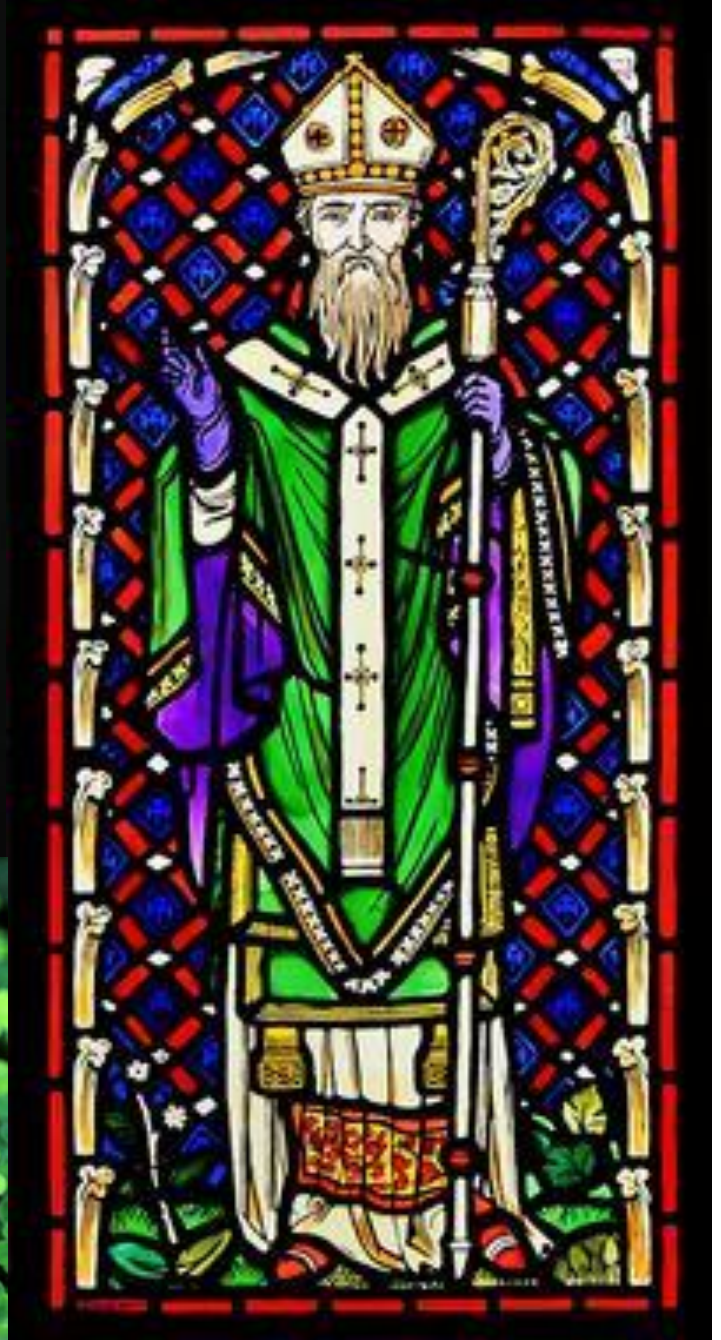
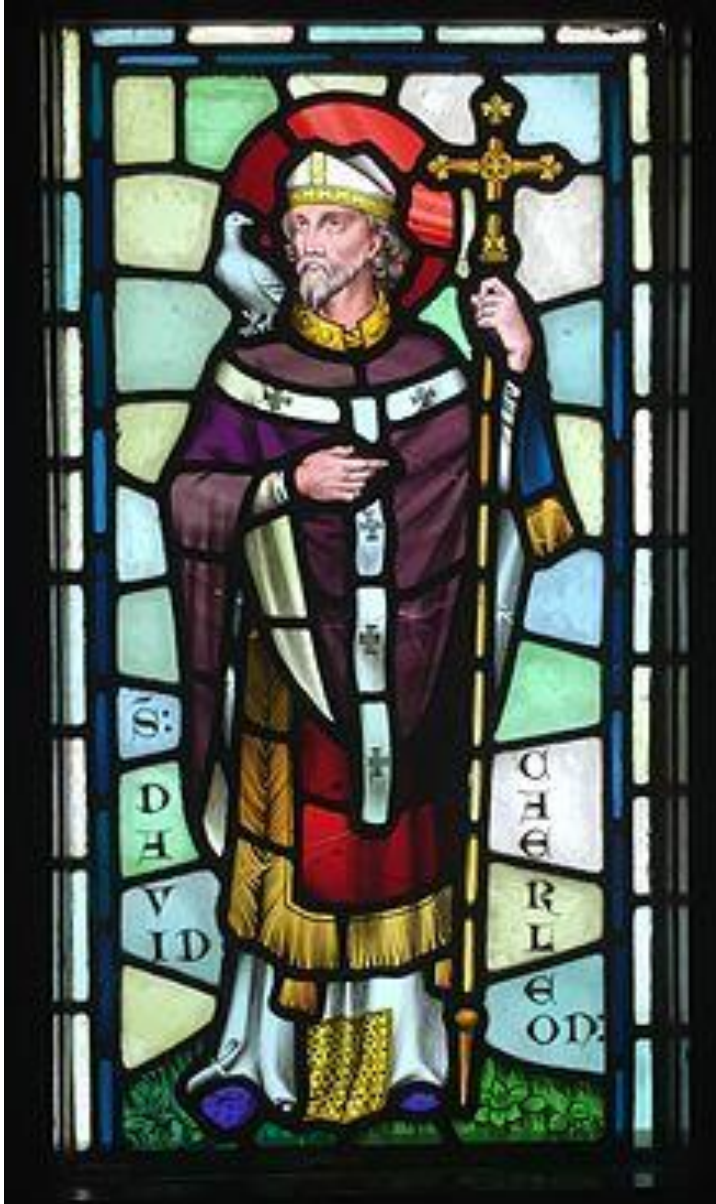


ST PETER'S CHURCH MAGAZINE

MARCH 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



The app on my phone told me that while walking down church path, passing the graveyard, I heard several robins, yellowhammer, blackbird, long tail tit and chaffinch. It also said that there was a cuckoo but I am pretty sure that was an error!!

Except for the cuckoo all the signs were positive that spring is on the way, certainly the snowdrops were saying so.

What else will March bring? The Lent series of talks will take place on Wednesdays, see page 6 for dates and times. The speakers will be Anne, Ted, Gordon and Revd Jane Morgan.

Our Mothering Sunday service is on March 19th at 10am and is a parade service. Mothering Sunday was first celebrated in the 17th century and I always think what a joy it must have been to those young servant girls and boys when they were allowed to visit their homes! How they must have longed to stay with their family.

The Revd Sheilagh Williamson is in Uganda and we hope you enjoy the photos she has sent. Sheilagh will be giving us an update on her return and we will print an account of her visit in the magazine.

During March we celebrate the feast days of the great saints St David and St Patrick, it is still a well known saying in Wales 'Gwnewch y pethau bychain ' which translates as the lovely 'Do the little things.' Maybe not a bad theme for keeping Lent.

Best wishes to all our readers,

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 April 2023 edition of the magazine is **Friday 10th March 2023.** Contributions to magazine@stpetersformby.co.uk*



FRONT COVER:

Stained glass depiction of Saint David, designed by William Burges, at Castell Coch, Cardiff.
St Patrick, patron saint of Ireland - stained glass window from St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin.

Dear Friends,

Someone once said, "Time flies. But it's up to you to be the navigator!"

And time certainly flies! Here we are already into March. It's so true that time waits for no one.

Someone else said, "Time flies over us, but it leaves its shadow behind."



And the shadow of last year's 275th celebrations is the report of November's Vision Day which is included in this month's magazine. And it's not just a report to gather dust in the archives. It is an agenda for the future. Three working groups are spending the next three months looking at how we navigate the future in St Peter's as we seek to be a Community of Welcome, Faith and Service. Please pray for their deliberations as they look at the three areas and navigate how St Peter's can grow inwardly and outwardly in the years ahead. Their suggestions will culminate in an Implementation Day in June and plans finalised for the future.



We continue to pray for the people of Turkey and Syria who have suffered so much after earthquakes devastated their towns and cities. The pictures and reports on our TV screens are harrowing.

Thank you to all who have contributed to the Relief Fund. At the time of writing, £1,044 has been received. Thank you for your generosity.

Thank you, too, to all who have given Easter eggs or money for eggs for the school children of a deprived area of Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria. We heard of them from a neighbour where our cottage is and I assured her that the people of St Peter's would provide Easter eggs for the 162 children of the school. Most of these children would not receive this little sign of hope if you hadn't helped. Your response has been overwhelming. The target was reached in just a few days! I know they will be much appreciated by the children.

The Revd Sheilagh Williamson has just returned from Uganda where she visited our project in Kalule a number of times. Her report is very encouraging. The school is thriving under the new principal, Agnes. The chicken project is now going well after the hiccups in its operations during Covid and the school has now established a banana plantation in the grounds. The entrance hall to the principal's office has been transformed into a modern reception area. Our pupil support scheme has given hope and much needed support to the neediest children.

Education is their key to the future and is one of the most important things we can do for them. Oh yes, Sheilagh tells us that Agnes is already compiling a list of what a work group can do when we (hopefully) visit in 2024!

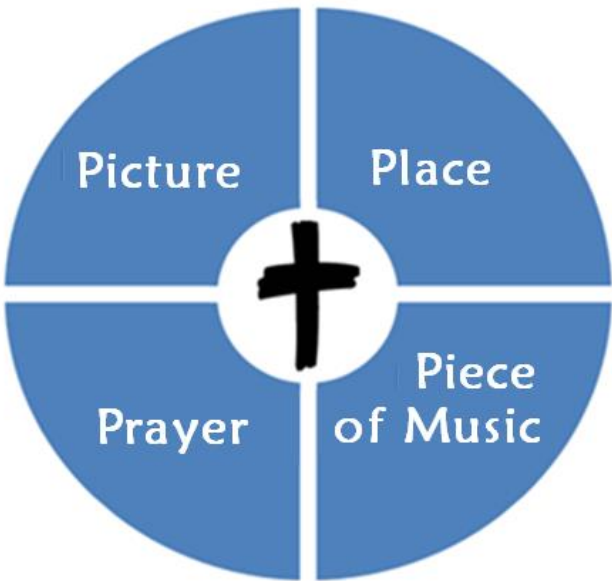
The Women’s Project also has a chicken project sponsored by us and it, too, is now being productive and profitable. Our financial support for them has given them the incentive to start up small businesses like making clothes and they are now going to open a kitchen to sell food.



Sheilagh will be our special preacher on Sunday 12th March at 10am and we look forward to hearing all the news from Kalule.

It is wonderful to be part of such a generous community that looks to reach out in love and care to those both near and far. It is a very powerful witness of God’s love in action.

And, on the theme of time, we are already in Lent!



May I draw your attention to this year’s Lent Series on Wednesdays 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th March at 7.30pm in the Bier House.

Developing last year’s theme of 4 P’s, we will reflect on some more P’s – A Picture (film!), a Piece of Music, a Place of Pilgrimage and a Prayer Journey.

Time is flying, but that’s our navigation chart for March!

Anne

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2023

FRIDAY 3 MARCH

A SERVICE FOR EVERYONE!

I have heard about your faith

Our local service will be at
2pm at the Methodist
Church, Elbow Lane, Formby
www.wwdp.org.uk

This Year's Lent Talks in St Peter's

We have an interesting and varied programme for Lent 2023 as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter.

We are basing the talks on 4 P's –

Picture, Piece of Music, Place of Pilgrimage and Prayer

The talks will take place at 7.30pm in The Bier House (beside the church gates)

~~~~~

### Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March

**Picture: The Mission** - Revd Ted Woods

~~~~~

Wednesday 15th March

A Piece of Music: The Stabat Mater

- Revd Gordon MacLeod

~~~~~

### Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March

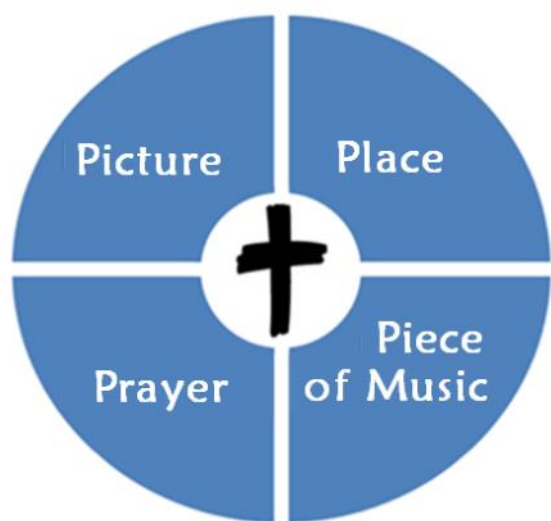
**Taizé A Place of Pilgrimage:** - Revd Anne Taylor

~~~~~

Wednesday 29th March

A Journey in Prayer: - Revd Jane Morgan

~~~~~



## CHURCH LIBRARY

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

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

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

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

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

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

***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.





# Fair Play

As this month begins with St David's Day, this article starts with a Welsh phrase, "chwarae teg", which means fair play. The Welsh appear to use this when evaluating something, concluding that everything possible has been done in the best possible way. The idea of fair play has become much discussed due to a new book on the subject which examines moral issues. The development of the principle of fair play came as a consequence of the English need to obey the rules of the game or business. It is often applied to cricket. There is an old tale that in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century the authorities were concerned society had little understanding of religion and so devised cricket to give all an understanding of eternity. In this century it is the West Coast train line that has a similar effect.

The term is sometimes used in peculiar ways. A recent article on theft in East Germany under the communist regime found that although theft was common there appeared to be rules. East Germans were well fed and adequately clothed but lacked goods enjoyed in West Berlin so it was acceptable, or fair play, to steal but not from friends or relatives or those in need. This attitude is common in prisons where prisoners rarely steal from each other but the system is fair game.

Fair play allows for each other to accept that those around us will agree to work together and do the best they can. We make what is called informed judgements where we do all we can to make the best decision and hope when others know about it they will say 'fair play.'

Fair play means we are often giving advice to others. This is always a delicate operation. Robert Runcie wrote in 1981 on his discussions with the Prince and Princess of Wales before marrying them, "My advice was delicately poised between the cliché and the indiscretion." George Harris in 1957 said to students at the start of a new academic year, "I intended to give you some advice but now I remember how much is left over from last year."

A recent article in a newspaper revealed a philosopher stating that to give advice is to trespass on another's integrity, even when they ask for advice. We have all been given advice, however well intentioned, which we can ignore but this does not mean we should not seek to help others or turn away another's help.

The fair play approach is also about hope. St Paul continually refers to hope. He seeks through mutual assistance 'chwarae teg' to support each other and to give hope to others.

**Rod Jacques**





**Revd Sheilagh Williamson will be speaking at the 10am Eucharist on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March about her recent trip to Kalule.**



**The photographs show some updates of how the money we have raised has been put to very good use.**



**Sheilagh with the Headteacher, Agnes**

We bought the ladies flour, sugar, margarine, baking tins, bowls, utensils etc to reboot the baking business. They will sell cakes from their new canteen that we also funded.



**The new banana plantation in the school grounds.**



**Our funds paid for the ladies to have a meal with meat!**



All of Year 5 and 6 received geometry sets and the girls were also given sanitary protection.



Some of the children who are sponsored in Yr 6



The nursery received crayons, balls and bowls/buckets for porridge. This photo is one of the new classrooms the government built.



Thank you to everyone who has helped to make our Singing Thursdays such fun.

Volunteers, performers and of course our guests.

We need an extra pair of hands to help setting up and putting away (this involves moving chairs and tables) especially on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month.





## A SERVICE OF WHOLENESS



### Dates for your diary:

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April at 6.30 pm

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May at 6.30 pm

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June at 6.30 pm

## March Bible Readings

### 1<sup>st</sup> March – St David's Day

1 Samuel 16:1, 6-13 / Acts 20:28-35 / Matthew 11:25-30

### 5<sup>th</sup> March – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a / Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 / John 3:1-17

### 12<sup>th</sup> March – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent

Exodus 17:1-7 / Romans 5:1-11 / John 4:5-42

### 17<sup>th</sup> March – St Patrick's Day

Psalms 22 / Jeremiah 15:1-21 / John 8:48-59

### 19<sup>th</sup> March – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent / Mothering Sunday

Exodus 2:1-10 / Colossians 3:12-17 / Luke 2:33-35

### 20<sup>th</sup> March – Joseph of Nazareth

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

### 25<sup>th</sup> March – Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary

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

### 26<sup>th</sup> March – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent / Passion Sunday

Ezekiel 37:1-14 / Romans 8:6-11 / John 11:1-45



**LENT**  
Pray + Fast + Give



## Weekly Prayers for our Parish

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

During March please pray for all who live in –

- 5<sup>th</sup> March    Barkfield Avenue, The Copse, The Birches
- 12<sup>th</sup> March    Argarmeols Road, Argarmeols Grove, Mersey Avenue
- 19<sup>th</sup> March    Montagu Road, Stanlawe Road, Fisherman's Close
- 26<sup>th</sup> March    College Avenue, College Path, Golf Road



**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.



## Breakfast Church at 9am in the Bier House Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March

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 9am and is followed by tea, coffee, toast, crumpets etc. Give it a try!

Susan Parkes

## Brass Cleaning

The brass cleaning team is hoping to recruit some new members. If you can spare an hour or so a couple of times in one month, March, April or July are vacant!

All materials provided. Please contact Monica Jones, 873703



## Bacon barmes and banter

1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month  
(except Bank Holidays),  
10.30am - 12 noon

The Bier House, St Peter's Church,  
Green Lane, Formby L37 7DL  
Bus stop right outside the venue.

Free admission, breakfast butties and hot drinks.  
Vegetarian option available.

**Dementia**  
friendly church

This is especially suitable for  
carers and their loved one.



## 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 £25. The occasion would also be printed in the Sunday bulletin. **Please first contact Caroline in 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.**

## Easter Chocolate Appeal 2023

It is time again for our Annual Easter Chocolate Appeal. We are collecting Easter Treats of any sort, Easter Eggs, Chocolate Bunnies, boxes of Maltesers etc for the homeless.



There will be a box in the porch for anything you can donate to help us.  
**Thank you!**





## Primetime

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March - Parish Hall at 7.30pm**

Speaker: Andrew Greenyer - My Volunteering in 2022

Andrew will talk about his volunteering experiences at three very different major sporting events that took place in the North West during 2022; Women's Euro 22, Rugby League World Cup and the World Gymnastics Championship. Explaining the different roles performed at each event and giving some insights into what it takes to put these events on and how their success is reliant on the volunteers.

All ladies welcome

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

**Men, Beer & Topics**

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm in the Bier House**

**Topic:** The Inside Story of a Radiographer

**Speaker:** Gill Holroyd

**Beer and soft drinks available**

**All welcome**



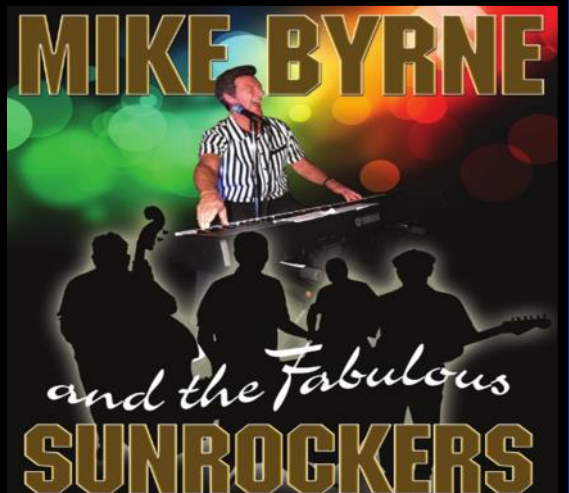
**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023**

**7.30pm to 11pm**

**Gild Hall, Church Rd, Formby L37 3NG**

**A Fantastic Night of Rock and Roll with All Proceeds raised going towards Humanitarian aid for Ukraine**

**Rotary**  
Formby Rotary



**Tickets in advance £10**

Call Formby

Rotary President on **07905 453652**

Club Secretary **01704 873310**



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- Specialist in Wills and Lasting Powers of Attorney
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- Home Probate Service
- Free Home Visits

If you would like some more information or some guidance, please feel free to come and have a chat with me, or alternatively please contact me on **07926 587776** to make an appointment.

### Caroline Speakman

Member of the Society of Willwriters

Email: [southportwills@gmail.com](mailto:southportwills@gmail.com)

Phone: **07926 587776**

[www.southportwills.com](http://www.southportwills.com)



## A great place to make new friends

Formby Manor is a home for life offering outstanding residential, dementia and 24 hour nursing care. Residents receive individual person-centred care, which is adapted as and when medical needs change. With its daily program of wellbeing activities and events, it is a great place to make new friends.

There are 76 fully furnished bedrooms with private en suite wet rooms, as well as several communal lounges and dining rooms, a spa assisted bathroom, hairdresser with nail bar and beautiful landscaped gardens. Formby Manor offers a safe, warm and welcoming home-from-home environment.

*"I can't praise Formby Manor enough for the excellent care and the fantastic friendly, caring staff"*

*"It is a beautiful home"*



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

**Formby Manor Care Centre**  
67 Liverpool Road, Formby L37 6BU  
[newcarehomes.com](http://newcarehomes.com)

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

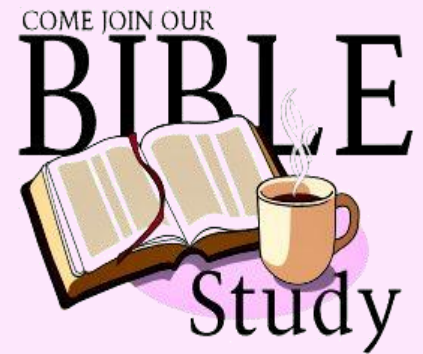
**Wednesday Bible Study Group** will attend the Lent Talk series (see page 6 for details)

Contact Ted Woods 872824

**Friday Bible Study Group at 2pm**

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> March

Contact Peter Paine 07722 127791



**From the Church Register ~ Funerals**



3<sup>rd</sup> February

Ann Spiers

Ron Daniels

13<sup>th</sup> February

Beryl Edwards

27<sup>th</sup> February

Barbara Mayer

**working to Protect Every Childhood**

**It is time for the annual return**

If you would like your box emptied and monies included in this year's return, please bring your box to church or I can collect from you. It would be helpful if boxes can be counted by **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2023**. Completed boxes will be returned to the church porch for your collection.

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



**Thank You** all for your continuing invaluable support.

**Tricia Shaw** (833013)

*tricia55er@hotmail.com*

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



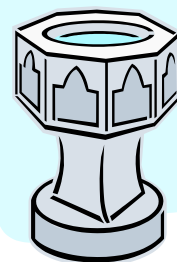
# From the Church Register

~

## Baptisms

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>  
February

Charlotte  
Evelyn  
Hollyoak,  
daughter of  
Jane & Tom



Alfie  
Thomas  
Parry,  
son of Jess  
& Tom

# Vision Day Report

Throughout the day discussion around the five tables centred on four questions:

1. What is the Church for? [What is the purpose of the Church?]
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?

As each of these questions was explored, the answers to questions 1-3 from each table were recorded on flip charts. Looking at these answers together, after the day itself, it appears that three over-arching themes emerge about what the Church is and therefore what St Peter's is trying to express in its life together.

**These themes were that the Church is:**

- A) A Community of Welcome**
- B) A Community of Faith**
- C) A Community of Service**

***Flip chart responses from Question 1:***

***What is the Church for? [What is the purpose of the Church?]***

## ***A Community of Welcome***

Accessibility  
Welcome and inclusion  
Beacon of welcome



## ***A Community of Faith***

Friendship, fellowship, support members  
Worship – familiarity, routine  
Spiritual well-being, spiritual health  
Mission and faith  
Challenge  
Proclamation  
Communicating God's word



## ***A Community of Service***

Outreach  
Helping/supporting each other through actions, life events –  
baptisms, weddings, funerals  
Community inclusiveness  
Challenge  
Proclamation  
Communicating God's word





## ***Flip chart responses from Question 2:***

### ***What does St Peter's do well?***

#### ***A Community of Welcome***

- Links to youth – services/schools/uniformed orgs/tailored events
- Welcoming – but not over whelming
- Family Friendly
- Acceptance, inclusion of all
- Multi-generational
- Non-judgmental
- Inclusive/Acceptance
- Accessibility

#### ***A Community of Faith***

- Tradition in worship - also forward looking, 'bells not smells'.
- Services: having a good feel; incl. music, choral; well-structured/varied
- Sermons – quality, progresses faith
- Fun & humour
- Healthy finances
- Social – food and drink, fun
- Communication processes – variety - web cam, website, live stream, email, social media magazine
- Forward thinking
- Anne & Ted – range of clergy and delivery. Clergy – range & delivery/sermons – fun, humour

#### ***A Community of Service***

- Caring – food bank outside the church; donations incl. non church members
- Communication processes – variety - web cam, website, live stream, email, social media magazine
- Respond to need
- Community outreach
- Outreach
- Uganda
- Educational Trust

## ***Flip chart responses to Question 3:***

### ***What St Peter's doesn't do or could do better***

1. Recruitment/appeal to all ages – young people/youth group. Ages 20-30
2. Activities for the very young e.g., 0-5 years
3. Engagement – Involvement of families after confirmation/baptism
4. Welcome pack or board – names, faces, rotas, how to get involved
5. Improving communication e.g., how the church works, finances, educational trust
6. Church open more often – walk ins

7. Visibly inclusive - Website to show we are an inclusive church
8. Storage for prams/mobility scooters - No space for mobility scooters/ prams etc wheelchairs: review accessibility

This led the final table discussions that were recorded on individual sheets collected from each table at the end of the day.

#### Question 4:

##### How might we take things forward?

- Our outreach needs to help these groups:
  - Socially isolated
  - Food & fuel poverty
  - Poor health
- Create a Welcome Pack
- Youth group formation - Help to develop youth groups
- Sponsorship from local businesses for serious fabric repair e.g., roof
- Audit/request help and expertise, skills people are happy to volunteer - Identify those skills church members have that can be transferred to church roles. To improve what we do by involving more people
- Steering group to identify volunteers to follow-up on key priorities e.g., recruitment of new members
- Speak to parents at Sunday Club and gain their views about how to improve things
- Action group to look at child/youth ministry. Look at how to communicate with them e.g., Twitter, Instagram
- Look at opening church/coffee shop on a regular basis. Need manpower.
- Look at inclusivity of church for people with additional needs
- Make sure any new initiative has plenty of support before it starts
- Need to be more proactive – to draw in likeminded members of our community. Set goals for 1 yr – 3yrs – 5yrs and group to oversee and make sure goals are achieved.
- An awareness of the bridges connecting St Peters being explicit about the good news to people who don't know what is happening
- Help organise/develop parish away days
- Little fishes – help improve, continuous improvement, stories/activities
- Involving the opinions of others in that age cohort: ideas/what they want – “build it and they will come”.





## ***The way forward:***

One suggestion would be to use the three themes as the basis for discussion about implementing the ideas from the Vision Day. To set up three small, time limited working groups [one for each theme] to discuss how to implement the suggested actions. Then to bring the output from the three groups together to form a coherent plan for future development possibly at a follow-up “Vision Implementation Day”.

We recognise that the suggestions of the ways forward do not all fit neatly into just one of the themes. So, groups will need to be aware of where the overlaps are. Part of the purpose of the implementation day would be to enhance suggestions from one group with ideas from another group and combine suggested initiatives to improve them.

### **A Community of Welcome working group to consider:**

- Creating a welcome pack
- Look at opening church/coffee shop on a regular basis. Need manpower.
- Being an inclusive church- what does that mean, how can we implement it and make it better known
- Need to be more proactive – to draw in likeminded members of our community. Set goals
- How do we best reach young people? Do we need a youth group/club?
- Involving the opinions of others in that age cohort: ideas/what they want – “build it and they will come”.

### **A Community of Faith working group to consider:**

- Audit/request help and expertise, skills people are happy to volunteer -
- Identify those skills church members have that can be transferred to church roles. To improve what we do by involving more people
- Speak to parents at Sunday Club and gain their views about how to improve things
- Little fishes – help improve, continuous improvement, stories/activities
- Action group to look at child/youth ministry. Look at how to communicate with them e.g., Twitter, Instagram
- Steering group to identify volunteers to follow-up on key priorities e.g., recruitment of new members
- Make sure any new initiative has plenty of support before it starts
- Help organise/develop parish away days /retreats

### **A Community of Service working group to consider:**

- Our outreach needs to help these groups:
  - o Socially isolated
  - o Food & fuel poverty
  - o Poor health
- An awareness of the bridges connecting St Peters being explicit about the good news to people who don't know what is happening
- Sponsorship from local businesses for serious fabric repair e.g., roof



# FORMBY REFUGEE SUPPORT GROUP



Welcome to the New Year of **WELCOME DAYS** for asylum seekers to St Peter's Church Hall which starts on March 15<sup>th</sup>. For those who may be reading this for the first time, we invite up to thirteen asylum seekers through our contacts at Asylum Link Merseyside (ALM) to a free meal and time on the beach. If any readers would like to assist with this rewarding and enjoyable "work" by providing food, a listening ear or beach activities please contact Peter.

We also collect good quality clothes for asylum seekers which are distributed by ALM. We are particularly grateful for men's clothes but women's clothes are also welcome. Warm clothing is particularly needed. If you are able to bring clothing to the Parish Hall on Paradise Lane when the Parish Office is open on weekday mornings that is much appreciated, if not, Peter is able to collect from your home.

We are most grateful to the Mothers' Union who collect toiletries (bars of soap, sponges, flannels, tooth brushes, toothpaste, shower gel, shampoo) for us to distribute to our guests when they leave at the end of the afternoon. If you are able to help with this collection there is a box for contributions in the church porch and items may be left there. The porch is open during daylight hours. .

What we do here at St Peter's is only a drop in the ocean compared with all the amazing things that happen at ALM: feeding and housing the destitute, teaching English, advocating work for refugee applications, cycle mechanics, working an allotment, cleaning beaches, planting trees, singing in a choir and many others. If you want to know more there is a copy of the ALM annual Review in the church visit the website - [www.asylumlink.org.uk](http://www.asylumlink.org.uk).

Finally, if you have a bicycle that might be no longer needed or is unusable ALM would be pleased to have it. Their mechanics will repair it and it will provide mobility for an asylum seeker who can then join the cycle club! Please let Peter know if you have one and we could collect it and take it to ALM on the 15<sup>th</sup> March.

[peterspaine@gmail.com](mailto:peterspaine@gmail.com) or 07722127791 thank you. Peter.





At the meeting on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February we welcomed Reverend Peter Paine to give us one of his excellent talks with beautiful slides.

This talk was about his trip to Georgia and Azerbaijan and the meeting was very well attended both by MU members and visitors who had been with Peter and Carol on their trip.

At our meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 2pm we are expecting another fascinating talk from Professor Colin Adams. His previous talk (just before lockdown) was very entertaining as he explained about the work he was doing at Liverpool University dealing with manuscripts rescued from "tips."

As previously reported the April meeting will be an outing to the Sunshine Rooms for lunch and it is vital that members intending to go give their names to Herbert at the March meeting (or if unable to attend that meeting please ring him on the number below).

The toiletries members had provided over previous months were collected by Peter after his talk and he expressed sincere thanks for all that members were doing.

Toothbrushes please in March, toothpaste in April.

**Herbert (873367) and Jean**

## THE FOODBANK



*The Church Porch is open  
everyday from 10am to 5pm for  
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Branch Director



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## Things Mum Would Never Say...

"How on earth can you see the TV sitting so far back?"

"Yeah, I used to skip school a lot, too"

"Just leave all the lights on ... it makes the house look more cheery"

"Let me smell that shirt -- Yeah, it's good for another week"

"Go ahead and keep that stray dog, honey. I'll be glad to feed and walk him every day"

"Well, if Daniel's mum says it's OK, that's good enough for me."

"The curfew is just a general time to shoot for. It's not like I'm running a prison around here."

"I don't have a tissue with me ... just use your sleeve"



"WELL, PASTOR, IT WASN'T DAD'S BEST ROUND, BUT IT SURE WAS HIS QUIETEST, PLAYIN' WITH YOU."

## Ever Thought??

Tapes had side A and side B so it's only logical that their successor would be a the CD.

Your fingers have fingertips but your toes don't have toetips, yet you can tiptoe but not tipfinger!

I've started telling everyone about the benefits of eating dried grapes.

It's about raisin awareness really.

I was walking past a farm and a sign said 'Duck, eggs'.

I thought: "That's an unnecessary comma - and then it hit me."

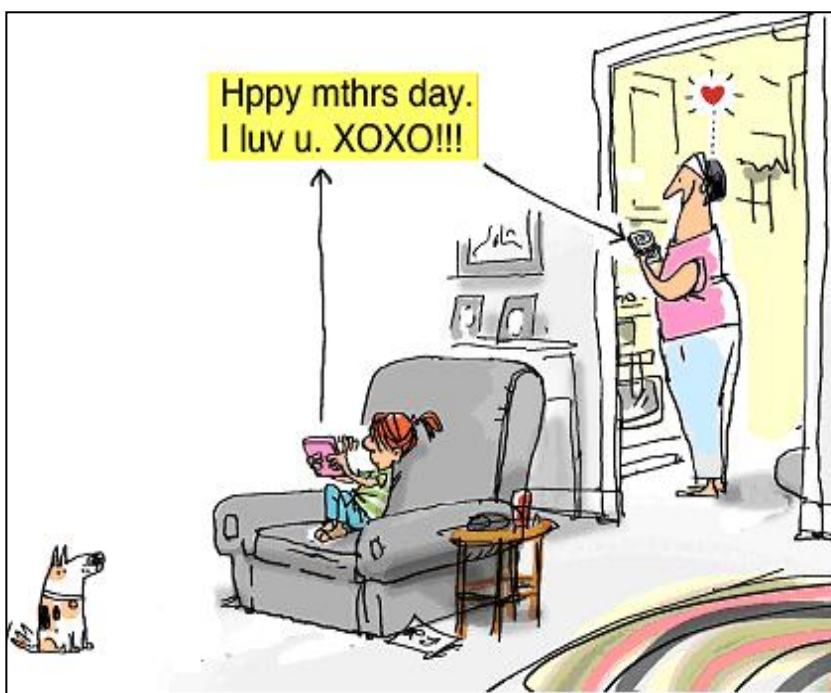
**My grandad  
always said "as  
one door closes,  
another opens",  
lovely man,  
terrible cabinet  
maker.**



# Women in the Bible

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

SARAH  
 ELIZABETH  
 REBEKAH  
 BATHSHEBA  
 MARTHA  
 Jael  
 MARY  
 DEBORAH  
 ANNA  
 BILHAH  
 RUTH  
 VASHTI  
 TAMAR  
 HAGAR  
 LEAH  
 MIRIAM  
 RACHEL  
 ABIGAIL  
 ZIPPORAH  
 RAHAB  
 DORCUS  
 EVE  
 KEZIAH  
 NAOMI



## 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](mailto:office@stpetersformby.co.uk). This is a way to help us keep in touch.  
 Email addresses will be used only by St Peter's.



# From the Back Pew

## Ted Woods

### BLESSING OF SAME-SEX PARTNERSHIPS PASSED

Meeting in February, General Synod agreed to welcome the proposal of the bishops of the Church of England to provide prayers to bless same-sex partnerships in church.

#### **The result of the voting was -**

bishops 36 in favour and 4 against with 2 abstentions;  
clergy 111 in favour and 85 against with 3 abstentions;  
laity 103 in favour with 92 against with 5 abstentions.



The vote was taken after 8 hours of debate and after 6 years of discussion through the Living in Love and Faith process.

Opposition to the blessing of same-sex couples came from two opposite groups. Firstly, the conservatives who uphold the view that marriage can only be between a man and a woman and that extra-marital sex is condemned in Scripture. Secondly, the motion was opposed by some liberals who want full marriage in church for same-sex partnerships. The former group saying the proposal was going too far, while the latter feel it has not gone far enough.

The bishops' proposal to allow a service of blessing on couples who are in civil partnerships or who have been civilly married was, therefore, a compromise to keep the church together.

By all reports it was not an easy debate and the conclusion was not foregone. There were many amendments proposed all of which were lost except one which stated that there was to be no change in marriage doctrine – that Christian marriage was between one man and one woman.

Part of the bishops' argument was that the proposed prayers would bless same-sex couples as people rather than their relationship – an argument that many have found to be a bit Jesuitical!

The motion passed also included a clause which expressed "lament and repent (ance) of the failure of the Church to be welcoming to LBGTQI+ people and the harm that LBGTQI+ people have experienced and continue to experience in the life of the Church."



The prayers of blessing are now to be finalised by the bishops before July and services of blessing will be available after that date. Clergy will be offered a 'conscience clause' not to perform such services if it goes against their principles and view of Scripture.

However, services of blessing will be available from July in St Peter's for those who wish to have their civil partnerships or marriages blessed in church.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd Justin Welby, said that while he "joyfully" welcomed the proposed service, he himself would not conduct such a service due to his position as head of the Anglican Communion where a majority are not in favour. He wanted to remain a figure of unity rather than division.

Indeed, one of the speakers at General Synod, the Archbishop of the Province of Alexandria, and a member of GAFCON a conservative grouping in the Anglican Communion, even though a guest at Synod, spoke against what the bishops were proposing, saying it went against the majority view of churches in the Communion.

In an interesting intervention in the debate, the Archbishop of York, the Most Revd Stephen Cottrell, speaking in favour of the motion, spoke of how doctrines and beliefs develop over time as the Holy Spirit continues to inform and challenge the Church.

Conservatives hold that Scripture cannot be developed in that way, as one of those who opposed the motion put it, "the Church cannot name as holy what has always before now been called a sin."

So much depends not on the authority of Scripture, which is accepted, but how Scripture is to be interpreted.

As the Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Revd Stephen Croft, said about same-sex couples in loving, permanent, faithful and stable relationships, "Their pain and witness has caused me to re-visit Scripture and change my heart and mind."

And speaking personally, it was only as I made a serious study of the passages in the Bible that appear to condemn homosexuality, that I too had a change of heart and mind, and recognised that what was written in Scripture about homosexuality was about power, abuse and paganism rather than loving and stable relationships.

The Bishop of London, Dame Sarah Mullally, who spearheaded the motion through Synod, spoke of the proposed services of blessing as "a moment of hope for the Church." The Archbishops added that this will be "the first time the Church of England publicly, unreservedly and joyfully welcomes same-sex couples in church."

# Diary Dates March 2023



## Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>

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

## Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>

2.00pm Mothers' Union meet in the Bier House – speaker Prof Colin Adams

## Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>

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

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

2.00pm World Day of Prayer Service in the Methodist Church, Elbow Lane



## Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>

9.00am Breakfast Church in the Bier House

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



## Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent

8.30am Eucharist (BCP)

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

6.30pm Choral Evensong



## Monday 6<sup>th</sup>

10.30am Bacon barmes & banter in the Bier House



## Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>

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

11.00am Woodlands Care Home Eucharist

## Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>

11.00am Eucharist *followed by refreshments*

7.30pm Lent Talks in the Bier House – see separate notice for details

## Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>

2.00pm Singing for Fun in the Parish Hall



## Friday 10<sup>th</sup>

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

## Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent

8.30am Eucharist (CW)

10.00am Parish Eucharist and Sunday Club followed by refreshments

6.30pm Choral Evensong

## Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> Refugee Welcome Day

11.00am Eucharist *followed by refreshments*

7.30pm Lent Talks in the Bier House – see separate notice for details

7.30pm Primetime Ladies group in the Church Hall



## Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>

2.00pm Singing's Good for Your Brain! With Mandy & Maggie in the Parish Hall

## Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>

### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent / Mothering Sunday

8.30am Eucharist (BCP)

10.00am All-Age Parade Eucharist

6.30pm Service of Wholeness

## Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>

11.00am Eucharist *followed by refreshments*

7.30pm Lent Talks in the Bier House





## Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>

2.00pm Chaos Fun Choir in the Parish Hall

## Friday 24<sup>th</sup>

3.00pm Wedding of Rebecca Gibney & Rhys Evans



## Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>

### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent / Passion Sunday

8.30am Eucharist (CW)

10.00am Parish Eucharist & Baptism *followed by refreshments*

12noon Children's Haribo Service

6.30pm The Cross of Christ – a special service for Passion Sunday

## Monday 27<sup>th</sup>

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



## Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup>

11.00am Eucharist *followed by refreshments*

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

7.30pm Lent Talks in the Bier House – see separate notice for details



## Thursday 30<sup>th</sup>

9.15am Easter Service for TSP Key Stage 1 in St Peter's Church

12noon Memorial Service and Interment for Jim Dixon

## Friday 31<sup>st</sup>

9.15am Easter Service for TSP Key Stage 2 in Holy Trinity Church

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



## Future Dates –

Palm Sunday 2.30pm Relax Service for Older People

Holy Week 7.30pm Compline Sunday to Wednesday

7.30pm Maundy Thursday Eucharist

2.00pm Good Friday – An Hour By the Cross

22<sup>nd</sup> April 3.00pm Installation of Bishop John in Liverpool Cathedral

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

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



St Peter's has a contactless payment machine for donations.



*St Peter's Church was originally "The Ancient Chapelry of Formby, St Peter Apostle and Martyr." It dates from the 12<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> July 1747.*

For further details please refer to our website: [www.stpetersformby.co.uk](http://www.stpetersformby.co.uk)



## **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 - 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> March**



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 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> March**

## **A Special Mothering Sunday All-Age Parade Service**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 10am**

We are joined by all our uniformed groups and the Cubs will look after the prayers.

A great service for all ages.



## **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.

**Date: Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm**

**[www.stpetersformby.co.uk](http://www.stpetersformby.co.uk)**

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