

St Peter's Church Magazine

October 2023



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Editorial

A regular feature of our Magazine is the invitation to borrow books from the Church Library (located in the Bier House) and suggestions for our guidance in selecting a title. Back in the June 2023 edition, my attention was drawn to “Why I am Still an Anglican” edited by Caroline Chartres.



It features articles by fifteen contributors, giving a variety of reasons for their remaining members of the Church of England. But what struck me most forcibly was how many of them referred to their affection for the Book of Common Prayer and in particular the service of Evening Prayer.

So, I am not alone!

Imagine, then, my delight in reading (page 15) that Peter Paine has published “The Prayer Book Revealed: a Short Illustrated History of the Book of Common Prayer.”

St Peter’s July/August magazine went on its travels this summer, with copies delivered to Dunsfold (Surrey), and to three chaplaincies of the Diocese in Europe: St Alcuin, Savigny-en-Veron (Indre-et-Loire); El Campello (Costa Blanca); and Christ Church, Rostrenen (Brittany).

And now that summer is behind us, it’s time welcome back familiar faces to celebrate the Harvest Festival with us!



With best wishes to all our readers,

The Editorial Team

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



Dementia
friendly church

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



Dear Friends,

It's Harvest time again! That time of the year which reminds us to be thankful for all we have and to remember those who live in need. It is also a time to be especially conscious of our responsibility to be careful stewards of our fragile and delicately balanced world which is showing obvious signs of wear and tear as its health deteriorates through human neglect, abuse and greed.



Years ago, each coal mine had its own canary in a cage which went down the mines with the workers. Canaries are particularly sensitive to toxic gases which are colourless and tasteless. When the air was clean the canary sang, but when it ceased to sing it was a warning to get out as the air had become polluted.

Many scientists today are telling us that the global canary will soon cease to sing if we don't take urgent steps to cease the pollution of our planet.



Our Harvest Services are on Sunday 1st October and we are delighted to welcome back our former curate, **Revd Nathan Thorpe**, to preach at the All-Age Parade Service. Nathan is now Vicar of St Giles in Aintree. During the afternoon there will be the Relax Service for Older People. Then in the evening for our Community Harvest Celebration we will welcome **Revd Poppy Thorpe**. Poppy was the Curate of Holy Trinity and St Michael's, is now Vicar of All Saints with St Frideswyde in Thornton and is married to Nathan.

There will be refreshments after all three services.

Harvest is the time to gather in the good gifts we are given and this year we ask that you bring the **Time & Talents leaflet** that was included with last month's magazine inviting you to **"Get Involved"** in the life and ministry of St Peter's and offering different ways of doing so.

Some leaflets have already been returned. If you haven't got one, or need another, they are available in the church porch or in the Parish Office. On Harvest Sunday all the leaflets will be brought up at the offertory to be blessed and dedicated.

We will then go through the leaflets and note the offers and be in touch about how to help in the near future.

Remembering those in need, you are asked to bring an item for the foodbank when you come to church for the harvest. Our foodbank collection point in the church porch continues to be very well supported and we know what a big difference your donations make.

In conjunction with Harvest, we are again holding our **Scarecrow Shindig** in and around the church. Scarecrows can be erected and placed from Wednesday 27th September and they will remain in place for the Harvest Services. Do come along and have a look at the scarecrows and all the Harvest decorations and while you are there come into the **Bier House Coffee Shop** and enjoy coffee and cake!

Last year we had a great number of inventive scarecrows, so let's have some more this year. To enter, please contact music@stpetersformby.co.uk with your name and contact number, or enter via the parish website www.stpetersformby.co.uk.



Work continues on the church roof. It is slow and painstaking work, but we are confident that it will make our church waterproof and prevent any further leaks for a very long time. Steve Edwards and I had a guided tour of all the work and got a great view from the very top!

During October there is the **Annual Pet Service**. A service where we welcome in all our pets regardless of the number of feet! We will give thanks for the joy they bring and also for the animals that share our world.

Finally, we are planning to take a team to **Uganda** again in May 2024. The dates are now confirmed as **Monday 20th May until Friday 31st May**. We have obtained a very competitive quote for the airfare - £670 per person – in addition to which there will be the cost of accommodation – about £20 per person per night.



We do need to have expressions of interest as soon as possible – before 1st October. It is a great experience and anything we do makes a difference and is much appreciated by the people of Kalule. A reasonable level of fitness is required and the skills for working with children, the women's project or DIY. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Anne

GOD'S DESIRE IS FOR EACH OF US TO FLOURISH...

Where is joy? Where is intimacy with God? Where is living gloriously?

Jesus instructed the disciples firstly to proclaim the Kingdom of God and secondly to heal. The good news of the Kingdom of God is central to Jesus' teaching and ministry as 'present', living in the kingdom now, in our ordinary every day Christian life of restoration and wholeness.

Christ was concerned for the whole person in his ministry of healing; to live out 'wholeness' of emotions, our body, relationships, purpose, decisions, and soul. Whatever our experiences and beliefs about healing, Jesus wants us to believe in him and respond to his teaching on the kingdom of God.

What can we hope for?

The ministry of wholeness is to flourish, to live out integration as a whole person within the circumstances of our everyday lives.

"...to know the love of God restoring us in every cell of our being, every thought of our mind and every pang of emotion to enable us on every step of life's journey."

– Dr Gareth Tuckwell

God loves us and his desire is the very best for us.

What form that healing, wholeness and reconciliation will take, we cannot tell. It may be a growing awareness of inner peace and integration, help to carry us through a prolonged illness or disability, recovery more rapid than expected, or something we were not expecting.

Where can we find this?

"The ministry of healing is the ministry of prayer, word, sacrament, and pastoral care by which the Church acts as a channel of Christ's healing grace to give people that fullness of life that he intends for them."

Bishop Dominic Walker

Responding to Christ's commission to preach the Gospel and to heal the sick, the Church has been at the centre of care for the sick through the Christian foundation of hospitals, care homes, the NHS, the development of the medical, nursing, and other caring professions. The Church's role has changed. We pray for those within those professions as well as for those with needs.

The ministry of wholeness is often accompanied by the Sacramental means of healing and the laying on of hands, sometimes with anointing. We must not forget, however, that such things as friendship, forgiveness, listening, acceptance, and affirmation can also have a healing grace, as well as skilled counselling. So, in different ways we are all able to take part in the Church's healing ministry, looking forward in faith to the kind of healing He wills for those for whom we are praying.

St Peter's Church invites you the 'Service of Wholeness' where there is an opportunity for quiet reflection and prayer as well as the Sacramental anointing with oil.

Reverend Beverley Smith

Dates for your diary:

Sunday 15th October at 6.30pm

Sunday 19th November at 6.30pm

**A SERVICE OF
WHOLENESS**



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.

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

October - every Tuesday in the Bier House.

Contact Ken Ward 01704 871927

Wednesday Bible Study Group at 7.30pm

This year the theme will be Old Testament Characters starting with Abraham.

Date: 11th and 18th October

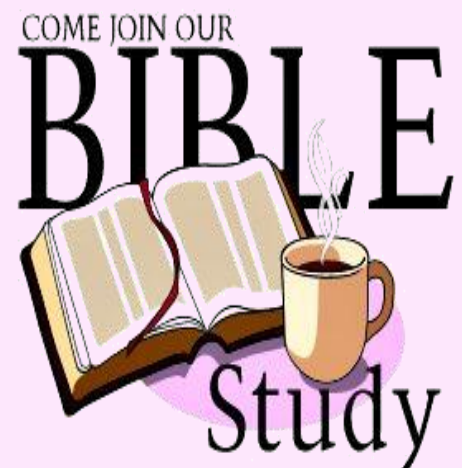
Contact Ted Woods 01704 872824

Friday Bible Study Group at 2pm

Dates: 13th and 27th October

3rd and 24th November

Contact Peter Paine 07722 127791



After School **GOOD NEWS CLUB**

We are re-launching our after-school club which used to be called Fishy Club.

This Club is our after-school bible club for children in Years 4 to 6 in primary school.

We have a new name – **Good News Club** – because we are delighted to be joining with Holy Trinity Church in running the club. There will be a varied programme and each Club begins with a drink, chocolate and games followed by an interactive session. We would like to encourage children from all primary schools to join us as they would be very welcome. We meet immediately after school on a Wednesday finishing at 4pm. Children in Trinity St Peter's School will be accompanied by a leader after school and can be collected from the hall. Children in Clubhouse in school will be escorted back. Come and join in the fun.

Autumn Dates –

4th, 11th & 18th October

15th, 22nd & 29th November

Volunteers – we do need some help, either with the sessions or with the refreshments. If you are interested, please let me know.

Anne Taylor 872824

office@stpetersformby.co.uk

PET SERVICE

Sunday 15th October 2023 at 12noon

A service for all members of the family!

Proceeds to Freshfield Animal Rescue



‘Did You Know’

MARRIAGE IN CHURCH (1)

In essence, marriage requires only the consent of the couple to each other and in the early days this could be sealed by the partners themselves without any supervision.

Also, it has to be said, marriage pre-dates the Church. It is not specifically Christian and is found in all sorts of cultures.



In the early days of the church, couples were married in a civil ceremony and then, if they wished, they could have their marriages blessed by the Church in a religious service.

But because marriages could be contracted validly without any outside supervision, disputes arose. Was there a formal contract? Had there been a previous contract? It needed to be regulated. And so, in the Middle Ages, this is where the Church stepped in and came to have a more formal role in regulating marriage.

By the twelfth century, the Church was developing a legal system for adjudicating and solemnising marriages and discouraging informal contracts.

One of these regulations was to ensure that the parties were free to marry.

In 1200, the Council of Westminster laid down that no marriage might take place without three public announcements of the fact in church. This later became known as the calling of banns – which we still do today! At a time when services were in Latin, banns had to read in the vernacular.

Once the banns had been read, and no objections registered, the wedding could take place.

Next month: What early church weddings involved.

Ted Woods

October Bible Readings

1st – Harvest Thanksgiving

Deuteronomy 26:1-11 / Philippians 4:4-9 / John 6:25-35

8th – The 18th Sunday after Trinity

Isaiah 5:1-7 / Philippians 3:4b-14 / Matthew 21:33-46

15th – The 19th Sunday after Trinity

Isaiah 25:1-9 / Philippians 4:1-9 / Matthew 22:1-14

18th – St Luke the Evangelist

Isaiah 35:3-6 / 2 Timothy 4:5-17 / Luke 10:1-9

22nd – The 20th Sunday after Trinity

Isaiah 45:1-7 / 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 / Matthew 22:15-22

28th – St Simon and St Jude Apostles

Isaiah 28:14-16 / Ephesians 2:19-22 /

John 15:17-27

29th – Last after Trinity / Bible Sunday

Nehemiah 8:1-4a, 8-12 / Colossians 3:12-17 /

Matthew 24:30-35



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 October please pray for all who live in –

1 st October	Kenyons Lane, Bull Cop, Gardner Road
8 th October	Shaw Crescent, Norris Way, Devon Farm Way
15 th October	Mawdsley Close, Moss Green, Cattan Green
22 nd October	Flaxfield Road, Altcar Road, Stephenson Way
29 th October	Glenmarsh Way, Burlington Avenue, Lowes Green

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.

Men (mainly), Beer & Topics

Timeout is about getting together for a beer in the Bier House and hearing about a topic which has relevance for today and looking at it from a general Christian perspective. We've had plenty of lively debates over the years and hope they will continue.



We get together at 7.30pm and the evening ends about 9.00pm. It's all very informal and friendly, and we hope that some new members may come along, if only to try the beer!

We start again on **Monday 9th October** when our topic will be "Artificial Intelligence" and this will be introduced by Steve Edwards.

Future dates: 6th November and 4th December.

Breakfast Church will be at 9am in the Bier House on 7th October

Join us 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 is followed by tea, coffee, toast, crumpets etc. Give it a try! Susan Parkes



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



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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.



Harvest Festivals

The popular tradition of the Harvest Festival as we know it today is relatively recent and was the brainchild of a very eccentric clergyman, named Revd Robert Hawker, who was vicar of a remote parish in Cornwall called Morwenstow.

In 1843 he invited parishioners to a special thanksgiving service for the harvest in Morwenstow Church. Everyone was invited to bring some of their produce as a way of saying thank you to God.



And so the idea caught on and hymns such as “We plough the fields and scatter”, “Come ye thankful people, come,” and “All things bright and beautiful” helped popularise his idea of Harvest Thanksgiving.

Along with the service Robert Hawker introduced a Harvest Supper with an abundant supply of cider and the Vicar singing silly songs to round off the proceedings!

But what made him really eccentric were things like excommunicating his cat for killing a mouse on a Sunday! He used to bring his nine cats to church with him. He kept a huge pig as a pet. (He should have started a Pet Service!!) He built a hut on the shore near his Rectory where he sat and wrote poetry and smoked opium!

His everyday dress was a claret coloured coat, a blue fisherman’s jersey, long sea-boots, a pink hat and a yellow poncho! Once he dressed as a mermaid!

On the positive side he ensured that sailors who drowned in shipwrecks received a Christian burial in his Church.

At a memorial service 100 years after his death, the then Archbishop of Canterbury politely described the eccentric Robert Hawker as “a beyond man in a beyond place.” His idea of celebrating of Harvest still survives today as one of the most popular services of the Church’s year.

After our Summer break we were delighted to welcome Revd Jane Morgan to our September meeting. Jane had agreed to talk to us about prayer but initially gave us a brief summary of her working life and the call to ministry.



Before becoming an ordained minister Jane had worked for many years in midwifery, including as a teacher. A significant portion of this time was spent in Rwanda and Jane has agreed to return to us next year to talk about this period of her life.

Her talk on prayer was very inspiring and was concluded with a beautiful service based around a painting (called BE CALM) of Jesus and the disciples in a boat during a storm. We had readings from the Psalms and Mark dealing with calming the storm and referring to God as our refuge.

Our meeting in October is our Annual Service so hopefully as many members as possible will be there as we renew our vows.

We continue with our three charities and in October I hope we can all bring toothpaste for the refugees. Then shower gel in November when we welcome Revd Ted Woods as our guest speaker.

With all good wishes,

Herbert (873367)

Primetime

**Wednesday 18th October
in the Parish Hall
at 7.30pm**



Do you have a story to tell?

Do you have or have you had an interesting hobby, fascinating career, unusual travel adventures or indeed any experience of anything that might be of interest to other people?

If so, would you consider coming along to talk to the Primetime Ladies at some point over the 2023/24 season? This could be as simple as a chat over a cuppa, with photos or examples, along with a few questions.

We know that there are lots of interesting people in our congregation and we would like to hear from you!

We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the OSR.

If you think you might be interested please speak to either Sonia or Elaine or contact the office. Many thanks.



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 -11.15 in St Peter's Parish Hall (opposite Trinity St Peter's School).

Parents, grandparents, guardians with children from 0 – 3 are welcome for play, songs and stories, together with a light snack and drink.

9.30am Playtime, 10.30am Snack break, 10.45am Time for a story & a song
Space for children and carers to play and support each other.

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

Little Fishes dates - Friday 6th, 13th and 20th October

No Little Fishes on 27th October - Half-term

Worship On Wednesday is a service designed for pre-school children.

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

W.O.W. PRE-SCHOOL SERVICE AT 2PM

Wed 27 th September	W.O.W. Harvest service
Wed 18 th October	W.O.W. pre-school service
Wed 22 nd November	W.O.W. pre-school service
Wed 13 th December	W.O.W. Christmas service



Children start in church at the 10.00am service and then move to the Bier House for lots of fun.



Dates: Sunday 8th & 22nd October
Sunday 5th & 19th November
Sunday 3rd & 17th December

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, books and toys at the back of church please help yourself at any stage during the service.

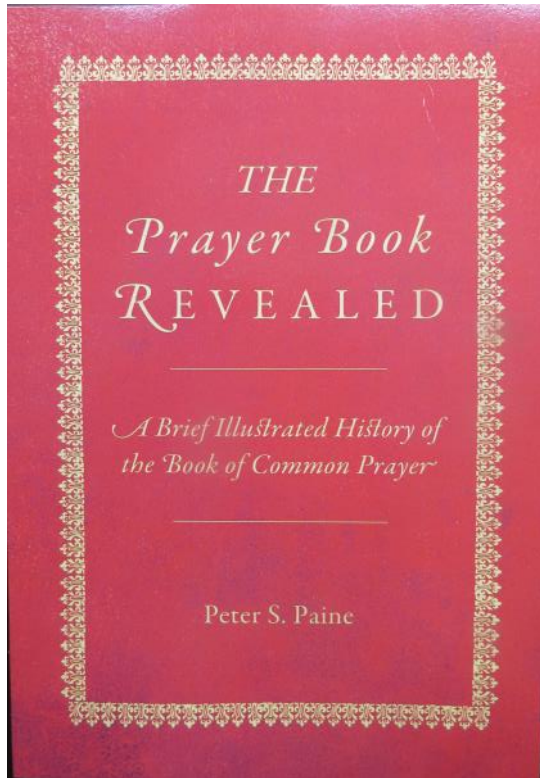
Haribo Service This is a relaxed service for children and young people at 12noon in church. The service is followed by drinks, toast, pancakes and Haribos in the Bier House.

Date: 26th November



Good news for all lovers of the Book of Common Prayer and others who are interested in our worship services.

My book ***The Prayer Book Revealed: a Short Illustrated History of the Book of Common Prayer*** is now published.



It includes one hundred and thirty eight illustrations of Prayer Books and their contents from the reign of Edward VI and before that of an illustrated manuscript (Book of Hours) used before the Reformation. These pictures originate from the collection of Prayer Books my father made while resident in the Norwich diocese over his lifetime and which some of you have seen when I presented a few of them on a Lent course some years ago.

The story plots the turbulent history of the Prayer Book from its conception in 1549 to the present day, its significance over that long period of time and the comparative worth of its replacements.

There is a short chapter (all the chapters are short!) on the spirituality of the Prayer Book and an enthusiastic Foreword by Bishop Humphrey Southern, Principal of Cuddesdon Theological College and previously bishop of Repton.

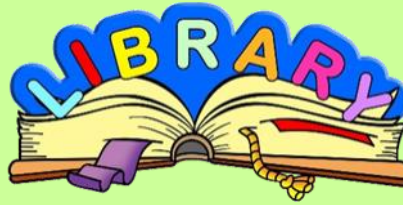
It is available on Amazon and other digital outlets but a cheaper copy may be bought from me (£15.00) on a Sunday morning.

Peter Paine



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



Eco Tip - Use St Peter's Church Community Library

We have a library in the church porch with lots of interesting books and jigsaws.

Borrow a book or swap with another. Chill with a jigsaw.

We ask that books are in good condition. Please no magazines.

Jigsaws need to have the pieces in a bag and be complete
(very frustrating if a piece is missing!)

The church porch is open each day from 10am to 5pm (4pm when the clocks change).

Thanksgiving Prayer for Harvest Time

Loving God, all that we have
comes from your goodness
and the work of those who love us.

Bless us and the food we share.

Watch over those who care for us.

Open our eyes to the needs of the poor
during this time of harvest and
thanksgiving.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Join us this Pumpkin Season for pumpkin fun at The Pumpkin Patch Hightown!

Find your perfect pumpkins across our 30 acres of home-grown pumpkin fields for a wholesome family outing this October.

Open 9am to 6pm daily from 1st to 31st October.

Pick your own pumpkins, get lost in our free maize maze & enjoy our many photo opportunities.

We're famous for our giant pumpkins so borrow a wheelbarrow, bring your wellies and see what amazing pumpkins you can find.

No booking necessary & no admission charge!

Find us on Orrell Hill Lane, Hightown, L38 5DA.



Harvest Festival reminds us of all the abundance of that we have to share.

We ask that everyone bring an item for the Foodbank to our Harvest Services.

We can then share the abundance with those in our community who need a helping hand at this time.

Your help will be very much appreciated.



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



From the Church Register ~ Baptisms Sunday 17th September



Evelyn Sophia and Lily
Eliana Roberts, the
daughters of Tom & Katya



Harriet Felicity Greenwood,
daughter of James & Beth



Aviah Maeve Lyons,
daughter of Ian & Abby



From the Church Register



Funerals

11 th September	Laurence Lissett
15 th September	Carol Hughes
26 th September	Trevor Stokes
28 th September	Fay Trickett
29 th September	Sam Lowe

Garden of Remembrance

3 rd September	Beryl Edwards
20 th September	Jean Maybury



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.

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.

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 or go to the website www.stpetersformby.co.uk
A great way to keep in touch. Email addresses only used only by St Peter's.

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Matthew Dean
Branch Director



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Singing for Fun

Don't forget Singing for Fun on **Thursday 12th October** is with
The Cambridge Crew
in the Parish Hall at 1.45pm.

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

Singing for Fun
Singing for the Brain with Maggie & Mandy
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



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
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It's Shoebox Appeal Time Again!



October is upon us, so it must be time for our Annual Shoebox Appeal in conjunction with Shoebox Express, a small charity here in Formby. Last year all our shoeboxes arrived safely in Ukraine.

If you would like to support this year's appeal envelopes will be available in our porch, in the Bier House and our Parish Hall.

All boxes are priced at just £7.50 and will be packed with stationery, toys, games, toiletries, sweets, warm hat and gloves etc.

Please tick which age group you would like your box to be made for, and if for a boy or girl. Please include cash, or a cheque made payable to 'Shoebox Express', and pass your filled, sealed envelope either to Anne or Ted, the Churchwardens or the Parish Office.

Each year we are amazed at your generosity, thank you for your continued support of this worthy cause.



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in the
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Caroline Speakman

Member of the Society of Willwriters

Email: southportwills@gmail.com

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"It is a beautiful home"



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

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Harvest Festival

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

apple	autumn	bakewell	bread	corn
cornucopia	farmer	festival	field	food
fruit	harvest	plate	plough	praise
pudding	pumpkin	scatter	season	swede
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"With Ted's help church attendance was up"



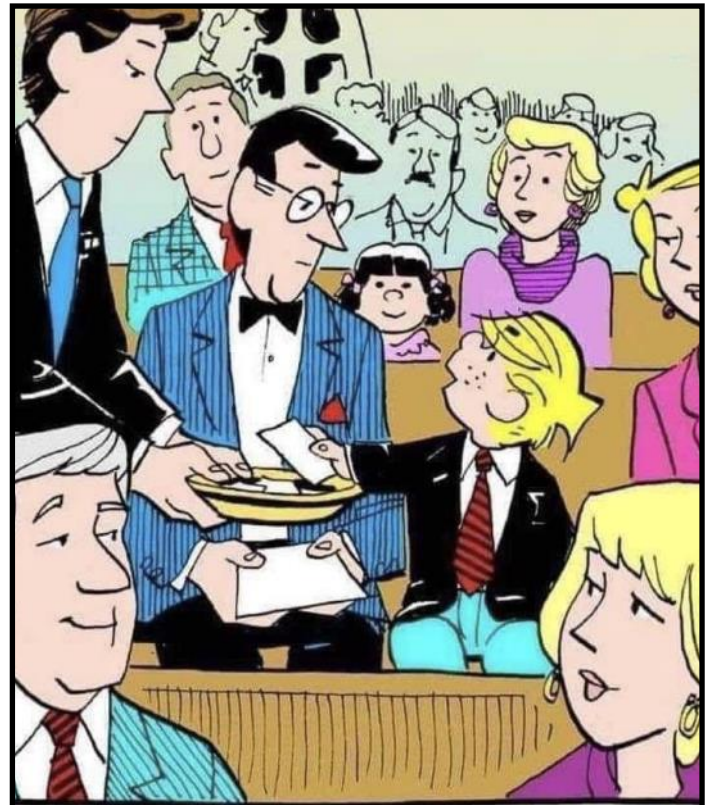
THE LOOK WHEN YOU THINK YOU'VE MISSED CHURCH



BUT THEN REALIZE YOU FORGOT ABOUT TIME CHANGE AND YOU'RE AN HOUR EARLY



We may not be able to help everyone, but everyone can help someone.



"CAN WE GET A REFUND IF THE SERMON ISN'T THAT GOOD?"



"REMIND ME TO HAVE A WORD WITH THAT SIGN-WRITER, WILL YOU?"

What is one small thing I could do to create joy for someone who needs it right now?



theqielves

Word of the Day: FINIFUGAL - being afraid to finish something



From the Back Pew Ted Woods

THE TIMES' CLERGY SURVEY 2023

Of the conducting of surveys there is no end. From political opinions and voting intentions to dietary and drinking habits to the downright bizarre and obvious (remember Family Fortunes on tv!), hardly a day goes by without someone doing a poll somewhere.

So, there had to be a survey of clergy – and there was! The Times conducted a clergy survey in early August and published their findings at the end of that month. 5,000 clergy were randomly selected from Crockford's Clerical Directory to whom questionnaires were sent by email on topics such as doctrine, church attendance, sexuality, slavery and stress. 1,436 clergy responded.



This represents about 6% of clergy active in ministry .

Here are some of the findings:-

Almost two-thirds said that Britain could only be described as a Christian country “historically, but not culturally.” The 2021 census showed that the proportion of people identifying as Christian fell to 46.2%, the first time below 50%. Although 56.6 % agreed that “even if decline continues, the Church of England will never go extinct.” Well, thank goodness for that!!

A majority of those surveyed want the church to conduct same-sex weddings. At the moment, although the *Living in Love and Faith* process promises to permit and provide material for the blessing of same-sex couples, there is still some debate amongst the bishops about how that should be implemented and the content of the prayers.

Under church regulations, clergy are forbidden to enter a civil wedding with their partners. However, the survey found that nearly two-thirds of clergy wanted that ban to be lifted.

More than 80% of those surveyed backed the possibility of a woman becoming the next Archbishop of Canterbury. At the moment, about one-third of the clergy are women, the same proportion as women

bishops. However, it is still possible for a parish to declare that they will not have a female vicar, and there are 590 parishes which have done so. The Bishop of Dover, the Rt Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin, responding to the survey, wants this to be reviewed.

Only 15% of priests backed the removal of slave trader monuments and memorials from churches, but two-thirds would like to see information added alongside them to highlight the links to slavery.

Two in five clergy felt they were over-worked or over-stretched. Two-thirds are trying to manage multi-church benefices, with 1 in 5 working across 5 churches or more and 1 in 20 across 8 churches or more. 32.7% said that their workload or other pressures in their ministry had led them to “seriously consider quitting the priesthood in the past five years”, with one cleric citing “the sheer relentless nature of the job coupled with no help whatsoever from those in authority over us.” That said, one half thought the bishops were doing a good job leading the church.

The radical cleric, the Revd Giles Fraser, commenting on the survey, said, “I’m not packing up my surplice. Tides ebb and flow. We are living through a period of unprecedented scepticism and indifference about the core message of the church: that God exists, that God is love, and that he came among us to save a broken humanity from its self-destructive sinfulness. The job of the clergy is to hold out in difficult times. To say their prayers, to celebrate the sacraments, to look after their parish. Faithfulness to this, rather than frenetic and nervous reinvention, is the order of the day.”

And there speaks a prophetic and encouraging voice.



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 (first Saturday of each month is Breakfast Church).



October Diary Dates 2023

Harvest Festival Celebrations – 27th September to 1st October



Sunday 1st Harvest Thanksgiving

- 8.30am Eucharist (BCP)
- 10.00am Parish Eucharist and All Age Parade Service with preacher, Revd Nathan Thorpe
- 2.30pm Harvest Relax Service for Older People
- 6.30pm Harvest Community Service with preacher, Revd Poppy Thorpe



Monday 2nd

- 10.30am Bacon Barms and Banter in the Bier House

Tuesday 3rd

- 10.00am Bible Study *with Ken Ward* in the Bier House – **EVERY TUESDAY**
- 11.00am Eucharist in Woodlands Care Home

Wednesday 4th

- 9.30am Refugee Welcome Day in the Church Hall
- 11.00am Eucharist *followed by refreshments* – **EVERY WEDNESDAY**
- 2.00pm Harvest Eucharist in Halcyon House
- 3.10pm Good News Club – children's after school bible club in the Church Hall



Thursday 5th

- 2.00pm Mothers' Union in Church followed by refreshment

Friday 6th

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



Saturday 7th

- 9.00am Breakfast Church in the Bier House
- 10.00am Saturday Crew *all things crafty* in the Bier House



Sunday 8th 18th Sunday after Trinity

- 8.30am Eucharist (CW)
- 10.00am Parish Eucharist and Sunday Club
- 12noon Service of Baptism
- 6.30pm Choral Evensong



Monday 9th

- 7.00pm Timeout Men Beer and Topics in the Bier House

Wednesday 11th

- 3.10pm Good News Club – children's after school bible club in the Church Hall
- 7.30pm Bible Study *with Ted Woods* in the Bier House

Thursday 12th

- 2.00pm Singing for Fun in the Church Hall

Friday 13th

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

Sunday 15th 19th Sunday after Trinity

- 8.30am Eucharist (BCP)
- 10.00am Parish Eucharist
- 12 noon Pet Service
- 6.30pm Service of Wholeness



Wednesday 18th

- 2.00pm WOW – pre-school children's service in church
3.10pm Good News Club – children's after school bible club in the Church Hall
7.30pm Primetime Women's Group
7.30pm Bible Study *with Ted Woods* in the Bier House



PRIMETIME

Thursday 19th

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

Friday 20th

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



Sunday 22nd 20th Sunday after Trinity

- 8.30am Eucharist (CW)
10.00am Parish Eucharist
6.30pm Choral Evensong

Tuesday 24th

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

Thursday 26th

- 2.00pm Singalong Thursdays in the Church Hall

Friday 27th No Little Fishes Pre-school Group – half-term

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



Sunday 29th 21st Sunday after Trinity / Bible Sunday

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



FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Remembrance Sunday – 12th November – 10am All-Age Parade Service
Sunday 10th December – 10am Christmas All-Age Parade Service,
2.30pm Relax Service for Older People & 6.30pm Bereavement Service
12th to 17th December – Christmas Tree Festival

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



Harvest Thanksgiving



Wednesday 27th September - Sunday 1st October
10:00am to 4:00pm

MORE Scarecrow Shindigs!

entry forms on the website

Coffee Shop & Church OPEN

Sunday 1st October

8:30am - Eucharist (BCP)

10:00am - Harvest All-Age Parade Eucharist

Preacher: Revd Nathan Thorpe

2:30pm - Relax Service for Older People

6:30pm - Community Harvest Thanksgiving

Preacher: Revd Poppy Thorpe



Ceraldine



www.stpetersformby.co.uk

