

ST PETER'S CHURCH FESTIVE MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 2022 AND JANUARY 2023



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St Peter's Church Christmas Tree Festival

Wednesday 14th – Sunday 18th December



This year for the first time, as part of our 275th Anniversary, we are planning to hold a Christmas Tree Festival in church. Christmas trees will be decorated by charities and groups in their own particular style and displayed around the church. Each tree will have a collection box next to it so visitors can give donations to the charity/group who have decorated the tree.

Our aim is that there will be no cost to those taking part.

With that in mind if anyone would like to help by sponsoring a tree and donating towards the cost of it, they can make a donation. The names of all our sponsors will be displayed in church along with the trees.

To sponsor a whole tree costs £50; the smaller trees on the window ledges cost £25. The two big trees - by the gate, and beside the Pulpit are also available - but are rather more expensive!

However - **any** sort of donation will be welcome to contribute towards the cost of a tree. Please put your donation in an envelope with your name and either take it to the church office or hand it to Shena, David, Gill or Sarah.

☎ 871171



office@stpetersformby.co.uk

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



*Please note the deadline for the February 2023 edition of the magazine is **Friday 6th January 2023.** Contributions to magazine@stpetersformby.co.uk*



Dear Friends,

Well what a wonderful year we have had celebrating 275 years of the present St Peter's Church. Starting back in February with an **Organ Demonstration & Concert**, then **Heritage Week**, a very rousing **Last Night of the Proms**, a wonderful **Flower Festival**, an enjoyable **Celebration Dinner**, the **Community Fun Day** and the definitely to be repeated **Scarecrow Shindig**.



And we had visiting preachers: **Revd Barry Dryden** on Trinity Sunday, **Bishop Ken Kearon** for the Patronal, **Bishop Bev Mason** on Consecration Sunday, **Canon Alastair Graham** for Harvest Thanksgiving and **Canon Paul Ormrod** in October. The last of our 275th anniversary guest preachers will be former parishioner, **Revd Joan Foster**, who will preach on Advent Sunday.

This list doesn't include the wonderful hospitality given by our **Coffee Shop** and the importance of the many people who visited St Peter's who found it a friendly and caring community. The many events were always about our reaching out and making St Peter's a place of welcome and an important part of the community.

As I write we have two more events. By the time you read this we will have had our **Vision Day** as we look to build on this wonderful year and look to the future. You will hear more about the Vision Day in our February magazine. But of course Christmas is coming! Along with all the Christmas Services and Christingles we have a **Christmas Tree Festival** from 14th to 18th December. The Coffee Shop will be open again, so please invite your friends to come along.

It cannot be denied we have really celebrated our 275th anniversary and thank you to so many people who have worked hard to make it a fabulous year.



So as our minds turn to Christmas please do check the diary dates for all the events. But if you are thinking about that awkward person to buy for how about some 275th anniversary Churchwarden's Ale, a St Peter's tea towel or bag. Maybe someone is celebrating a wedding anniversary and would like a St Peter's engraved wine glass – we really do try to serve all your needs!

As we have encouraged you to invite your friends to the events during the year please let them know about our services. Christmas is a wonderful time to invite friends to church whether it is the Carol Service, the Bereavement Service or the Christingles (no DIY Christingles this year!). It can be a slightly nervy thing to invite someone not knowing if they will say yes or be embarrassed. But it may well be the very encouragement they need and it is so much nicer coming along with someone – so go on, give someone our Christmas Services Card and invite them along.

There are a number of dates to note.

Advent Sunday at 10am we welcome guest preacher, Revd Joan Foster and at 6.30pm a special service From Darkness to Light followed by refreshments.

Bereavement Service on Sunday 11th December at 6.30pm. Christmas is a very difficult time for those who have been bereaved and are experiencing the pain of missing loved ones. This is why we have a special service of remembrance close to Christmas. This will be a time to remember those whose funerals have been in St Peter's but also other people can be included.

Carols by Candlelight Service will be on Sunday 18th December at 6.30pm followed by mulled wine & mince pies.

Christmas Eve – Christingles at 3pm, 4.30pm & 6pm and then Midnight Eucharist at 11.30pm.

Christmas Day - 8.30am & 10am Christmas Eucharist

There will be just one service at 10.00am on New Year's Day.



House Communions - if you would like communion at home for Christmas, please give me a ring and Gordon or I will arrange a date to visit you.

Live stream Congregation - For those who worship with us through the live stream if it would be helpful to have a service book and a hymn book please let us know.

The service book and bulletin are on the website each week but we can provide copies.

We also have **Christmas Invitation Cards** to deliver around the parish. It's an opportunity for a bit of pre-Christmas exercise!! If you can help, please contact Caroline in the Parish Office.



Before Christmas we will have booklets available called **'Follow The Star: The Great Invitation'**. The booklet is an invitation to everyone to ponder what the extraordinary events of the first Christmas might mean for us today.

This booklet draws us close to the heart of Christmas through stories, bible readings and

reflections from Christmas Eve to Epiphany. One of the prayers included is – *Jesus Christ, Word made flesh, as we follow you day by day, may we invite others to come and see the abundant life you offer each of us. Amen.* Please collect your free copy from the church porch.

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

Anne



Bishop Bev's Christmas Message for Parishes

The cost of loving at Christmas

We all know the uncertainties! Despite our best efforts the country is experiencing its worst crisis in decades. Political turmoil, the aftershocks of the pandemic, the devastation of war and communities, families and individuals deeply concerned about being able to survive - not to mention the ongoing effects of the climate crisis.

It doesn't feel like a recipe for a Happy Christmas does it?

Yet these realities of hardship, uncertainty and fear existed way back at the time of the first Christmas. God chose incarnation among the poorest of a turbulent country at a difficult and dangerous time. His birth set the tone for his life and ministry. Though fraught with risk, incredulity and profound uncertainty, Jesus reached to those living in poverty, to the sick, the hungry, the marginalised and dispossessed, bringing hope in what would have seemed like bleak and hopeless times. His birth wasn't, of course, good news to everyone! To the ruling elite, he would bring judgement for their actions and he brought fear.

Confident of the hope Jesus blesses his people with, we are called to be hope-givers, light-bearers and life-blessers. We have a song of hope to sing this Christmas and people need to hear the song more than ever. This means look beyond our walls and our peripheral vision to the people Jesus wants us to reach. So many of us are doing this and we are seeing the bigger difference that it makes in people's lives. One act of loving-kindness in the name of Jesus will transform somebody's life. This Christmas, let's commit to doing at least one act of loving kindness a day. However much we are struggling, please remember there are people starved of hope – they have less than nothing.

Christmas is the time when the world connects most with the Christmas story. This season gives us a wonderful opportunity to invite people to the many and various events and acts of worship. Those of you familiar with LYCIG will be familiar with the mantra, 'It's going to be great – I'm going, why don't you come, too!' There are so many people of all ages, families and single people, the lonely, isolated and bereaved – people like you and me whose Christmas may be transformed by your invitation. Friends, the first worshippers around the crib were invited: the angels invited the shepherds; the star invited the magi. Who will you invite? The National Church's Follow the Star: The Great Invitation gives us fabulous resources and support to enable us to reach out gently yet confidently to the world around us, so very much in need of its saviour.



If you fear the cost, ponder for a moment the cost of love which came to us at Christmas – the love of God in the face of the Christ-Child, the one who lived for us and died for us in order to redeem death itself, that we might live with him in the place that knows no ending. That same love that is poured into the hearts of all who dare to invite Him in.

My hope for us all is that we will rise to the act of kindness challenge; that we shall dare to be invitation givers and hope bringers and that by blessing others, we will deepen our own understanding of what it means to be blessed by God.

I pray that you have a happy, blessed and warm Christmas.

Bishop Bev

Readers

Michael Pitts, Peter Davies and Matt Parkes are all at very different stages of their Reader ministry.

On Sunday 23rd October we had a wonderful opportunity to say thank you to our three Readers.

Michael has now retired and we presented him with his certificate as Reader Emeritus.



We thanked Michael for his ministry especially assisting with services.

We officially welcomed Matt who has been licenced as a Reader in the Diocese of Liverpool and assigned to St Peter's.

This was also an opportunity to say thank you to Peter who assists with services, pastoral visiting and looking after those in the Care Homes.

Advent Sunday Preacher – celebrating 275 years

We are delighted to welcome back to St Peter's, Revd Joan Foster, who will preach at the 10am Eucharist on Advent Sunday.



Joan, and her late husband Jonathan, were parishioners from the 1960s and their sons, Nick and Ben, were baptised and confirmed here.

Many will remember Joan as Director of Music in Holmwood School and also running the Sunday School.

Joan left St Peter's when she was ordained in 1998. She served her curacy in St Nicholas', Blundellsands, while also being Assistant Chaplain in Southport and Ormskirk Hospitals.

In 2002 Joan became Vicar of St Alban, Harrow in the Diocese of London, until her retirement in 2016.

ADVENT

I have a few passions in life and in ministry in which I choose to indulge.

One, which I try to find some time for, is astronomy.

Back in 1997, just as I was finding my new interest in the subject, a comet appeared in the sky. This was comet Hale-Bopp, and was one of the brightest comets of the twentieth century.

Twenty years later, in ministry, and as a new Ordinand, I always remember attending my first residential weekend in 2017, and being given, by the Prayer Book Society, a copy of the Book of Common Prayer.

It was a nice touch, and something they do for all new Ordinands.

In the Book of Common Prayer, we find the Benedictus.

This was the prophecy of Zechariah, the father-to-be of John the Baptist.

We repeat his prophecy each day at Morning Prayer:

‘And thou, child, shalt be called the Prophet of the Highest: for thou shall go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways; To give knowledge of salvation unto his people: for the remission of their sins.’

John was to be a herald, the bringer of Good News, preparing the way for God to appear through the incarnation of Jesus Christ.

You can feel the sense of expectation and anticipation in his words.

The arrival of Christ would inaugurate the coming of the Kingdom of God.

This contrasts with the sad events that surrounded the arrival of the comet Hale-Bopp into our skies.

The thirty-nine members of the ‘Heaven’s Gate’ cult, based in San Diego, believed that the arrival of the comet heralded the end times, and that if they killed themselves, they would be lifted up to meet the coming Messiah.

But as the Benedictus so eloquently reminds us, the season of advent is the gift and the culmination of *‘the tender mercy of our God, whereby the day-spring from on high hath visited us; To give light to them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death: and to guide our feet into the way of peace.’*

So, as we light our candles on the Advent Wreath this year, may we remember that God’s light, incarnated in his son, Jesus the light of the world, already did, and will in the end times again, triumph over darkness.

Gordon MacLeod (Revd)

Christmas Traditions

It is always interesting to look at the Christmas traditions of those who have to be absent from home. In the nineteenth century it was common for ships at sea to lash a fully decorated tree Christmas tree to the mast. An American sailing boat, 'The Rouse Simmons,' left port carrying a cargo of Christmas trees but it was lost with no trace. However, she was discovered many years later by divers when they spotted a Christmas tree, fully decorated, tied to her mast. The Royal Navy has a tradition that the youngest member of the crew becomes captain for the day. He walks the mess decks during meals followed by the captain acting as his bosun.

The one factor on Christmas Day is plenty of food. In 1942 Chatham Barracks made a Christmas pudding mix in one bin that weighed over a ton. It was naturally stirred by the youngest matelot. In the army the officers and warrant officers serve the meal to the soldiers. It was always fun when a brave voice called out, "waiter" as the commanding officer walked past with a tray of food. The requirement for a hearty meal is important in institutions such as prisons when food helps the prisoners to rest easy on a difficult day, for visits by relatives are not allowed on Christmas Day.

Chaplains come into their own at this time. In the 17th century navy the chaplain was hardly considered necessary and he received the pay of an ordinary seamen. Eventually their lot improved but seamen always behaved well during the compulsory church service. In the 1900's my grandfather was serving in India at Christmas and attended a service when the area was shelled. The congregation enjoyed watching two officers becoming trapped against each other in the doorway as they tried to escape.

Hospitals are very aware of the need to help their patients through the festive season, choirs are invited in and nurses dress appropriately. Then there are those who cannot leave their home, this is where the church comes into its own. There is a responsibility to know who is isolated and how best to help although it is not always easy to know who is in need. A friend was distributing Christmas food on behalf of a charity. He accidentally knocked on the wrong door. It was opened by an elderly woman dressed very poorly. One look told him of her need and he gave her the food destined for elsewhere.



Then, of course, there is the 'Marmite' activity of the day, which you hate or love, the Christmas jigsaw. Usually a snow covered landscape with jolly festive images. For some a two piece jigsaw is enough but they do provide an ongoing activity which is not finished on the day.

The jigsaw is sometimes seen as a metaphor for life, the struggle to make sense of the myriad colours and trying to hammer into place an incorrect piece.

The Christian message is presented to us complete in the gospels and it is left to us to assemble the puzzle and replicate it in our lives. St Paul in his letter to the Romans states that Christ advocates forbearance and patience. The qualities we need to complete the jigsaw in front of us.

Rod Jacques



Advent

preparing for Christmas

Read a Book for Advent

There are books in the Church Library to read as we enter the season of Advent:-

“Walking Backwards to Christmas”

Stephen Cottrell explores the Advent story through the eyes of some well - known characters.

“Do Nothing, Christmas is Coming!” by Stephen Cottrell. For every day of Advent providing short, practical steps to help us slow down, take time out - and resist the pressure of the Christmas whirl.

“Advent for Everyone” A Journey through Matthew by the popular writer Tom Wright.

“Reflections for Christmas” Steven Croft & Joanna Collicutt. A daily devotional companion throughout Advent.

If you would like to borrow a book or DVD please write your name in the book provided. The Library is situated in the Bier House. Take time to have a look.

Looking for a stocking filler?



Have a look at our 275th Anniversary Merchandise



Tea-Towels	£ 5.00
Flat Tote bags: 36 x 40cm	£ 5.00
Gusset shopping bag: 40 x 40cm	£ 7.00
St Peter's Wine Glasses	£15.00
Bottle of 275 th Anniversary Beer	£ 2.50
A case of beer £25 (free delivery in Formby)	

On sale Sunday 4th and 11th December after the morning service or at the Christmas Tree Festival.

Or contact Nick Philpott 07979 892626 nick.philpott54@googlemail.com
or the Parish Office ☎ 871171.

Little Fishes Pre-School Group

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.



Space for children and carers to play and support each other.

There is a voluntary donation of 50p to cover snacks.

Little Fishes dates - 2nd, 9th and 16th December



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 Yr3). We also have children's puzzle sheets each week; please ask those on duty at the church door.



Dates:

Sunday 4th and 18th December

Sunday 8th and 15th January

Wednesday 14th December

Wednesday 25th January



Worship On Wednesday designed for pre-school children. A short service followed by refreshments.

The children from Nursery and Reception from Trinity St Peter's join us for this service.

Everyone is very welcome.

TIMEOUT

No Timeout in December

Next meeting

Monday 23rd January

at 7.30pm in at the Bier House.

~ speaker Archdeacon Pete Spiers
'The Future Shape of the Parish'

office@stpetersformby.co.uk

Prime Time **Primetime**
Our first meeting in 2023 will be on

Wednesday 18th January

Meet in the **Parish Hall at 7.30pm.**

All ladies welcome

Looking forward to seeing you,

Elaine and Sonia.



9am in the Bier House

Saturday 3rd December

Saturday 7th January



Join us for a 30 minute service followed by toast & chat. You will be very welcome.

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PLEASE NOTE

we have large print hymn books, bulletins and magazines.

Those on duty in church will be pleased to assist in providing copies. Let the Parish Administrator know if you would like a large print magazine delivered.

Wednesday Eucharist

there is a Eucharist held every
Wednesday at
11am in the
Church.



An Appeal for Mince Pies!!!

In St Peter's we love to offer hospitality and we are hoping you will be willing to help by providing mince pies for the Carols by Candlelight (18th December), by 12th December please.



Please bring along to church or drop them into the Parish Office.
Many thanks.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR



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

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



Find us on
Facebook

Dementia
friendly church

Christmas Chocolate Appeal 2022

For the past couple of years' the parishioners of St Peter's Church have been extremely kind and generous donating seasonal chocolate and treats which we have donated to Southport Soup Kitchen. We are running this appeal again this year and hope you can find something to put in the box which will be in the porch. The treats will be going to both families with children and the homeless so small selection packs, boxes of sweets, chocolate oranges etc will be especially welcome.

As always many thanks for your kindness.

Vicky Hall

Bacon Barms and Banter

Join us for Bacon Barms and Banter.

1st Monday of the month, (except Bank Holidays)
in the Bier House 10.30-12 noon.

Vegetarian option available.

Free event, supported by Abbeyfield Neighbourhood Project.

Everyone Welcome, especially carers and their loved ones.



Volunteers Needed!

Many thanks to our volunteers who have already helped out at Singing for Fun, and our new Bacon Barms and Banter.

We have a couple of new groups beginning in January, and a couple of volunteers for each group would be a great help, mainly for welcoming our guests and serving our refreshments.

If you think you would like to help can you contact Caroline at the office please? You don't have to commit to everything, but a couple of hours now and then would help enormously and lighten the load!

Thank you, Vicky H





At our meeting on the 3rd November we were pleased to welcome our former curate Nathan who is now Vicar at St Giles Aintree. Nathan gave us a very full and interesting account of the work he has been doing at St Giles, which is clearly a very active and thriving parish.

In November a number of members attended a service at the Cathedral followed by lunch and a talk by Serena Kennedy the Chief Constable of Merseyside, dealing with modern day slavery.

Our next meeting, on the 1st December, is the annual Christmas Party. This will be held in the Parish Hall and we meet at 1-00pm NOT 2-00pm. We will enjoy lunch together followed by our Carol Service.

Later in December we are invited to join the M.U. at St Michael's Blundellsands. Please will any member wishing to accept this kind invitation speak to Herbert so that he can arrange transport (the date of this event will be available at our next meeting).

Our first meeting in 2023 will be on January 12th (NB not the first Thursday) when we will hold our AGM, followed by a Bring and Buy stall in aid of funds.

In February we once again welcome Revd Peter Paine to entertain us with details of one of his trips to foreign climes.

Please continue to support our three charities and many thanks for all you have done previously.

Herbert (873367) and Jean

Sunday 11th December 2022 ~ 6.30pm

Bereavement Service

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

Refreshments served after the service.

ALL WELCOME

Weekly Prayers for our Parish

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



During December please pray for all who live in –

- 4th December** Paradise Lane, York Close, Kenton Close
- 11th December** Old Lane, Little Brewery Lane, Brewery Lane
- 18th December** West Lane, Stanley Road, Rimmers Avenue
- 25th December** St Anne's Road, St Anne's Path, St Anne's Close

During January please pray for all who live in –

- 2nd January** Massams Lane, Green Lane, The Paddock
- 9th January** Cricket Path, Timms Lane, Timms Close
- 16th January** Victoria Road, Red Barns, Mayfield Court
- 23rd January** Cummins Avenue, Queens Avenue, Gregsons Avenue
- 30th January** Gores Lane, Deans Court, Piercefield Road

A SERVICE OF WHOLENESS



Dates for your diary:

Sunday 4th December at 6.30pm

Sunday 22nd January at 6.30pm

A Child's Christmas in Wales (not the Dylan Thomas version)

In the early 1950's my grandparents lived in a house on a hillside. It overlooked a pretty valley through which ran the train line between Carmarthen, Newcastle- Emlyn and Aberystwyth, at least 3 trains a day, each journey guaranteed to give the traveller a true sense of eternity, never did a train puff so slowly.

The whole family would gather at the said house for the days of Christmas; certainly there were 12 of us. What a perfect setting for amazing memories! For example, my aunt getting up at 2am to empty the vast turkey of its stuffing and restuff it because she had used caraway seeds in the mix instead of the proper ingredients. The turkey came as a whole bird, head attached; my grandmother would take the head off (thankfully) and chop off the feet. Alas, the main tendon in the foot would clench and unclench the claws, imagine the screams of happy children as they were chased over the house by a turkey foot, claws moving but we seem to have come through it all unscathed. Best of all was Christmas morning when the shadow of the oil lamp preceded the calm yellow light coming through the bed room door (no electricity for years to come). At last Christmas was here. There was always snow and the lads from the local farms would come carol singing outside the bedroom windows for it would be in the early hours before they arrived at our place,

Happy Days, Merry Christmas everyone. **Sue Jacques**

December Bible Readings

4th December – 2nd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10 / Romans 15:4-13 / Matthew 3:1-12

11th December – 3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10 / James 5:7-10 / Matthew 11:2-11

18th December – 4th Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16 / Romans 1:1-7 / Matthew 1:18-25

Christmas Night

Isaiah 9:2-7 / Titus 2:11-14 / Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

Christmas Day

Isaiah 9:2-7 / Titus 2:11-14 / Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

26th December – St Stephen, Deacon and First Martyr

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

27th December – St John Apostle and Evangelist

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

28th December – The Holy Innocents

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



January Bible Readings

1st January – The Naming and Circumcision of our Lord

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

6th January – Epiphany

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

8th January – The Baptism of Christ

Isaiah 42:1-9 / Acts 10:34-43 / Matthew 3:13-17

15th January – 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1-7 / 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 / John 1:29-42

22nd January – 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4 / 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 / Matthew 4:12-23

25th January – The Conversion of St Paul

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

29th January – Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

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



Singing Thursdays!



2nd Thursday
of every month
from December

Singing for Fun

3rd Thursday
of every month
from January
**Singing's Good
for Your Brain!**
With Maggie &
Mandy

4th Thursday
of every month
from January
Chaos Fun Choir

Fun and informal
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All the groups
will meet at
2pm and finish
approx. 3.30pm.

Everyone
welcome,
no special skills
required-
so join us.



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refreshments in a
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From the Church Register ~ Baptisms

Sunday 30th October



Oliver Lewis Carman Norbury and
Lewis Benjamin Carman Norbury,
the sons of Chris & Emma.



Alicia Maria Coyle-Gilchrist,
daughter of Alasdair & Marissa,



Harry George Durant, the
son of Scott & Samantha.

Father and daughter, Sean & Nova, were
baptised together. Nova Shellie Maria
Rood, the daughter of Sean & Lauren.

Sunday 13th November

Lenny Yearsley, son of Nathan & Chelsea.



From the Church Register

Funerals

3 rd November	Angela Thackray
8 th November	Raymond Johnson
11 th November	Derek Moss
	Sylvia Rose
25 th November	Alma Lines



Garden of Remembrance

31 st October	Tommy Allen
6 th November	Mike Barrett
20 th November	Tony Hill
24 th November	Arthur & Alicia Dawbarn

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICES

St Peter's Church, Formby

See the Diary Dates on page 40 & 41 for all the Sunday Services

Sunday 11th December

2.30pm A Relaxed Christmas Service for Older People.

Familiar carols and readings followed by tea & mince pies.

6.30pm Bereavement Service – remembering our loved ones

Sunday 18th December

6.30pm Carols by Candlelight *followed by mulled wine & mince pies*

Christmas Eve

3pm Christingle - for pre-school & primary school age children

4.30pm Christingle - for pre-school & primary school age

6pm Christingle – All Age Service with the choir

11.30pm Midnight Eucharist

Christmas Day

8.30am Eucharist

10am Parish Eucharist



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.

COMPASSION ACTS

Since the beginning of Covid in 2020, the church porch of St Peter's has been used as a collection point for the Compassion Acts Foodbank in Southport. And it's so encouraging to report that the volume of food contributed has not only been maintained but increased.



Arianne, a member of the Compassion Acts team, told a recent meeting of Timeout that as people were worried about austerity and inflation and high interest rates general donations of food from community sources were decreasing – but not from St Peter's church porch.

So, thank you to all who continue to leave food. It is needed now more than ever as the demand for their foodbank services increases. Please keep your donations of food coming. During last year just under 4,000 people were fed from the Southport Foodbank which operates 6 days a week from the Victoria Centre, 197A Sussex Road, Southport.

For people who are 'just about managing' there are food pantries set up around the area. Those who join pay £5 each week and this gives access to a choice of fresh, frozen and packet foods, plus friendly support. There are 5 pantries run by Compassion Acts including one at Holy Trinity, Formby.

Alongside the foodbanks and pantries, Compassion Acts have a welfare benefits advice team. 976 people have been helped to claim benefits and to appeal decisions. To receive benefits means that people can begin to feed themselves without recourse to the foodbank.

The Centre also offers a money advice service to help people deal with any debts they may have.

Arianne quoted Desmond Tutu, "There comes a point when we need to stop just pulling people out of the river. We need to go upstream and find out why they are falling in!"

So, along with the services of welfare and debt advice, Compassion Acts have introduced their Next Steps project where people can work on an allotment, have access to counselling and financial well-being sessions. They also run some projects aimed specifically at supporting families with school children – a uniform hub, holidays and after-school clubs.

Compassion Acts is run under the auspices of The Trussell Trust, an NGO charity, which supports 1,300 foodbanks throughout the UK.

This article would be incomplete without saying a huge thank-you to Glyn and Mon Jones who each week transport all the food donated in St Peter's porch to the Compassion Acts Centre in Southport.

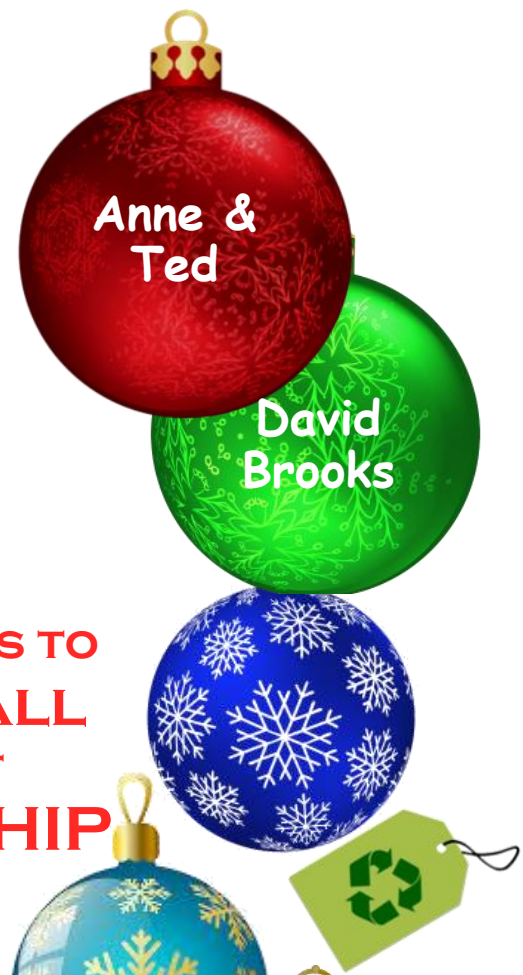
CHRISTMAS GREETINGS WALL

WITH ALL GOOD WISHES FOR CHRISTMAS AND
2023 TO EVERYONE AT ST PETER'S FORMBY;
WITH BEST WISHES FROM





**THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO
THE CHRISTMAS GREETINGS WALL
YOUR DONATIONS HAVE HELPED SUPPORT
UGANDA CHILD SPONSORSHIP
- AND SAVED CARDS AND STAMPS!**



Report from Peter Paine's trip to Georgia and Azerbaijan

When Peter Paine proposed a trip to Georgia and Azerbaijan I leapt at the chance to be included. I had been to Armenia on one of Peter Paine's pilgrimages before and these countries are in the same part of the world, so I thought that I really must go back to this really fascinating area again. It was a case of third time lucky as our party of 10 should have gone in 2020 and then 2021 and finally we actually set off in September 2022.

Georgia and Azerbaijan are adjacent to each other and were on the ancient Silk Road. They border Turkey and Armenia to the South, and yes, Russia to the North. Although we were certainly very close to Russia at times there were no problems at all. In fact the only scary times we had were with the Azerbaijan minibus driver whose driving was, shall we say, not quite up to UK standards.

The capital of Georgia is Tblisi and is a small attractive capital with a variety of new and old buildings and many churches. Set up on one of the many hills is the Narikala Fortress which we accessed by a cable car which ran from the centre. We walked down through the old town seeing many attractive old buildings with their ornate wooden balconies and we also saw the blue tiled façade of the Orbeliani Bath House besides visiting some Orthodox Christian churches. Baku (the capital Azerbaijan) also has a fascinating old town including medieval caravanserais, the Palace of the Shirvanshahs and the 12th century 29m. Maiden Tower which we climbed. However, it is really notable for its modern architecture, especially the Heydar Aliyev Centre, a really fantastic Zaha Hadid building. One afternoon we walked along the very pleasant Baku Bulvar alongside the Caspian Sea. It is a lovely linear park with trees, flower beds and fountains. Nearby is the Carpet Museum which is designed like a giant roll of carpet.



Ananuri fortified church, Georgia



Heydar Aliyev Centre, Baku

We saw some really beautiful scenery as we travelled around. I knew that we would be visiting the Caucasus Mountains and they are really spectacular. Christianity was established in Georgia in the 4th century and so we were able to visit a variety of churches, monasteries and cathedrals as we went around. One real highlight of the trip was our visit to the cave town of Vardzia. It is set in the side of a high cliff overlooking the River Mtkvari.

The main city was constructed in the second half of the 12th Century and consisted of churches, hundreds of rooms including wine cellars, a pharmacy and granary, and also a library. The city was contained within the cliff face (for defensive purposes) but a severe earthquake in 1283 exposed a large amount of the site. A small section of the site is a monastery with monks who actually live there, even with a small garden. We had a great time clambering around the site, going up and down steep rocky interior staircases and visiting many rooms. The 12th century church is still in use and has some beautiful frescos.

Two days of our trip were set aside for some beautiful walks. Whilst in Kazbegi, which is a major resort in the mountains, we had an energetic 8 mile walk up to the 14th century Gergeti Trinity Church. I think our local guide was amused at the way we kept stopping to look and identify the flowers, butterflies and birds that we saw. She even started to get involved, pointing out things she spotted. The following day we were taken to a remote valley and visited Juta, a small village which is the 3rd highest village in Europe. The café where we had our lunch made their own Georgian yogurt and they produced their own honey obtained from their 40 beehives. Both of these were delicious. As they are snowed in every winter, the entire population of the village (plus their animals and beehives) then move away from the mountains. We had a lovely walk up the valley and also to a local waterfall.

As Azerbaijan is a Muslim country, some of the historical buildings we visited were rather different. We drove up to Sheki which is the lovely town set in the forested mountains, and visited its caravanserai and Khan's palace. The palace had beautiful murals within and striking stained glass windows. To reach Sheki we drove through quite a desert-like landscape, although we noticed that vineyards were being established in certain areas.

Mealtimes were always interesting. At our first breakfast we were presented with a teapot which did not have a spout. You may well ask how the tea was poured out. Well, the teapot was placed over the rim of a cup and the tea came out of the bottom of the pot. Very strange but the method worked well. Dinners were a vast array of delicious dishes including cheeses, cooked meats in stews, many differing salads, etc, etc. Unfortunately there was always too much to eat and so inevitably some food was left. Stuffed dumplings are a favourite local Georgian dish which we were served a few times. Another local dish is the Georgian cheese pie. It is not made with pastry but with a sort of dough with curd cheese and a selection of other fillings which you could choose, such as beans, potatoes and green leaves. For the first lunch, some people ordered one each and were each confronted with a very large pie to tackle. So after that, we often shared a pie between 2 people as that was sufficient.

We had a great group of people and we were able to celebrate communion together twice in our hotel, which was good. Altogether, this was a really enjoyable trip with an amazing range of experiences and we learned a lot about these two fascinating countries. Our grateful thanks go to Peter for organising and leading it. Peter will be leading a trip to Romania in 2023 so if you are interested, please contact him.

Marilyn Siddons-Smith

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, meeting at a different times in the Bier House. So if you haven't already thought about it, please consider 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 (except Dec 27th). Contact Ken Ward on 871927

Wednesday Bible Study Group at 7.30pm

Date: 7th December and 25th January

Contact Ted Woods 872824

Friday Bible Study Group at 2pm

Date: 13th and 27th January

Contact Peter Paine 07722 127791



THE FOODBANK



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NAPPIES SIZE 4+

PET FOOD

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.



Remembrance Sunday Celebrations



Residents and staff of Woodlands Care Home visited the church to present the 'wreath', made by the residents, to help decorate the church on Remembrance Sunday.

Peter Shaw



Frances Taylor Foundation

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Most of us are getting it right, however, when too much contaminated material is collected, it potentially prevents the whole lorry load of material from being recycled.

Items that should **NOT** be put in your home recycling

- ❖ Animal waste
- ❖ COVID-19 test waste including Lateral Flow cartridges/testing devices
- ❖ COVID-19 related Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including face masks
- ❖ Disposable nappies
- ❖ Glass cookware, Pyrex and ovenware, drinking glasses and ceramics
- ❖ Sticky tape
- ❖ Tissues, wet wipes, cotton buds and cotton wool

These items need to be put in your waste bin.

www.recyclenow.com

By saving just 1kg of stamps you can help fund one hour of our life-saving research! Carefully cut the stamp from the envelope or package, leaving a 1cm border around the edge.



There are so many different types of stamps and we love them all! Whether they are new or used, first or second class, foreign, first day covers, horizon labels or part of a larger collection or album.



We can use them all to help fund our life-saving work.

The stamps that we receive are sorted into categories and then sold in bulk by weight. We receive up to £20 per kilogram, so it really is an easy way to raise funds!

Please put your stamps in the box in the Church Porch.

<https://www.bcrt.org.uk/get-involved/other-ways-to-donate/the-bcrt-stamp-appeal>

Over 17 billion Christmas stamps have been printed since the first ones in 1966! Do you remember any of these?



Saturday 5th November saw the first “Bonfire and Fireworks Spectacular” since 2019.

After heavy rain during the setup in the afternoon, we were gifted a beautifully clear evening, thankfully with no wind, for some magical fireworks and the busiest evening in memory; the Paddock was completely full and, for safety reasons, the gates had to be closed 20 minutes before the fireworks were due to start.

Thanks to Anne (our Vicar) who not only assisted in dispersing the 300 or so disappointed but understanding people still in the queue at that point, but also earned extra income for us by allowing some “VIP” viewing from her garden. Food and drink were also sold out.



A massive thank you to the 9th Formby & Spitfire Explorers Team of leaders, parents, partners and current and ex-members of the uniformed organisations. Without them, this would not have been the success it was.

The result was a profit of £3,400 – far and away our biggest. Thanks again to all who helped and attended.

Ian Espley
Chair
9th Formby (St. Peter's) Scout Group



EMAIL DIRECTORY

We have a parish email directory which is used once or twice a month to send out dates for the month and also when a special event is coming up. If you would like to be added to the email list, please send an email to

office@stpetersformby.co.uk.

This is a way to help us keep in touch.

Email addresses will be used only by St Peter's.



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Christmas Tradition

Beginning December 1st read one chapter of the book of Luke in the Bible each evening.

There are 24 chapters.

On Christmas Eve you will have read an entire account of Jesus's Life and wake up Christmas morning knowing WHOM and WHY we celebrate!!



How quickly can you
UNSCRAMBLE these words?

RSLCOA	ELSIHG
WANSONM	REDREIEN
GRNEMA	PIEUNNG
SDERPHHE	RYMHR
ENDYOK	BEALUB

Answers at bottom of page 43!



Combining the church panto and the Christmas nativity wasn't Derek's brightest idea!



Derek soon realised that it had been a mistake to allow his congregation to choose their favourite Christmas carol.



Christmas Word Search

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

CHRISTMAS	STOCKING
HOLLY	JOY
ORNAMENT	MERRY
MISTLETOE	CARD
GREEN	PRESENT
RED	BOW
SILVER	SNOWFLAKE
BELLS	TREE
JINGLE	GINGERBREAD
HOHOHO	WREATH
STAR	SNOWMAN
SANTA	CANDLE
HOLIDAY	



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.

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

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.

Diary Dates December 2022



Thursday 1st

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

Friday 2nd

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

Saturday 3rd

9.00am Breakfast Church in the Bier House

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

Sunday 4th

The 2nd Sunday of Advent

8.30am Eucharist (BCP)

10.00am Parish Eucharist (CW) and Sunday Club

6.30pm Service of Wholeness



Tuesday 6th

10.00am Bible Study Group *with Ken* in the Bier House – every Tuesday
(*apart from 27th December*)

11.00am Woodlands Care Home Eucharist

Wednesday 7th

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

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

Friday 9th

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

Saturday 10th

1pm to 3pm Carol Singing at the Harington Road shops – please do join us.

Sunday 11th

The 3rd Sunday of Advent

8.30am Eucharist (CW)

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

2.30pm Relax Service for Older People *followed by refreshments*

6.30pm Bereavement Service

Monday 12th

2.00pm Christmas Service in St Joseph's Care Home with pupils from Yr 6 TSP

Wednesday 14th Christmas Tree Festival begins

11.00am Eucharist *followed by refreshments*

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

Thursday 15th Christmas Tree Festival

9.20am School Christmas Service for KS1 in church

Friday 16th Christmas Tree Festival

9.20am School Christmas Service for KS2 in church

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

Saturday 17th Christmas Tree Festival

11.00am Formby Village Nativity, Formby Pool Gardens



Sunday 18th

The 4th Sunday of Advent / Christmas Tree Festival

8.30am Eucharist (BCP)

10.00am Parish Eucharist and Sunday Club

6.30pm Carols By Candlelight *followed by mulled wine & mince pies*

Wednesday 21st

11.00am Eucharist *followed by refreshments*

2.00pm Carol Service in Halcyon House

3.15pm Carol Service in Woodlands Care Home

Christmas Eve

3.00pm, 4.30pm & 6.00pm Christingle Services

11.30pm Midnight Eucharist

Christmas Day

8.30am Eucharist (CW)

10.00am Parish Eucharist

Wednesday 28th No Eucharist



Diary Dates January 2023

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2023!

Sunday 1st **Naming of Jesus**
10.00am Parish Eucharist
Please note there will be no 8.30am or 6.30pm service

Tuesday 3rd
11.00am Woodlands Care Home Eucharist

Wednesday 4th
11.00am Eucharist with Mothers' Union prayers *followed by refreshments*

Saturday 7th
9.00am Breakfast Church in the Bier House
10.00am Saturday Crew (all things crafty!) in the Bier House

Sunday 8th **Epiphany**
8.30am Eucharist (CW)
10.00am Parish Eucharist & Sunday Club
6.30pm Choral Evensong

Wednesday 11th
11.00am Eucharist *followed by refreshments*

Thursday 12th
2.00pm Mothers' Union in the Bier House

Friday 13th
9.30am Little Fishes Pre-school Group in the Church Hall
2.00pm Bible Study *with Peter Paine* in the Bier House

Sunday 15th **The 2nd Sunday of Epiphany**
8.30am Eucharist (BCP)
10.00am Parish Eucharist & Sunday Club
12noon Service of Baptism for Arley Pettican
6.30pm Choral Evensong

Wednesday 18th
11.00am Eucharist *followed by refreshments*

Sunday 22nd **The 3rd Sunday of Epiphany**
8.30am Eucharist (CW)
10.00am All-Age Parade Service
6.30pm Service of Wholeness

Monday 23rd
7.30pm Timeout – speaker Archdeacon Pete Spiers 'The Future Shape of the Parish' in the Bier House

Wednesday 25th
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

Friday 27th
9.30am Little Fishes Pre-school Group in the Church Hall
2.00pm Bible Study *with Peter Paine* in the Bier House

Sunday 29th **The Presentation of Christ in the Temple**
8.30am Eucharist (BCP)
10.00am Parish Eucharist
12noon Haribo Children's Service
6.30pm Candlemas Service



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





From the Back Pew

Ted Woods

HELP!

I was talking to a vicar the other day, and while he had many things that encouraged him in his ministry, there were other matters that had him feeling down in the mouth.

And it mainly had to do with the effect that Covid has had on parish life.

The numbers attending his church had not returned to pre-Covid levels, but he had discovered from talking to colleagues that this was not particular to his situation. Many churches, even strong, growing churches were experiencing the same.

He had also lost some of his key members during the pandemic. Some had died, others were still debilitated after Covid, while others had, for no particular reason, just stopped going to church when services were resumed, some of whom he would have regarded as committed members of the parish. He was feeling depleted of key people.

Then his ministerial colleague in the parish left for another post last January, and since then he has been “firefighting”, trying to do the work of two full-time clergy.

It all became too much last summer when he, too, became ill, not from Covid but from overwork. Such was the constant pressure of work that he hadn’t felt able to take holidays and had suffered as a result.

Encouragingly, new people had joined the church, but, he noted, it takes time to new members to become embedded in the parish and become active, contributing members of the church.

And money to run the church was becoming a problem. Many of the most generous contributors were the older members of the parish, and when they died or moved away their contributions were not being replaced.

But most of all he was disheartened by a lack of willingness on the part of parishioners to fill posts of responsibility. He had been unable to get churchwardens, or a PCC secretary or even volunteers to wash tea towels after events. He has to do all the administration himself and finds himself stuck in front of his computer when he should be doing pastoral work – or even praying!

He and his wife are having to do most things – plan events, lead events and clean up afterwards.

Not only has he little time for prayer but almost none to plan for the future effectively.

When approached to fill key posts, everybody had excuses, but he remarked, that if he moved on to another parish, his present parish would collapse because no one was stepping up to the mark.

It reminds me of a saying I came across years ago, “The people are not there to help the clergy do their job. The clergy are there to help the people be the church.”

There is no such person as the omni-competent vicar. Paul reminds his readers, and us, that the church is a body, made up of many members and parts to whom God gives different gifts and abilities to be used in his service and the service of others. Ministry can't be done by one person, however able and talented. Ministry is a collaborative effort shared by clergy and people. It is only as everyone plays their part and uses their gifts and abilities that a parish can operate effectively and function well.

It's all about teamwork. Church membership is not a spectator sport of watching how the one-man/woman-band is playing, and then being critical when the tune is not quite right. It's about every member ministry, and when the physical ability to be actively involved is lacking “through age, sickness or infirmity”, there is prayer. How the work of a parish needs the support and under-girding of those who will pray for it – its worship, witness and work!

In the swinging sixties the Beatles sang,
“Help! I need somebody...

Help me if you can, I'm feeling down...
Help me get my feet back on the ground...
Won't you please, please, help me!”

Many clergy are now singing that in these post-Covid times as parishes struggle to recover the pre-Covid levels of attendance, giving and volunteering.

We're lucky in St Peter's with the help we have in so many areas of parish life - as has been evidenced in this 275th year of celebrations.

But we can never be complacent, and we could do with extra help in our ministry to young families and younger people where leaders are being stretched.

Interested in being involved? Speak to the Vicar!



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



Christmas Tree Festival

**Wednesday 14th — Sunday 18th
December**

**Church & Coffee Shop
OPEN**

**Wednesday - Sunday
10:30am - 4:00pm**



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