

ST PETER'S CHURCH MAGAZINE

APRIL 2023



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

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to British Summer Time – it's always a relief when the clocks spring forward and the evenings lengthen! It seems no time at all since it was Christmas; yet here we are at Palm Sunday and Easter Week – and the hope that the Resurrection brings.

The new printer has been a big improvement over its predecessor, both in terms of reliability and of enhanced colour quality. We work it hard, so it will be interesting to see how long it survives the onslaught!



Advance warning – the Annual Parochial Church Meeting is scheduled for Sunday 21st May; before then the Electoral Roll is open for revision: from Sunday 9th April to Wednesday 26th April. Approximately 180 members of the church are already registered to vote at the APCM. If you would like to have your name added to the Roll, there will be Application Forms available in the Church Porch.

Finally, I should like to express my appreciation of Fr Kevin Eastell and his wife, Ann, both of whom have both died in the last few months. They served St Peter's between 1976 and 1982, well before our move to Formby. But they made us very welcome at the English-speaking chaplaincy which they set up in Doué-la-Fontaine in the Anjou region of France; it was a privilege and a pleasure to worship with them! And to deliver their St Peter's Magazine!

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 May 2023 edition of the magazine is **Friday 7th April 2023.***
Contributions to [magazine@stpetersformby.co.uk](mailto:office@stpetersformby.co.uk)

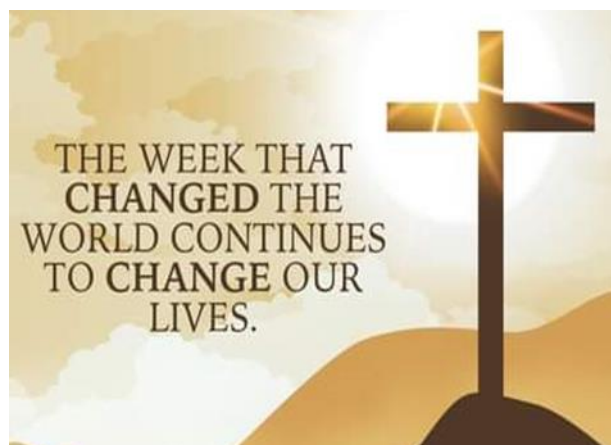


FRONT COVER: Easter Cross in St Peter's churchyard 2022.

Dementia
friendly church

Dear Friends,

This month's magazine comes out just as we enter Holy Week which has been described as "The week that changed the world continues to change our lives." It is a week in which we are invited to walk and watch with Christ through the events and people of the first Holy Week which culminated in Christ's death and resurrection.



Thank you to all who delivered Easter cards throughout the parish with details and invitations to our services. We hope the simple, reflective services which we have prepared will help us to appreciate more of what Christ has done for us by his life, death and resurrection, and in our hearts and lives to respond to his love. Do invite a friend to join you. Entering the door of a church can be a very big step and being with someone makes all the difference.

After the sombre notes of Holy Week, we meet to celebrate Easter on Sunday 9th April when the church will be filled with light, colour and joyful music as we join with Christians around the world to proclaim that Christ is risen.

Later in April we look forward to the "Last Night at the Proms" – a concert presented by our Musical Director, David Holroyd, and the Amadeus Chamber Choir. Many of you will remember the most enjoyable concert last year to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. This year we celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. So come along to an evening of good music, sing-alongs and flag-waving!



Bishop John Perumbalath will be installed as Bishop of Liverpool in the Cathedral on Saturday 22nd April at 3pm. Soon afterwards he will twice be in St Peter's! What better place?!

The first occasion will be for a Deanery Confirmation Service on Sunday 18th June at 4pm, and then he will preach at our Patronal Festival on Sunday 2nd July at 10am.

On the topic of Confirmation, this will probably be the last time for a number of years that St Peter's will host the Deanery Confirmation service. It is always good to be confirmed in your home parish, so please let me know if any, young person or adult, wants to be confirmed this year.

May you all have a blessed, meaningful and hope-filled Easter.

Anne





St Peter's HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2023

**Services to help us
reflect on the death and
resurrection of Jesus**

Palm Sunday

- 8.30am Eucharist (BCP)
- 10.00am Parish Eucharist *followed by refreshments*
- 2.30pm A Relaxed Easter Service – 30 minute service for older people
- 6.30pm Compline & Reflection **'The Shout of the Crowd'** – Revd Anne Taylor

THE SOUNDS OF HOLY WEEK

Monday 3rd

- 7.30pm Compline & Reflection **'The Clatter of Scattering Coins'** – Jane Morgan

Tuesday 4th

- 7.30pm Compline & Reflection **'The Noise of the Cock Crowing'** – Peter Davies

Wednesday 5th

- 11.00am Eucharist *followed by refreshments*
- 7.30pm Evening Service & Reflection **'The Splashing of Water'**
– Janet Eastwood

Maundy Thursday

- 7.30pm Eucharist & Reflection **'The Sound of Pouring Wine'** – Gordon MacLeod
followed by an optional Vigil in church until 10pm

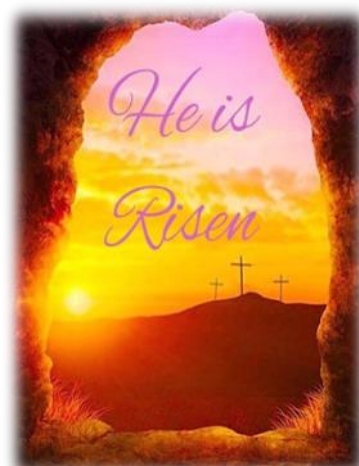
Good Friday



- 10.15am Walk of Witness from the Bier House to the Village
- 11.00am Passion Play (Formby Pool grounds)
- 2.00pm An Hour By the Cross in Church

Celebrating the Resurrection Easter Day

- 8.30am Eucharist (CW)
- 10.00am **Easter Eucharist & Sunday Club**
followed by Children's Easter Egg Hunt
- 6.30pm Choral Evensong



SHEILAGH'S UGANDA REPORT

We were delighted to welcome the Revd Sheilagh Williamson back to St Peter's a few weeks ago to tell us of her recent trip to our project in Kalule, Uganda.

The project was set up by Sheilagh some years ago during a sabbatical she took in Uganda; as a parish, we in St Peter's linked up with it in 2016 and sent work parties to Kalule in 2017 and 2019.



Then Covid struck! We were anxious to get a first-hand report of how this had affected the project and so we were so pleased when Sheilagh told us she was making a trip to Uganda in late January.

The Uganda Committee met with Sheilagh before she departed and gave her a list of questions about the project and also £1,000 – 5,000,000 in Ugandan shillings! - to use for the project as she saw fit – for essential repairs, for school needs and to help in starting any self-sustaining projects.

Repairs were urgently needed to the plinths around some of the classrooms whose foundations were not deep enough. These plinths basically hold the walls together. No gutters are used in Uganda and the rain, so heavy at times, just drops off the roofs on to the plinths, which in time break up because of water ingress. Repairs were needed to save and stabilise the classrooms.



On our last visit we had employed builders to repair a row of six units in the school grounds to be used as teachers' accommodation. With the expansion of the school, more accommodation for teachers was needed. The new principal, Agnes, decided to subdivide each unit to make two rooms. Sheilagh was able to pay for six new internal walls. But six new steel doors were also needed, and her funds couldn't stretch for all of them.

She put it up to the school to raise the money for some of the doors – which they did, instead of asking us for more money. This is so encouraging as it is a sign that the whole principle of self-sustainability is beginning to be taken on board.

During Covid one of the main leaders of the Women's Project and the caretaker of their hut died suddenly. With no-one around on the site because of lockdown, her keys were stolen and their equipment disappeared. The women were shattered by this loss and when Sheilagh met them they were subdued and disheartened. Out of the £1,000 Sheilagh was able to replace their equipment and not only get them up and running once again but also pay for some building work to help them make a canteen where the food they produced could be sold to make money for their families' education. Another example of being self-sustaining.

To celebrate this re-start of their project, Sheilagh bought supplies for a slap-up meal of potatoes, meat and greens – a rare treat – and left a group of ladies re-enthused and re-energised .

For 7th grade, geometry sets, pens, pencils and paper were purchased by Sheilagh to give the pupils the best chance of doing well in the their end of primary school exams, so that they could continue their education in better secondary schools.



She also met with the orphan and needy children we sponsor.

Help was given to one of the women to extend her hairdressing activities to include a foot washing and massage service – a much appreciated luxury in Uganda!

Money goes far in Uganda!

We're hoping to send out a work party in early summer of 2024, and Sheilagh was able to identify some of the skills needed for another trip to Kalule.

These include:- **Painting** the old classrooms; **basic repair work**; **gardening** – the principal wants to establish a garden to grow herbs and plants for school meals; **wood-working** to help make and repair school furniture; **crafts** to help the women develop more items to make and sell; **teaching skills** to resource the teachers, together with getting alongside members of the women's project and school to encourage and seek ways of self-sustainability.

Agnes, the Principal, is already drawing up a list!

Confirmation

**St Peter's Church ~
Sunday 18th June 2023**

Confirmation is the completion of baptism in the sense that, for those who were baptised as infants and for whom promises were made on their behalf by parents and godparents, those same promises are now made by the individual. Or, if you have been baptised as an adult, it is a renewing of your dedication to God.

In confirmation we 'confirm' that we dedicate ourselves to Jesus and undertake to live the Christian life as best we can, and God 'confirms' that he loves us and accepts us, and bestows on us afresh the Holy Spirit to help and strengthen us all our days. For most, Confirmation is an affirming of their faith and a very meaningful step. For young people it is also when they are prepared to receive Holy Communion.

Confirmation is available to anyone who feels ready to make this decision from Year 5 through to adulthood. Those who wish to be confirmed, either as a young person or as an adult, please contact the Clergy. **The Confirmation Service in St Peter's will be held at 4pm on Sunday 18th June.** This will be the last time the service will be held in St Peter's for the next few years as it is a deanery service so hosted by different churches each year. It is also exciting that the new Bishop of Liverpool, Rt Revd Dr John Perumbalath, will be with us for the first time.

- For young people preparation will be after school on a day that suits those interested.
- For adults there will be an evening arranged.

So whatever age you are, if you are interested in being confirmed or if you have further questions please do contact us. **Revd Anne Taylor & Revd Gordon MacLeod**

At our meeting on the 2nd March we had a fascinating talk from Professor Colin Adams of Liverpool University. He was talking to us about exploration and he commenced by explaining that he loved climbing mountains and particularly when he was exploring them for the first time. Moving on to link this to his research he drew our attention to the people who had explored in pre-Christian eras for example circumnavigating Africa and travelling directly across the Indian Ocean instead of going from town to town along the coast.



On Thursday 6th April we have an outing for lunch at the Sunshine Tea Rooms in Ince Blundell and in May we are looking forward to welcoming our curate Revd Gordon MacLeod.

Our collection for the refugees is developing well and in May we are collecting toothpaste, soap and shower gel etc.

Please remember that we do have two other charities i.e. Seafarers Mission and Away from it All.

Very many thanks for all you have done in the past and please keep up the good work.

Herbert (873367) and Jean

OSCARS

As I write this article, the Oscars for 2023 have just been held. Fortunately, this year they passed without incident!

In 2005, the film *'The Passion of Christ'*, was nominated for three Oscars. It depicted the hours leading up to the death of Jesus on the cross. Its sequel, which is due to be released in 2024, is simply called, *'The Passion of Christ: Resurrection'*.



I think it is important that there is a sequel to the initial film.

Throughout Lent and on into Passion week, people have rightly been focussing on the cross and suffering. That theme of suffering can become so acute, that some people, get stuck there and get hung up on theological theories about the atonement.

Indeed one of the criticisms of the film *'The Passion of Christ'*, was that it left viewers emotionally drained, rather than being spiritually uplifted.

Revd Dr Sam Wells, Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields, points out that the suffering of the cross, is simply the prelude to something much greater that is to be told.

'The cross is not a half-baked, ham-fisted or half-immoral attempt to rescue, ransom or redeem us from sin, death or evil. It's a harrowing exposure of the depravity of our sin, a definitive demonstration of God's perpetual purpose, a unique revelation of God's wondrous love, an ultimate disclosure of our destiny with God, and an astonishing invitation to be with Christ in paradise' ⁽¹⁾

Yes, Easter *is* about being uplifted, as we share the news of the joy of the resurrection.

There is an old and well-known African American spiritual, about the birth of Christ, which also has a lesser-known Easter version,

*'Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere; Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus lives again'.*

Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Wells, S. (2016). 'Hanging By A Thread'. Norwich: Canterbury Press.



Revd Gordon MacLeod

Overlooked

Over the past few months there has been a series of important articles which looked at women who, in the past, have been overlooked or suppressed in their field of performance. Their endeavours are not to argue for equality for women, which is another battlefield, but to find artists, musicians and others who have made serious attempts at succeeding in their chosen field. Radio 3 has concentrated on presenting women composers who have been neglected.

The women erased from musical history

On International Women's Day 2018, BBC Radio 3 broadcast a concert of music by five "forgotten" women composers. All five women enjoyed some recognition for music-making during their lives, yet their achievements were often downplayed – and in some cases forgotten after their deaths.



Marianna Martines (1744-1813) an Austrian composer, singer and pianist from a noble Neapolitan family.

Augusta Holmès (1847-1903) was a French composer of Irish descent.

Leokadiya Kashperova (1872-1940) was a Russian pedagogue and pianist.

Johanna Müller-Hermann (1868–1941) was an Austrian composer and pedagogue.

Florence B Price (1887-1953) was an award-winning composer from an affluent African-American family.

There is the life of Mendelssohn's sister Fanny, whose work was seen as 'slight' or 'a hobby' but is delightful and equal to her brother's. She is not even mentioned in the Oxford Companion to Music. There are now art exhibitions concentrating on all female works, important to recover what is lost.

The history of society needed to ensure that women were seen as mothers and housekeeper and little else, obscures the question of the influence of women in history. There has been a significant concentration recently on the Tudor period, especially the wives of Henry VIII. The history of the reformation in Tudor England showed that women did involve themselves in this upheaval. There are two aspects to this. The first is the effect of several queens on the reformation and the other is the quiet but effective pressure from within the family.

There were four queens who directly wished to direct the reformation. The work of Mary and Elizabeth is well known, but that of Lady Jane Grey who was executed for assuming the crown, was ineffective. There are two who worked in the background to effect change. Anne Boleyn absorbed the new thinking on the doctrine such as justification by

faith and the sole authority of the Bible. She linked with Thomas Cromwell to drive reform. The other queen was Catherine Parr, Henry's last wife. She was linked to protestant approaches to religion and wrote an influential book 'The Lamentation of a Sinner.' These were powerful intelligent women who had access to those in authority.

But what about the wives and others who were held in a tight-knit and controlling environment. In the rising of the north of England against Elizabeth and parliament's enforcement of her church the Queen's secretary was informed of the wife of one rebel leader, "she doth hasten him and encourage him to persevere, and rides up and down with their army." Perhaps the most telling influence of women is the number who were executed during Mary's reign. It is known 284 were burned at the stake, of whom 51 were women. The determination and courage of these women must be acknowledged.

Another area where women became influential happened when Tudor priests were allowed to marry under Elizabeth's reforms. The support and drive of women in helping their ordained husbands has followed down the centuries. Another area noted for women is in education. The demand they stay at home and bring up the family would have placed them as important in ensuring religion and ethics.

The influence of women goes back to the beginning of the gospels. It was women who stood by Jesus on the cross while the men ran away. And women then found the empty tomb.



St Paul at the end of his letter to Romans, Ch 16, lists the names of twenty-four followers of whom six are women. William Barclay in his commentary says Junias was a woman's name and Paul states that she was a Christian before him, which means she goes back to Stephen's time. In the early church a woman could be ranked as an apostle.

None of the above is meant to be an apologia for misogyny and the suppression of women. Each era has its problems and culture and thank goodness we are now, especially in the church, looking properly to ensure equality.



Rod Jacques

Leicester Cathedral is celebrating having a fully female clergy team in what it believes might be a first for England.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leicestershire-64734290>

A SERVICE OF WHOLENESS



Dates for your diary:

Sunday 30th April at 6.30 pm

Sunday 21st May at 6.30 pm

Sunday 25th June at 6.30 pm

April Bible Readings

2nd April – Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a / Philippians 2:5-11 / Matthew 21:1-11

6th April – Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-14 / 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 / John 13:1-17, 31b-35

7th April - Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12 / Hebrews 10:16-25 / John 18:1 – 19:42

9th April – Easter Day

Jeremiah 31:1-6 / Acts 10:34-43 / Matthew 28:1-10

16th April – 2nd Sunday of Easter

Exodus 14:10-31, 15:20-21 / Acts 2:14a, 22-32 / John 20:19-31

23rd April – 3rd Sunday of Easter

Zephaniah 3:14-20 / Acts 2:14a, 36-41 / Luke 24:13-35

23rd April – George, martyr, patron of England

1 Maccabees 2:59-64 / 2 Timothy 2:3-13 / John 15:18-21

25th April – Mark the Evangelist

Proverbs 15:28-33 / Acts 15:35-41 / Mark 13:5-13

30th April – 4th Sunday of Easter

Genesis 7 / Acts 2:42-47 / John 10:1-10



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 April please pray for all who live in –



2nd April Victoria Way, Shireburn Road, Fairways Court

9th April Tower End, Badgers Rake, Harington Road

16th April Birch Green, Oakfield Drive, St Peter's Close

23rd April Firs Link, Firs Crescent, Firs Close

30th April Holmwood Gardens, Lenton Avenue, Vaughan Close

Singing Thursdays!



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



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L37 7EH

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3rd Thursday of every month
4th Thursday of every month

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CHURCH LIBRARY

TWO NEW BOOKS FOR HOLY WEEK & EASTER

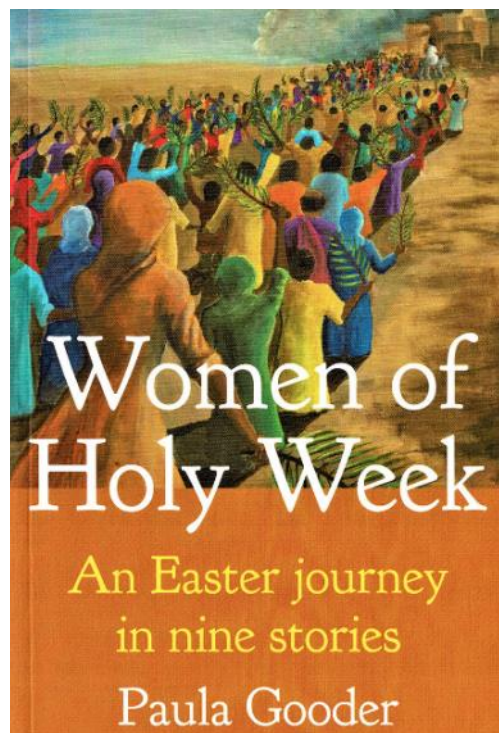
Women of Holy Week – An Easter journey in nine stories by Paula Gooder

Starting with Palm Sunday and finishing with Ascension Day, these nine stories imagine what it might have been like to accompany Jesus in this final week from the perspective of nine women. From people who had the most fleeting encounters with Jesus to his most devoted followers.

The Things He Carried: A Journey to the Cross: Meditations for Lent and Holy Week by Archbishop Stephen Cottrell

Reflections focussing on the things that Jesus carried: not just the cross, but the crown of thorns, the seamless robe, the other burdens laid upon him, and also the hopes and fears that he carried in his heart.

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. Please browse and enjoy reading our books.



Primetime

Wednesday 19th April - Parish Hall at 7.30pm

All ladies welcome
Looking forward to seeing you,
Elaine and Sonia.



There is no Timeout in April.
Next Timeout meeting dates:
15th May and 12th June.

Breakfast Church at 9am in the Bier House Saturday 1st April

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



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 - 21st and 28th April



**Date: Easter
Sunday 9th April**

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.

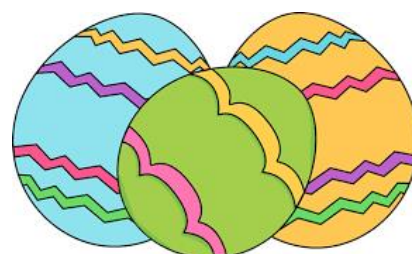
All children are welcome, though it is designed for the younger age group (up to Yr3). We also have children's puzzle sheets each week; please ask those on duty at the church door.

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
19th April at 2pm**





Caroline provided some experiences of a shared meal with the children showing some of the Jewish customs of Passover. In this

way the children start to understand the very special meal that Jesus and his disciples shared.

We ate bread with lamb, grape juice representing wine and other food like that from the holy land. Thank you to Caroline and also to Joseph Edwards, our eldest child helper, who often works alongside the younger members. Joseph helped read the script of the Last Supper.

We are very grateful for Caroline's input and also the support from June Pickering who has joined the Sunday club team. Our children are so enthusiastic and we are grateful to parents and carers for their support.

Judith Aspinwall



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

Sundays at 8pm - 9.30pm and

Mondays at 2pm - 4pm

Tickets are 50p each

Refreshments are available – 20p for Tea and Biscuits.

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Easter Message for the Parishes from Bishop Bev

Hope for our Diocese

Easter is the greatest ever story of hope! Jesus's story is one where his resurrection smashes through the despair of death. It's a story of life overcoming death and goodness triumphing over evil. And my word we need hope!

Life can be tough. We can't switch off to what's happening round about us – that would be to deny our lived reality. But without hope, we may find ourselves spiraling into despondency. The ongoing cost of living crisis is biting hard. So many of us are making tough decisions to try to mitigate sinking into debt, and to compound this, we hear talk of financial challenge in our churches and in our diocese. The very places designed and intended for blessing and singing the song of Easter hope.

For the disciples, the crucifixion of Jesus, plunged them into grief and despair. On Holy Saturday it probably felt like there was no hope. Dreams were shattered; they were at once without direction or purpose. Everything would have felt meaningless. Some walked away. I wonder how this resonates for so many of us.

For us, we are resurrection people. We know the story of Jesus overcoming death itself as the one who is The Resurrection; of his coming alongside those who were walking away, so that they would return and sing the song of life overcoming death and of God's mighty deeds in Jesus. We know the story that God is outworking his purpose in the world and that by the gift of the Holy Spirit in us, we are participants in Jesus' mission, today and tomorrow and until he comes in glory.

Our churches all have stories of hope because Jesus is in the church. Where Jesus is present we can expect to see the transformation and signs of resurrection. Our diocese, too, has a story of hope emerging from those engaging with the mission priorities: introducing people to Jesus, growing Christian leaders, deepening discipleship and working for justice. Stories of hope are emerging in every worshipping community; stories of kindness; stories of activity and activism and stories of conversion.

All this is bound up in the story of the one who was crucified for us; who rose on Easter Sunday and who equipped his disciples to sing the song of God's wondrous love for humanity and the world. Today, as disciples of Jesus, we are tasked with the same mandate to serve in his name, to call people back to the Cross of Christ so that all may know the love and life-giving-ness of the Resurrection and by Jesus' love mingled with ours, to show that love in the world.

This Easter, I pray you may know the hope of Christ in fresh and palpable ways so that your heart is set on fire with love for Him, and as you share this same hope in the community you love and among the people you serve.

Christ is Risen and his Spirit is with us.

GOOD FRIDAY

WALK OF WITNESS & PASSION PLAY



Free entry

All Welcome



FRIDAY 7th APRIL

11 a.m. Chapel Lane near Boots

11.20 a.m. Formby Pool Gardens



Wear **Purple** or
Yellow and join us on
our walk to celebrate
the Easter Story



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



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.



SAMARITANS

**TALK
TO US**

If things are getting to you

116 123 **FREE**
This number is FREE to call

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.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE ROOF?

I've been asked to write a few words to explain the issues that we are having with the nave roof and the long-term consequences to the church fabric and finances if we don't take immediate remedial action.

Let's start with the good news. Back in the summer of 2021 we embarked on a programme to replace the valley roof between the Chancel and Sacristy.

Those with good memories will remember the failing roof was putting our Organ at risk of water damage and money was raised to complete the works before water ingress got any worse.

The job was completed successfully.

Now, cast your minds back further to 2010 when we re-roofed the nave. We completely stripped the roof, replaced rotting timber and roof battens, added a waterproof breathable membrane and space age SuperQuilt Multifoil insulation before replacing as many of the existing slates as possible, along with carefully salvaged slates to match.

At that time there were signs of water penetration on the nave side of the chancel arch and on the west facing nave wall above the round window on the balcony (see pictures below) but we were assured by the contractor and architect that these damp patches would dry over time.



The same advice was given on our quinquennial inspection in 2011:

"There is a blemish above the chancel arch to the south side. Since the roof has been renewed and copings have been pointed it may be that there is moisture from the original damp penetration leeching out. This area should be monitored and if it does not get any worse then it can be redecorated."

Several years passed and another quinquennial inspection was completed, the damp patches stayed constant and, in the case of the west wall, the damp patch got worse.

In early 2021 whilst investigating the issues with the sacristy valley we sought additional advice from the church architect and the original roofing contractor regarding the nave

roof and were informed that the copings which cover the east and west walls were showing signs of mortar breakdown between the stones.

At the time it was felt this could be causing water ingress and the best course of action was to repoint the coping stones.

This work was carried out but several years on we still have the damp issue.

Our only option now is to remove the coping stones and metal tie rods, cap the wall with waterproof plating and re-bed the stones. Whilst this work is being carried out, we would also repeat the same action on the north side of the nave roof and check all hidden valleys which seal the slates against the walls.



One of the largest costs of doing this work is erecting scaffolding, so we have been advised by our architect to extend the scaffolding to the bell tower and take the opportunity of repointing the mortar joints on the tower and east wall and, where necessary, replacing any spalling bricks.



We are in the early stages of this project and have engaged a new architect (our original architect has retired) who will also act as project manager. We have also asked a quantity surveyor to produce indicative costs, our architect has produced a specification and we are currently seeking experienced contractors who will be willing to complete the work.

Please come and talk to me if you would like more details of this project.

Steve Edwards, Chairman of the Fabric Committee

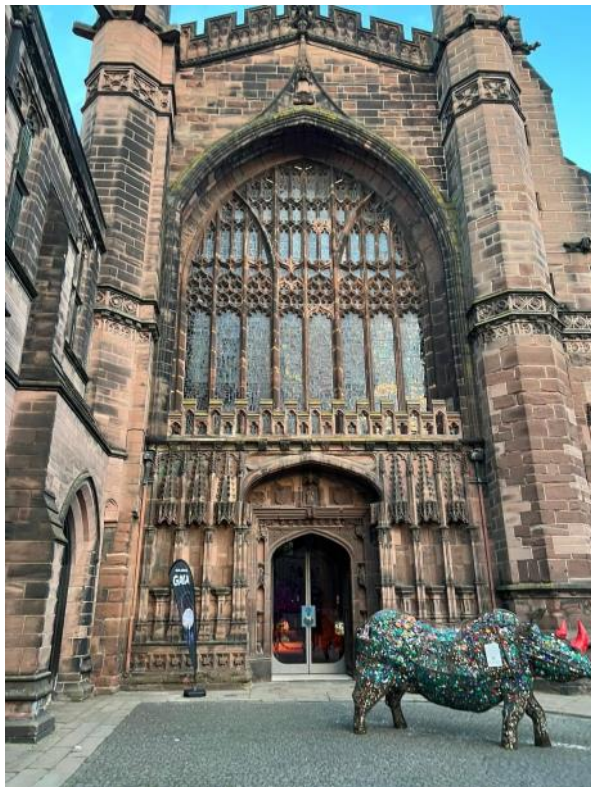
Recycled Wax Candles for Sale -

Mark Andrews has been doing a fantastic job in recycling St Peter's candles. All proceeds from the sale of these candles will be going to the St Peter's Church Roof Fund. If you would like to buy a candle please talk to Mark or watch out for the next after service sale.

Many thanks for your support.



At the end of February a group of our Beavers and Cubs enjoyed sleepovers at Chester Cathedral!



Joining over 200 Beavers and over 300 Cubs from across the Scout County, the Beavers sleeping over on the Friday night and the Cubs sleeping over on the Saturday night. This unique event was organised by Merseyside Scouts and Chester Cathedral and marked the visit of the GAIA Globe to the Cathedral.



The Beavers and Cubs took part in an exciting programme, including learning about Sustainability and exploring and learning all about the history of the Cathedral.

After a soup and hotdog supper the Beavers and Cubs settled down in the nave of the Cathedral taking full advantage of the underfloor heating to watch the film “Up!” with most of the Beavers dropping off to sleep during the film, while it took the Cubs a bit longer.





Morning soon arrived, and the Beavers and our Cubs had to be woken up at 7am ready for their breakfast at 8am. Then a final tidy up and off home arriving back in Formby early morning Saturday and Sunday respectively.

Each Beaver and Cub (and leader!) received an exclusive badge marking their unique and magical night in a Cathedral.

**Mark Sheil, Cub Scout Leader, Assistant Scout Leader
9th Formby (St Peter's) Scout Group**



URGENTLY NEEDED ITEMS

SAVOURY CRACKERS

PASTA SAUCE

TINNED MEAT E.G. CORNED BEEF, HAM

TINNED FRUIT

TINNED TOMATOES

INSTANT NOODLES

TOMATO SAUCE, BROWN SAUCE, MAYO

LOGLIFE JUICE AND CORDIAL

UHT MILK

'FREE FROM' ITEMS

JAM

THE FOODBANK



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



From the Church Register ~ Weddings



Sunday 19th March
Adam Gerrard & Lisa
Fletcher, with their son,
William Thomas, who was
baptised at their wedding
service.

Also in the photograph is
their daughter, Amber, and
Lisa's father, Mike.

Friday 24th March
Rhys Evans & Rebecca
Gibney



From the Church Register

Funerals

20th March Helen Garmon-Jones
22nd March Margaret Gillbanks
24th March Sheila Gilligan

Garden of Remembrance

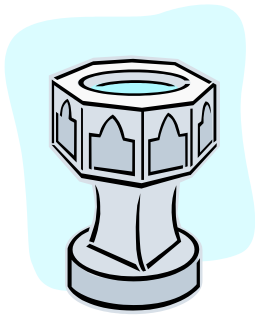
8th March David Woodfine
22nd March Barbara Mayer
30th March Jim Dixon



From the Church Register ~ Baptism

Sunday 26th March

Baptism of Theo William Gee, the son of Peter & Sue
and brother of Izzy.



Engaged to be Married

**Congratulations to
Kate McHenry &
Craig Gordon on
announcing their
engagement.**

**Congratulations to
Tiggy Whiffing &
Josh Jenkins on
announcing their
engagement.**

**Congratulations to
Rachel Almond &
Matthew Burleigh on
announcing their
engagement.**



Mothering Sunday Parade Service ~ Sunday 19th March



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.



The Well of St Seiriol



When Sue and I visit Anglesey we normally visit Penmon Point on the Eastern tip of the island. This March while at Penmon Point we took the short walk from the 15th Century dovecote, which lies on the narrow lane to Beaumaris, to the well of the 6th century Celtic Saint Seiriol.



The holy well lies at the end of a short path which passes a shaded pond, itself part of the holy ground surrounding Penmon Priory. The well is thought to be considerably older than the priory, possibly dating back to the time St Seiriol was preaching in the area in the early 6th Century.

Like many of the Celtic Saints, St Seiriol had a hermit like existence, as did the better known St Cuthbert who lived on a small island near to Lindisfarne. Local Christians would come to the well to pray with him and listen to his teaching.

An interesting legend is that Seiriol met another saint (Cybi) from Holyhead at a central point each week. Because Seiriol walked away from the sun in the morning and had it at his back in the afternoon he was pale and known as Seiriol the Fair, while Cybi always walked towards the sun and was known as Cybi the Brown.

Possibly of interest is that in the 1950s The Liverpool & North Wales Steamship Company sailed a steamer called the St Tudno between Liverpool and Llandudno and a smaller steamer called the St Seiriol departed from the end of Llandudno pier for tourist trips around Puffin Island where St Seiriol is buried. I remember sailing on both steamers with my parents.



Patrick Parkes

Bacon barm and banter

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Branch Director



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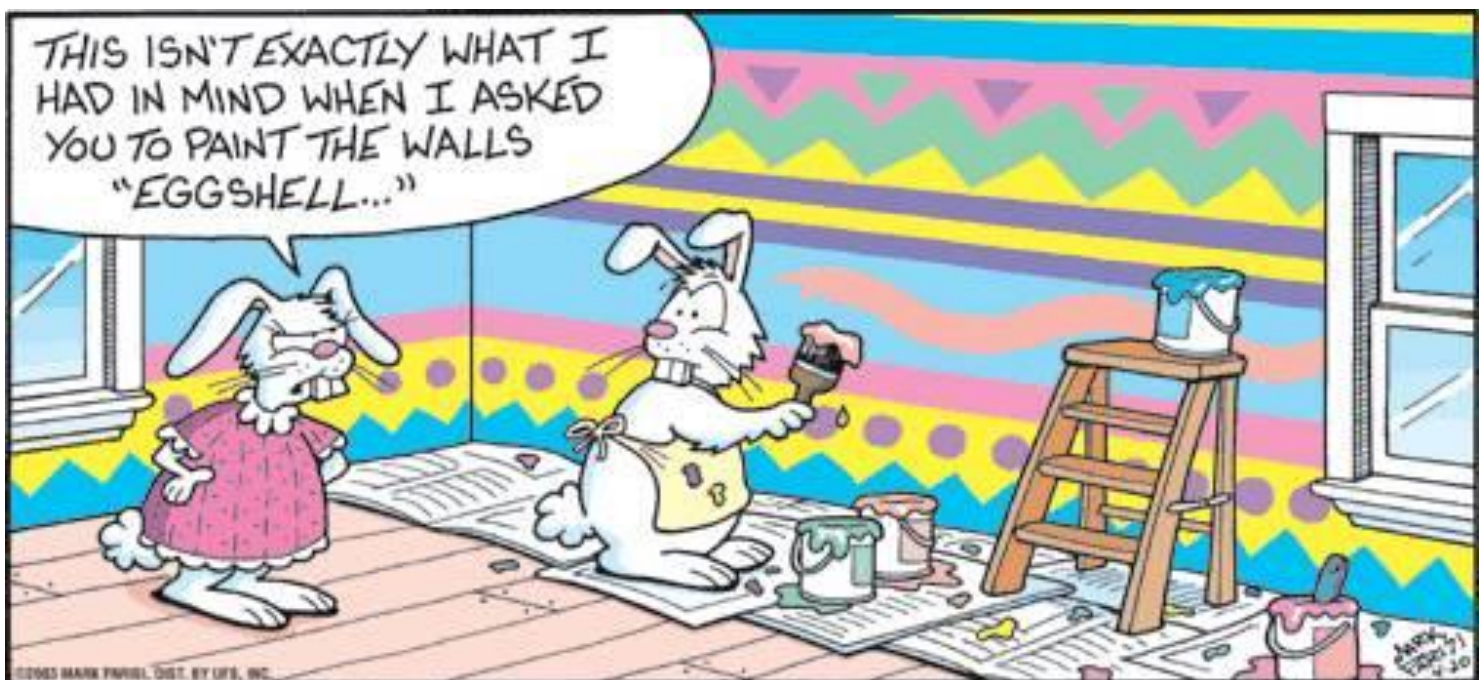
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Easter Word Search

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

APOSTLES
CROWN
LAMB
PRAYER
RESURRECTION
SON

CHURCH
FAITH
MARY
REDEMPTION
RISEN
SUNDAY

CROSS
JESUS
MIRACLE
REJOICE
SAVIOR
TOMB



Welsh Door Bell





From the Back Pew

Ted Woods

GOD & GENDER

Is God He, She or They?

Amidst all the reporting of the debates, especially about the blessing of same-sex relationships, at last February's General Synod, there was mention that a commission would be set up in the Spring to discuss gender neutral language in our authorised liturgy and options for those who wish to speak of God in a non-gendered way.

Are we in for a period of liturgical wokeism? Are we going to have describe God as they/them? Is calling God "Father" sexist and discriminatory? Will the Lord's Prayer start "Our Parent who art in heaven"?



Some theologians have suggested that instead of "Father, Son and Holy Spirit" we should use "Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer." But for most of us is that any better or more helpful?

Does describing God as "Father" or "He" really limit our understanding of the Divine, or project on an old-fashioned concept of male superiority, à la Andrew Tate?

In a recent article in the Church Times, Maggie Dawn, Professor of Theology at Durham, wrote, "To name God as "our Mother" overlooks the fact that "our Father" is intended to describe God not as our heavenly Dad but as God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...to affirm the nature of Jesus as God incarnate."

Biblical language is cultural. In Old and New Testament times it would have been inconceivable to talk of God as a woman. Women had no status and no rights. A woman could not have taught in the synagogue – as Jesus did.

However, if you look closely at Scripture, you will find instances of God being non-binary and having feminine characteristics. For example, in Genesis 1:26 & 27, humankind is created in the image of God as male and female, not just male. Here are a few other examples:- in Psalm 123 we read "as the eyes of a maid (look) to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God." In Isaiah 66 God says, "As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you." And when Jesus wept over Jerusalem he said, "I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings."

On the subject of God and Gender, the Revd Giles Fraser, one of the prophetic voices in the church today, writes, “Father is a metaphor, as is burning bush, fountain, lamb, shepherd, rock, river...Words are inadequate to describe the author of life. But they are all that we have.”

As Scripture reminds us, God is spirit and therefore beyond gender, but as Giles Fraser says, words are all we have and we have inherited 3000 years of speaking of God in the masculine. It is embedded into our understanding of God.

That doesn't mean that we cannot explore who God is and come to an understanding of God as both male and female, or, indeed, beyond gender. We must be careful in being so woke that we 'don't lose the baby with the bathwater'!

At the burning bush Moses asks “Who are you?” And God replies, “I am who I am”, indicating no gender and suitably inscrutable” as Giles Fraser puts it.

This debate has been going on for some time. In the church commissions meet, debate, report and then their deliberations gather dust in the archives.

I imagine the same will happen to the discussions about God and gender. And anyway, we have been assured by church spokespersons that any changes to liturgy will have to be passed by General Synod. So, don't hold your breath! The church does not move quickly. By the time there is an answer, wokeism will have been a thing of the past and the church will be left, yet again, answering yesterday's questions while everyone else has moved on.



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.

April Dates 2023



Saturday 1st

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

Sunday 2nd Palm Sunday

- 8.30am Eucharist (BCP)
- 10.00am Parish Eucharist
- 2.30pm Easter Relax Service for Older People
- 6.30pm Compline



Monday 3rd

- 10.00am Bacon Barms and Banter in the Bier House
- 7.30pm Compline & Reflection

Tuesday 4th

- 10.00am Bible Study Group *with Ken* in the Bier House – *every Tuesday*
- 11.00am Woodlands Care Home Eucharist
- 7.30pm Compline & Reflection

Wednesday 5th

- 11.00am Eucharist with the Mothers' Union *followed by refreshments*
- 7.30pm Compline & Reflection



Maundy Thursday 6th

- 12.30pm Mothers' Union Visit to the Sunshine Tea Rooms
- 7.30pm Eucharist & Reflection followed by vigil until 10pm

Good Friday

- 10.15am Walk of Witness from the Bier House to the Village
- 11.00am Village Passion Play (Formby Pool grounds)
- 2.00pm An Hour By the Cross in Church



Holy Saturday 7th

- 9.00am Morning Prayer in the Bier House



Sunday 9th Easter Day

- 8.30am Eucharist (CW)
- 10.00am Parish Eucharist & Sunday Club followed by refreshments
Children's Easter Egg Hunt after the service
- 6.30pm Choral Evensong



Tuesday 11th

- 10.00am Bible Study Group *with Ken Ward* in the Bier House

Wednesday 12th

- 11.00am Eucharist *followed by refreshments*
- 12.30pm Wedding of Adam Watkin and Louise Broad



Thursday 13th

- 2.00pm Singing For Fun in the Church Hall

Friday 14th

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

Sunday 16th The 2nd Sunday of Easter

8.30am Eucharist (BCP)
10.00am Parish Eucharist
6.30pm Choral Evensong



Wednesday 19th

11.00am Eucharist *followed by refreshments*
2.00pm WOW – service for pre-school children in church
7.30pm Primetime Women's Group in the Parish Hall
7.30pm Bible Study Group with *Ted Woods* in the Bier House



Thursday 20th

2.00pm Singing For Fun in the Church Hall

Friday 21st

9.30am Little Fishes Pre-school Group in the Church Hall
7.30pm Last Night of The Proms Concert with Amadeus



Saturday 22nd

3.00pm Installation of The Rt Revd Dr John Perumbalath as the 9th Bishop of Liverpool in the Cathedral

Sunday 23rd The 3rd Sunday of Easter / St George's Day

8.30am Eucharist (CW)
10.00am Parish Eucharist
12noon Children's Haribo Service
6.30pm Choral Evensong

Happy
St George's Day!!



Wednesday 26th

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

Thursday 27th

2.00pm Chaos Fun Choir in the Church Hall

Friday 28th

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



Sunday 30th The 4th Sunday of Easter

8.30am Eucharist (BCP)
10.00am Parish Eucharist
12noon Service of Baptism - Caitlin & Lucas Weir and Chloe, Sophia, Joshua & Jack Kefford
1.00pm Service of Baptism – Thomas Furlong-Coey
6.30pm Service of Wholeness

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.

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

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

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