

# St Peter's Church Magazine

## November 2023



**LEST WE FORGET**  
*Remembrance day*

St Peter's Church,  
Green Lane, Formby  
L37 7DL

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

**Dementia friendly church**



Please note the deadline for the December 2023/January 2024 double edition of the magazine is **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023**.  
Contributions to [magazine@stpetersformby.co.uk](mailto:magazine@stpetersformby.co.uk)

# Associate Archdeacon – Revd Canon Anne Taylor

We are delighted and proud to announce that our Vicar has been appointed by Bishop John as the Associate Archdeacon of Knowsley and Sefton. This is a three year appointment (from 1<sup>st</sup> October).

Anne's role will be to work alongside the Archdeacon, Pete Spiers, and this will be primarily a pastoral role.



Of course, her main role will be as the Vicar of St Peter's and she will continue as Area Dean of Sefton North.

To give support in her deanery role, Anne has appointed Revd Poppy Thorpe as Assistant Area Dean.

Congratulations Anne!

Churchwardens

Gill & Sarah

## WAITING ON GOD

### Finding Time and Space in Advent



The newly-formed Faith Group in St Peter's is organising a pre-Advent talk to help us pace ourselves and find some time for reflection in the hectic run up to Christmas.

This will be held on **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm in The Bier House** and will be led by the **Revd Mark Waters**.

Mark Waters has served in parish ministry in the dioceses of Bristol, Sheffield and Liverpool. He was Social Responsibility Officer for the Diocese of Sheffield; has worked as a national programme manager for Church Action on Poverty, and for the Citizen Organising Foundation (now Citizens UK), setting up schemes to enable the voices of disadvantaged communities to be heard in the public arena.



He now coordinates a network for contemplative prayer and practice based at Liverpool Cathedral, gives time as a spiritual director, and is an assistant priest in the parish of St Luke, Crosby.

All are welcome and refreshments will be served.



*Dear Friends,*

**November is a month for Remembering.**

There is Remembrance Sunday when we especially remember those who served and those who died or were wounded, not only in two World Wars, but in the many wars and conflicts since.

We also think of those from the armed forces who still bear scars, whether physical or psychological, from what they experienced as they sought to bring peace, or maintain peace, in many parts of the world. We remember, too, all who have lost loved ones. As war rages in our world at this time foremost in our minds is the suffering of civilians and those whose role it is protect them. The sudden outbreak of appalling violence in Israel from Hamas that has led to a deadly confrontation, the continued war in the Ukraine and in Mali have all resulted in untold innocent suffering.

As we remember with thanksgiving all that so many have done in seeking to secure peace, this year we pray even more for peace. We pray for those now caught in the crossfire and the awful tactics that terrorist groups employ in war.

For some, remembering can be painful. In the Eagles' song, 'Hotel California,' there is the line, "Some dance to remember, some dance to forget." There is a certain ambivalence attached to memory. Some can be trapped in memories of the past, unable to move on, while others use the memory of the past, failures as well as successes, hurts as well as blessings, to face the future with courage and enthusiasm.

Take St Peter for example: He could have become trapped by despair and guilt as he remembered his denial of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. But because he knew Jesus forgave him he was able to learn from the past and be liberated to be the brave leader of the new emerging church.

May our remembrance of all those who died and suffered in wars and conflicts and of all today caught in war zones, inspire us to value peace and freedom, and to work for justice and reconciliation in all matters, great and small.

**Thank  
you!  
so much**

I would like to thank all who worked so hard to make our **Harvest Thanksgiving** such a meaningful and enjoyable time. Thank you to everyone who decorated the church from scarecrows to windows; Simon Price for all the fruit which was later distributed to various good causes; to all who bought Foodbank items; to David and the choir who enrich



our services with music; to the Explorer leaders for the BBQ after church and all who gave hospitality in the coffee shop and after the services. The services were very well attended (over 350, including 70 young people and children) as was the number viewing on the live stream (116 watched the morning service and 109 in the evening). So, thank you if you delivered Harvest cards or invited someone to church. It is wonderful to be able to reach so many in our community through our services and outreach. We also had the joy of inviting Nathan & Poppy Thorpe back as our preachers and it was a delight they could be with us.

**Completed Time and Talents Leaflets** were presented as part of the offertory during the Harvest service. Your offers have all now been collated and shared with the leaders of various activities, and they, in turn, will be in touch with all who offered to help. If you would still like to offer to help there are still leaflets in the porch.



Already we need to look for volunteers for the following – a minibus driver for the Refugee Welcome Day, another helper for the Little Fishes Toddler Group and another Crucifer (to carry the cross on Sunday morning). If interested in any of these roles, please let me know.

Again, thanks to all who responded and to those who are already giving so much. It is fabulous to have so many people involved in the life of St Peter's.

Anne

## **The Uganda Team 2024**

We now have our team for the trip to Uganda in May 2024. The Team has a great mixture of ages and abilities. There will be lots more about how everyone can become involved because this is not just about the Team but our parish partnership with St Peter's Church, School and Women's Project in Kalule.



**The Team:** Alex Warner, Anne Taylor, Gill Holroyd, Kyle Whitham, Liz O'Callaghan, Matt & Sorel Parkes, Mike Fletcher, Pete, James & Chris Hawkins, Rachel Woods, Steve & Shena Edwards, Ted Woods, Tricia Barrett plus two teachers from Trinity St Peter's Primary School, Joanne Molloy and Aimee Jones .

Revd Sheilagh Williamson will meet us in Kalule.

*(If anyone is still interested, we will hold a reserve list in case anyone can't go, so do let us know).*

# The Parochial Church Council (PCC)

**The PCC is the executive committee of a parish.**

## **A brief report of the October meeting of St Peter's PCC**

**REPORT FROM TRINITY ST PETER'S SCHOOL** Allan Jones, Chair of Governors, gave the annual report to the PCC. Numbers on Roll in October 2023 is 242 (including Nursery). TSP is full in all years except Y2 which has always had vacancies as 2021 was a low intake year across the schools in Formby.



Attendance has been good but has been better. Reduced attendance post COVID is a national problem. OFSTED February 2023. The inspector's summary was 'Trinity St Peter's CofE Primary School continues to be a good school. There is enough evidence of improved performance to suggest that the school could be judged outstanding if we were to carry out a grade (section 5) inspection now. The school's next inspection will be a graded inspection.' This means they will return within the 12/18 months for a graded inspection rather than

4+ years with an ungraded inspection. Unusually there were no items identified under 'what can the school do better.' SIAMS think we are excellent in every aspect. Money is tight – we rely on the generosity of the St Peter's Educational Trust and Team TSP fundraising initiatives. There are 14 Governors including Allan Jones, Paul McHenry (St Peter's) and Sue Wong (Diocesan).

**Resignation & Election** - Rod Jacques resigned as a member of the PCC due to personal circumstances. Rod has been thanked for his many years of dedication to the PCC and he will be greatly missed. As a result of Rod's resignation a vacancy has arisen on the PCC and Steve Edwards was elected who had been a co-opted member.

**Discussions** – review of the very successful Harvest Thanksgiving Celebration and Scarecrow Shindig. The response to the Times & Talents Leaflet. The appointment of a PCC member to the Audit Committee.

**Uganda Project** - It was reported that there are 18 on the Uganda 2024 Work Team. Any other expression of interest will be on a reserve list.

**Finance Report:** Two thirds into the financial year and the trial balance indicates that as of 31<sup>st</sup> August there was a deficit against the budget of £32k. Reconciling the budget currently is challenging due to the income/expenditure fluidity caused by the ongoing roof repairs. Roof Repair Analysis - £10k of contingency funding was allocated for the roof repairs including the bell tower. Due to additional issues that have been uncovered, including finding unsafe concrete which is a potential Health and Safety risk, the costs have exceeded this by £2k so far. Potentially this amount will increase. Total tender cost plus the additional £2k extras totals £140,736.

**Stewardship Report** - It is worth noting that we have currently used £5,479 of the £8,000 limit allowed for Gift Aid claims made on anonymous cash donations under the Small Donations Scheme. Andrew Greenyer believes we will hit the limit well before the end of the Tax Year therefore we need to keep encouraging donors to use the Gift Aid options.



We have also not been able to claim some of the Anonymous Fabric Donations under the Small Donations Scheme due to exceeding the £30 limit for a single donation. Again, this is a reason to encourage everyone who is a taxpayer to select the Gift Aid option either by using a Yellow Envelope, the Contactless Machines or Parish Giving Scheme. (See page 13 for details of the PGS).



**Fabric Report: Roof Works West End** – raking out of mortar is 100% complete; Re-pointing is 95% completed. Both north and south copings removed, purlin ends are in good condition. Some board ends are slightly rotten, but no major issues discovered. Bell timber beam ends will be treated and the beams will be supported by two new RSJs. Lead work has been carried out and it was confirmed that it will be treated with security Smart Water. Damaged corner stones have been spliced with some repairs. Work is on target to complete by late October.

We have successfully applied for grants from the Listed Places of Worship scheme which effectively pays back the VAT. Items from the latest Quinquennial Report have been discussed with the contractor and two cracked external Choir Room stone window jambs will be repaired.

*Photo: Steve Edwards, the Vicar with the Architect, Rebecca Grimshaw*

**Faith & Outreach Report:** This Committee has now been split. Faith Group members are Toni Ashcroft, Jane Morgan, Peter Paine, Fred Nye, Ted Woods and the Vicar. Outreach Report – discussed The Good News Club after school club, Bacon Barms and Banter, Thursday Singing Groups. Network of Kindness – a Deanery Initiative.

**Social** – a new Social & Fund-raising Committee to be organised.

**Deanery News:** Revd Neil Short from St Michael's, Blundellsands is retiring in February 2024. There will be a Deanery Eco Youth Event 17-18 February 2024. From the Deanery Mission Fund each church will receive a Christmas Grant of £1,000.

**Horizons Donations 2023** – list of proposed Horizons donations was agreed.

<b>£200 each</b>	Southport Offshore Rescue and Learning Rooms.
<b>£300 each</b>	Papyrus Suicide Prevention, Friends of St Joseph's, Sefton Cancer Support, Rainbow House, Dogs for Good, Peterhouse School, Claire House Hospice, Sightsavers, Missionaries of Charity, Liverpool, Mary's Meals, Citizens Advice, Southport Samaritans, Sefton Advocacy, Southport Food Bank, Queenscourt, Sefton Women's & Children's Aid, Refugee Group, Women's Refuge, Sefton Soup Kitchen, Open Doors, Alzheimer's Society and Stem Cell Scousers Charity (Antony Nolan).
<b>£360</b>	Toilet Twinning
<b>£400</b>	Whitechapel Centre
<b>£500</b>	Mosaic Middle East
<b>£625</b>	Train a Priest (collection)
<b>£700</b>	Water Aid
<b>£1,500</b>	Uganda Project

Special Collections -

Harvest	Southport Food Bank	
Advent	Whitechapel Centre	
Christmas	Children's Society Christingles	
2024 Lent	Uganda Project	
Baptism Services (at 12noon) and Haribo Services		Make a Wish Campaign
Pet Service	Freshfield Animal Rescue	





# **FORMBY MEMORIES** **with JOAN RIMMER and NIC DICKSON**

An entertaining and informative stroll through Formby's past,  
with slides, songs, chat and humour.

## **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November at 2.30pm**

**in St Peter's Church,  
Green Lane, Formby**

including refreshments.

**Donations in aid of the  
Church Roof Appeal.**

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



## **Quiet Time with God**

### **'Finding God in the messiness of life'**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2023, 10am – 12midday in the Bier House**

Our lives can be busy with so many distractions that we can forget to take time to stop and pause and spend time in God's presence. Spending time with God helps us to deepen our relationship with Him, refreshes our soul, and enables us to live joyfully. Life is too precious to waste and we can live life more fully, even in the challenging times that we may all experience. A quiet time with God gives us the opportunity to be away from distractions and meet with God and know that God holds us close, loves us and wants the best for us.



Jesus' ministry was a busy ministry but he would take time out to pray, to be with God, so let us too take time to sit with God.

You are invited to take a break from your usual routine and join us in our time together to relax and reflect and enjoy the presence of God.

**'Be still, and know that I am God!'**

**Reverend Jane Morgan**

**Date for your diary:  
Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30pm**

**A SERVICE OF  
WHOLENESS**





# 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 - 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> November**

**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 22<sup>nd</sup> November

Wed 13<sup>th</sup> December

W.O.W. pre-school service

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 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> November**

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> 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: 26<sup>th</sup> November**

## COFFEE, CAKE & CHAT or BIER HOUSE BREW?!

The Coffee Shop is fast becoming a regular feature in the church's calendar, complementing many activities in church, and developing as a place to drop in to find companionship, refreshments and a good natter! Old friendships are being renewed and new ones growing, it's all happening here, and an absolute pleasure to witness. None of this would be possible though without your help.

During the last couple of Coffee Shop events, cake recipes have been requested so we thought it might be nice to produce a Coffee Shop Booklet and raise funds to support the church. Can you help? Please send recipes to me by email:

[fionaannemartin@aol.com](mailto:fionaannemartin@aol.com) or hand to me in church, so we can produce a booklet to display in future coffee shops for visitors and community alike to enjoy.

The next Coffee Shop date, supporting the Christmas Tree Festival, is in December, and we look forward to seeing you all then!

Bless you all, Fiona Martin.

# Pray with us...

Merciful God,  
You remember every life lived,  
every pain suffered and every grief  
endured; and you hold those memories  
forever safe in your heart of love.  
We lift before you on this Remembrance  
Day loved ones who have died,  
in times of peace and of war,  
trusting them to your loving care.  
And also today, we remind ourselves,  
and each other, that nothing said or done  
in love will ever perish, because you are  
God of the living, in whose presence all  
may flourish eternally. Amen



## 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 November please pray for all who live in –**

5 <sup>th</sup> November	Old Mill Lane, Willow Grove, The Warren
12 <sup>th</sup> November	New Road, Clifton Road, Ryeground Lane
19 <sup>th</sup> November	Wrigleys Lane, Wrigleys Close, Canterbury Close
26 <sup>th</sup> November	Paradise Lane, York Close, Kenton Close

### EMAIL DIRECTORY



We have a parish email directory which is used once or twice a month to send out dates for the month and also when a special event is coming up. If you would like to be added to the email list, please send an email to [office@stpetersformby.co.uk](mailto:office@stpetersformby.co.uk) or go to the website [www.stpetersformby.co.uk](http://www.stpetersformby.co.uk) A great way to keep in touch. Email addresses only used only by St Peter's.



# NOVEMBER BIBLE READINGS

## 1<sup>st</sup> – All Saints' Day

Revelation 7:9-17 / 1 John 3:1-3 / Matthew 5:1-12

## 5<sup>th</sup> – All Saints' Day / The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Before Advent

Micah 3:5-12 / 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13 / Matthew 24:1-14

## 12<sup>th</sup> – The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Before Advent – Remembrance Sunday

Amos 5:18-24 / 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 / Matthew 25:1-13

## 19<sup>th</sup> – The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Before Advent

Zephaniah 1, 7, 12-18 / 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 / Matthew 25:14-30

## 26<sup>th</sup> – Christ the King / Sunday next before Advent

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 / Ephesians 1:15-23 / Matthew 25:31-46

## 30<sup>th</sup> – St Andrew the Apostle

Isaiah 52:7-10 / Romans 10:12-18 / Matthew 4:18-22



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**

November - 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: 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> November

Contact Ted Woods 01704 872824

### **Friday Bible Study Group at 2pm**

Dates: 3<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> November

Contact Peter Paine 07722 127791





# Apes and Ancestors

‘And, in conclusion, I would like to ask the gentleman ... whether the ape from which he is descended was on his grandmother’s or his grandfather’s side of the family.’ Samuel (‘Soapy Sam’) Wilberforce (Bishop of Oxford) to T. H. Huxley (Oxford, 1860)

‘I asserted – and I repeat – that a man has no reason to be ashamed of having an ape for his grandfather. If there were an ancestor whom I should feel shame in recalling it would rather be a man – a man of restless and versatile intellect – who, not content with an equivocal success in his own sphere of activity, plunges into scientific questions with which he has no real acquaintance, only to obscure them by an aimless rhetoric, and distract the attention of his hearers from the real point at issue by eloquent digressions and skilled appeals to religious prejudice.’ (Thomas Henry Huxley (biologist, Darwinist, agnostic) (1860)

This acerbic exchange set the tone of debates about the relationship between religion and science for decades. It had been triggered by the publication of Charles Darwin’s *On the Origin of Species*, with its revolutionary thoughts on evolutionary development (although scientists had been inching towards such thoughts for some time). Neither Huxley nor Wilberforce could see any common ground between their respective disciplines, one concerned with the measurable the other with the unmeasurable.

Our ancestors thought scientifically, albeit not in ways that we might do so: they used stories to understand the world around them and expressed their beliefs through images taken from the natural world. Our Old Testament is full of these pictures. Those creation stories in Genesis may be taken from observations of nature: primeval chaos becomes a watery environment from which creatures emerge – sound like evolution? In his TV series *Earth*, Chris Packham’s story of our Earth wasn’t too dissimilar from the stories told by ancient man about the world around him (Packham might be upset by that analogy, but many scientists hold religious beliefs just as many clergymen expanded our scientific knowledge in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, without sensing any conflict between science and faith).

Conflict came when we thought that one contradicted the other, and tried to prove that science ‘proved’ the Bible: it didn’t and doesn’t. Back in the seventeenth century, James Ussher, Archbishop of Armagh, calculated the date of creation as being around 6.00 p.m. on 22 October 4004 BC, basing his work on the time scale given in the Bible. Unfortunately, the fossil records suggested otherwise.

So: did scientific beliefs grow out of religious beliefs or did religious beliefs give voice to our scientific observations? To ignore one in preference to the other diminishes our humanity, as perhaps we are discovering to our cost – another story.

**Peter Andrews**

# What is the Parish Giving Scheme?

The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) is the quickest and easiest way to support St Peter's Church by giving money regularly. The PGS provides a simple and secure method for you to donate to St Peter's, in order to keep the church running and to maintain outreach to the local community.

**Using the PGS you can:**



Give monthly, quarterly or annually by Direct Debit



Increase your gift annually in line with inflation



Enhance your gift with Gift Aid, increasing the value by 25%



Give anonymously



Donate securely

## How do I sign up to the PGS?

Use your smartphone or tablet to scan this QR code, which will take you direct to the PGS registration page for St Peter's Church. From here it's simple to set up and manage your regular giving online.



Alternatively type in this link

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/formby-st-peter-formby/>

For more information visit the Church's website:

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

There are also printed information leaflets available at the back of church

### Contacts:



stewardship@stpetersformby.co.uk

Parish Office ~ 01704 871171



**PARISH  
GIVING  
SCHEME**

**Did you know? ... it costs more than £600 a day to run St Peter's Church!**

# Things you might not know about the poppy



## **1. Wearing a poppy is a show of support for the service and sacrifice of our Armed Forces, veterans and their families.**

It represents all those who lost their lives on active service, from the beginning of the First World War right up to present day.

It also honours the contribution of civilian services and the uniformed services which contribute to national peace and security and acknowledges innocent civilians who have lost their lives in conflict and acts of terrorism.

## **2. The poppy has been a symbol of Remembrance for over 100 years.**

The poppy became a symbol of Remembrance and hope for a peaceful future in the aftermath of the First World War.

## **3. There is no 'correct' way to wear a poppy.**

Wearing a poppy is a personal choice reflecting individual and personal memories. It's a matter of personal choice whether someone chooses to wear a poppy and how they choose to wear it. From paper poppies to pins, bag charms to pet poppies, the best way to wear a poppy is simply with pride.

## **4. The poppy is red because that's the natural colour of the poppy flower.**

During the First World War previously beautiful countryside was blasted, bombed and fought over, again and again. The landscape swiftly turned to fields of mud where little or nothing could grow. But out of this devastation the delicate but resilient bright red Flanders poppies grew and flourished in their thousands.

## **5. Poppies are sold in every community across the UK.**

Every year the rumour that poppies have been banned in some communities resurfaces. This is simply not true and each year thousands of volunteers from all walks of life take to the streets, train stations and supermarkets around the country to help us raise vital funds for the Armed Forces community. Everyone who wants to take part in remembrance can do so, either by making a donation for our traditional poppy, or by taking part in other activities.

## **6. A poem inspired the use of the poppy as a symbol of Remembrance.**

Shortly after losing a friend in Ypres in 1915, a Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, was inspired by the sight of poppies growing in battle-scarred fields to write his now famous poem 'In Flanders Fields.' The poem inspired American War Secretary, Moina Michael, who bought poppies to sell to her friends to raise money for Servicemen in need after the First World War. This was adopted by The (Royal) British Legion in 1921 who ordered a million poppies from Anna Guérin in France and commissioned a further 8 million to be manufactured in Britain. These were sold on 11<sup>th</sup> November that year in the first ever Poppy Appeal. The poppy has been adopted as a symbol of Remembrance ever since.

## **7. Poppies weren't always sold with leaves.**

Like the natural flower, the original version of the poppy did not feature a leaf. A leaf was first introduced in the 1960s and they slowly became an optional extra. By 1984 demand for them had grown to 12 million a year, and in 1995 poppies with leaves included were made available for the first time.

## **8. Poppies are now recyclable.**

For the 2023 Poppy Appeal we are introducing new plastic-free poppies alongside our remaining stocks of the current poppy. Plastic-free poppies can be recycled in ordinary paper recycling collections. And poppies containing single-use plastic can be returned to Sainsbury's stores for recycling. There are also a variety of enamel poppy pins that you can wear instead of a paper poppy and we have a range of alternatives available from our Poppy Shop at

[www.poppypshop.org.uk](http://www.poppypshop.org.uk). You can then choose to make a donation to the appeal every year.



# Re-dedication of Southport War Memorial Southport, commemorating its 100<sup>th</sup> year.

The event was organised by The Southport Branch of the Royal British Legion.

Photo of Ken Ward carrying the County Standard and leading the main group of Standard Bearers in the Parade (alongside the Royal British Legion Women's Section National Parade Marshal, Michelle Miller).



Princess Anne, the Princess Royal, other VIP's, many veterans and schoolchildren attended the parade.

**Ken Ward**





## St Cecilia - Patron Saint of Music

According to legend, Cecilia was a young Christian of high rank living at the beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD. Her parents arranged for her to be married to a Roman named Valerian. She protested at this marriage as she made a vow of celibacy. But through her influence Valerian was converted, along with his brother. But both were martyred for organizing proper burials for other martyrs. Cecilia's death would follow in 230AD as she refused to worship false idols and continued to openly worship God.



The source of the connection between Cecilia and music is obscure and does not seem to date back much before the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Innumerable paintings and stained-glass windows depict her solemnly with an organ, lute or viola.

However, the connection arose, it soon became lodged in folklore, and by the second half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century festivals and celebrations in her honour (and that of music in general) begin to be recorded. She has inspired many musicians and writers throughout the centuries, from Benjamin Britten to Simon & Garfunkel. The old £20 note, withdrawn in 2010, had Saint Cecilia and the composer Sir Edward Elgar on the back.

The great influence of Cecilia is that she has become a symbol of the Church's conviction that good music is an integral part of the liturgy, of greater value to the Church than any other art. Our lives would be poorer without music. But so would our worship for music has a spiritual quality - a quality that takes us out of ourselves, that suggests something deeper and helps us to draw closer to God.

She is especially remembered on 22<sup>nd</sup> November each year.

### 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!

Next meeting on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November** when our topic will be Mental Health and Young People in Liverpool

Speaker: Pete Hawkins, Co-Director Windmills Foundation

**Future date: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December**

### Breakfast Church will be at 9am in the Bier House on 4<sup>th</sup> November

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



**Pet Service 15<sup>th</sup> October 2023**







Gabriel Fauré

# REQUIEM MASS

*A performance of beautiful music within the liturgical setting of a memorial Eucharist*



**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>  
November  
6:30pm**

**St Peter's Singers**

Jon Barton ~ Organ  
Conducted by David Holroyd

Celebrant  
Revd Anne Taylor

Preacher  
Revd Ted Woods

At our meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> October we held our annual Church Service when we had the opportunity to renew our Mothers Union vows.

It was a lovely service and our sincere thanks go to Revd Canon Janet Eastwood who entertained us reminiscing about a Mothers Union badge which had belonged to her grandmother; the peculiarity of English spelling; and then inspiring us with the wonderful work of Mary Sumner which resulted in the World Wide organisation that we belong to today. Our thanks also go to Anne who led the Service and David who kindly played the organ as we sang three wonderful hymns.

After the Service, whilst enjoying tea and biscuits in the Bier House, we were requested to take note of our forthcoming meetings in November and December.

1) **Thursday November 2<sup>nd</sup>** when we welcome Revd Ted Woods as our speaker, on 'The Life of a Vicar.' Remember shower gel for the refugees. At this meeting members are asked to indicate what items of food they will bring to the December meeting and hopefully some names will appear indicating what they will do in the carol service.

2) **Thursday December 7<sup>th</sup>** for our Christmas Party

Please note that this meeting will be in the Bier House and as usual will start at 1.00pm. (N.B. NOTE NOT 2.00pm and NOT IN THE PARISH HALL )

Looking forward to seeing you all at these two meetings

With all good wishes,

**Herbert (873367)**





# Cubs District Day Out trip to the Crocky Trail



*This year the District Day Out was to the Crocky Trail near Chester, and our Cubs joined about 130 Cubs and Leaders from across the District. On arrival the Cubs spent the morning on the Trail which is about 1km long with various activities featuring along the trail, including rope swings, tunnels, mazes, and walkways above water, and then spent the afternoon on the slides and rides, including the Titanic slide.*



*Barrel balance*



*Barrel roll*



*Down we come!*



*Lock 'em up! Trying to escape the Jailhouse.*



*On the rope swing*



*On the trail*



*Resistance is futile - down you come!*

*Roundabout swings*



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



# Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October Harvest Thanksgiving and All Age Parade Service



Scarecrow Squirrel



Squirrels receiving their Chief Scout's Acorn Award



Revd Anne and Revd  
Nathan Thorpe

Shindig Scarecrows



Beekeeper  
Aunt Sally







**Year 5**   
 did a  
 wonderful job  
 of leading the  
 school Harvest  
 service.



**Harvest  
 WOW  
 Service** 





## From the Church Register ~ Baptism 8<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Arthur Edward McNab,  
son of Paul & Abi



## Wedding Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October

Will Thorpe and  
Gemma Chadwick  
at St Michael's Church, Aughton  
(Wendy & Chris Thorpe's son)



## Holiday at Home 2023

The Holiday at Home Team would like to express their sincere thanks for the support provided for Holiday at Home 2023 by Churches Together in Formby, Altcar and Hightown. Thank you for the use of your premises and thank you to the many volunteers who gave their time and energy to providing such a varied programme.

**Winnie**

***The Holiday at Home Team and  
Formby Befriending Scheme***

# ‘Did You Know’

## MARRIAGE IN CHURCH (2)

Once the banns had been called (see last month), the wedding could take place – typically in the church of the bride. But weddings could not take place in certain church seasons – Advent, Lent and Pentecost. These seasons were regarded as too holy for weddings to be conducted in them.

The wedding had to take place in the morning, hence the celebratory ‘wedding breakfast’ still mentioned today. The reason for this timing was because the ceremony was followed by a celebration of the Eucharist which according to church law then, could only be between dawn and 11.00am.

The church would be decorated for the ceremony, although the first part of the service began outside the door of the church, sometimes at the church gate, “before God, the priest and the people.”

Although banns had been called, the priest asked the people if they knew of any reason why the couple should not be married, and then asked the couple themselves if they knew of any impediment to their becoming husband and wife.

With no impediments raised, the couple exchanged vows in front of the priest. The groom laid money and a ring on a plate or book as a token of the wealth he would give to his wife. The ring was blessed and then the groom placed it on the fourth finger of the bride’s left hand. The ring finger was known as “the leech finger” because it was believed that there was a vein running from it to the heart.

The priest then declared they were married and this was followed by more prayers and blessings.

The priest then led the couple into church and up to the altar, where they prostrated themselves while the Eucharist was celebrated, although the couple themselves did not receive, the congregation did.

As the couple left the church, the bride received presents from guests at the door of the church, after which they all processed to their home for food, drink and music.

**Ted Woods**

*St Peter’s Church was originally “The Ancient Chapelry of Formby, St Peter Apostle and Martyr.” It dates from the 12<sup>th</sup> century and was situated very close to the sea. St Peter’s was part of the Parish of Walton, which is why the Rector of Walton is still our Patron. This chapel became “ruinous” and a new church, on the present site, was built in 1746 and consecrated on 19<sup>th</sup> July 1747.*



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**Matthew Dean**  
Branch Director



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## ***Singing for Fun - please arrive by 1.45pm for 2pm start***

**Singing  
Thursdays!**



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



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

**2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month  
4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month**

**Singing for Fun  
Singing for the Brain with Maggie & Mandy  
Singalong Thursday**

**Light-  
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required -  
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**Fun and  
free event,  
& refreshments  
in a warm  
space.**

**Dementia  
friendly church**



## **Bacon barm and banter**

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

**The Bier House, St Peter's Church,  
Green Lane, Formby L37 7DL**

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**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](mailto:office@stpetersformby.co.uk)**

## 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.**

## Primetime

**Next meeting**

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November  
in the Parish Hall  
at 7.30pm**



*Future date:*

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December**

*(please note day change)*

*meal out and a visit to Vue to see a film - live performance of The Nutcracker ballet.*

*Please contact Sonia or Elaine for more information or contact the Parish Office. Many thanks.*

**office@stpetersformby.co.uk**

The Foodbank have informed us that they running low on the following items:



Soup, Beans,  
Jam, Coffee, Biscuits,  
Custard, Rice Pudding  
Tinned Fruit,  
Tinned Veg (inc tomatoes),  
Tinned meat,  
UHT juice/cordial.



**The Church  
Porch is open  
everyday from  
10am to 4pm for  
donations.  
Thank you**

## 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.



## Eco Tip

### Use St Peter's Church Community Library

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

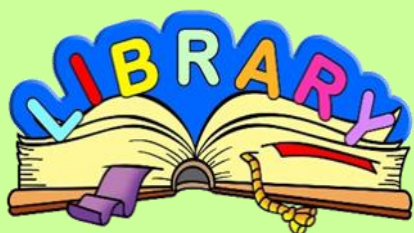
Borrow a book or swap with another.

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 4pm.**





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### Caroline Speakman

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# St Andrew

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

FISH  
DISCIPLE  
SCOTLAND  
FISHERMAN

LOAVES  
GALILEE  
PETER  
JACK

JESUS  
BETHSAIDA  
ANDREW



'How you found the leak yet Vicar?'

ENCOURAGEMENT IS LIKE  
VERBAL SUNSHINE.  
IT COSTS NOTHING AND  
WARMS PEOPLE'S HEARTS.

## Word of the Day

spuddle (17th century)

to work ineffectively; to be very  
busy whilst achieving absolutely  
nothing.

"Do you, Linda, take David the Optometrist to be your lawfully wedded husband, for better or worse? Better... or worse? Better.. or worse?"



## ***Time for a Titter!!!!***

**Goat for Dinner** - The young couple invited their elderly Vicar for Sunday dinner. While they were in the kitchen preparing the meal, the Vicar asked their son what they were having. "Goat," the little boy replied. "Goat?" replied the startled man of the cloth, "Are you sure about that?" "Yep," said the youngster. "I heard Dad say to Mum, 'Today is just as good as any to have the old goat for dinner.' "

## **The Best Way to Pray**

A priest, a pastor and a guru sat discussing the best positions for prayer, while a telephone repairman worked nearby.

"Kneeling is definitely the best way to pray," the priest said.

"No," said the pastor. "I get the best results standing with my hands outstretched to Heaven."

"You're both wrong," the guru said. "The most effective prayer position is lying down on the floor."

The repairman could contain himself no longer. "Hey, fellas," he interrupted. "The best prayin' I ever did was when I was hangin' upside down from a telephone pole."

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**





# From the Back Pew

## Ted Woods

### THE TRANSFORMING WIGAN PROJECT

#### Evaluation Report Published

The Transforming Wigan project was set up by Liverpool Diocese in 2013 with the aim of making Wigan “a missional powerhouse,” turning around the decline in church attendance and falling finances.

Wigan is the largest deanery in the diocese, made up of 29 parishes with 33 church buildings. In 2013 the number of incumbents (vicars in charge of parishes) fell from 24 to 18 and there was a general acceptance that something had to be done to address the situation where the full quota of clergy could not be afforded. Along with the 18 incumbents there were 4 curates, 1 pioneer minister, 1 house-for-duty-priest, 5 self-supporting ministers and 33 readers and 15 retired clergy.

The aim was to create a team of 7 parishes in Wigan encompassing 29 churches (4 were closed) led by a team rector.

A project director, the Revd Tim Montgomerie, was appointed in 2015 to lead a team and initiate the changes until 2020 when the parish of Church Wigan was officially formed.

The Church Commissioners awarded the project £900,000 towards meeting the estimated cost of £1.2 million.

How has it fared? Like the proverbial curate’s egg, it was good in parts.

Twenty-nine new worshipping communities were established with 750 participants. There has been a lot of social/justice activity such as 6 food pantries set up, a Christians Against Poverty debt centre run by a manager. Two hundred lay people have been trained for various leadership roles, and there are bereavement support groups, coaching for schoolchildren and a secondary school counsellor paid for.

‘Core Services’ was set up and staff employed to undertake parish administration across the team, including finance, buildings management, communication, HR, safeguarding and co-ordinating funerals. Staff costs represent 13% of the team’s total income.

The centralisation of administration across the team made it easier for the church to engage with Wigan Council.

However, the Evaluation document reports that average weekly attendance at church has dropped across Wigan and continues to fall. 1,150 now compared with 1,718 in 2015 and 1,567 in 2019 - pre-Covid.

Weekly giving has declined by 8.8% and the finances of the team are now said to be critical, in spite of the fact that the diocese “has been generous in providing financial support to Church Wigan, without which it would be in significant debt and stipendiary clergy would be down to 8.”

The report found that new worshipping communities do not result in increased giving, at least in the short-term.

There has been a lot of dissatisfaction among churchgoers over the new arrangements (53%). 29 PCC's were dissolved and 7 new PCC's were elected in their place, with new wardens and treasurers appointed. Many have said that their jobs have become more complicated and time-consuming as they no longer represent individual churches but groups of churches.



In the newly formed Church Wigan, there are 13 stipendiary vicars and one team rector. The financial assets of all the 29 previous parishes have become the property of the 7 new parishes.

There are now plans to further reduce the number of parishes from seven to two, or one.

Whereas, in the past, clergy worked mainly in their own parishes, they are now being deployed across the whole deanery, and many churches don't have "their own vicar" to deal with pastoral situations. Services are led by a variety of clergy and readers and the report records parishioners identifying the loss of a sense of identity with their local church and also a loss of liturgical and theological traditions, particularly with regard to the holy communion and music. The evaluation reports that, seven years on, there is a feeling that "established churches have been neglected and traditional activities less valued."

Although £58,000 was saved in insurance costs, the finances of Church Wigan are in a "precarious" state as giving continues to fall. Only one parish in the deanery has paid its parish share. On average, only 60% of budgeted income was received in 2020-2022, and the deficit between income and expenditure is now at 20%. The report says that there is evidence that the decline in giving may be linked to the "considerable upset and dissatisfaction" caused by the reconfiguration of the deanery.

Further recent reports indicate that, of the 29 churches in Church Wigan, 4 more are definitely closing with the possibility of a further 15. Many of the buildings are sub-standard.

Informed by Transforming Wigan, Liverpool diocese has now embarked on a 6-year "Fit For Mission" programme, funded by the Church Commissioners to the tune of £7.5m. All the parishes in each deanery are being invited to join together to form one larger parish, like Church Wigan. One of the results of the Wigan evaluation is that parishes will not be compelled to join the Fit For Mission programme and can opt out.

The report can be read at <https://www.liverpool.anglican.org/we-publish-the-independent-review-into-the-transforming-wigan-project.php>



# November

## Diary Dates 2023

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

- 9.30am Refugee Welcome Day in the Parish Hall  
 11.00am Eucharist *followed by refreshments* – **EVERY WEDNESDAY**  
 2.00pm Eucharist in Halcyon House



Little Fishes

### Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> All Souls Day

- 2.00pm Mothers' Union in the Bier House  
 – speaker Revd Ted Woods 'The Life of a Vicar'



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

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

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

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



### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> All Saints Day

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



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

- 10.30am Bacon Barms and Banter in the Bier House  
 7.30pm Timeout Men Beer and Topics in the Bier House  
 Topic: Mental Health and Young People in Liverpool



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

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

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

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

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

- 2.00pm Singing for Fun in the Parish Hall  
 (Arrival 1.45pm for a 2pm start)



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

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

### Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>

- 10.00am Meditation Group in the Bier House



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

- 8.30am Eucharist (CW)  
 10.00am Parish Eucharist and All-Age Parade Service  
 3.00pm Community Remembrance Service in Holy Trinity Church  
 6.30pm Gabriel Fauré Requiem Mass

### Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>

- 7.30pm Primetime Women's Group in the Parish Hall

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

- 2.00pm Singing's Good for the Brain in the Parish Hall  
 (Arrival 1.45pm for a 2pm start)

PRIMETIME

## **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Advent**

8.30am Eucharist (BCP)  
10.00am Parish Eucharist  
6.30pm Service of Wholeness



## **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>**

2.30pm Formby Memories with Joan Rimmer and Nic Dickson in Church

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

2.00pm WOW – service for pre-school (and TSP Reception) children in church  
7.30pm Bible Study *with Ted Woods* in the Bier House

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

2.00pm Singalong Thursdays in the Parish Hall  
(Arrival 1.45pm for a 2pm start)

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

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



## **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Christ The King / Sunday next before Advent**

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



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

7.30pm Talk 'Finding Time & Space in Advent' by Revd Mark Waters in the Bier House

## **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> St Andrew's Day**

2.00pm Singing for Fun in the Parish Hall.  
(Arrival 1.45pm for a 2pm start)  
Everyone is welcome for this special seasonal event with Traditional Christmas music and singing, with seasonal refreshments.



## **FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December – 10am Christmas All-Age Parade Service,  
2.30pm Relax Service for Older People & 6.30pm Bereavement Service  
13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Tree Festival

### **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).

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



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



9th Formby (St. Peters) Scout Group  
&  
Spitfire Explorer Scout Unit



PRESENT THEIR FAMOUS

# CHARITY FIREWORK SPECTACULAR AND BONFIRE PARTY



**SATURDAY**

**4TH NOVEMBER 2023**

**THE Paddock, CRICKET PATH**

**GATES AT 6PM, FIRE LIT AT 6:30PM**

**FIREWORKS APPROX 7:30PM**

**REFRESHMENTS**



**AVAILABLE**

**Cash Only**

**ADULTS £3**

**CHILDREN £2**

**FAMILY TICKET £10**

Please Note: There is No parking at the Cricket Club. The display WILL take place even if it rains.

**Please Note: For Safety Reasons — NO personal fireworks OR Sparklers**