

ST PETER'S CHURCH MAGAZINE JULY AND AUGUST 2023 SUMMER EDITION

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

Contacts at St Peter's

(01704)

Vicar Revd Anne Taylor, St Peter's Vicarage 872824

Wardens Sarah Gorman 875013
Gill Holroyd 07910 561155

Readers Peter Davies 550768

Matt Parkes 07971 827246

Reader Emeritus Michael Pitts

Parish Office St Peter's Parish Hall, Paradise Lane,
Formby L37 7EH
(opposite Trinity St Peter's School)
Open Monday to Friday 10am to 12noon
office@stpetersformby.co.uk 871171

Parish Administrator Caroline Speakman
Stewardship (email: stewardship@stpetersformby.co.uk)
Director of Music David Holroyd 07702 346735

Lay Chair Paul McHenry 871722

PCC Treasurer Irvine Rawcliffe 870569

PCC Secretary Anne Cotsworth 871808

Trinity St Peter's School
Headteacher - Debbie Pringle
admin@tsp.sefton.school 876391
www.trinitystpeters.org

Refugee Support Group
Peter Paine 07722 127791

Magazine Team
Editors Rod and Sue Jacques 879643



David Manning-Fox 833124

Alison Whiffing 833571

Advertising Elaine Almond

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

EDITORIAL

There are so many events to draw your attention to in this edition that you are bound to find something to attract you!

Firstly, we have said a farewell to Gordon and thanked him for all the gifts he has brought us in his teaching and friendship. Gordon, we wish you every happiness in your new parish. Gordon's last service at St Peter's was on Sunday 18th June and he will be licensed into his new church on 28th July (see page 8).



Our patronal festival is on 2nd July and Bishop John will be preaching. The concert for roof funds is on 1st July; please see page 10 for further details.

But surely the highlight of the season is our vicar, organist and both church wardens abseiling down from the roof of Anfield Stadium on 23rd July. By happy chance, the service of wholeness is on the same evening, need we say more!

Enjoy the summer everybody.

We will be back with the September edition.

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**



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



*Please note the deadline for the September 2023 edition of the magazine is **Friday 11th August 2023.***

*Contributions to **magazine@stpetersformby.co.uk***

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.

Dear Friends,

The Victorian Bishop of Wakefield, W. Walsham How, was also a hymnwriter. Among his hymns are 'For all the saints' and the St Peter's Day hymn, 'Thou art the Christ.'

One of his hymns, which didn't make the shortlist for Ancient & Modern hymn book, is very apt for the weather we have all been enjoying these last few weeks. It starts:-

Summer suns are glowing
Over land and sea.
Happy light is flowing
Bountiful and free.



Though at the time of writing this letter there have been a few torrential showers, much needed in our gardens. And even some very loud claps of thunder as the Bishop confirmed some of our candidates!

On Sunday 18th June we said farewell to our Curate, the **Revd Gordon MacLeod**. Gordon will be much missed in St Peter's, and even though he was here only for a year, he endeared himself to all.

His licensing as Vicar of Willaston, will be on Friday 28th July at 7pm. If you plan to travel 'across the water' to support Gordon and would be willing to take an extra passenger or two please let us know. As an eco-parish, we encourage car sharing!

This means we will be curate-less for the next year, but I hope that we may be allocated a curate in June 2024. But that is far from definite.



Following up our **275 Vision Day**, in November, we have had an Implementation Day as the three working groups reported on their deliberations as to how we can be:

**A Community of Welcome,
A Community of Faith,
A Community of Service.**

It was a very positive morning, and under the expert facilitation of Stephen Lyon, we have many signposts for the way ahead for us all in St Peter's. A full report will be included in our next magazine in September. I'd like to thank Stephen for leading us and guiding us through this process. The three groups under the guidance of Gill Holroyd, Shena Edwards and Richard Edwards, gave a lot of time and thought to the reports that were presented. I thank all involved for their thoughtful and practical suggestions.

We were delighted to welcome the new Bishop of Liverpool, the Rt Revd Dr John Perumbalath, to St Peter's for the **Confirmation Service** also on Sunday 18th June. Of the twelve people confirmed, ten were from St Peter's and this really was Gordon's last service with us.

Patronal Festival Weekend

Bishop John will return to St Peter's on Sunday 2nd July to preach at our Patronal Festival at 10am. I hope that many of you will come along to the service to show that St Peter's is alive and give the Bishop a good impression of our parish! In fact, we're not just having a Patronal Service but a **Patronal Weekend!**

Fiona Martin had the wonderful idea of decorating the church windows to reflect life in St Peter's – who we are and what we do. **The church and Bier House Coffee Shop will be open on Saturday 1st July from 10am to 4pm.** Then in the evening at 7.30pm there will be a **Concert led by The St Peter's Singers**, conducted by David Holroyd. Entry is free but donations are welcome for the Church Roof Fund.



The Roofs of Anfield and St Peter's!

Work on the roof begins on Monday 3rd July – see the article in the April magazine. I will be joined by Churchwardens Sarah and Gill, and our Director of Music, David, to do a **sponsored abseil** from the roof of Anfield Stadium to raise funds for our roof! This is on the afternoon of Sunday 23rd July – and we will be back in time for the evening service which happens to be the Service of Wholeness! See the back cover for the details.

This month's magazine covers July and August, so I hope that wherever you find yourselves, you may have a refreshing break, and that summer suns will continue to glow whether you are on land or sea or in the air!

Anne

Did you know?

It costs **£605** a day to run St Peter's?

Which adds up to **£221,000** a year - a big part of which is the **Parish Share**

EXPENDITURE

This year we have to pay an (increased) **Parish Share** of **£10,000** each month: that's **£120,000** a year, and this supports the work of the Church in the Diocese of Liverpool. It covers Mission, Leadership, Pensions, Housing and Training, and provides support for Church Schools. It also provides Clergy Stipends (Salaries) in Parishes across the Diocese.

Do you know that a Vicar's Stipend is less than £28,600? - and that it is paid by the Diocese, not by the Parish. So our Vicar is not paid by St Peter's, but by the Diocese; and our Parish Share supports clergy in other parishes.

Ignoring the Parish Share ... the remaining **£80,000**, or so, covers the general running of St Peter's, in three main categories, including:

Running Costs

Heat, Light, Water

Regular Maintenance
Insurance
Curate's House
Organ
Sanctuary (*Candles, wafers, wine, etc*)
Sound / visual
Churchyard
Garden of Remembrance

Administration

Wages
Clergy expenses
Telephone
Internet
Printer
Stationary
Flowers
Licences
Bank charges
Accountancy fees

Mission

Charitable Giving
Overseas Aid
Home Missions
Organisations
Ministry
Education
Books

INCOME (Giving)

Our income comes from

- **GIVING**
 - ▶ Parish Giving Scheme (preferred method)
 - ▶ Envelopes
 - ▶ Plate Collections
 - ▶ Donations
 - ▶ Votive Candles
- **RENTAL**
 - ▶ Bier House
 - ▶ Victoria Hall
 - ▶ (but **not the Parish Hall** which is owned by the Educational Trust)
- **OTHERS**
 - ▶ Magazine (adverts and donations)
 - ▶ Weddings
 - ▶ Funerals
 - ▶ Grants
 - ▶ Recovered Tax (including Gift Aid),
 - ▶ Fund-raising events (*eg the 275 events*)

SUMMARY

This year - and **not** including the cost of repairing the roof - we are predicted to be short of around **£35,000**.

We **NEED** your help ... **more about this next time!**



LEAVING SERVICE

Many thanks to everyone who came to the morning services on Sunday 18th of June, when I finished my time with you at St Peter's, before going on a break to London.



Anne giving Gordon a gift from St Peter's

I am grateful for all your thoughts, prayers and best wishes, something which was forthcoming not only on my final Sunday, but throughout the whole of my final year of Curacy.

St Peter's is indeed a great training parish and the great thing about it, for anyone wearing priestly L-plates, is the regular feedback people are willing to give you.

Needless to say, I am indebted to Anne for her wise counsel and guidance throughout, and of course to Ted, who was only too willing to share the benefit of his 56 years of priestly ministry with me too. (As I write this, I realise he must have started just as I was born!)

I am also grateful to David, for teaching me how to sing Choral Evensong, which was something I had always wanted to do, in case I was ever called upon to do so in another setting.

I wish you all a blessed future and may St Peter's go from strength to strength.

Not only is it a parish that is fit for mission, but is working out God's mission in its local community and beyond.

Gordon

Gordon saying goodbye to some of those who attend the Wednesday Eucharist.



CONFIRMATION SERVICE

There were 12 confirmed by Bishop John on Sunday 18th June.

Congratulations to –

From St Peter's - Joanne Bell, Olivia D'Andrea, Joseph Edwards, Geoff Gaskin, Theo Graham, Edward and Nikki McGeoch, Chloe Moon, Layla Sargison and Ellie Williams.

From St Nicholas', Blundellsands, Catherine Jones and Ethan Miller.



Thank you to everyone who came to support me during my 24-hour danceathon, or donated to my fundraising page.

I am very pleased and proud to announce my fundraising total was £4,620 which is over double the target I had set. The money will be split equally between Alder Hey's Children's Charity Neonatal Appeal and Trinity St Peter's CofE Primary School.

Thank you again,

Love Theo xx



Saturday 1st July

7:30pm

10:00 ~ 4:00

**Church and
Coffee Shop
OPEN**

St Peter's Day Concert

*a concert of popular choral
and organ music*

Refreshments available

The St Peter's Singers

conducted by David Holroyd

Entry FREE

donations welcome for
the Church Roof Fund



Summer Series

We all have favourite hymns, but do we know who the author is and why they were written? There are so many hymns that can inspire and guide us.

This summer for July and August there will be a series based on favourite hymns. Each Sunday evening at either Evensong or the Service of Wholeness, the reflection will be based on a well-known hymn including 'Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer', 'Lead us, Heavenly Father, lead us', 'All things bright and beautiful' and 'My Song Is Love Unknown.'

The evening service has a gentle pace and time for reflection, so do think about joining us at 6.30pm on a Sunday. You will be very welcome.



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.

New Vicar in Hightown

We welcome Revd Keith Thornborough to St Stephen's, Hightown, as their new Vicar.

Keith was licensed on Sunday 25th June by Bishop John and will serve as Vicar on a House for Duty basis.

He has worked full-time as a Specialist Diabetes Nurse at Alder Hey Children's Hospital while serving as a Self-supporting minister in St Nicholas', Blundellsands.

Keith will continue part-time in Alder Hey while also serving as vicar for St Stephen's. We pray for every blessing for Keith and St Stephen's in this new chapter for them both.



Primetime

**Wednesday 19th July
in the Parish Hall
at 7.30pm**

Meetings will
recommence in September.
All ladies welcome.

Elaine and Sonia

*Primetime Ladies enjoyed a
visit to Crosby beach for the
summer solstice.*



Men, Beer & Topics

Will resume in the Autumn.



Breakfast Church at 9am
1st July in the Church
5th August in the Bier House

Join us for a short service (about 20 mins) in the form of the Iona worship.

You will be made very welcome.

The service is followed by tea, coffee, toast, crumpets etc.
Give it a try!

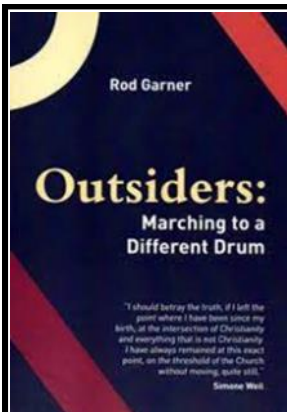
Susan Parkes



**TALK
TO US**

If things are getting to you

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



There are lots of books in the Church Library to inspire and entertain. Here are two:-

Outsiders: Marching to a Different Drum – Rod Garner

It provides profiles of 26 remarkable individuals who have changed the way we see the world and what we owe to it. They are open and responsive to the mystery and beauty of the world and offer insights and ideas that contribute to human flourishing and religious understanding.

The Bible: A Very Short Introduction – John Riches

This Very Short Introduction looks at the importance accorded to the Bible by different communities and cultures and attempts to explain why it has generated such a rich variety of uses and interpretations. It explores how the Bible was written, the development of the canon, the role of Biblical criticism, its use in popular culture and for political ends.

If you would like to borrow a book or DVD, please record details in the register provided. The Library is situated in the Bier House.

We hope this will be a useful resource for all ages.



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

11th, 18th, 25th July and then recommence in September.

Contact Ken Ward 871927

Wednesday Bible Study Group at 7.30pm

Dates: will recommence in September.

Contact Ted Woods 872824

Friday Bible Study Group at 2pm

Dates: 7th and 14th July and then recommence in September.

Contact Peter Paine 07722 127791



A SERVICE OF WHOLENESS



Dates for your diary:

Sunday 23rd July at 6.30 pm

Sunday 20th August at 6.30 pm

Bacon barmes and banter

1st 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.

This is especially suitable for carers and their loved ones.



Singing Thursdays!



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



St Peter's
Parish Hall
Paradise Lane
Formby
L37 7EH

2nd Thursday of every month

Singing For Fun

3rd Thursday of every month

Singing's Good for Your Brain with Maggie & Mandy

4th Thursday of every month

Singalong Thursday

Light-
hearted
singing
suitable for
everyone.

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

Fun and
free event,
& refreshments
in a warm
space.

Dementia
friendly church



Mothers' UNION

The next meeting will be on 7th September.

Herbert (873367)



GIVE TO YOUR LOCAL PARISH

QUICKLY AND EASILY ONLINE



Scan this code



PARISH
GIVING
SCHEME

Use your smartphone or tablet to scan this QR code to access your church's dedicated page on the PGS website. From here, it's simple to make a one-off gift or set up and manage your regular giving online.

July Bible Readings

2nd – St Peter's Patronal Festival

Ezekiel 3:22-27 / Acts 12:1-11 / Matthew 16:13-19

3rd – St Thomas the Apostle

Habakkuk 2:1-4 / Ephesians 2:19-22 / John 20:24-29

9th – 5th Sunday after Trinity

Zechariah 9:9-12 / Romans 7:15-25a / Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

16th – The 6th Sunday after Trinity

Isaiah 55:10-13 / Romans 8:1-11 / Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

22nd – Mary Magdalene

Song of Solomon 3:1-4 / 2 Corinthians 5:14-17 / John 20:1-2, 11-18

23rd – The 7th Sunday after Trinity

Isaiah 44:6-8 / Romans 8:12-25 / Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

25th – James the Apostle

Jeremiah 45:1-5 / Acts 11:27 – 12:2 / Matthew 20:20-28

30th – The 8th Sunday after Trinity

1 Kings 3:5-12 / Romans 8:26-39 / Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52



August Bible Readings

6th – Transfiguration of Our Lord

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 / 2 Peter 1:16-19 / Luke 9:28-36

13th – The 10th Sunday after Trinity

1 Kings 19:9-18 / Romans 10:5-15 / Matthew 14:22-33

15th – The Blessed Virgin Mary

Isaiah 61:10-11 / Galatians 4:4-7 / Luke 1:46-55

20th – The 11th Sunday after Trinity

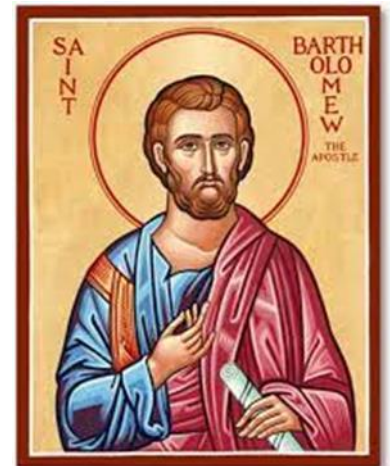
Isaiah 56:1,6-8 / Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 / Matthew 15:21-28

24th – Bartholomew the Apostle

Isaiah 43:8-13 / Acts 5:12-16 / Luke 22:24-30

27th – The 12th Sunday after Trinity

Isaiah 51:1-6 / Romans 12:1-8 / Matthew 16:13-20



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.

Contact Pat Boardman office@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 - 7th and 14th July (restarts in September)

Dates: Sunday 2nd and 9th July (then restarts September)

Children start in church (10.00am) and then move to the Bier House for lots of fun.
(There will be a picnic & games after Sunday Club on 9th July).

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 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
12th July at
2pm



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 July please pray for all who live in –

2 nd July	Hawksworth Drive, Hawksworth Close, Longton Drive
9 th July	Turnacre, Lingdales, Deansgate Lane North
16 th July	Brackenway, Gorsefield, The Rydinge
23 rd July	Heatherways, Dales Walk, Spymers Croft
30 th July	Heathfield Close, The Spinney, Southport Road

During August please pray for all who live in –

6 th August	Southport Old Road, North Moss/Pasture Lane, Broad Lane
13 th August	Heather Close, Primrose Close, Longfield
20 th August	Deansgate Lane, Mount House Road, Mounthouse Close
27 th August	Moss Side, Fallowfield Close, Watchyard Lane



District Cub Camp 2023

It's 6pm one sunny Friday evening which sees 15 of our Cubs join 90 of their colleagues from across Sefton North, eagerly waiting to board their coach to take them to District Cub Camp.

The Cubs arrived at Bowley Scout Campsite and Activity Centre, set in the rolling landscape of the Ribble Valley, for a fun-filled weekend.



After setting up their tents and sorting out their sleeping bags, the Cubs enjoyed a Wide Game, followed by a Hotdog supper, before settling down for the night.

Saturday morning the sun was shining, it was going to be another warm one; the Cubs were up with the birds, exploring the campsite and the fort, until called to the lodge for a cooked breakfast to set them up for the day.

After Flag-break the Cubs split into their groups to start the days activities. Splaterpults followed by Grass Sledging in the morning, then a break for a picnic lunch; then on with the activities!

Soft Archery and Bean Bag Dodge, a visit to the Tuck Shop and then, highlight of the day, the Water Slide!



After dinner, a campfire was enjoyed by all, followed by free time until supper, bed and sleep, which came a lot quicker than the previous night!



Sunday morning was also a lot quieter, and many leaders were seen having to wake their Cubs up!

Following a continental-style breakfast and Scouts' Own around the Flagpole, the morning's activities started, which included the Blind Trail, Archery, and the water fight at the Fort.

After lunch, it was time to start packing away personal kit and the tents. Although we had a cracking thunderstorm at 4.30am Sunday morning and it continued to rain until about 8am, the sun then came out once again and we fortunately put the tents away dry, which is always a plus for the Leaders as we don't have to worry about drying wet tents when we get home!

Leaving time fast approached and at 3pm the coaches arrived to ferry us home, dropping off very tired but happy Cubs at Waterside Lodge.

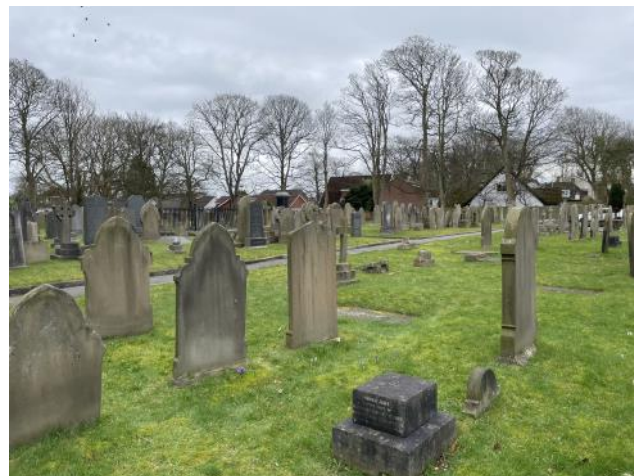
My thanks go to Sam Oldland, Sarah Gorman, and Natalie Menagh for making it possible to attend.

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



What in Earth's going on?

On Saturday 16th February a passing parishioner might have been a little surprised to see Steve Edwards and Nick Philpott screwing a strange metal implement into various places in our churchyard. What were we doing? The answer is that we were extracting samples of soil for analysis to work out how much carbon is stored in our church grounds.



St Peter's Church yard 23rd February for survey

What was the big idea?

A great deal has been written about the value of carbon storage in the topsoil and tree cover. Extraction from peat bogs had been a topic which has brought this matter to everyone's attention. In 2021 The Church of England (or some sub-committee thereof) thought it would be good to know how much carbon is stored in our churchyards. An initial desk-bound estimate based on mapping of all churchyards in England estimated there could be something in the region of 440,000 tons of carbon stored in the topsoil. Because many churchyards have been relatively undisturbed for long periods it was thought that churchyards might contain more carbon than much of the surrounding land, and therefore more than the desk-bound estimate.

Alan Radbourne, from the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (UKCEH) at the University of Bangor, was commissioned to undertake a study to gain knowledge of carbon storage, using up to 50 sampling churchyards. St Peter's was one of those which was selected. (one of 5 sites in the North-West of England) Only 37 of the original 50 parishes actually reported their evidence.

What did we actually do?

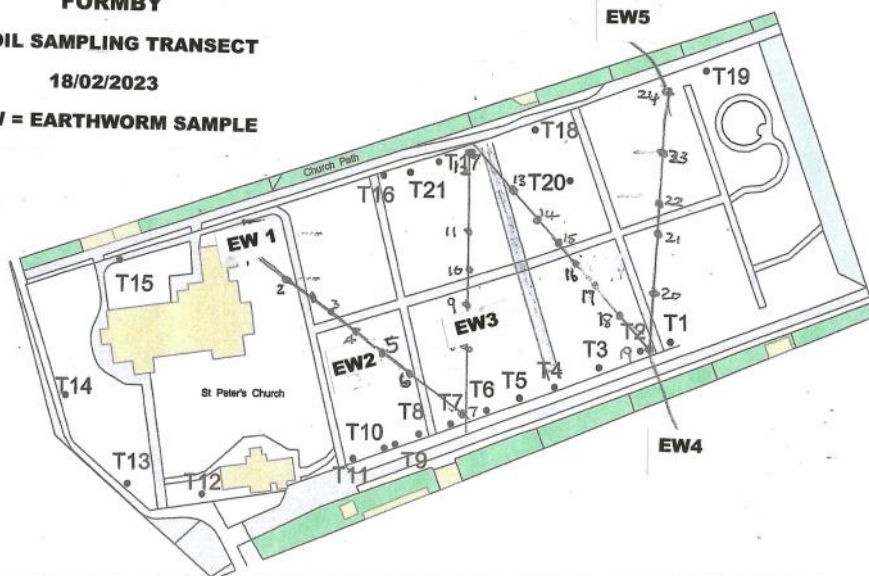
A hollow auger was sent to us, to be inserted up to 15 centimetres deep in 25 spots in the churchyard along a "W" shaped grid. These samples were then to be mixed together, and sent off to Bangor for analysis. We were also asked to dig out five sites along the grid to check on earthworm populations – this being an indicator of soil health. Thirdly, a tree survey was undertaken, to identify what trees we have, and to estimate their size and age.

So off Steve and I went, along our transect, which had already been marked out with flags on bamboos. We were asked not to take samples from actual graves. Because our Formby soil is so sandy, this was a fairly easy, although time-consuming task. We mixed the 25 samples together, and placed them in a stout plastic bag to be sent off to Bangor.



We then dug out 20cm cubes of soil to check for earthworms, and describe the type of soil from each location. We found very few earthworms in the three sites nearer to the church, where the soil was very sandy, but more in the final two sites where the soil appeared darker and more fertile. Incidentally, most of the land in our churchyard was used for agricultural purposes until the end of the nineteenth century, when the land was donated to St Peter's by the Formby family.

**ST PETER'S CHURCH
FORMBY
SOIL SAMPLING TRANSECT
18/02/2023
EW = EARTHWORM SAMPLE**



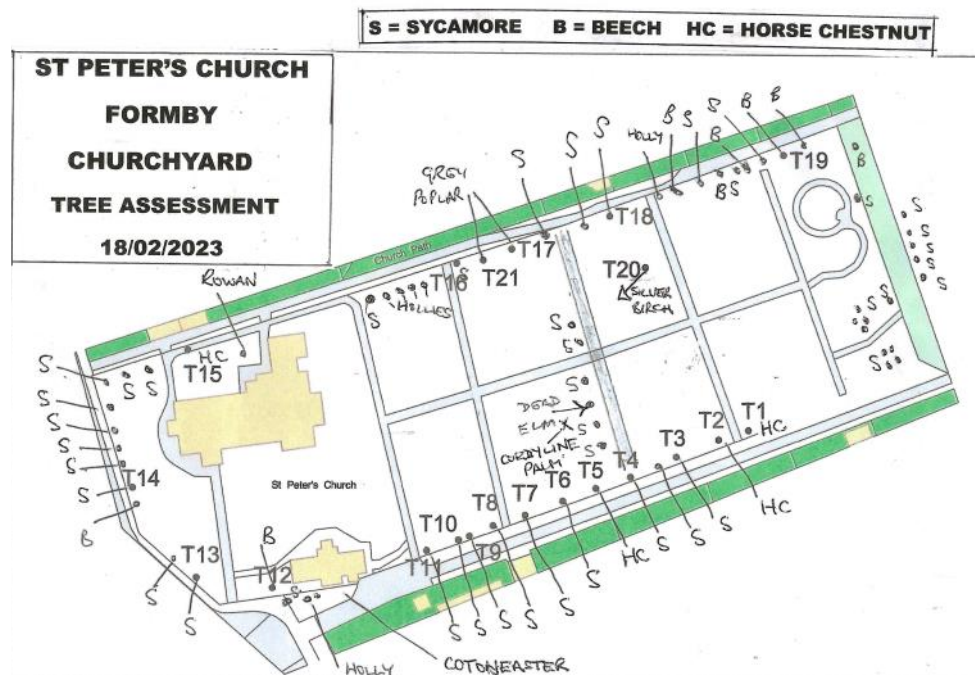
Finally, a tree survey was undertaken. Originally this should have been carried out in the autumn, with trees in leaf, but there had been “slippage” in the study being rolled out. February is not the easiest time for identifying tree species! However, I think we got a pretty good shot at this. Unsurprisingly, our most common species is sycamore, with a fair number of mature beech, and a smattering of other species, including, bizarrely, a cordyline palm!

Although our Conservation Area is not strictly part of the churchyard, the tree survey was extended into that part as well, so we now have a complete plan of our grounds.

The auger and soil sample were wrapped up in the special packaging provided and sent back to Alan Radbourne. The lady in the post-office asked me if the contents were valued at more than £30. I could honestly answer that they were not, but I’m pleased to say she didn’t ask me what was actually in the package!

So, what was the result of all this work?

The results of the survey were released a few weeks ago, based on a small sample of 37 churchyards. In general terms, the indications are that churchyards contain more carbon than similar areas. The estimate of carbon stock in the CofE’s English churchyards has been raised from 440,000 to around 500,000 tonnes.



Further research may be carried out to identify plant, bird and insect species in the Church of England’s lands

What about St Peter’s?

It was found that the soil at St Peter’s has a neutral acidity, fitting into the general pattern of other churchyards, but less than half the organic content compared with the average. I speculate that this is probably because of the sandy nature of our soil, and that rain easily leaches out organic content. Based on our samples it has been calculated that the soil in St Peter’s churchyard contains 30.3 tonnes – it would have been a higher figure if the soil had a higher organic content.

Our earthworm count was significantly lower than the average, again indicating that St Peter's soil is not of high organic quality.

We have a higher percentage of tree-cover compared with other churchyards. In the churchyard and conservation area we have around 100 mature trees. These are not just a store of carbon, (about 60% by weight of a tree is carbon), but also process large amounts of CO₂ by photosynthesis. I have looked at some figures, and it would appear that our 100 trees process around 16 tonnes of CO₂ per year. That sounds a lot, but each of us produces about 7 tonnes of CO₂ per year with our modern lifestyle! I have seen a claim that we need to plant 67 trees to offset the CO₂ produced in a lifetime by the average Brit.

Also, apparently sycamore are not the greatest storers of carbon. Many of our trees are very mature, and coming towards the end of their life-span, so, sadly, we may actually be releasing carbon in the future, rather than storing it. We have little opportunity for new planting as the site is either full of graves, or overshadowed by existing trees (we have lost several new trees which were planted a couple of years ago because of this). Nevertheless, importantly, our tree survey has acted as a benchmark for future generations.



However, we can certainly say that we at St Peter's have a wonderful slice of "God's Acre." From our fine array of snowdrops and crocus in early spring, to our full mature summer greenery with its accompanying birdsong, and the vibrant colours of autumn we have an area of which we can be proud, and which is well worth preserving. A stroll round the churchyard and conservation area is a pleasure.

When working on the Garden of Remembrance I often find folk wandering up the lane for a few minutes' quiet contemplation on one of the benches. In fact, St Peter's can be described as an oasis of calm in the busy life of Formby in the 2020s.

Finally, I did see a plant near the church porch a few weeks ago which I didn't know. I identified it with a clever app on my phone. It turned out to be a Star of Bethlehem – how appropriate.



Nick Philpott, June 2023



Summer Fair **HALCYON HOUSE**



Saturday July 8th

1:00-3:00

BBQ
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us at **55 Cable**
Street Formby

CRAFT STALL



From the Church Register ~ Wedding Blessing

Saturday 10th June
Adam Farrell
& Taylor Maahs



Adam and Taylor were married
in Grace Church, Broadway
New York City on
Sunday 28th May



From the Church Register ~ Wedding

Friday 16th June
Andrew Hardaker
& Kate Quinn



From the Church Register

Funerals

9 th June	Christine Calcutt
20 th June	Jim Drewe
26 th June	Simon Mullen
30 th June	Ian Edmondson
30 th June	Tom Harrison
4 th July	Mary Charlton
7 th July	Peter Ware



Garden of Remembrance

4 th June	Margaret Gillbanks
5 th June	Guy Walmsley
11 th June	Stewart Burns
17 th June	Bryan Andrews
30 th June	Heather Behets

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.



The Garden of Remembrance

The Garden of Remembrance is the area at the far end of our churchyard. There are two sections – the garden area on the left and the formal stoned area on the right.

In the garden area we can inter loved ones' ashes directly into the ground and we have plenty of space but we cannot place any inscriptions.

In the formal area we have been able to place tablets but we now have no more space.

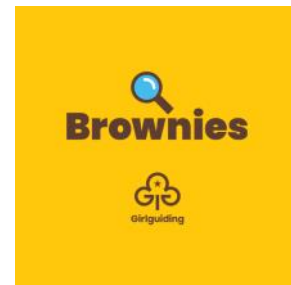
We do appreciate how much it means to have a loved one's name on a plaque and we will be developing the back of the formal area. This will be an attractive wall made of wooden sleepers and name plates will be able to be placed on the wall when ashes have been interred in the area directly in front. (The picture gives an idea of what it will look like).

If you would like any further information about the plans or have any questions about the Garden of Remembrance, please contact the Vicar or Steve Edwards, Chair of the Fabric Committee.



St Peter's Brownies

Coronation, Eurovision and Award Celebrations



The last few months have been very busy ones at St Peter's Brownies.



We had four Brownies, Liv, Olivia, Niamh and Carly, who had spent several months working towards their Bronze Awards. Here they are pictured receiving their awards. They are now working towards their Silver Awards.

Brownie Bronze Awards



We spent a few weeks preparing for the King's Coronation. The Brownies made and decorated crowns. Each girl also made a congratulations card that we sent to King Charles and Queen Camilla at Buckingham Palace. We have just received a special card from Buckingham Place thanking us for our good wishes. We enjoyed a Coronation Party with the girls dressing in red, white and blue and King Charles was our special Royal Guest.

Our Royal Guest, King Charles

Eurovision Night

As Eurovision was very much a hot topic in May, Girlguiding North West created a Eurovision Challenge Badge. The Brownies were divided into groups to represent a country. We had the United Kingdom, Ukraine, France, Spain and Sweden. The girls spent a couple of weeks creating a dance and a song and then on our Eurovision night, each group performed their dance routine and song. It was a fun evening.

The Owls were given the duty of scoring each act and they decided that everyone was a winner.



We are a pack of 24 Brownies. Two of our eldest Brownies Liv and Olivia have now moved up to Guides. As you can see, we have a lot of fun at Brownies.

If your daughter is interested in joining us, then please contact us at stpbrownies@aol.co.uk

**Caroline Speakman, Leader,
1st Formby St Peter's Brownie Group**



THE FOODBANK

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

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Southport
foodbank

COMPASSION
ACTS

Cereal
Biscuits
Tinned hot meat
Tinned cold meat
Mayonnaise
Savoury crackers
Confectionery + sweets
Pasta Sauce
Shampoo + conditioner
Deodorant (male/female)
Washing up liquid

The Annual Cubs District Dragon Boat Racing



took place at District Headquarters, Waterside Lodge, on the Marine Lake. The weather was near perfect on a beautiful sunny Friday evening last month.

150 Cubs from across the District took part, forming nine teams. This year we had enough Cubs to have our own boat, rather than sharing with another Pack, as was the case last year, although we did win the competition, having shared with the 61st Southport.

The format is each team has two races and the combined time determines the places.

So, after getting our Cubs kitted out with their buoyancy aids and paddles, plus a quick practice in how to use the paddles, paired off they boarded their boat, the Blue boat for their first race, and paddled off to the starting line, with the help of two Explorer Scouts including Ollie Jenkins from Spitfire Explorers.



Then, when all three boats were ready, they were off, the Blue boat taking an early lead, which they maintained all the way to the finish line, although the Green boat came from nowhere and came within a dragon's breath of stealing victory.

Then it was back to shore, and a quick change out of the buoyancy aids so the next team could use them, and it was a wait until their second race, Cubs and parents taking advantage of the drinks, tuck shop and the fundraiser BBQ for the Jamboree Unit members.



Meanwhile event 3 was in progress and it was another win for the Blue boat, as we rounded the Cubs up for their second race, kitted them out again in buoyancy aids, and then lined them up ready for the Green boat this time.

Same procedure as before paired off and then into the boat and then they paddled out to the start line.

Tensions were high on the shore with parents taking a keen interest, and shouting encouragement, although I doubt any of the teams heard as the wind was blowing the wrong way!

And they were off! Working together, they were straight out into the lead again, winning by a boat length this time!

Well done Team 9th Formby.



Then it was off the water for the cubs, a quick change into dry clothes and an anxious wait for the final results.

Third place 55th Southport, second place 9th Formby and Congratulations to the Winners the combined team of the 48th & 58th Southport, beating us by just 9 seconds!

cubs

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

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Matthew Dean
Branch Director



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Formby Luncheon Club
68 Rosemary Lane, Formby Liverpool
L37 3HA

Formby Luncheon Club Needs You!

The Formby Luncheon Club is a charity for people aged over 55. It provides a two-course lunch on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays for the members. Equally important, it also provides a means for the members to meet each other and socialise.

The club is run mostly by volunteers.

Volunteers work from about 2 to 4 hours at a time, depending on their role, and work either weekly, fortnightly or monthly, depending on their circumstances and wishes.

We are in need of more volunteers to assist with the cooking of the meals, serving the diners, clearing the dirty crockery and cutlery and the washing up. The members appreciate the wholesome lunches provided, and it is fun being a volunteer.

If you would like to become a volunteer, or require further information please contact either Fiona or Dorina at Formby Luncheon Club, Rosemary Lane either in person – office hours are 10.30am to 1.30pm, Tuesdays to Fridays or telephone 01704 877311.

SIMPLE WAYS TO HAVE A SUSTAINABLE SUMMER DITCH THE SINGLE USE PLASTICS

Single-use plastics are rife in the summer months, with plastic water bottles, un-recyclable iced coffee cups, single-use cutlery, and a whole host of other unnecessary items. Creating yourself a reusable kit is the best way to avoid useless waste this summer.



Grab yourself a reusable water bottle to stay hydrated in the hot summer months.

A coffee cup to beat the waste of 2.5 billion cups being thrown away each year.

Choose reusable straws to avoid harming aquatic life, whether that be a silicone straw for the little ones or a cocktail straw for the adults.

A bamboo cutlery set is essential for summer picnics, perfect for lunch you grabbed from the supermarket or food packed from home.

Get a beeswax food wrap, these are clingfilm-replacing wraps to keep your food from going stale, perfect for picnic foods.

And to carry it in? A lovely cotton reusable tote bag. If you need one we still have some St Peter's 275 tote bags for £3 or 2 for £5!!



Holiday at Home 14th – 25th August 2023

FOR OLDER ADULTS IN FORMBY, HIGHTOWN and INCE BLUNDELL

Formby Befriending Scheme, with support from Churches Together and other community groups and individuals, is once again offering a 'Holiday at Home' for older adults in the Formby, Hightown and Ince Blundell area during the last two weeks in August. The main aim of the fortnight is to give people who are no longer able to go away on holiday, the opportunity to have a 'holiday experience' in their own community.



Last year, we had a wonderful time, with many people enjoying social activities for the first time since the covid pandemic. Many events were fully booked with some of the larger ones having 100+ people attending. And so, once again, we are delighted to offer a packed programme and are confident that it will be another fortnight of friendship and fun which will be enjoyed by all who participate.



The printed programme will be available early in July and can be picked up from Churches and other locations in Formby, Hightown and Ince Blundell. Bookings this year will open on Tuesday 25th July when there will be a special afternoon at Formby Methodist Church with members of the Holiday at Home Team taking your bookings and serving refreshments. Telephone bookings will open on Wednesday 26th and there will be 2 further face-to-face opportunities to book and pay for events that require pre-payment. Details will be included in the programmes.



Transport will be available for those who need assistance in order to attend. Please take the time to read the guidelines on transport and booking options which are in the programme.



Our sincere thanks go to all those who are hosting a special event for Holiday at Home 2023. We look forward to another great holiday experience!

The Holiday at Home Team.



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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

Phone: **07926 587776**

www.southportwills.com



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"It is a beautiful home"



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THE BIBLE IS CLEAR: Moabites are bad. They were not to be allowed to dwell among God's people (Dt. 23). BUT THEN comes the story of "Ruth the Moabite," which challenges the prejudice against Moabites.

THE BIBLE IS CLEAR: People from Uz are evil (Jer. 25). BUT THEN comes the story of Job, a man from Uz who was the "most blameless man on earth."

THE BIBLE IS CLEAR: No foreigners or eunuchs allowed (Dt. 23). BUT THEN comes the story of an African eunuch welcomed into the church (Acts 8).

THE BIBLE IS CLEAR: God's people *hated* Samaritans. BUT THEN Jesus tells a story that shows not all Samaritans were bad.

THE STORY MAY BEGIN with prejudice, discrimination, & animosity, but the Spirit moves God's people toward openness, welcome, inclusion, acceptance, & affirmation.

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.

Peter's Confession of Christ

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Matthew 16:15 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 16:13-20 (NIV)



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

CHRIST
BLESSED
LIVING
JOHN

EARTH
KINGDOM
ROCK
HEAVEN

SON
CHURCH
FATHER
PETER

PROPHETS
GATES
HADES
KEYS

PEOPLE
BAPTIST
ELIJAH
JEREMIAH

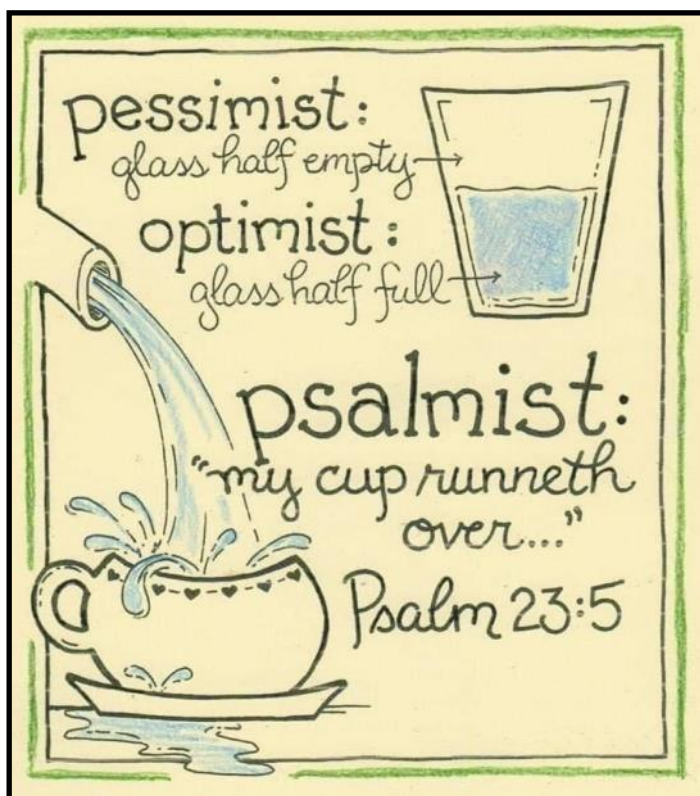
HUSBANDS ARE THE BEST
PEOPLE TO SHARE
SECRETS WITH.
THEY'LL
NEVER
TELL ANYONE,
BECAUSE THEY
AREN'T EVEN LISTENING.



What happens to an
illegally parked frog?

... It gets toad away.

**Show of hands:
Who else
rearranges the
dirty dishes in the
dishwasher after
someone else
has loaded it?**



These are Labrador Retrievers.
They come in a variety of colours.
They are loved and treated equally no matter their colour. They don't fight each other over their colour differences. When it comes down to it, they are all Labs, they are all dogs.

Dear humans, do better, be better.
Be more like Labs.



**Blessed are we who can laugh
at ourselves for we shall never
cease to be amused.**



**When I complained to Amazon
about a missing parcel they asked
me to send photographic evidence.**





From the Back Pew Ted Woods

A CHRISTIAN COUNTRY?

Belief in God Falls

People in the UK are less likely to believe in God than practically any other country in the world, according to research conducted by the Policy Institute at King's College, London.

The percentage of believers in God was just under 49%. Just five countries had a lower percentage of belief in God:- Norway (46%), South Korea (41%), Japan (39%), Sweden (35%) and China (17%).

In 1981 75% of those surveyed in the UK stated a belief in God, so that is a drop of just over a half in 40 years.

The UK public, according to the survey, are among the least likely to see themselves as religious: just 33%. Again, this is a dramatic decline from 57% in 1981.

The number of those identifying as atheist has increased five-fold over the last 40 years – from 4% to 21%. Almost a third of those aged under 26 declared themselves as atheists.

People in the UK are also among the least likely to attend religious services. Just 11% said they attended religious services weekly, 5% monthly.

Not surprisingly, 63% of respondents said that they rarely or never prayed.

41% said that they believed in heaven, while 26% believed in hell. 47% said that they believed in life after death. Interestingly, belief in life after death was higher among GenZ (11 – 26 year olds), Millennials (27 – 42) and GenX (43 – 58) than older people.

Commenting on the findings of the research, the director of the Policy Institute at King's College, Prof Bobby Duffy, said, "Our cultural attachment to organised religion has continued to decline in the UK. But our belief that there is something beyond this life is holding strong, including amongst the younger generation."

Pre-Covid, the average weekly attendance in the Church of England was 854,000. When Covid hit there was a massive decrease (345,000), but congregations have since begun to climb again. 605,000 was the average weekly attendance in 2021, the latest year for which figures are available.

What isn't included in these figures is the number of those participating in worship-on-line. On some Sundays in St. Peter's that could add up to 75 extra people.

Strangely, after Covid the number of churches providing on-line services fell from 71% to 58%. One has to ask, why stop something which has the potential to reach so many?

What should our reaction be to all these statistics?

REALISM There *is* an overall decline in religion, but perhaps we can find some comfort in the fact that, today, religion is more about conviction than convention. People are more open and honest about their non-belief than in previous generations. The default position of many when it came to state their religion was “C of E”, even though they may never have had any connection with the church. Many today are more willing to state “None.”

COMMITMENT It has been shown in numerous surveys that more people start attending church through personal invitation and encouragement than by any other means such as missions and conventions.

Growth is often unseen and unspectacular, but real all the same. Religion is relational – with God and with each other. It is about belonging as well as believing.

National church circles today echo with words like mission, growth, evangelism. But I am convinced that one of the best ways of furthering those aims is by church members attending church.

Say, somebody comes to church for the first time. They screw up their courage to cross the threshold of the church door. What will they find in welcome and in worship? What more impressive sight than a good congregation, a good welcome and a good liturgy – to experience a living church? And that takes conscious commitment on the part of everyone. Attending church is an act of far-reaching witness.

FAITH We’ve got to remember that this is God’s church! A former bishop of Durham, David Jenkins, used to console congregations with these words – “Don’t worry about the Church of England not being up to it, because the good news is that God is already down to it!”

When belief in God was imposed, e.g., Josiah’s reforms in the Old Testament (2 Kings 22), or when Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire as in Constantine’s time, genuine faith generally declined. Religion became convention rather than conviction. But God has always left a remnant to ensure not only survival but re-growth.

In his book, “Anglicanism,” Martyn Percy writes, “Have faith in the resilience of God and the Church, but also respond to the many tests of faith that dominate every age with tenacity, compassion and wisdom. Be confident in the buildings too; they are “signs” of God’s presence in the community. A tatty church suggests a neglected God...But a beautifully kept building, fit for a few other purposes other than worship, suggests, funnily enough, life and otherness, something in the world yet not of it.”

PRAYER Prayer has been defined as not changing God’s will but realising it, aligning ourselves with God’s purposes and offering ourselves as channels of that will to make it happen. Prayer is not just passive but also active. It doesn’t end on our knees but propels us to action.

Alfred Lord Tennyson once wrote: "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of."

Pray for your church, pray for your leaders, but don’t then sit back. Become part of the answer!

July 2023 Diary Dates

Saturday 1st July

9.00am Breakfast Church in the Church
10.00am Saturday Crew
10.00am – 4pm Coffee Shop and Church open
7.30pm St Peter's Day Concert in church



Sunday 2nd July Patronal Festival

8.30am Eucharist (BCP)
10.00am Patronal Festival Eucharist and Sunday Club
Special preacher Rt Revd Dr John Perumbalath, Bishop of Liverpool
6.30pm Choral Evensong

Monday 3rd July

10.30am Bacon Barms and Banter in the Bier House

Tuesday 4th July

11.00am Eucharist at Woodlands Care Home

Wednesday 5th July

11.00am Eucharist *followed by refreshments* – EVERY WEDNESDAY

Thursday 6th July

1.30pm Eucharist in Halcyon House

Friday 7th July

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



Sunday 9th July 5th Sunday after Trinity

8.30am Eucharist (CW)
10.00am Parish Eucharist and Sunday Club *followed by Sunday Club picnic & games*
5.00pm Songs of Praise in St Michael's, Altcar (Tea & Cake from 3pm)
6.30pm Choral Evensong

Tuesday 11th July

10.00am Bible Study *with Ken Ward* in the Bier House
7.00pm 9th Formby Scouts AGM in the Parish Hall

Wednesday 12th July

10.30am Refugee Welcome Day in the Parish Hall
2.00pm WOW – children's service in church



Thursday 13th July

2.00pm Singing for Fun in the Church Hall

Friday 14th July

9.30am Little Fishes Pre-school Group in the Church Hall – closes for the summer
2.00pm Bible Study *with Peter Paine* in the Bier House



Sunday 16th July 6th Sunday after Trinity

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

Tuesday 18th July

10.00am Bible Study *with Ken Ward* in the Bier House
7.30pm Churches Together AGM in St Luke's Meeting Room

Wednesday 19th July

9.15am TSP School Leaver's Service in Holy Trinity Church
7.30pm Primetime Women's Group

Thursday 20th July

2.00pm Singing's Good for the Brain in the Church Hall



PRIMETIME

Sunday 23rd July Anniversary of the Consecration of St Peter's

8.30am Eucharist (CW)
10.00am Parish Eucharist & Baptism
12noon Service of Baptism
3.00pm Charity Abseil from Anfield Stadium for the Vicar, Churchwardens & Organist!
6.30pm Service of Wholeness

Tuesday 25th July

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

Thursday 27th July

2.00pm Singalong Thursdays in the Church Hall

Friday 28th July

7.00pm Revd Gordon MacLeod's Licensing as Vicar of Christ Church, Willaston

Sunday 30th July **8th Sunday after Trinity**
 8.30am Eucharist (BCP)
 10.00am Parish Eucharist
 6.30pm Choral Evensong

August 2023 Diary Dates

Tuesday 1st August

11.00am Eucharist at Woodlands Care Home

Wednesday 2nd August

1.30pm Eucharist in Halcyon House

Saturday 5th August

9.00am Breakfast Church in the Bier House

Sunday 6th August Transfiguration of Our Lord

8.30am Eucharist (BCP)

10.00am Parish Eucharist

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Monday 7th August

10.30am Bacon Barms and Banter in the Bier House

Thursday 10th August

2.00pm Singing for Fun in the Church Hall

Sunday 13th August 10th Sunday after Trinity

8.30am Eucharist (CW)

10.00am Parish Eucharist

1.00pm Wedding of Scott Durrant & Samantha Fergusson

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Thursday 17th August

2.00pm Singing's Good for the Brain in the Church Hall

Friday 18th August

11.00am Fish and Chip Friday in the Church Hall

Sunday 20th August 11th Sunday after Trinity

8.30am Eucharist (BCP)

10.00am Parish Eucharist

6.30pm Service of Wholeness

Thursday 24th August

2.00pm Singalong Thursday in the Church Hall

Saturday 26th August

2.00pm Wedding of Jonathan Cubbon & Carla Fox

Sunday 27th August 12th Sunday after Trinity

8.30am Eucharist (CW)

10.00am Parish Eucharist & Baptism

12noon Service of Baptism

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Wednesday 30th August

11.00am Eucharist *followed by refreshments*



**A SERVICE OF
WHOLENESS**



FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Harvest Festival Weekend – 29th September to 1st October

The Scarecrow Shindig and Coffee Shop will be open each day

Sunday 1st October – 10am Harvest Parade Service – preacher Revd Nathan Thorpe

6.30pm Harvest Community Service – preacher Revd Poppy Thorpe

Wednesday Eucharist - there is a Eucharist every **Wednesday** at 11am throughout the year.

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

St Peter's Church

Green Lane, Formby, L37 3DL

**We need your support
- please don't let us down!**



**Actually, we DO want to be let down ... because
we, namely (L-R) the two Churchwardens, Vicar
and Organist are going to ABSEIL off the
Main Stand at Anfield
on Sunday 23rd July at 3:00pm**

**Please SPONSOR us ~ in aid of
ST PETER'S CHURCH ROOF APPEAL**



- by using this QR code
- www.stpetersformby.co.uk ~ follow the RED button
- or by **cash** at church