

St Peter's Church Magazine May 2022

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



***Celebrating 275 years
and 70 years ...***

Last Night of the Proms

***The St Peter's Singers
& David Holroyd***

**Saturday 21st May
7:30pm**

**Entry FREE ~ donations welcome
Refreshments available**



stpetersformby.co.uk

07702 346735

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EDITORIAL

Firstly an amazing statistic. In the 275 years of St Peter's there have only been 14 vicars, I wonder if that is some sort of record? Certainly it must be most unusual. One member of the Formby family was in charge for 50 years - but still it is an interesting fact.





Lots going on in church this month. The APCM is in church on Monday May 16th at 7.30 pm. Refreshments to follow. Ascension Day is on Thursday 26th May with a joint service at Holy Trinity Church at 7.30pm. The Service of Wholeness resumes in St Peter's on Sunday May 15th at 6.30 pm.

There is a new box in the porch, (we shall soon need a bigger porch!); this box is to enable us to recycle empty medicine blister packs. At present these are not recycled by Sefton and usually end up in our grey bins, but Elaine has found a company that will take them for recycling, thus adding to our green credentials. St Michael's Church, Altcar, is already doing this. Please make sure there are no remaining pills/tablets in the packs you bring!!! Martin at the Freshfield Pharmacy will also take the empty packs for recycling if this is easier for you.

Finally a huge thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make our church look its splendid best this Easter. It takes a remarkable team of helpers, singers, organisers etc to achieve such a worshipful celebration. We are very grateful to each and everyone,

With best wishes,

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**



Moving with the Times and Going Contactless!

St Peter's now has a contactless payment machine for donations at services; it is situated near the door of the church.

*Please note the deadline for the June 2022 edition of the magazine is **Friday 6th May 2022.***

Contributions to magazine@stpetersformby.co.uk



Dear Friends,

Poets and writers have called May “the merry month.” It is named after Maia, the goddess of spring and growth. The (usual) gentle warmth of May causes flowers to blossom and crops to sprout and its arrival was greeted with Mayday celebrations and dancing.

We moved to Formby 8 years ago in May and we will always associate that time with the flowering of the pink rhododendron in the Vicarage garden.

In St Peter's we have much to be thankful for as we look back in appreciation and forward in hope and anticipation.



Looking back, our **Heritage Week** was a great success with well-attended talks on Formby's past and presentations of Voices from the Churchyard. Our grateful thanks to all who made the week possible – the speakers, the stewards, the actors, those who ran the coffee shop and provided cakes and biscuits. But especially, we thank Nick Philpott who master-minded the week, including the photographic exhibition. We are very grateful to Nick for all his hard work and a wonderful week.

Another cause for celebration is the arrival in July of a new curate, **Revd Gordon McLeod**, for his final year of curacy. Gordon did a placement with us prior to his ordination, so he is known to us and we to him. We look forward to welcoming Gordon back to St Peter's in July and hope he will enjoy his time with us.

Twice a year we have a united service with the other Anglican churches. The first is Ash Wednesday and the second is **Ascension Day**. In May we look forward to joining together for worship to celebrate the Ascension of our Lord on Thursday 26th May at 7.30pm in Holy Trinity Church. Then on Sunday 29th May we join with all the churches in the area for the **Christian Unity Service** at 4pm in Our Lady's Church. Please do try to come along to these services.

Continuing the joy and celebration of May we will have our own **Last Night of the Proms** to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Elizabeth II will become the first British monarch to celebrate 70 years of service to her people, and we have all been encouraged to get involved in celebrating the Queen's historic anniversary.



We are getting in early! Our celebratory Last Night of the Proms will be on Saturday 21st May in the Church at 7.30pm. Wine will be served on arrival to get you into the mood! Entrance by donation. Please bring your own flags to wave!

Still looking ahead with our 275 theme of celebrating the building of the present St Peter's, the **Flower Festival and Art Exhibition** will be held in June. This will be preceded by a Celebrity Preview Opening with champagne and canapes. Tickets for this event are limited to 75 so don't miss out! We are delighted to be welcoming to officially open the Festival, Dame Angela Eagle and her twin Maria, both of whom are MPs and attended St Peter's School.

The other ticket event for which pre-booking is important is our **275th Anniversary Celebration** in the marquee in Formby Cricket Club in July. This promises to be a great evening with food, drinks and entertainment.

How to purchase tickets for both events is on page 11.

Easter Day was a wonderful time of celebration and over 300 attended the services. Thank you to everyone who made Easter so special this year. It had been three years since we could celebrate with such joy. Thank you to David and the choir, the church decorators, the Easter nest makers, chick knitters, Egg Hunt organisers, Caroline Collins for running Sunday Club (with 44 children!) and all who worshipped with us either in church or from home on the live stream. Caroline and I got this email to say thank you -

"Just wanted to drop you an email to say we had the best time at the Easter service and kids club. It was honestly one of the best things we've been to at the church and the children loved it! All the little details that went into making that service special really didn't go unnoticed! Thanks for all the hard work and making that day so special for my three children and my family! Making such special memories with your help!"



On Easter Day everyone went home with a gift. The nests, made from the face masks, were a symbol of what we have all coped with over these past years. But the lovingly knitted chicks sat on a creme egg symbolising hope for the future, because Christ is alive and we have much to celebrate.

Thank you for being part of such a special worshipping community.

Anne

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.

Heritage Week Photos





CURACY

It is with pleasure that I will be returning to St Peter's in Formby, to serve the final year of my Curacy. I will be at St Peter's from the 3rd of July 2022.

I have fond memories of St Peter's, having been here before, from September to December 2018, when I was in my second year of training as an Ordinand with All Saints College.

Some of you may remember the man with the Scottish accent; others, myself included, remember playing the part of 'Robbie the Parrot' at one of the services, as we approached Christmas Day.

My first two years of Curacy have been spent at the four churches in Maghull and Melling. Regrettably my supervisor left following my first year, just after I was priested, and Revd Anne Taylor has been kindly standing in as my supervisor since then. Given my final year is approaching, it seemed a sensible option to serve the church where she is based.

I will continue to live in Birkdale with my wife, Tanya, during my final year. I hope to bring to St Peter's the experience I have gained in Curacy, as well as a healthy respect for the tradition and style of worship here, from which I hope to learn further and integrate into my own Ministry.

I look forward to seeing you all in the summer.

Gordon MacLeod (Revd)

Curate - Maghull and Melling Team

A.P.C.M – Monday 16th May 7.30pm in Church

After Easter signals the time for each parish to hold its Annual Parochial Church Meeting, which is basically our A.G.M. This is an opportunity to hear how things are going overall in the parish, the plans for the future, to receive the financial report and to elect members onto the P.C.C. for a three year term and the Churchwardens for the coming year.



The A.P.C.M. is important because it's an exercise in democracy in the church. The parish is not 'them': rather it's about 'us'. Everyone has a say in the life of the parish.

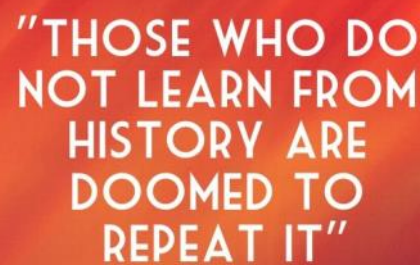
So do consider coming along.

What is a museum?

There has recently been a spate of TV programmes about museums. These programmes seem to fall into three categories: those that concentrate on preserving fine objects; those which provide information about how a community lived during a certain period of time; and those that illustrate how an industry worked and its affect on an area. Many of these museums set themselves high standards in their exhibitions and also aim to be seen as significant in the life of today.

It is not necessarily what the museum contains but why it is there that seems important. Are we expected to learn from them, be entertained, grateful not to have lived in their time or take on board a lesson for the future? This latter point has recently taken on an important resonance. Many presentations are designed to show that we must not repeat history.

There is the well-known saying, “those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it.” Another apposite saying recently dug up is “History is not there for you to like or dislike. It is there for you to learn from it. And if it offends you, even better because then you are less likely to repeat it. It's not yours to erase. It belongs to all of us.”



“THOSE WHO DO
NOT LEARN FROM
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DOOMED TO
REPEAT IT”

Some museums are good at concentrating on a single subject but often do not place it in the context of the totality of the rest of time. A particular industry heritage centre will show the poor conditions of the workforce but not place it against similar conditions in many other areas for example they show correctly the injury and death rate of a particular nineteenth century work but fail to relate the figures to the even higher rates in the fishing and sailing communities. These details matter because it is important to see the whole picture.

Naturally we are currently worried about inequality and the protection of minorities, a point often brought home by museums. Should we be made to feel continually guilty about our ancestors or is it more important to learn and act?

Two anomalies regarding recording history in museums: One museum which shows a high level of inequality but receives little adverse comment is the old wooden man of war 'HMS Victory' in Portsmouth harbour. The amount of space given to several hundred sailors on one deck amounts to about 2 feet by 5 feet per man. Yet the captain's and the admiral's suites above are very large. Perhaps the lack of comment may be due to the pride which the history of this old ship represents. The other interesting point is that there does not seem to be a museum to the enclosures of the 1700's. This movement brought about an enormous change in the use of the countryside, displacing many and destroying a way of life for those affected.

What has a discussion about museums to do with a parish magazine? Many historic buildings are seen as heritage sites and this is certainly true of cathedrals and churches. Visitors want to see the setting of a medieval lifestyle and the skills of the builders. Heritage is important but a place of worship is not a museum. Religious buildings encompass the whole of a period of history and are built to display and be seen, even to

put individuals in awe. However they are not there to be just concert halls, art galleries, or coffee shops.

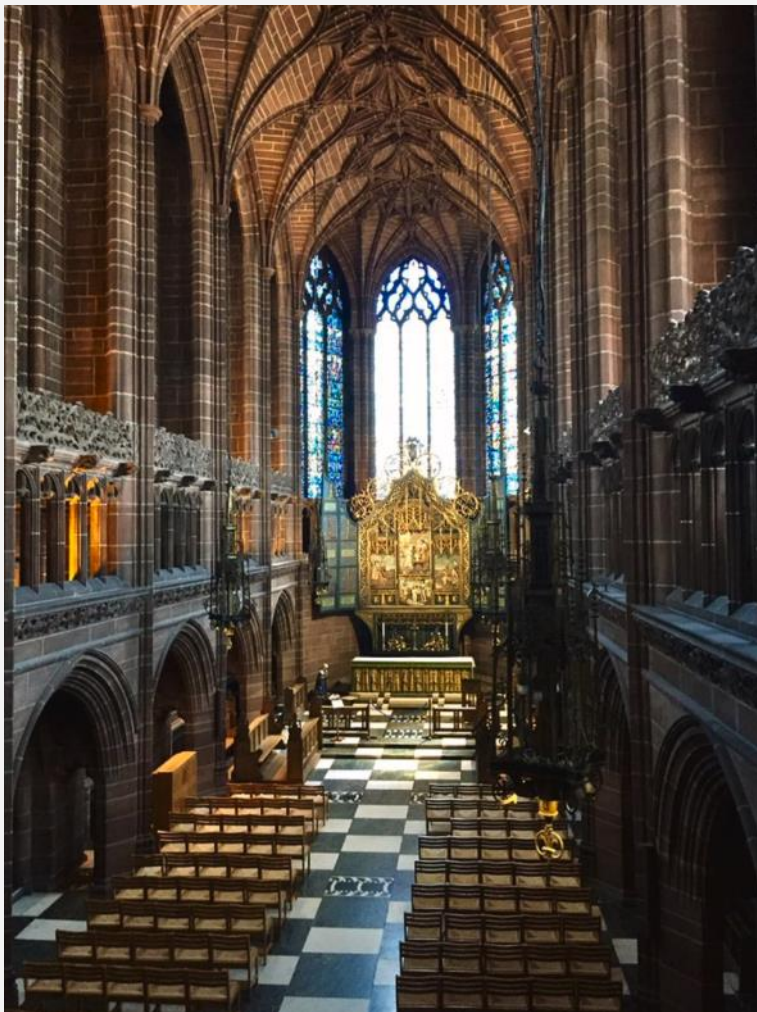
Their purpose is to be a place of worship but all this creates a difficult dilemma. Their considerable cost of upkeep and their need for grants means that they have to become venues for antique fairs and other side shows. Cathedrals do a lot to show they are part of living faith and provide a place for sanctuary, for worship and spiritual care. In fact these are their main purposes and as such there is the question of should they compromise to allow secular activity to take over their premises. Without this compromise they would not survive as church or museum.

The Dean of St Paul's Cathedral has been reported as saying that his cathedral will have to close due a significant drop in visitors. Quite what he meant by closure was not clear, hopefully not as a place of worship. If this country wants to have cathedrals then they will have to pay up.

A church is not an expression of the past but represents a living community and a way of life which changes and adapts. One which correctly judges the past, condemns mistakes and horrifying actions and openly recognises and expresses remorse for errors. The moral teaching of Christ demands this.

Rod Jacques

Choral Evensong in Liverpool Cathedral



The last time the Choir was able to go out "on tour" was August 2019, when we sang the Sunday services in Liverpool Cathedral.

So we are looking forward to singing Evensong on

Saturday 28th May at 3:00pm.

We will be joined by our friends - both from St Peter's and Amadeus: the Chamber Choir. The service will be in the Lady Chapel at the East End of the Cathedral. It is a beautiful part of the building, with a wonderful acoustic, and in many ways a nicer place to sing than in the vastness of the main Cathedral itself.

If you can come and hear us, you would be very welcome.

David Holroyd

ST PETER'S 275th CELEBRATIONS

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
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 - Sunday 18th Dec	Christmas Tree Festival
Sunday 18th December	Carol Service

www.stpetersformby.co.uk



275th Anniversary Merchandise

Tea-Towels	£5.00
Flat Tote bags: 36 x 40cm	£8.00
Gusset shopping bag: 40 x 40cm	£8.00
Either bag plus tea-towel	£12.00
St Peter's Wine Glasses	£15.00
Bottle of 275 th Anniversary Beer	£2.50

Please contact the Parish Office

☎ **871171**

✉ office@stpetersformby.co.uk



Tickets now on sale - and "when they're gone - they're gone!"

Tickets for two special events in our 275th Anniversary Celebration are now available - and they're limited in number - so now's the time to be getting yours!



There is a Celebrity Preview Evening for the **Flower Festival** on Tuesday 7th June, at 7:30pm, when 75 people will be given a guided tour of the displays by the Flower Arrangers themselves. A chance to learn about the displays and ask awkward questions! There will be "Bubbles and Bites" available on arrival, and then the formal opening of the Festival will be made by our unique celebrities.

There are not all that many identical twins around; still fewer who are Alumni of Trinity St Peter's School and no others who are both currently Members of Parliament. Angela and Maria Eagle attended St Peter's School in the 1960s and early 70s, and (Parliamentary emergencies notwithstanding) have agreed to be with us for the evening.

Tickets for this are £10 - including a buttonhole flower and the refreshments - are available from Fiona Martin in Church, or by calling 01704 643614.



On Friday 8th July, from 7:00 to Midnight, our splendid Anniversary Dinner will take place in the Marquee at Formby Cricket Club.

Tickets are £30, including a buffet (hot/cold, savoury/sweet), as well as professional entertainment, dancing and real Magicians! There will be a paying bar available.

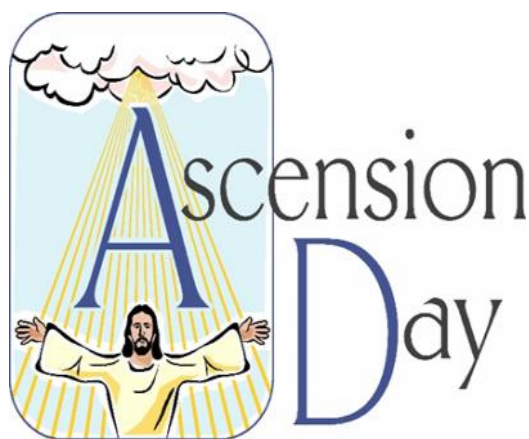
In addition there will be a series of Raffles and Prizes during the

evening which you can join in by "putting" £10 in an envelope on arrival (contactless will be available as well as cash being accepted).

Tickets for this are available from Shena Edwards in Church, or at the Church Office.

Ascension Day Service ~ Thursday 26th May 2022

7.30pm ~ A Joint Ascension Day Service in Holy Trinity Church.



We are joining with the people of
St Stephen's, St Luke's, Holy Trinity &
St Michael's Churches worshipping together
on this very special day.

Please make a special effort to attend.

Acts 1:1-11 Luke 24:44-53

Plea for Assistance

Grand Hamper Raffle with A Variety of Vouchers!

As part of The 275th Anniversary Celebrations, we are running a 'Grand Raffle' with the following hampers: Chocoholic - Food - Drink - Pamper Hampers, together with 'A Variety of Vouchers.'



**The draw, for all the prizes above, will take place at the Community Fun Day,
on Saturday 3rd September 2022.**

If you have any items we could place in any of the hampers, please bring them to me in church, the church office, give to the church wardens, or ring me and I will arrange to collect. Items we need:-

Drink – gin, beer, cider, Prosecco, Shloer, lemonade, juice, tonic, anything in a bottle or can (unopened).

Pamper – L'eau de Toilette, perfume, after shave, shower gel, shampoo, soap, hair accessories, flannels, anything associated with personal hygiene!

Food – tea, coffee, biscuits, sauces, jams, marmalade, etc.

Chocoholic – chocolate bars, sweets, chocolate drink, sprinkles, cake accessories, anything made of chocolate!

Let's get started! Raffle tickets are now available - £1 a book/20p a ticket.

Many thanks for your continued support. Fiona Martin 01704 643614

FROM CRISIS TO CRISIS

As I write this, at the end of March, the News continues to fill our hearts and minds with the terrible crisis in Ukraine.

Christian Aid, along with many other aid agencies, has been at the frontline in providing humanitarian aid, thanks to the generosity of many people.

Another crisis continues to concern us all - the Climate Crisis. Christian Aid's project for this years Christian Aid Week in May, is to help the small family farms in Zimbabwe. Seven out of ten people in this country rely on farming for income and food. As the storms and droughts intensify, due to climate change, there is a need for water taps to be set up on farms to bring the water from deep in the earth to cultivate the dry ground so that drought resistant crops will grow. Families will then have enough food to make a living.

Christian Aid Week May 15th to May 21st

There will be an opportunity to donate through envelopes in the churches of Formby as well as sponsoring people doing a beach clean. You are invited to join with others at the Lifeboat Road end of the beach each morning, Monday 16th to Friday 20th at 9am for as long as you wish, to clean the beach. However you could be sponsored to litter pick in an area of Formby of your choice and if walking is your thing take on the 300,000 step challenge throughout the month of May. Official sponsor forms can be obtained from either Jennifer Matthias (870738) at Holy Trinity Church or Carol Paine (809517) at St Peter's Church.



More information or ways to be sponsored are available online at christianaid.org.uk

Together we can make a difference to peoples lives by helping them out of poverty to be self sufficient.

Every little helps !

Carol

TIMEOUT

- men, beer and discussion.

The next meeting of Timeout is on **Monday 23rd May at 8.00pm** in the Bier House.

Topic: The Natural Treasures of the Sefton Coast

Speaker:

Trevor Davenport.

All very welcome.



Primetime

Wednesday 18th May

Our next meeting will be a visit to the new Southport Lifeboat Station.



Transport will be arranged for you.

Meet in the

Parish Hall at 7.30pm.

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

Looking forward to seeing you,

Elaine and Sonia.

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 two groups, meeting at a different times in the Bier House.

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 Group at 7.30pm

Dates: 11th & 25th May. Contact Ted Woods 872824

Friday Bible Study Group at 2pm

Dates: 13th & 27th May. Contact Peter Paine 809517



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 May please pray for all who live in –

- 1st May** Holmwood Gardens, Lenton Avenue, Vaughan Close
- 8th May** St Peter's Avenue, College Close, Larch Way
- 15th May** Vicarage Road, Vicarage Close, Holmfield Park
- 22nd May** The Evergreens, Beech Drive, Weld Drive
- 29th May** Holmwood Drive, Holmwood Close, Harington Close



Little Fishes Pre-School Group

The Little 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.

Little Fishes dates – every Friday in May



Children start in church (10.00am) and then move to the Bier House for lots of fun. An 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 Date: Sunday 15th May



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 Service is on Wednesday 25th May



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

Formby Manor Care Centre
67 Liverpool Road, Formby L37 6BU
newcarehomes.com

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- ❖ Property Trust Wills
- ❖ Funeral Plans
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- ❖ Executor Service
- ❖ Secure Document Storage
- ❖ Free Home Visits



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



**Safe to do
business with**

Code Compliant

From the Church Register ~ Baptisms

Sunday 3rd April

Baptism of Sophie Lily Cochrane, daughter of Verity & Anthony and sister of Olivia.



Sunday 3rd April

Baptism of George Leonard Green, son of Vicky & Adam.

Sunday 10th April

Arthur Anthony Bateson,
son of Amy & Matt and
brother of Amalie



Sunday 10th April

Theodore Oliver Cramsie,
son of Sarah & Kevin and
brother of Reuben

From the Church Register ~ Weddings



Wednesday 23rd March

John Ashley Lee & Diamond
Varey

Wednesday 20th April

Rodney Price & Jade Varey

Saturday 23rd April

Colin Tattam & Kelly Brett



Mothers Day

From left to right it is
Angela Ryder-Jones with her
granddaughter Laura,
great-grandson Freddie and
daughter Ruth.

Four generations together on
Mothers Day

Sunday March 27th 2022



Photos from Easter
and the Village Passion Play
on Good Friday.

This picture includes three
St Peter's actors – Ted (High
Priest, Annas), John (Herod) &
Ken (Centurion).



Confirmation

The Confirmation preparation for young people in Year 5 & 6 is beginning in May. If you need more information please let me know.

The Confirmation Service is in St Peter's on Sunday 10th July at 6.30pm.

Revd Anne Taylor 872824 office@stpetersformby.co.uk



At our meeting in April Angela Robinson gave a talk about her 14 years in Bangladesh. Our speaker at the meeting on May 5th is to be Kay Kellaway and her topic is "Embroidery."

As always visitors are very welcome to attend any of our meetings which are normally held on the first Thursday of each month at 2.00 pm in the Bier House.

We continue to support three projects

1. 'Away from it all' - a charity which provides holidays for deprived children
2. The collection of toiletries for asylum seekers
3. The collection of items e.g. books and magazines, for the seafarers mission.

The Deanery Festival this year is to be held at St Michael's, Blundellsands at 2.00pm on 17th May.

Our Corporate Communion is held on the first Wednesday of each month at 11.00am

Herbert (873367) and Jean

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 May please pray for all who live in –

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 1 st May | Holmwood Gardens, Lenton Avenue, Vaughan Close |
| 8 th May | St Peter's Avenue, College Close, Larch Way |
| 15 th May | Vicarage Road, Vicarage Close, Holmfield Park |
| 22 nd May | The Evergreens, Beech Drive, Weld Drive |
| 29 th May | Holmwood Drive, Holmwood Close, Harington Close |





SHOPPING LIST

Crisps
Savoury crackers
Biscuits
Sweets and confectionery
Ketchup, brown sauce, mayonnaise
Instant noodles
Toilet rolls
Washing-up liquid

We also need toiletries such as shampoo, conditioner, shower gel, razors and deodorant (male and female)

Thank you

THE FOODBANK

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 5pm for donations.
Many thanks.*

REFUSE - REDUCE - REUSE - RECYCLE - REPAIR

How to recycle medicines

- ✓ Unopened, unused and out-of-date medicines should be returned to pharmacies for disposal.
- ✓ The cardboard box that houses the blister packs can be recycled, as can any paper inserts.
- ✓ Inhalers should not be put in the waste bin as they contain gases which are harmful to the environment. Instead they can be recycled at any pharmacy.
- ✗ **Do not flush medicines down the toilet.**
- ✓ Recycle your empty medicine blister packets at St Peter's Church. You can now drop them off in our collection box in the Church Porch.

The packs will be converted into reusable raw materials to prevent empty packs spending a lifetime in landfill.



Start collecting your little packs now and start making a big impact!



A Walk to Holy Island (Lindisfarne)



At long last, after the pandemic, things seemed to be getting back to normal and Steve Edwards and myself were desperate to get out and about on another walk. After a short discussion, and having spent a great week up in Northumberland in October 2021 with our much better halves, we decided to opt for St Cuthbert's Way – a 62 mile or 65 mile walk (depending on which book you read) from Melrose in Scotland to Holy Island (Lindisfarne) in Northumberland.

The walk is named after a 7th century saint who started his religious life in Melrose Abbey, close to where Cuthbert was born, and where the walk naturally starts from. It travels through some beautiful countryside to finish at the Priory on Holy Island where St Cuthbert was Prior and then Bishop and where he was buried after passing on 20th March 687. His remains were later moved numerous times to escape invading armies and now lie in Durham Cathedral.

Having decided to take on the walk and as our days of carrying all and sundry with us are long over, I contacted Macs Adventure and informed them of our plans – St Cuthbert's Way; 4 days walking; as early as possible. Within a couple of days we had the itinerary; B&B's booked; luggage transfer arranged; and a start date of the 1st April. An appropriate date, I can hear you say, for a couple of old fools, but this is the earliest date in the season they take bookings from.

So the schedule was fixed – 15 miles day 1; 18 miles day 2; 13.5 miles day 3; and 18 miles day 4; and so Steve was on the case to book public transport to Melrose. It was at this time we decided to add another day or two on and go up to Edinburgh for the day on Thursday 31st March, and then take a day to travel by bus over to Melrose on Friday 1st April before kicking off the walk on the Saturday.



This also gave us the opportunity to walk up Arthur's Seat – an ancient volcano described by Robert Louis Stevenson as “a hill for magnitude, a mountain in virtue of its bold design” and providing fantastic views all across Edinburgh and well worth the slog to get to the top.

After arriving in Melrose we settled for the night after suitably “carbing up” in the evening and set off walking on the Saturday.

The walk itself was great with fantastic scenery, all the better for being blessed with dry weather while we were walking. Snow on the hills; valleys and mountains; wildlife as well as a fair share of domestic animals; amazing views as well as some sorrowful sights with many areas of forest devastated by recent storms.

The walk finished with the option of walking across the causeway to Holy Island or walking across the bay on the Pilgrims Path – both of which can obviously only be undertaken tide permitting.

Having started out an hour earlier than previous days we were determined to make it in time to walk across the Pilgrim's Path, and with a following wind, literally, we arrived in good time at just after 1pm with the timetables stating we had to be across the 3-mile path by 4.20pm.



Boots and socks off; we set off across the mud flats and I can quite honestly say that after about 15 minutes this walk of faith became a walk of absolute grim determination as we have both never been so cold! Our feet were blocks of ice and even my hands turned blue!

Thanks be to God for Holy Island hospitality and Scottish Whisky as once we reached the end of the freezing 3 mile walk across the bay, we cleaned ourselves off and headed for the nearest hostelry to thaw out on a couple of whiskies and a plate of chips - the high life indeed.

So our walk was over, and how great it was to once again be experiencing the great outdoors and the UK's beautiful scenery with a great friend. Roll on the next one – if our bodies hold up that is !!!

Paul Whiffing





Georgia and Azerbaijan Tour with Peter and Carol Paine 14th to 27th September 2022

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Azerbaijan is best known for its capital Baku where the first oil wells struck the liquid gold in 1848. We will visit sites on the ancient Great Silk Road in both countries and dine in a caravanserai. Other highlights will include the ancient capital Mtskheta, spectacular views in and of the Caucasus mountains, remote villages, churches and monasteries, the cave town of Vardzia and much else.

I hope you can join us on this tour rich in ancient and modern history, culture and religion. If you would like a copy of the brochure and booking form please contact Peter - peterspaine@gmail.com; 01704 809517.

We would be delighted if you could join us.



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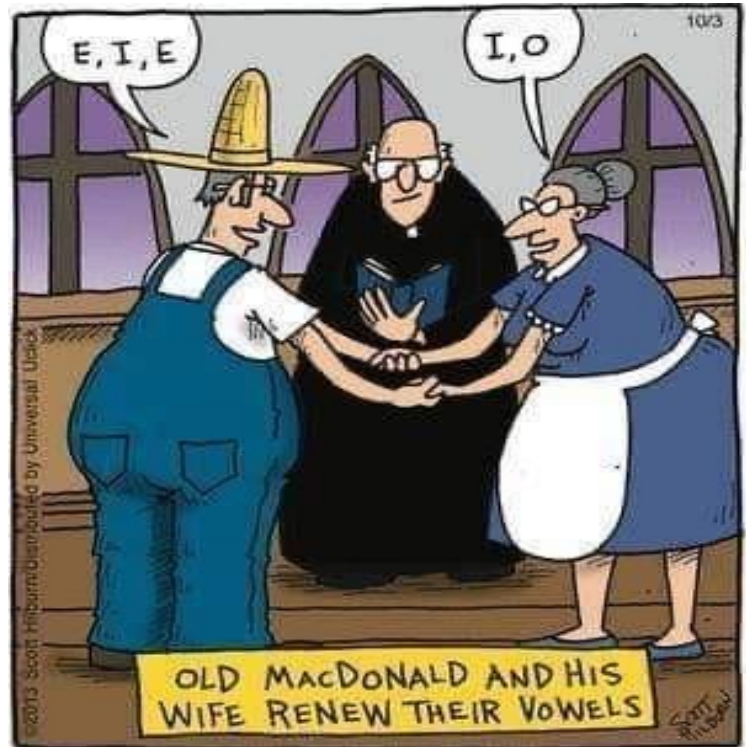


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THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF PEOPLE.

1. Those who can extrapolate from incomplete data.



Engineer

(en-juh-neer) noun

Someone who does precision guesswork based on unreliable data provided by those of questionable knowledge.

See Also: Wizard, Magician



The Sudoku Society service was something new for Derek!



The Ascension of Jesus

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

Heaven

Galilee

Samaria

Judea

Israel

Baptized

Gift

Father

Jerusalem

God

Kingdom

Forty Days

Holy Spirit

Apostles

Jesus

Ascension

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Mondays at 2pm - 4pm

Tickets are 50p each

Refreshments are available –
20p for Tea and Biscuits.



Contact Pat Boardman
office@stpetersformby.co.uk

From the Church Register



Funeral

20th April Roy Green

Interment of Ashes

3rd April Sheena Hastie
22nd April Shirley Dixon
22nd April Barbara Moors
23rd April George Sandys - St Luke's Churchyard, Crosby

May Bible Readings

1st The 3rd Sunday of Easter

Zephaniah 3:14-20 / Acts 9:1-6 / John 21:1-19

2nd St Philip and St James, Apostles

Isaiah 30:15-21 / Ephesians 1:3-10 / John 14:1-14

8th The 4th Sunday of Easter

Genesis 7:1-5,11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13 / Acts 9:36-43 / John 10:22-30

14th St Matthias the Apostle

Isaiah 22:15-25 / Acts 1:15-26 / John 15:9-17

15th The 5th Sunday of Easter

Genesis 22:1-18 / Acts 11:1-18 / John 13:31-35

22nd The 6th Sunday of Easter

Ezekiel 37:1-14 / Acts 16:9-15 / John 14:23-29

26th Ascension Day

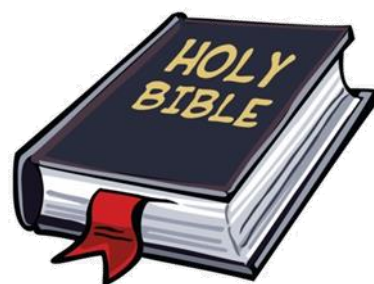
Daniel 7:9-14 / Acts 1:1-11 / Luke 24:44-53

29th The 7th Sunday of Easter / The Sunday After Ascension day

Ezekiel 36:24-28 / Acts 16:16-34 / John 17:20-26

31st The Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth

Exodus 14:10-31, 15:20-21 / Acts 5:27-32 / John 20:19-31



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.



From the Back Pew

Ted Woods

NUMBERS

There is an apocryphal story (which is probably true!) of an ambitious vicar of a city church, once fashionable and well-attended, but which had since seen decline.

After a sparsely attended evensong, he was filling in the services register and asked the vergier, "Tommy, how many were in church to-night?" "Fifteen, including yourself," Tommy replied. "Nonsense, there were more than that!" the vicar replied. "There must have been at least twenty-five. I'll put down thirty!"

Years ago, I got talking to a newly consecrated bishop whose former parish was near my own. "I believe my successor is packing them in," he remarked. "I hear the number of people of people is much higher than in my time there." And then he added, "But I also hear that he counts their legs rather than their heads!"

Numbers are an obsession – and a tyranny – for clergy. Perhaps because they are, for themselves, the only yardstick by which they are able to assess the success, or failure, of their ministry.

Nothing gives a vicar more of a boost than a full church. Nothing depresses a vicar more than sparsely attended services.

And in the business model of church that the powers-that-be have imposed on parishes, numbers play an even greater part.

Here in this diocese, the Bishop's Rule of Life calls "disciples" – that's you and me, by the way - to bring one person into the regular worshipping life of the church; leaders – those are mainly the vicars - are called to grow 100 new congregations, 1,000 new leaders and 10,000 new disciples.

No pressure then!

And clergy have to contend with all the myths of former years: those days of old when, people say, 'the church was always full.' Yet research has shown that the rates of church attendance in some parts of England were, pro-rata, poorer when compared to the twentieth century!

Martyn Percy, former Dean of Christ Church, Oxford, has said that Jesus had



little to say about numerical growth and popularity. He says, "Jesus was not a grower of synagogues, or a synagogue planter but was about his Father's business, establishing the kingdom of God." And added, that the kingdom of God was not about recruits but about justice, compassion and showing the unconditional love of God.

St John in his Gospel records that, after a particularly complex teaching session, many of his disciples said, "This teaching is too difficult...Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him." (John 6: 60,66).

At the end of his ministry, Jesus was left alone except for a few women who stood around his cross. All the disciples had forsaken him and fled.

But as we know, from this side of Easter, that was not failure but a prelude to a flowering of faith that has lasted 2,000 years.

And clergy nod their theological heads and agree, and then go back to worrying about the numbers of those attending their services.

When the diocese sends out deanery statistics, the most popular section for concerned clergy is the attendance figures. When taking services in other churches and waiting for services to begin, most clergy look at the numbers in the services register and start making comparisons with their own situation. They will probably deny it, but it happens!

Yet, while numbers are not everything, they are important. They are an indicator of future viability. The parish needs not only "buttresses" who support the church from outside but "pillars" supporting it from the inside.

I once had a three-church benefice. There was the main church in the town and two rural churches which alternated services on Sundays. The congregation of one of those rural churches always came to the later town church service rather than to the other rural church which was at a more suitable time for them. Asked why, they replied that if ever one of the rural churches had to be closed, they didn't want the other rural church to have inflated attendance numbers because they had been there! They reckoned that the town church would always survive, but they wouldn't chance their church being closed because of low average attendances!

Again, it has to be said, a well-attended church attracts new members. Mission and evangelism are the buzz words of today's church. But, in fact, one of the best ways to 'evangelise' is to go to church. It shows the importance of faith to others far more convincingly than words or special ecclesiastical stunts.

Such is the affliction and the tyranny of the numbers game for clergy: we know it's not the be-all and the end-all of ministry, but all the same.....!!!

By the way, that vicar with his "evangelistic" numbers was eventually made a bishop!

Diary Dates May 2022

Sunday 1st The 3rd Sunday of Easter

8.30am Eucharist (BCP)
10.00am Parish Eucharist & Baptism of Frankie Poole *followed by refreshments*
6.30pm Choral Evensong

Tuesday 3rd

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

Wednesday 4th

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

Thursday 5th

2.00pm Mothers' Union in the Bier House – topic: 'Embroidery' by Kay Kellaway

Friday 6th

9.30am Little Fishes Pre-school Group in the Church Hall

Saturday 7th

10.00am The Saturday Crew (all things crafty!) in the Old School Room, Parish Hall
11.30am Service of Interment – Alison Aindow
1.00pm Wedding of Adam Kendal-Crispin & Nicole Roberts

Sunday 8th The 4th Sunday of Easter

8.30am Eucharist (CW)
10.00am All-Age Parade Eucharist *followed by refreshments*
Please wear a sports shirt or scarf of your favourite team
6.30pm Choral Evensong

Wednesday 11th

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

Friday 13th

9.30am Little Fishes pre-school group in the Parish Hall
2.00pm Bible Study Group with Peter Paine in the Bier House

Sunday 15th The 5th Sunday of Easter / Christian Aid Week

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

Monday 16th

7.30pm Annual Parochial Church Meeting in Church

Tuesday 17th

2.00pm Mothers' Union Deanery Festival in St Michael's Church, Blundellsands

Wednesday 18th

11.00am Eucharist *followed by refreshments*
7.30pm Primetime Women's Group: visit to the new Southport Lifeboat Station.

Friday 20th

9.30am Little Fishes Pre-school Group in the Church Hall

Saturday 21st

1.30pm Wedding of James Greenwood & Bethany Rodgers
7.30pm Last Night of the Proms Concert



Sunday 22nd The 6th Sunday of Easter / Christian Unity Week

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



Monday 23rd

9.15am Christian Unity prayers in St Peter's Church
8.00pm Timeout – Men, Beer & Topics in the Bier House

Tuesday 24th

9.15am Christian Unity prayers in St Luke's Church

Wednesday 25th

9.15am Christian Unity prayers in United Reformed Church
11.00am Eucharist *followed by refreshments*
2.00pm WOW service for pre-school children in church
7.30pm Bible Study Group *with Ted Woods* in the Bier House



Thursday 26th

9.15am Christian Unity prayers in Formby Elim
7.30pm Ascension Day United Service in Holy Trinity Church

Friday 27th

9.15am Christian Unity prayers in St Michael's Church
9.30am Little Fishes Pre-school Group in the Church Hall
2.00pm Bible Study Group *with Peter Paine* in the Bier House



Saturday 28th

9.15am Christian Unity prayers in the Methodist Church
3.00pm St Peter's Choir sing Evensong in Liverpool Cathedral



Sunday 29th The 7th Sunday of Easter

8.30am Eucharist (BCP)
10.00am Parish Eucharist & Baptism of Charlotte Appleton *followed by refreshments*
12noon Service of Baptism for Alice Day
4.00pm United Service for Christian Unity in Our Lady's Church
6.30pm Choral Evensong

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