

**ST PETER'S CHURCH MAGAZINE
FEBRUARY 2023**



**ST PETER'S CHURCH,
GREEN LANE, FORMBY L37 7DL**

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For more information about any of our organisations please contact the Parish Office on 01704 871171 or email office@stpetersformby.co.uk

EDITORIAL

Welcome to our first edition of 2023! No sooner have the Christmas decorations been returned to the attic than Lent is looming on the horizon.

This year it's our turn at St Peter's to host the joint Anglican Ash Wednesday service – see page 6 for details. It will be a Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes – always a salutary reminder of the nature of man!

If the Sacristans are a mystery to you, all is revealed on page 16. As with so many things in church life, we take these activities for granted – it's good to know there's another team beavering away in the background to ensure that our services run smoothly. Thank you, Sacristans!

Welcome to The Squirrels! It's good to see the younger generation so closely associated with our church. The photographs on page 19 show them having a lot of fun – and learning into the bargain.

Planning to help St Peter's by making a purchase from Smile.Amazon (page 10). You'd best make it quick – the scheme is due to be wound up on 20th February! It would be good to top the £200 mark before it closes!

You may not be aware of it, but our printer has been giving us considerable grief recently. If all goes according to plan, the March edition will be produced on a brand new printer!

Wish us luck!

Best wishes from

The Editorial Team

The magazine is an important means of outreach and keeps everyone informed and in touch with the life of St Peter's Church. The magazine is free, though it would be appreciated if you would like to give a donation towards production costs. If you would like a magazine delivered to your home, please contact the Parish Office. ☎ **871171** ✉ **office@stpetersformby.co.uk**



*Please note the deadline for the March 2023 edition of the magazine is **Friday 10th February 2023.***

Contributions to magazine@stpetersformby.co.uk



FRONT COVER: Formby Pinewoods - Spring bluebells (image Liverpool Echo)

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 276th year of the present St Peter's!

What a fabulous year of celebration we had last year for the 275th! I want, very sincerely, to thank the 275 Committee for all the hard work they put into the planning of last year's events – and making them happen. They are Cliff Cotsworth, David Holroyd, Fiona Martin, Nick Philpott, Paul McHenry, Sarah Gorman, Steve & Shena Edwards and Ted Woods.



Thank you, too, to all the helpers, bakers, tea and coffee makers, carpenters, electricians, stewards, actors, musicians, publicity helpers, speakers, flower arrangers and scarecrow makers who took part in the varied programme of celebrations. And to all who came along and supported the events. It was a fabulous year of celebration.

And so to the future and the next 275 years!

In November we had a Vision Day led by Stephen Lyon. We looked at four questions:-

1. **What is the Church for?**
2. **What does St Peter's do well?**
3. **What St Peter's doesn't do, or could do better?**
4. **How might we take things forward?**

service

Participants in the Vision Day represented different groupings in the parish – new members, well-established members, young and old, PCC, organisations and those involved in outreach. From the many answers and suggestions, three themes emerged about what the Church is, and therefore what we should be trying to express in our life together in St Peter's:-

A Community of Welcome

A Community of Faith

A Community of Service



A full report of the Vision Day will appear in next month's magazine.

In the meantime we are in the process of setting up three working groups, from those who attended along with others, to explore and implement the suggestions made at the Vision Day.

There will be a working group for each of the three areas – Welcome, Faith and Service.

faith

Their report will provide us with a road map for the parish as we plan for the future.

I'm very grateful to Stephen for preparing, leading and processing the Vision Day and guiding us through the next stage.

It's important that 2022 becomes not just a happy memory but a vital springboard for the next number of years.

Our new bishop, the Rt Revd John Perumbalah, will be installed on Saturday 22nd April at 3pm in Liverpool Cathedral. Please pray for him as he leads the Diocese of Liverpool into the future.

These are challenging times for the Church. Many parishes have not fully recovered, numerically and financially, from the effects of the two-year Covid pandemic. Thankfully, in St Peter's we are back to pre-Covid numbers. It was so encouraging to see the church packed again for the three Christingle Services on Christmas Eve, and numbers were also up for the Carol Service, Midnight and Christmas Day Eucharists.

Thank you to the team who made 600 Christingles(!) on Christmas Eve morning.

It was very special to have all our services amongst the trees of the Christmas Tree Festival. This made Christmas very special as it was the first one with no Covid restrictions. The Christmas Tree Festival is one of the events we plan to repeat next year – now wouldn't that be a lovely time to get married!! Just a thought!



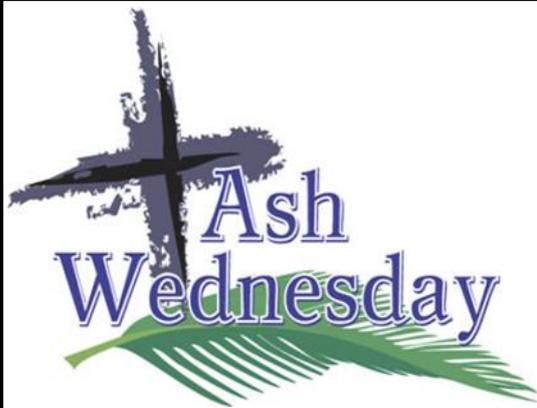
Three things stand out for me as I look back on our 275 celebrations:-

- 1. We had a lot of fun!**
- 2. We have so many wonderful, capable and willing people in St Peter's.**
- 3. St Peter's opened its doors to lots of people who had little or no connection with the church and became a warm and welcoming presence in the community of Formby – and beyond.**

To quote Dag Hammarskjold, one time Secretary General of The United Nations, "For all that has been, thank you. For all that is to come, yes!"

Anne

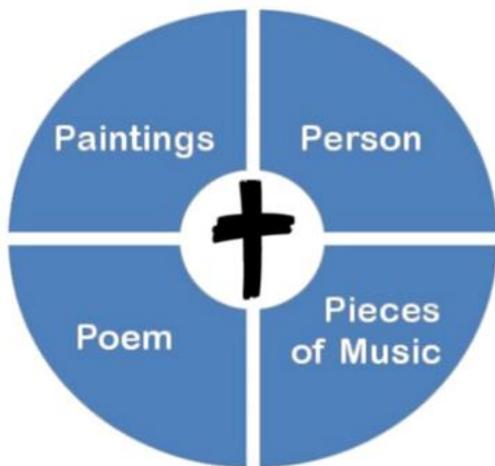
PLEASE NOTE we have large print hymn books, bulletins and magazines. Those on duty in church will be pleased to assist in providing copies. Let the Parish Administrator know if you would like a large-print magazine delivered.



22nd February 2023

**11am Eucharist with
The Imposition of Ashes in St Peter's
7.30pm ~ A Joint Ash Wednesday
Service in St Peter's Church
Preacher ~ Revd Julie Butcher**

Joining with the people of St Stephen's, St Luke's, Holy Trinity & St Michael's Churches worshipping together as we begin the journey of Lent.
This service will be a Eucharist with The Imposition of Ashes.



This Year's Lent Talks

We will have an interesting and thought-provoking programme for Lent 2023 as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter. Full details in the March magazine.

Please keep the following dates free.
8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th March
7.30pm each evening in the Bier House.
All very welcome.

CHURCH LIBRARY

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

***Dust to Glory* by David Runcorn.** There is a meditation for each day of Lent dealing with living and believing.

***Lent FOR Everyone – Matthew* by Tom Wright.** Each passage is followed by a reflection and a prayer.

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

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

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

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

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



LENT REFLECTION

I have always admired great sportsmen and women and their feats of achievement. The sacrifice demanded in reaching the pinnacle of a chosen sport has always resonated with me.

As a failed golf professional, I remember the hours spent in my teenage years late into the night, when I should have been home doing homework, chipping balls onto the third green, under the light of a street lamp, at my local golf club.



There is little doubt it improved my short game at the time and my golf scores, albeit to the detriment of my school work.

So, in one sense at least, the sacrifice paid off in the short-term.

The time of Lent, which this year begins on the 22nd of February, with Ash Wednesday, often leads people to make sacrifices. It might be something like giving up chocolate for the 40 days of Lent, or something more substantial, like giving up a life changing habit, such as smoking, or perhaps something more personal.

This is all part of preparation for Holy Week, culminating in Easter, and the resurrection of Jesus.

But it's not just sportsmen and women who make sacrifices to reach the pinnacle of their chosen sport. There are many devout people who spend their time in prayer, and also develop other practices as part of spiritual asceticism.

Now all these things, with the exclusion of things which cause self-harm, are undoubtedly beneficial to the person.

However, almsgiving is also a Lenten practice, which is sometimes relegated to the back of people's minds when they think of Lent. That doesn't always, or necessarily, mean giving money. Giving of your time to a worthy cause, or someone in need, can also be a significant sacrifice.

As the late Professor William Barclay rightly asserted in one of his bible commentaries, *'no amount of strength of mind can take the place of love of heart.'*

When I think back to the sacrifice sportsmen and women make to reach the pinnacle of their careers, I am reminded of two runners in the heat to qualify for the 5,000 metre final in the 2016 Rio Olympic games. Having collided during the race, one stopped to help the other up who was injured, and helped her over the finishing line too. They finished second last and last.

As the athlete, Niki Hamblin of New Zealand recounted, *'suddenly there is this hand on my shoulder, like "get up we have to finish this!" I am so impressed...I've never met this girl before...isn't that just so amazing'.*

Indeed, how we give of ourselves and of our time to others over the period of Lent will speak more about our character, than any act of asceticism may do.

Gordon MacLeod (Revd)
Curate, Formby St Peter's

Another Survey

The 2021 National Census has revealed that 46% of the population identified themselves as Christian; this marks a 13% drop from the last census and has opened the flood gates to those who want to wash away Christianity.

It may be worthwhile to have a look at some of these arguments. A long article in a newspaper by a 'diversity and inclusion' consultant states that now the country no longer has a Christian majority Christmas should be seen as a mid-winter goodwill festival with say, the school play focusing on the “essence of the Christmas story with for example, love for even the most vulnerable and ostracized in society and less on the bit that more than half the country doesn't believe in.” A short read of the testaments would point to the work of Jesus with lepers, the blind, the sick and those rejected by society. Quite an inclusive group!

A well known historian has written that now in Western Europe, we live in a secular world. She writes, “history takes on the role of showing us evil, virtues and vices. Religion no longer plays, as it once did, in setting moral standards and transmitting values.” History shows where there is evil and corruption, that is all. The value placed against what has occurred is set by moral standards which for hundreds of years have been set by Christianity not by historians, these value judgements still stand.

Another argument recently used is that the history of religion shows periods of cruelty which undermine the doctrines presented. The persecution and treatment of heretics is difficult to understand now but several professions have a past which they would rather not acknowledge. Those who attack religion because of its past cruelty are probably registered with their local GP, yet the history of medicine is littered with awful misuse of skills. The attempt of doctors to prevent the publication of herbal remedies to protect their monopoly, the bleeding of patients based on an ancient Greek theory brought on great suffering with little justification. The refusal to recognize the work of James Lind who found a remedy for scurvy also prolonged much suffering, let alone the activities of the German medical profession in concentration camps. Yet it could be justifiably argued that overall the medical profession has greatly improved the life of everyone, often by self-sacrificing doctors. This is true, as it is also true of religion where the work of monasteries, pastors and lay members have equally unselfishly helped communities, and still do so.

Another argument recently presented by several journalists is that the Church of England represents a warm shawl with which society has been wrapped for several

centuries, but now no longer required. Perhaps the best answer to this is a comment made by the great Samuel Johnson, “Life is barren enough surely with all her trappings; let us therefore be cautious how we strip her.”

Perhaps the last argument in the press is that writers who have been brought up in a Christian environment have now matured out of it. These authors rarely say what they believe in; for we all have to have to believe in something. Sometimes they indicate that their morality is based on what is accepted and works for them. Dictators have relied on this throughout history.

The main problem with the above arguments is that they do not deal with the real issue of Christianity. The basis of this religion is faith, and acceptance of Christ. Cardinal Newman wrote, “It is as absurd to argue men, as to torture them, into believing.”

It seems a shame that the creeds used in Christianity deal mainly with the facts of Christ, his birth, death, resurrection and return and do not include his teaching. The point here is that we are told Christ and the Father are love. From this springs the hope and strength we so desperately need. Arguments and closely argued logic about religion are important but worship, love and a congregation are the basis for the strength we may lack.

Rod Jacques



On Advent Sunday we welcomed back former parishioner, Revd Joan Foster, as our preacher. Pictured with Gordon, Anne and Shena.





**Did you get engaged over Christmas?
Thinking about a romantic venue?
How about St Peter's?
Summer or Christmas time,
it is a very special place to get married.**

Christmas time you could get married amongst all the Christmas trees of the Festival which are there until New Year.

Or a summer wedding with the churchyard bathed in sunshine.

Whenever you would like to get married, come and talk to Anne, our Vicar, about all the details and possible dates. And chat with David, our organist, about special music.

We promise we will make your wedding day one to remember.

Contact the Vicar or Parish Office for a copy of our Wedding Information Booklet and a link to a recording of our wedding evening.



Have

Parish Office: 01704 871171 or email office@stpetersformby.co.uk



Primetime

Our first meeting in 2023 will be on

Wednesday 15th February

Meet in the Parish Hall at 7.30pm.

All ladies welcome

Looking forward to seeing you,

Elaine and Sonia.

Monday 27th February

at 7.30pm in the Bier House

Topic: Young people and the stresses they experience today.

Speaker: Sonia Bunyard

office@stpetersformby.co.uk



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The Parochial Church Council Of The Ecclesiastical Parish Of St. Peter, Formby has received

£160.59

as of November 2022

February Bible Readings

2nd February – Presentation of Christ in the Temple

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

5th February – 3rd Sunday before Lent

Isaiah 58:1-12 / 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 / Matthew 5:13-20

12th February – 2nd Sunday before Lent

Genesis 1:1 – 2:3 / Romans 8:18-25 / Matthew 6:25-34

19th February – Sunday next before Lent

Exodus 24:12-18 / 2 Peter 1:16-21 / Matthew 17:1-9

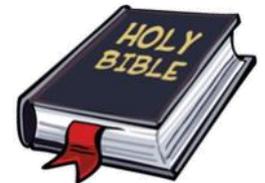
22nd February – Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 / 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 / John 8:1-11

26th February – 1st Sunday of Lent

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 / Romans 5:12-19 / Matthew 4:1-11

LENT
Pray + Fast + Give



A SERVICE OF WHOLENESS



Dates for your diary:

Sunday 26th February at 6.30pm

Sunday 19th March at 6.30pm

Sunday 30th April at 6.30 pm

Switch off standby

You can save around £65 a year just by remembering to turn your appliances off standby mode.

Almost all electrical appliances can be turned off at the plug without upsetting their programming.

Check the instructions for any appliances you aren't sure about.

Some satellite and digital TV recorders may need to be left plugged in so they can keep track of any programmes you want to record.

For lots of helpful hints and tips go to

<https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/>



Breakfast Church at 9am in the Bier House Saturday 4th February

Why not join us every first Saturday of the month for a short service (about 20 mins) in the form of the Iona worship. This a small gathering in the Bier House. You will be made very welcome. The service starts at 9 and is followed by tea/coffee, toast, crumpets etc. Give it a try!

Susan Parkes



Saturday Crew Update

May we begin by wishing you all a very happy New Year and a big **THANK YOU** for your support when buying festive items from our Pop-Up Shop in December and for your generous donations when selecting decoration from our Christmas Tree.

Our financial gain far exceeded our expectations, thus enabling us to “build” more shoeboxes during 2023 and hopefully bettering last year’s total of 310.

We appeal for wrapping paper of any kind, partially-full or full rolls, plus your unwanted greetings cards, Christmas cards, or others that we recycle into gift tags.

Finally, Julie Rowlandson from International Aid Trust is booked to give the Saturday Crew an update of their work and distribution of our shoeboxes. Her presentation is always interesting and informative, and you are warmly invited to come along to hear her talk on Saturday 4th March at 10am in the Bier House.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Anne Scarrott

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.

- 5th Feb** Byron Close, Graburn Road, Formby Mews
- 12th Feb** Old Town Lane, Rymers Green, Derby Road
- 19th Feb** Grange Lane, Freshfield Road, St George’s Road
- 26th Feb** Wicks Lane, Coppice Leys, Barkfield Lane



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 - 3rd, 10th and 24th February

(NB No Little Fishes 17th Feb because of half term)



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 5th and 12th February

Wednesday 22nd February

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.

Please note change of date:

The Grand Annual Charity Quiz has been moved forward by one week to **Friday 3rd February 2023**.

The Quiz will be held at the **Gild Hall**.

Doors open at 7.00 for a prompt 7.30 start.

Cheap and cheerful at **£7**,
includes nuts and nibbles and bar.

All proceeds to WaterAid.

For tickets, please contact **Bruni Jones 876038** or email bruni.jones@gmail.com.





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

Caroline Speakman Member of the Society of Willwriters

Email: southportwills@gmail.com

Phone: 07926 587776

Website: www.southportwills.com





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SACRISTAN TEAM

There are lots of jobs in the church which happen without any of us being aware. Each week we enter a church which is clean, has beautiful flowers, wonderful music and everything ready for us to worship; it doesn't just happen. There are lots of jobs going on "behind the scenes," one of them is the role of the Sacristan.



The Sacristans are a team with a strange language of their own dealing with chalices, ciboria, superfrontals and corporals but beneath all the traditions and specifics of the role is a group of us who basically prepare all the vessels and vestments which are required ensuring the church is always ready for which ever service is taking place.

Wine, wafers, ashes, oil, palms, and spruce have to be ordered depending on the season; vestments and hangings are changed to the correct liturgical colour depending on the time of year and to highlight each specific season and occasion. You'll notice the colours will change from white (Christmas/Easter), purple (Advent/Lent), red (Pentecost/Saints' days) and green (most of the time between Easter and Advent) as well as blue for Mother's Day.

Every time the liturgical colour changes, we change the colour on the front of the altar (superfrontal), bookmark on the lectern and the lectern fall in the pulpit as well as Anne's chasubles (the coloured cape-like garment Anne wears on top of her cassock) and stole (similar to a long scarf).



Every week we make sure the altar is set up ready for the church service.

For a eucharist, a chalice of wine, with a large priest's wafer on top is placed on the altar under a veil. It's this large wafer which Anne breaks in half during the preparation for communion. Ciboria are then placed on either side with wafers in ready to be distributed. The bookrest and burse are placed either side of the veil and the observant among you may notice that this can vary from side to side; this is purely dependant on the preferences of whoever is presiding!

One of the aspects of our job which I particularly enjoy is the making of the advent crowns, it a real team effort and always makes me feel that Christmas is really on its way.

This is just a very quick snapshot of what we do, so if you would like to know anything else please feel free to ask any of us, there will always be at least one of us in church.

Shena

Our Christmas Party in December was very well attended and a good time was enjoyed as we had lunch together followed by carol singing and entertainment from the members.



The Annual General Meeting was held on 12th January and Herbert took the opportunity to thank everyone who had helped to make each meeting a success. In addition he gave a resume of the previous years activities and our treasurer, Tricia, presented us with the financial statement explaining that this year each member needed to donate £29 to the Central Authority.

We also agreed to continue with the AGM on the second Thursday of January, in spite of all other meetings being held on the first Thursday of the month.

The programme of events for the year was handed out and attention drawn to two items

1. Deanery Festival - to be held on Thursday 11th May at Holy Trinity at 2pm
2. The April meeting to be an outing to the Sunshine Tea Rooms for lunch

At our meeting on Thursday 2nd February Peter Paine will be talking about his trip to Georgia and Azerbaijan. At our March meeting we are looking forward to a return visit from Professor Colin Adams.

We continue to collect toiletries for the refugees and we are hoping for soap or shower gel in March.

Herbert (873367) and Jean

I want to say thank you for the generosity of so many who helped us raise money for a variety of charities over Christmas.



The Advent Collection (Blue Envelopes) was for the Whitechapel Centre for the Homeless and raised £1158.88.

The Christmas Tree Festival for a variety of charities raised £1,253.

The collection during the Christingles services raised £1,123.98 for The Children's Society.

During the year 50% of the collection from any Service of Baptism held at 12noon is given to a children's charity.

Last year the charity was Sefton Young Carers and they received £467.73.

 The charity for 2023 is Make A Wish who create joy and happiness through life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses.

The Lent (Blue Envelope) collection will be for Queenscourt Hospice.

Revd Anne

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.



For more information about any of our organisations please contact the Parish Office on 01704 871171 or email office@stpetersformby.co.uk



9th Formby (St Peter's) Squirrels started in September 2022 and are a resounding success with eighteen 4-6 year olds joining in the fun every week. Here are some photos of our first term. Our one hour meetings involve games, stories and the all important introduction to Scouting.

Visit to Southport Lifeboat



Our Mascot



Fruit Kebabs



Noughts & Crosses with Nature



Story-Time



Learning about Maps



Making Squirrel Hats



The Squirrel Bug Hotel in Forest School



Christmas decorations for our Church Tree our Christmas Party

and



Christmas Tree Festival

The Church was full of trees and lights. Various people and organisations sponsored the trees, so the cost of the actual trees was covered. Many charities were supported and generous donations made by visitors over the five days. The Coffee Shop was popular too, particularly with soup and mulled wine available this time!



Christingles and Carol Service



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 Contact Ken Ward on 871927

Wednesday Bible Study Group at 7.30pm

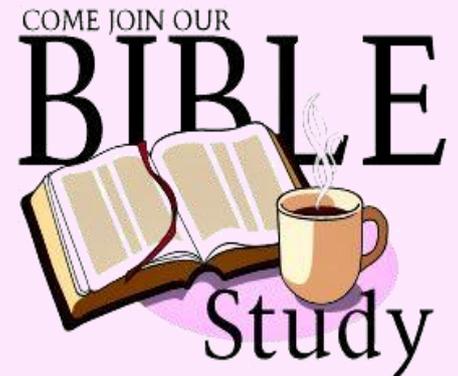
Date: 8th February

Contact Ted Woods 872824

Friday Bible Study Group at 2pm

Date: 10th and 24th February

Contact Peter Paine 07722 127791



THE FOODBANK



The Southport Food Bank have sent Christmas greetings to their "friends" at St Peter's. They thank them for their support for the food bank over the year and look forward to working together in the New Year.

That support has also included financial support. The food bank ask that in future any cheques are made payable to "Compassion Acts" which is the umbrella organisation running various activities to those in need.

Many thanks

Glyn Jones



The Church Porch is open everyday from 10am to 5pm for donations.

URGENTLY NEEDED ITEMS

TINNED TOMATOES

TINNED FISH

PASTA SAUCE

CORDIAL & LONGLIFE JUICE

MAYONNAISE & TOMATO SAUCE

SHAMPOO

WASHING UP LIQUID

From the Church Register ~ Baptisms

15th January 2023

Arley Pettican with his Mum
Sarah Pettican



From the Church Register

Funerals

22 nd December	Edna Moss
3 rd January	Jenny Gaskin Heather Behets
4 th January	Helen Atherton
10 th January	Jean Maybury
19 th January	Jim Dixon
3 rd February	Anne Spiers Ron Daniels

Garden of Remembrance

10 th December	Roy Green
1 st January	James Culshaw
20 th January	Simon Marsh



Wednesday Eucharist

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

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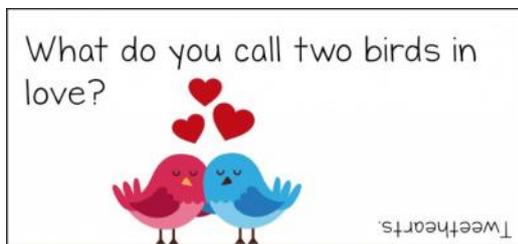
EAT FISH IT'S GOOD FOR YOU!

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DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.



Teacher: "Johnny, can you use the word "gruesome" in a sentence?"

Johnny: "Yes I used to be shorter, then I gruesome."

"There are two words in life that will open a lot of doors for people"

"Which words?" Push and pull!

Puzzle -

What has four letters, occasionally has twelve letters, always has six letters, but never has five letters.

My Kids accuse me of having a favourite child, which is ridiculous, because I don't like any of them. MY DOG IS MY FAVOURITE

Lenten Word Search



ASHES
 PENANCE
 GOOD FRIDAY
 GIVING
 CROSS
 FORTY
 PREPARE
 HOLY WEEK
 FORGIVENESS
 FISH
 PRAYER
 PURPLE
 SACRIFICE
 SEASON
 FASTING
 STATIONS

The Rector responds to concern that Lent is a downer



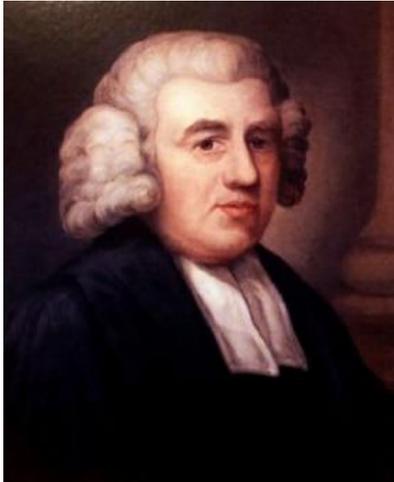


From the Back Pew

Ted Woods

HYMNS AND HYMNWRITERS (5)

“Amazing Grace” must be one of the best known hymns of all time, instantly recognised by church and non-churchgoers alike.



Its author, John Newton, had a rather amazing life, for at the young age of 11, he was captured by a press gang and made to serve in the Royal Navy – a not altogether uncommon event in the early 1700’s.

Newton’s father was also a sailor in his early career. However, John was forced into the navy – it was not a matter of choice. He attempted to desert but was caught and flogged.

Later he transferred to the merchant navy and became involved in the slave trade, captaining in his own ship between England, West Africa and the West Indies.

Although his mother was a godly woman, she died when he was 7, and religion played no part in Newton’s early life.

In his own epitaph in St Mary Woolnoth, London, where for many years he later served as rector, Newton described himself as “Once an infidel and libertine, a servant of the slaves in Africa.”

The latter description refers to a time when he sold himself to a slave woman, who, it is said, kept him under her table and fed him on crusts!

However, the epitaph goes on to state that he “was by the mercy of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, preserved, restored and pardoned, and appointed to preach the faith he had so long laboured to destroy.”

On one of his slave-trading trips a ferocious storm blew up and his ship was in danger of sinking. For nine hours Newton plied the pumps trying to keep the ship afloat. At one stage he said, “If this will not do, then the Lord have mercy on us.” And then he asked himself who was he to ask for mercy, a person who had so little mercy or regard for the slaves who thronged the galley of his ship.

He continued to pray as he battled to save his ship, and amazingly he and his human cargo survived.

Remembering his prayers to God, he forsook the slave trade and came under the influence of John Wesley and George Whitefield, two of the leaders of the Evangelical Revival.

Eventually he offered himself for ordination in the Church of England. He was 39 when he was ordained, and during his ordained ministry he never hid his past life as a slave trader but preached about the great change in his life that had been wrought by God's amazing grace that had "saved a wretch like me."



He was curate in Olney in Buckinghamshire for 16 years, writing a hymn for his prayer meeting each week. When they had to move to bigger premises because so many were attending he wrote the hymn "Great shepherd of thy people hear ...as thou hast given a place for prayer so give us hearts to pray."

He was then appointed as rector to St Mary, Woolnoth, where he became a celebrated pastor and preacher and stayed until his death in 1807.

Towards the end of his days, his mind became clouded and his speech uncertain. But just before he died, at the age of 82, he said to a friend, "My memory is nearly gone, but I remember two great things – that I am a great sinner and that Christ is a great Saviour!"

As well as these two great foundations to his ministry, there were two other great influences in his life.

First, his mother. Even though she died when he was only 7, she had shared her faith with him. The other influence was his girl-friend, Mary Catlett, to whom he was devoted during his sea-faring days. It is said that his devotion to Mary "was the merciful anchor that saved him from final self-abandonment." Two years after his close shave with death, he married Mary in February 1750, and they set up house in Liverpool from where John went to sea as a slave-trading captain. It was another few years before he gave up his sea-going and studied to be ordained.

He was a prolific hymn writer and our hymnbook contains five of his hymns:- *Glorious things of thee are spoken; Great Shepherd of thy people hear; How sweet the name of Jesus sounds; May the grace of Christ our Saviour* and, of course, *Amazing Grace*.

Diary Dates February 2023

FEBRUARY

Wednesday 1st

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

Thursday 2nd

2.00pm Mothers' Union meet in the Bier House



Friday 3rd

9.30am Little Fishes Pre-school Group in the Church Hall – *every Friday except Feb 17th as this is half-term week.*



Saturday 4th

9.00am Breakfast Church in the Bier House

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

Sunday 5th 3rd Sunday before Lent

8.30am Eucharist (BCP)

10.00am Parish Eucharist and Sunday Club *followed by refreshments*

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Tuesday 7th

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

11.00am Woodlands Care Home Eucharist

Wednesday 8th

11.00am Eucharist *followed by refreshments*

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

Friday 10th

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

Sunday 12th 2nd Sunday before Lent

8.30am Eucharist (CW)

10.00am Parish Eucharist and Sunday Club followed by refreshments

6.30pm Choral Evensong



Wednesday 15th

11.00am Eucharist *followed by refreshments*

7.30pm Primetime in the Parish Hall



Sunday 19th Sunday next before Lent

8.30am Eucharist (BCP)

10.00am Parish Eucharist

12noon Service of Baptism

6.30pm Choral Evensong



Wednesday 22nd Ash Wednesday

11.00am Eucharist *followed by refreshments*

2.00pm WOW Service for pre-school and Reception children in church

7.30pm Ash Wednesday Joint Service in St Peter's

Friday 24th

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

Sunday 26th 1st Sunday of Lent

8.30am Eucharist (CW)

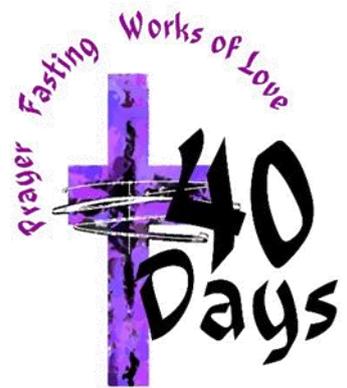
10.00am Parish Eucharist *followed by refreshments*

12noon Children's Haribo Service

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Monday 27th

7.30pm Timeout – men, beer & topics – in the Bier House



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

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.

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



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.

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

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of every month

Singing for Fun

3rd Thursday
of every month

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