egg too!

All our appeals are so well supported here at St Peter's, many thanks to everyone who donates. Your kindness and generosity are really very much appreciated.

Vicky Hall



Little Fishes Pre-School Group

The Littles Fishes is a pre-school drop-in group that meets on a Friday morning in school term time from 9.30 -11.30 in St Peter's Parish Hall (opposite Trinity St Peter's School).

Parents, grandparents, guardians with children from 0 – 3 welcome for play, organised craft, songs and stories, together with a light snack and drink.

Messy play on the last Friday of the month.

Space for children and carers to play and support each other. There is a voluntary donation of 50p to cover snacks.



Children start in church (10.00am) and then move to the Bier House for lots of fun. As adult comes with the child and can join in the activities.

All children are welcome though it is designed for the younger age group (up to Yr2). We also have children's puzzle sheets each week please ask those on duty at the church door.

Sunday Club Dates: 6th & 13th March



Worship on Wednesday is a service designed for pre-school children. The children from Nursery and Reception at Trinity St Peter's join us for this service, which is held at 2.00pm.

Everyone is very welcome.

Next WOW (WOT!) Service is on **Thursday 31st March.**

THE FOODBANK

Between April 2020 and March 2021, food banks in the Trussell Trust network provided more than 2.5 million emergency food parcels. This was a 33% increase in the previous year. Sadly 980.000 of the parcels went to children.



The increased use of food banks is driven by a 30-year high rate of inflation at 5.4%, increased utility bills and food costs and cuts in universal credit.

The range of emotions experienced by those coming to the food banks include relief, gratitude, embarrassment and shame.

The pandemic has added to the situation - those in zero-hour contracts often seeing their hours cut whilst the self-employed periodically finding their work reducing or disappearing completely. Applying for and eventually receiving universal credit can take a number of weeks, during which time bills need to be paid and food bought.

It has never been more important that we continue to support the food bank - on behalf of the bank I would thank you for your generosity and kindness as shown by your past support.

Glyn Jones



*The Church Porch is open everyday from 10am to 4pm for donations. **The items particularly needed are: Cereal, Tea Bags, Instant Coffee, UHT Milk, Tinned Meat, Crackers, Long-life Fruit Juice & Cordial (1 litre), Nappies (size 5 and over), Dog Food and Laundry Tabs (small packs).***

Please leave in the church porch. Many thanks.

March Bible Readings

2nd – Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 / 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 / Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

6th – The 1st Sunday of Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11 / Romans 10:8b-13 / Luke 4:1-13

13th – The 2nd Sunday of Lent

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 / Philippians 3:17-4:1 / Luke 13:31-35

19th – Joseph of Nazareth

2 Samuel 7:4-16 / Romans 4:13-18 / Matthew 1:18-25

20th – The 3rd Sunday of Lent

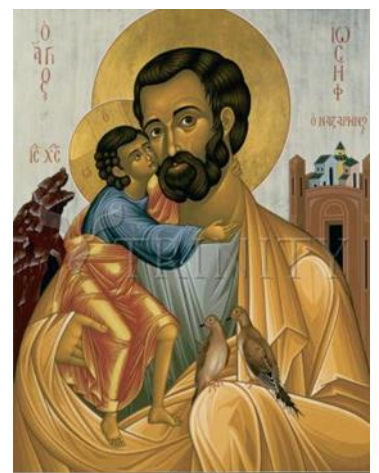
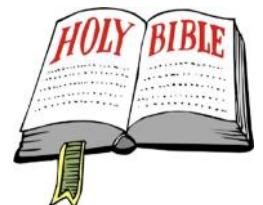
Isaiah 55:1-9 / 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 / Luke 13:1-9

25th – The Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary

Isaiah 7:10-14 / Hebrews 10:4-10 / Luke 1:26-38

27th – The 4th Sunday of Lent – Mothering Sunday

1 Samuel 1:20-28 / Colossians 3:12-17 / Luke 2:33-35





CONFIRMATION SERVICE 2022

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 5 through to adulthood.

As part of our 275th anniversary celebrations the Confirmation Service will be in our church. This happens about every five years as the service is hosted by the different churches in the deanery.

The Confirmation Service will be on

Sunday 10th July at 6.30pm in St Peter's Church.

If you would like to be confirmed or have any questions please contact the Vicar. *Revd Anne Taylor*, email: 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 March please pray for all who live in –

- 6th March Barkfield Avenue, The Copse, The Birches
- 13th March Argarmeols Road, Argarmeols Grove, Mersey Avenue
- 20th March Montagu Road, Stanlawe Road, Fisherman's Close
- 27th March College Avenue, College Path, Golf Road



Primetime

Wednesday 16th March

We meet at the **Parish Hall at 7.30pm** and depending on numbers will be in the Old School Room or the Hall, so we can have plenty of space to socially distance.

This month we have a talk by Trevor Davenport entitled “**Natural Treasures of the Sefton Coast.**” We will look at many aspects of wildlife along the Sefton Coast; the largest sand dune complex in England. It contains history, flowers, scenes, insects and habitat.

All ladies welcome, especially if joining us for the first time.

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





It's time to start living again

Rated Good with Outstanding Characteristics by the CQC, **Formby Manor** is a beautiful care home with a warm and friendly permanent team that is incredibly proud of the high levels of care it delivers. If you've found the last year or so difficult at home, it's time to join the community at Formby Manor and start living again.

Outstanding residential, nursing, respite and dementia care in a luxurious and safe environment.

"I couldn't ask for anything more and feel very at home."

"Mum's health and wellbeing are improving every week, the care is second to none."



For further information, or to make an appointment to view Formby Manor contact the team on 01704 339090 or email enquiries@newcarehomes.com

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I carry out appointments in the comfort of your own home. I provide a professional, friendly and compassionate service. If you would like some guidance, then please do come and have a chat with me either in church or via email or telephone on **07926 587776**.

Caroline Speakman Member of the Society of Willwriters

Email: southportwills@gmail.com

Phone: 07926 587776

Website: www.southportwills.com



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REFUSE - REDUCE - REUSE - RECYCLE - REPAIR



Unwanted Christmas gifts!

Did Santa let you down?

It's only human to feel that some gifts we receive at Christmas aren't exactly what we would have chosen for ourselves. Maybe we've got enough socks, we don't actually watch DVDs anymore or we've gone plastic-free and don't need bottles of body lotion. Whatever the reason, unwanted gifts shouldn't go to waste.

Once Christmas is done and dusted there can be a temptation to get the big new year clean-up sorted as quickly as possible. It's important to take a little extra time with the clearing to make sure that unwanted gifts, used wrapping paper, gift packaging and more is not going to landfill unnecessarily.

This year we can help solve some of your problems by taking unwanted gifts off your hands and using them to create raffle prizes and hampers to be won as part of our 275th celebrations. We're happy to accept bottles (full of course!) chocolates, and gifts of any sort, our challenge will be to use them to create themed hampers.

If you have put all your Christmas gifts to good use but would still like to help, then maybe you could volunteer to assist at one of our many events. Your special gift of time and talent is a unique offering you can give for the benefit of others. As well as enabling you to enjoy being part of our year-long celebrations, your help would be gratefully appreciated.

Lists will be put in the Porch before the events for you to add your name to and your donations can be dropped off at the Church Office (open between 10.00am and 12.00) or in church for the attention of Fiona or Shena.

Thank you

Shena



ASYLUM SEEKER BEACH CLEAN AT FORMBY

This event happened on 10th February and was arranged by Emma, one of the staff at Asylum Link Merseyside.

The event was requested by Granada ITV who were present to make a recording of the event and broadcast it as a positive narrative about asylum seekers, when the House of Lords debates the Bill currently going through Parliament.



Volunteers formed a human heart on Formby Beach - Picture credit Ahmed Nadi

We are holding another Welcome Day on 23rd March and would be able to take any items of clothing to Liverpool on that date. Please leave items of good quality clothing (underwear new please), especially men's, at the Parish Office on Paradise Lane or contact me if you need a collection.

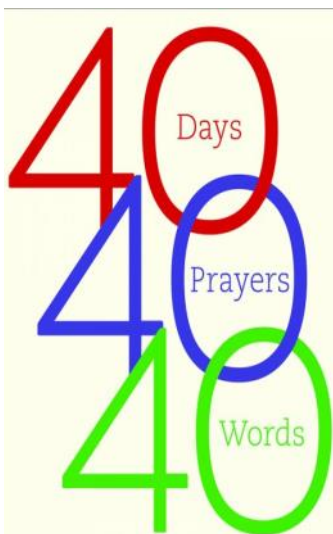
We would also like to give our guests some (men's) toiletries to take away with them. We are grateful to the Mother's Union for their collection but it needs supplementing with bars of soap, tooth paste, tooth brushes, and shampoo.

We will leave a box in the Church Porch for these items.

Thank you. Peter, 01704 809517, office@stpetersformby.co.uk

CHURCH LIBRARY- LENT BOOKS

- be refreshed by reading one of the Lent books in our library.



***Dust and Glory* by David Runcorn.**

There is a meditation for each day of Lent dealing with living and believing.

***Lent FOR Everyone – Matthew* by Tom Wright.**

Each passage is followed by a reflection and a prayer.

***Wisely Pray the Psalms* by Ambrose Tinsley** offers “a prayerful companion to reading the psalms.”

***Lent is for Loving* by Sheila Cassidy.** Expanding on the words Love, Empathy, No and Thankfulness.

Reflections for Lent a meditation a day written by some of today's leading writers on spirituality

***40 Days, 40 Prayers, 40 Words* by Bruce Reyes-Chow** exploring blessings and burdens.

If you would like to borrow a book or DVD please write your name in the register provided. The Library is situated in the Bier House. We hope this will be a useful resource for all ages.

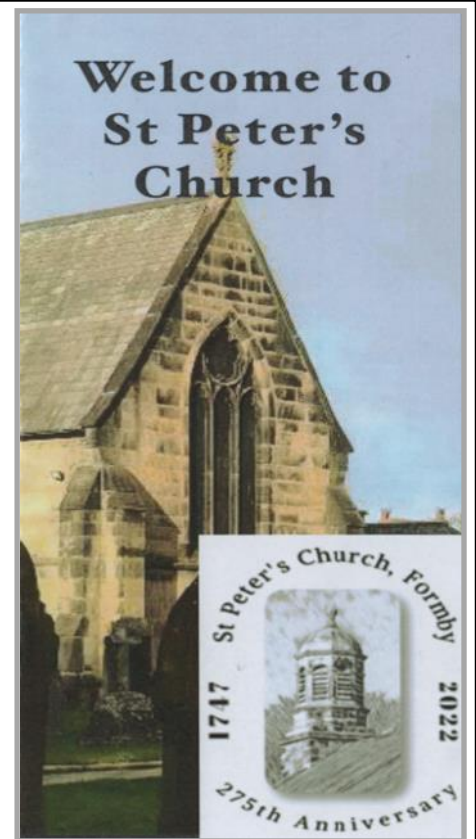
ST PETER'S 275th CELEBRATIONS

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.

Throughout 2021 a committee met to plan a year of celebration for this milestone in our history.

Here is the programme for the year:



Mon 28th March - Sat 2nd April	Heritage Week
Sunday 10th - 17th April	Palm Sunday, Holy Week & Easter
Saturday 21st May	"Last Night of the Proms"
Weds 8th - Sunday 12th June	Flower Festival & Art Exhibition
Sunday 12th June	10am Eucharist
	Preacher: Revd Barry Dryden, former Curate of St Peter's
Sunday 3rd July	Patronal Festival
	Preacher: The Rt Revd Kenneth Kearon
Friday 8th July	Festival Dinner in Marquee - Formby Cricket Club
Sunday 17th July	Consecration Sunday
	Preacher: The Rt Revd Beverley Mason
Saturday 3rd Sept	Community Fun Day in the School Grounds
Sunday 11th September	Pet Service
Saturday 24th September	Harvest Cabaret in Holy Trinity Parish Hall
Sunday 25th September	Harvest Thanksgiving & Scarecrow Competition
	Preacher: Canon Alastair Graham
Sunday 13th November 6.30pm	Faure's Requiem
Saturday 19th November	Parish Vision Day – The Way Ahead
Weds 14th - 18th December	Christmas Tree Festival
Sunday 18th December	Carol Service

www.stpetersformby.co.uk

From the Church Register ~ Baptism

Sunday 13th February
Levison Gordon Larsen,
son of Katie & Rory



From the Church Register ~ Wedding



Friday 28th January
Ben Moreau & Emma Payne,
with son Oscar



Saturday 12th February
Dom Tolley & Lauren Millar



A REMINISCENCE OF ST PETER'S FROM 1913

From the Diary of Katherine Barton



Our old Vicar's name was Mr Bishop and I remember my sisters and I being quite puzzled when the Bishop of Liverpool came to preach one Sunday, and Dad said you'll see the bishop at church this morning. We said, "Well, we always see him, don't we?"

It was our custom to wait for dad after the service. He was parish clerk for many years. He used to count the collection and he and the Rev Bishop would walk down the aisle together and we would be sitting in our pew waiting. On occasions they would be a long time in the vestry, chatting, I suppose. Then Marjorie and I would pretend we were different people coming into church. The village was full of odd characters, and I was a terrible mimic. Marjorie would stand by the door and show me to a pew. I would be Mrs S..., who was short and stout and had a hissing whisper, and as she walked up the aisle she would stop to hiss in the ears of various friends enroute to her pew which was at the front just below the pulpit.

Or again, I was Mrs B..., very large and decked in rustling silk with large plumes in her hat of varying colours, and she wobbled from side to side.

Mr Bishop and his wife ran the Sunday School, which was held in our day school, except the third Sunday in the month when it was held in church. Every year we had a party and the Sunday before there were prizes given for good attendance. The Vicar's big Daimler car with chauffeur (the second car in the village) would arrive at the school with crates of books. It was amazing how many children came that Sunday! But they all got a book for regular attendance!

The churchyard always had a fascination for me. There was a little brick building under some trees which was called The Bier House. In it was kept the bier and spades and some leather straps, and it always had a peculiar smell. Oh, and some yellow sand was there too. The smell was not unpleasant, only not like anything else.

When I was about eleven years old, I used to go on Saturday morning to the church to clean the collection plates. They were made of brass and had little red velvet mats placed in the centre. I enjoyed this job. Dad would give me the keys of the vestry and off I'd go. All alone in the church I'd polish the plates quickly, then wander up to the altar and gaze at the stained-glass window, which was very lovely.

Behind the choir stalls to the right was the Formby Chapel, where the Squire and his

wife always sat. I'd sit there and wonder what it would be like to be the Squire's lady. I thought her very lovely.

Sometimes the old organist would forget to lock the organ and I always tried to see if he had, and then I'd try and play it, but quietly in case the Vicar heard, as his house was opposite the church.

When I was older, they started a girls' choir for the evening service only. We did enjoy this. We had to sit in the Formby Chapel, though, not with the boys and the men, which meant we couldn't see the congregation.

In those days there was a gallery on either side of the church with square boxes holding, I think, four to six people. A staircase went up and round the bell tower. There were two tiers of seats facing the east window and the boxes ran either side. As a result, many people sat with their backs to the chancel and the parson.

I can just remember the old Squire and his wife coming to church on Sunday. He was a colonel, very upright and handsome. They arrived at the gates in their carriage drawn by a pair of fine horses.



INTERIOR OF ST PETER'S - DECORATED FOR PEACE THANKSGIVING

She seemed a very grand lady in her silks and satins, and as they got to the porch they always had a word with Dad, and then sedately and slowly walked up the aisle, up the chancel steps and then disappeared to their seats. They generally came out first and everyone waited until they got to the door before moving. It was said that Mrs Formby was very extravagant and nearly ruined her husband. They spent very little time at the hall: she preferred London.

Katherine Barton emigrated to South Africa in 1923.

Lessons from the Pandemic

The charity Every Life Matters, supported by Cumbria County Council, has produced a thoughtful and detailed booklet called “Wellbeing and Mental Health: a guide to looking after yourself and others.” It looks at strategies to deal with the problems of living with covid and has a range of ways in which we can all look to help ourselves and others. The booklet is available on the “Every Life Matters” website. Here are some extracts from it.

Get outside: Research has shown us that walking and time spent in nature were the two things that most helped the nation cope with the stresses of the pandemic.

Be kind to yourselves: Lots of us struggle to treat ourselves kindly. In fact, we are often nicer to others than we are to ourselves. Show yourself compassion when things are not going well, treat yourself, do things you enjoy.

Get a good night's sleep: 4 in 10 of us have experienced worse sleep during the pandemic due to stress and anxiety. Learning simple ways to improve quality of sleep can really improve your mood. (Page 7 of the booklet gives guidelines for this).

There is also a section for helping children, which emphasises **“Make conversations about mental health a normal part of everyday life.”**

Find time to talk. Talk about their day, encourage them to ask you.

Help your child get the sleep it needs. Not getting enough sleep can make children and young people less able to deal with difficult situations, as well as having a significant impact on their ability to concentrate, retain information, and take part in physical activity. Sleep, this is the magic pill for our children.

Remind them you are there to talk, even if they are not yet ready.

Know where to get help. Whether it's anxiety or stress, money problems or employment issues, knowing where you can get help when you need it, and reaching out early can really help us get through. Page 29 lists helplines, these include, Papyrus Hopeline, 0800 068 4141, The Mix 0808 804 4994 and, for older people, Silverline 0800 470 8090.



Copies of the booklet can be obtained from the website www.every-life-matters.org.uk

Rod Jacques

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Derek was beginning to regret even mentioning Wordle in last Sunday's sermon!



Walsh

"It keeps me from looking at my phone every two seconds."

*I used to be addicted to the hokey pokey. Then I turned myself around.
Can a kangaroo jump higher than a house? Of course. Houses can't jump.
Why did the scarecrow win an award? Because he was outstanding in his field.*



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Lent

Q C I T L G C Z M J Z K J I Y I N H G Q F C T O
 S S O R C S H Y D B D I S C I P L E S O E A M M
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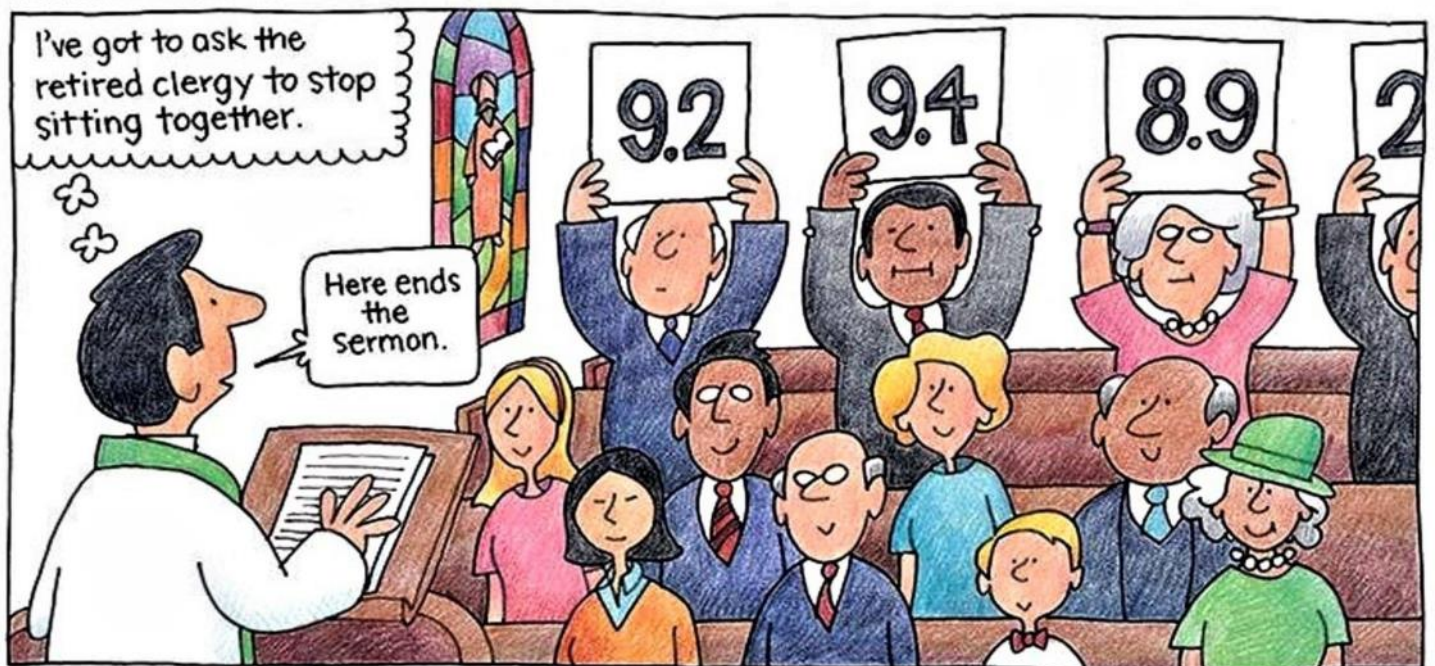
Cross
 Crucifixion
 Washing Feet
 Good Friday
 Holy Week
 Jesus
 Almsgiving

Rejection
 Betrayal
 Last Supper
 Holy Thursday
 Ash Wednesday
 Forgiveness
 Fasting

Arrest
 Garden
 Disciples
 Palm Sunday
 Ashes
 Penance
 Forty Days

Denial
 Example
 Peter
 Jerusalem
 Desert
 Prayer

SERMON REVIEWS





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From the Church Register



Funerals

31 st January	John Temple
16 th February	Ian McAuley
22 nd February	Vivienne Shimmin
23 rd February	Sheena Hastie
24 th February	Edna Mawdsley
24 th February	John Kerr

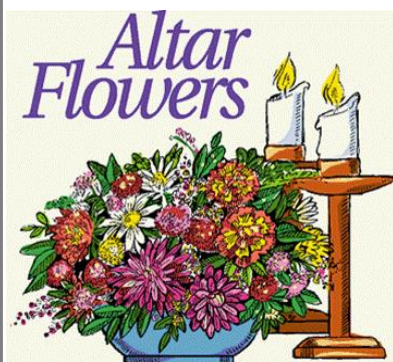
Church Flowers

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

Account Name:	ST PETERS PCC FORMBY
CAF Bank Sort Code:	40-52-40
Account Number:	00020671
Reference:	Flowers

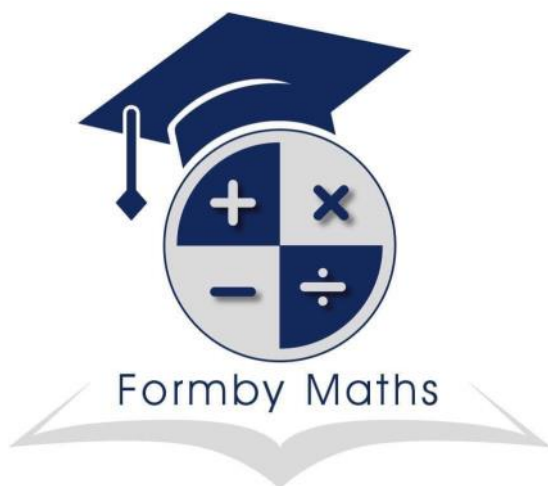
Thank you to everyone who has already given donations towards the weekly flowers.

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

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

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

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



Spaces available in a group tutoring session for GCSE pupils.

These sessions will take place after school on Tuesdays, in the Formby/Freshfield area.

If you are interested, please email me for more details - joshjenkins12345@gmail.com

Sessions for A-level students will be available from September.

Look forward to hearing from you!

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A Modern Day Ruth

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.

EMAIL DIRECTORY

We have a parish email directory which is used once or twice a month to send out dates for the month and also when a special event is coming up. If you would like to be added to the email list, please send an email to office@stpetersformby.co.uk. This is a way to help us keep in touch. Email addresses will be used only by St Peter's.



From the Back Pew

Ted Woods

A CRISIS AND CONUNDRUM

A conversation with a friend who is a vicar in Ireland.

Inevitably talk got round to church matters and the difficulties resulting from the Covid pandemic.

Yes, attendances at church in Ireland hadn't yet reached pre-Covid levels – same here!

Covid hasn't gone away and people are still a bit cautious – same here!

During Covid, Irish parishes have had to dig into financial resources to pay their way – same here!

He mentioned how his local Roman Catholic Cathedral parish was only getting 25% of its pre-Covid income from subscriptions and donations.

His own diocese has had to dig into its reserves to keep the diocesan structure afloat over the past two years, and there is now nothing left in the kitty.

It's a bit of a crisis. As a result, diocesan authorities have asked for a 22% increase in parish share. This would translate into €10 per attending person per week – just to meet diocesan liabilities. After that there is the money needed to run his parish – to pay for heat, light, office, secretary, repairs and maintenance, etc., etc. That would require nearly the same amount as the cost of parish share.

What is the alternative for them if that can't be raised? There would have to be a reduction in clergy posts in the diocese resulting in further amalgamations of parishes. Already each benefice in his diocese is a multi-church parish. My friend's parish has four churches in the group.

That's the crisis facing them.

And here's the conundrum!

It has been shown that the more churches a vicar has to look after, the less people identify with the vicar as being theirs. In most cases the tone and quality and vigour of a parish's life is largely set by the vicar. The vicar sets the pace. The vicar is the leader who inspires, enables, encourages and releases the gifts and talents of the people who, after all, are 'the church'.

There is no one style of leadership. Leadership is personal and not every vicar will have the same style of leadership. But an active and positive and personal leadership there must be to enable a parish to flourish and grow and to meet its responsibilities liturgically, pastorally and financially.

The thinner the number of clergy is spread on the ground, the less effective they are going to be (after all, they are only human), and this in turn may lead to further decline and lack of vitality in the parishes in which they minister.

That's the real conundrum. The less finances a parish raises, the less likely they are to retain the services of a full-time vicar and that can become a downward spiral.

Proverbs 29:18 says, "Without a vision the people perish."

The difference between a leader and a manager is that leaders do their best to create a vision while managers do their best to maintain the status quo. But the status quo is under threat.

Dedicated ordained local leadership in and among the people they are serving should be the aim of the church, not central desk-bound management.

Yet the more churches are grouped together the more of a manager the vicar becomes, as he/she tries to make sure that all the services are covered, that they attend multiple PCC's and meetings and are a visible presence in their areas. As my friend remarked, this can result in more concern for the quantity of services taken rather than the quality of the worship, leaving no time for effective leadership.



That's the crisis and conundrum facing his diocese, along with many other dioceses, in the Church of Ireland.

Can we say – same here!?

Many dioceses are dressing this up, calling amalgamations of parishes and the reduction of full-time clergy posts as the creation of "Mission Areas".

Parishes are faced with having to raise more money, but as my friend remarked, there is a further catch. With big increases in the cost of living being predicted, many families are going to be squeezed financially.

A crisis and a conundrum over there.

Same here!

Diary Dates March 2022



Tuesday 1st

- 10.00am Bible Study Group with Ken Ward in the Bier House – *every Tuesday*
11.00am Woodlands Care Home Eucharist

Ash Wednesday

- 11.00am Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes *followed by refreshments*
7.30pm Joint Service in St Stephen's Church, Hightown

Thursday 3rd

- 2.00pm Mothers' Union in the Bier House
– 'Inside Stories from a Radiographer' by Gill Holroyd



Friday 4th

- 9.30am Little Fishes Pre-school Group in the Church Hall – *every Friday*

Saturday 5th

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



Sunday 6th The 1st Sunday of Lent

- 8.30am Eucharist (BCP)
10.00am Parish Eucharist & Sunday Club *followed by refreshments*
6.30pm Choral Evensong

Monday 7th

- 2.00pm Halcyon House Eucharist
7.30pm Lent Series in the Bier House
Newman The Poet: 'The Dream of Gerontius' *led by Canon Rod Garner*

Wednesday 9th

- 11.00am Eucharist *followed by refreshments*
7.30pm Bible Study Group *with Ted Woods* in the Bier House

Friday 11th

- 2.00pm Bible Study Group *with Peter Paine* in the Bier House



Sunday 13th The 2nd Sunday of Lent

- 8.30am Eucharist (CW)
10.00am Parish Eucharist, Baptism & Sunday Club *followed by refreshments*
6.30pm Choral Evensong

Monday 14th

- 7.30pm Lent Series in the Bier House
The Prodigal Son by Rembrandt *led by Canon Kath Rodgers*



Wednesday 16th

- 11.00am Eucharist *followed by refreshments*
7.30pm Primetime Women's Group in the Parish Hall



Sunday 20th The 3rd Sunday of Lent

- 8.30am Eucharist (BCP)
10.00am Parish Eucharist *followed by refreshments*
12noon Children's Haribo Service
6.30pm Choral Evensong



Monday 21st

7.30pm Lent Series - Pieces of Music for the Passion *led by David Holroyd*

Wednesday 23rd

11.00am Eucharist *followed by refreshments*

2.30pm Wedding of John Ashley Lee & Diamond Varey

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

Friday 25th

2.00pm Bible Study Group *with Peter Paine* in the Bier House

Saturday 26th

7.30pm Formby Choral Society Concert

**Sunday 27th The 4th Sunday of Lent / Mothering Sunday**

8.30am Eucharist (CW)

10.00am All-Age Parish Eucharist

6.30pm Choral Evensong



HERITAGE WEEK – Monday 28th March to Saturday 2nd April

The Church and the Bier House Coffee Shop will be open each day from 11am to 4pm

Monday 28th

2.00pm 'Formby – a Glimpse Over Time – from Vikings to today' *by John Phillips*

7.30pm Lent Series - Paintings of the Passion *led by Rod Jacques*

Tuesday 29th

9.30am Churches Together Retreat *led by Ted Woods*

7.30pm 'From Cradle to Grave Formby Health Histories' *by Sally Sheard*

Wednesday 30th

9.20am Trinity St Peter's School Easter Service for KS1

11.00am Eucharist *followed by refreshments*

2.00pm 'Formby in World War 1' *by Tony Pawson*

Thursday 31st

10.00am Trinity St Peter's School Easter Service for KS2 in Holy Trinity Church

2.00pm WOW (or WOT!) service for pre-school children in church

7.30pm 'Formby Memories' An engaging presentation with images of old Formby, songs, poems, chat and humour *by Joan Rimmer & Nic Dickson*



Saturday 2nd April at 10.30am & 12 noon – Further Voices from the Churchyard – characters from the past will give a tour of the churchyard!

Morning Prayer – there is a short service of Morning Prayer in the **BIER HOUSE** at 9am on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday.

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

**St Peter's Church
Green Lane
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Flower Festival

"Ancient & Modern"

staged by **Formby Flower Club**
and

Art Exhibition

Wednesday 8th - Sunday 12th June
10:00* - 5:00

Refreshments available all day
Entry by donation
Details: 01704 643614

Tuesday 7th June - 7:30pm
Celebrity Preview Opening
Champagne and Canapés
Tickets: £10

* on Sunday
Festival opens at 11:15