

St Peter's Church Magazine
Festive Edition
December 2023 & January 2024



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Dementia
friendly church



Please note the deadline for the February 2024 edition of the magazine is **Friday 5th January 2024**.
Contributions to magazine@stpetersformby.co.uk

CHRISTMAS SERVICES



Sunday 10th December

8:30am	Eucharist (Common Worship)
10:00am	All-Age Christmas Service
2:30pm	Relaxed Christmas Service <i>A 30 minute service for older people Familiar carols and readings followed by tea and mince pies</i>
6:30pm	Bereavement Service <i>Remembering our loved ones</i>

Sunday 17th December

8:30am	Eucharist (Book of Common Prayer)
10:00am	Parish Eucharist & Sunday Club
6:30pm	Carols by Candlelight <i>Followed by mulled wine and mince pies</i>

Christmas Eve

(No 8:30 service)

10:00am	Parish Eucharist
3:00pm & & 4:30pm	Christingle Services <i>For pre-school and primary-school aged children</i>
6:00pm	Christingle Service <i>All Age Service with the choir</i>
11:30pm	Midnight Eucharist

Christmas Day

8:30am	Eucharist (Common Worship)
10:00am	Parish Eucharist

For all our other services and events
please see the website



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,

My letter in this double issue of the magazine always leads me to reflect on the past year while already making plans for the year to come. If 2022 was a year of events as we celebrated our 275th anniversary then 2023 has been the year of the building works! But at least the scaffolding will be gone before Christmas.

The challenge is always to keep in balance the things that are important to us as a parish. So we sent out a survey that more people can be involved in the life of our parish and that is ongoing as we welcome new people into our community. But we also fixed the leaky roof because St Peter's is a special place in which to worship and we need to look after it. The balance is that the church is the people involved and the building helps us to draw closer to God and be an active, caring, worshipping community.



New Curate - 2024 will be the year of welcome as we look forward to Lilly Nelson joining us as our Curate. Lilly was with us on placement last year and I know she will be really blessed by serving her curacy in St Peter's and we will be blessed by her ministry. Lilly will be ordained Deacon on Saturday 22nd June in the Cathedral.

Preparations are well underway for the **Christmas Tree Festival** starting on 13th December and once again there will be the wonderful hospitality given by our **Coffee Shop Team**. The many services, groups and events we hold are so important as we reach out and make St Peter's a place of welcome and an important part of the community.

A great way to get to know people is to volunteer and we need lots of willing helpers to steward in the church and help in the coffee shop as well as those who can bake. And, just as importantly, to spread the word as our festival raises money for many different charities. And this year there will be a special guest arriving on two evenings!



Christmas is a wonderful time to invite friends to church whether it is the Carol Service, the Bereavement Service or the Christingles. It can be a slightly nervy thing to invite someone not knowing if they will say yes. But it may well be the very encouragement they need, and it is so much nicer coming along with someone – so go on, give someone our Christmas Services Card and invite them along.



The date list for Christmas Services is on the previous page (page 3) and diary dates for December and January are on pages 38 and 39. So please check the dates for all the services and events.

There are a number of dates to note.

A busy day on Sunday 10th December with 3 special services -

10am - All-Age Parade Service and we welcome our preacher Julie Rowlandson who is a Community Ambassador with International Aid Trust and will talk about their work with the Christmas Shoe Box Appeal.

2.30pm - Relaxed Service which is ideal for anyone who may find the morning services too early. It is a good service to bring a relative who lives in a Care Home.

6.30pm - Bereavement Service - Christmas is a very difficult time for those who have been bereaved and are experiencing the pain of missing loved ones. This is why we have a special service of remembrance close to Christmas.

Carols by Candlelight Service will be on Sunday 17th December at 6.30pm followed by mulled wine & mince pies.

Christmas Eve – Christingles at 3pm, 4.30pm & 6pm and then Midnight Eucharist at 11.30pm.

Christmas Day - 8.30am & 10am Christmas Eucharist.

House Communions - if you would like communion at home for Christmas, please give me a ring and we can arrange a date to visit you.



Live stream Congregation - If it would be helpful to have a service book and a hymn book please let us know. The service book and bulletin are on the website each week but we can provide copies.

We also have **Christmas Invitation Cards** to deliver around the parish. It's an opportunity for a bit of pre-Christmas exercise!! If you can help, please contact Caroline in the Parish Office.

Before Christmas we will have booklets available called **'Follow The Star: Join the Song.'** The booklet is an invitation to everyone to ponder what the extraordinary events of the first Christmas might mean for us today. This booklet draws us close to the heart of Christmas through stories, bible readings and reflections from Christmas Eve to Epiphany. Please collect your free copy from the church porch.

On behalf of myself and Ted, I wish you a very happy and peaceful Christmas and an exciting New Year.

Anne

Bishop John's Christmas Message 2023

This will be my first Christmas among you in Liverpool and I am looking forward to experiencing how you do Christmas in Liverpool. Over many years in many places, I notice how churches build their own fabulous traditions around Advent and Christmas and I am excited to see how you mark this great festival.

But I am reminded that in our extravaganza and paraphernalia of festivities, we can lose sight of the harsh realities of the nativity story: a stable, the cold night, the Inn's closed door, refugees fleeing to Egypt, the brutal slaughter of the innocent.

These harsh realities mirror the harsh realities of the world we live in. We see war, natural disasters, chronic anxiety, and poverty all around us. God embraced this world when sending Jesus at Christmas and God asks us as a church, who face challenges of our own, to lift our heads and show love to the world. To be encouraged by the nativity story and encourage others because of it.

As in previous years, the Church of England tries to come together with a campaign for Advent and Christmas.

This year's theme – Follow the Star: Join the Song – highlights how singing can help draw us closer to God and each other through the journey from Advent to Epiphany. I encourage you to use their resources and take part in their invitation to sing the First Nowell as part of a way of bringing people to church.



And then together we are singing a song of God's hope for God's world. A hope that can only come through our belief in Jesus and Jesus' story from Christmas to Easter.

So sing this song of hope as you celebrate Christmas in your place. And renew in yourself a commitment to being that light of hope in God's world.

Have a blessed, peaceful, hope-filled Christmas.

Dates for your diary:
Sunday 21st January 2024
Sunday 18th February 2024

**A SERVICE OF WHOLENESS
at 6.30 pm**





From Lilly Nelson – our future curate

I am absolutely delighted to be returning to the beautiful St Peter's - as some may remember, I served a discernment placement with St Peter's back in 2022. This was a deeply formational time over Holy Week, the memories of which are cherished.

I am humbled to be returning to serve the community and journeying alongside you with all that God has in store!

I will be praying for the community; please do hold me in your prayers at the time of finishing my studies here in Durham.

Lilly Nelson

Sunday 10th December 2023 ~ 6.30pm

Bereavement Service

A simple service of prayers, readings and hymns, with the chance to light candles in memory of loved ones.

Refreshments served after the service.

ALL WELCOME



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).



Wednesday Eucharist

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

(Apart from Wednesday 27th December).



St Peter's Church Christmas Tree Festival

Wednesday 13th – Sunday 17th December



We are again planning to hold a Christmas Tree Festival in church this year. Christmas trees will be decorated by charities and groups in their own particular style and displayed around the church. Each tree will have a collection box next to it so that visitors can give donations to the charity/ group which has decorated the tree.

Our aim is that there will be no cost to those taking part.

With that in mind if anyone would like to help by sponsoring a tree and donating towards the cost of it, they can make a donation. The names of all our sponsors will be displayed in church along with the trees.

To sponsor a whole tree costs £50; the smaller trees on the window ledges cost £25. The two big trees - by the gate, and beside the Pulpit are also available - but are rather more expensive!

However - **any** sort of donation will be welcome to contribute towards the cost of a tree. Please put your donation in an envelope with your name and either take it to the church office or hand it to Shena, David, Gill or Sarah.

☎ 871171



office@stpetersformby.co.uk



As part of our Christmas Tree Festival this year we would like to decorate our large tree at the front of church with knitted nativity figures. If you're handy with the old knitting needles, please speak to Shena or Fiona for a pattern so that we all end up with similar size figures.



Thank you!

CHRISTMAS CHURCH & COFFEE SHOP

13th - 17th December



10 - 4pm Wednesday, Thursday & Sunday

10 - 5pm Friday & Saturday to accompany Santa's Grotto

Usual plea for help!

- Coffee Shop staff and marshals needed for timeslots over the 5 days (see board on church windowsill nearer the time)
- Donations of yummy cakes and biscuits, homemade or bought, with accompanying recipe (see last month's magazine request)
- Homemade or bought soup, any flavour, and bread rolls

We're offering hot chocolate with marshmallows this time, so either of these items, any quantity, gratefully received

Any other ideas or queries, please catch me in church. Any support is **always** appreciated, thank you.

Fiona Martin



Christmas Chocolate Time is here again!

For several years we have held an Appeal at Christmas to collect Christmas type chocolate, which we donate to Southport Soup Kitchen. And though it only seems a short while ago, it is time for this year's appeal. Any type of Sweet Christmas treats are really welcome, from Chocolate Santa's, Selection boxes, Tubes of sweets, for the Children to Chocolate Oranges, boxed chocolates etc for the grown ups. Everything we donate is really, really appreciated.

There will be a box in the porch, so if you would like to help us, again, please pop your donation in there and we will take them over on our 'Chocolate Run'. Many thanks as always.

Little Fishes Pre-School Group

Little Fishes is a drop-in group that meets on a Friday morning in school term time from **9.30am - 11.15am** in St Peter's Parish Hall (opposite Trinity St Peter's School).

Parents, grandparents, guardians with pre-school age children 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 £1 per family to cover snacks.

Little Fishes dates

1st December
8th December
15th December
Closed ~ holidays
12th January
19th January
26th January



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

**Dates: Sunday 3rd & 17th December
Sunday 14th and 21st January**

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: Sunday 7th January



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 13th December
W.O.W. Christmas service



**Breakfast Church will be at 9am
in the Bier House on 2nd December and 6th January**

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



PUTTING OUR STAMP ON CHRISTMAS

One of the great privileges of my day job is that every year I get to commission postage stamps that reflect the true meaning of Christmas. I like to think that in some small way they help people to remember what Christmas is all about.

The lectionary year begins a new cycle this Advent with a focus on the Gospel of Luke. And when I think of the true meaning of Christmas, I can't help but call to mind Luke 2:8-14 as referenced by none other than Linus Van Pelt, trusty blanket at his side, in *A Charlie Brown Christmas*: "'For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord'...That's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown." It's a beautiful scene and to this day I can't read Luke 2 without hearing Linus' dulcet tones.

If anyone in popular culture can claim to own the true meaning of Christmas, surely it is Charlie Brown and the Peanuts gang. But you can bet your bottom dollar that organisations the world over will be trying to 'own' Christmas this year. I recently saw an internal campaign boldly stating that 'we are Christmas.' I can't imagine any company having the gall to claim ownership over any other religious festival. It's a sign of how far removed our society has become from what Christmas really is.

There might not be many examples in this day and age that we can use as an anchor for evangelism. But we have many services and events which offer a 'jumping on' point for people. Even talking with others about these events that we have attended is a chance for us as Christians to truly put our stamp on Christmas. This Advent, let us use them as an opportunity to spread the Good News.

But what is the true meaning of Christmas? It is the time of the incarnation. The time God made arguably his greatest sacrifice of all – becoming fully human, with all the vulnerability that entails.

And what is the Good News of Christmas? Simply put, God became human, and in Jesus we see what God is like. And God is good. God is love. What better news could there be than that?

Matt Parkes, Reader



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

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

Contacts:



stewardship@stpetersformby.co.uk

Parish Office ~ 01704 871171

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



OUR RUSSIAN ICON

One of the more unusual items which has come into the care of St Peter's is our Russian Icon. This depicts The Virgin Mary, with the infant Christ in her arms. Our Icon is proudly displayed as part of our Christmas celebrations, but how many of us know of the origin of this treasure?

Whilst listing church artefacts for our forthcoming Archdeacon's Visitation, I came across some information in the detailed report which was prepared for St Peter's by members of NADFAS (now The Arts Society) in 1991. Much of the history is also on a label fixed to the back of the wooden case containing the Icon.



According to this label, John William Frost was an engineer working for Matthew Platt of Manchester. (Probably "Mather and Platt" – still in existence today). In the decade from 1860 he was concerned with constructing a cotton mill near Moscow. When the work was completed, he remained in Russia as the manager. After some years his daughter, Elizabeth, married into a Russian family. As was the custom at the time, she was given an icon when she married, so it is about 150 years old. Tragically, Elizabeth died during childbirth and the Icon passed back to her English family. The Frost family returned to Britain in 1905 with the Icon, and no doubt its associated sad memories. The piece eventually came into the possession of the Worrall family of Formby, who were descendants. The Worrall family kindly donated the icon to St Peter's during the incumbency of Revd Jack Thomas, and it was first displayed in church at Christmas 1979 by Fr Kevin Eastell.



The icon itself is a beautiful piece of craftsmanship, made from wood and metal (possibly silver gilt or maybe gold-leaf) and encased in a locked wooden case with a glass window.

The faces and hands of the Virgin and Child are lovingly hand-painted. Closer inspection shows a layered three-dimensional effect, which adds to the depth of view.

The Greek symbols in the upper corners of the piece represent the first and last letters of the two words "Meter Theou, Μήτηρ Θεού," meaning Mother of God.

It is well worthwhile pausing for a few moments to have a closer look at our Icon when it is on display, to appreciate the fine craftsmanship involved, and reflect on the sad story of its origin.

Nick Philpott

“Churches Together in Formby Altcar and Hightown” News

“Open the Book” Assemblies

You may remember these being mentioned in the Bible Sunday sermon recently; they involve a small group of people drawn from our member churches currently visiting Redgate, St Luke’s, Our Lady of Compassion, and St Jerome’s Primary Schools monthly during term time presenting Bible Stories in a dramatic form using material prepared by the “Open the Book” scheme run by the Bible Society.



They have recently updated their scheme and the team is introducing the new material during this academic year. Previously, school assembly visits had been made using material provided by the “In Another Place” organisation based at St Luke’s, Crosby as a consequence of your present Chairman’s Thespian potential having been revealed to Annie Speirs by his being involved in our own Nativity and Passion plays. Being involved in this work is not usually considered part of the duties of Churches Together representatives, but it is enjoyable and well worthwhile.



The group, whose operations have been formalised in accordance with the Bible Society’s Schemes requirements, is currently led by Geradine Foster of the United Reformed Church, and is funded by CTiFAH. This is a novel situation for the scheme as Storytelling groups are usually directly attached to individual Churches and so there is some interest in seeing how ours works out. By the time you read this the November visits will have taken place, and a slightly different presentation will be offered in December, based on our own Nativity in Formby Village.

Advent and the Village Nativity

The Village Nativity presentation will take place on Saturday 16th December, in the Formby Pool grounds if the weather permits. If not, Formby Methodist Church will provide accommodation. As, in previous years, there will be decorated shop and other windows to visit and appraise around the village during Advent, so please enjoy.

Last year the “Open the Book” team, with some additional support, visited ALL the local Primary Schools and “reprised” the Saturday performance, using the production soundtrack recording. This year, two local schools will have a “preview” Friday visit – St Jerome’s and Freshfield, whilst Redgate, St Luke’s, Our Lady’s of Compassion and Woodlands will have a “reprise” on Monday 19th December. Sadly, Trinity St Peter’s could not accept either of these visits.



Carol Singing

Dates for this year’s carol singing are: -

Friday 22nd December 11am-12 noon, Tesco

Saturday 23rd December 11am-12 noon, Waitrose



John Ryan,
this Year’s Chairman and a St Peter’s representative



At our meeting on the 2nd November we had a wonderful talk from Revd Ted Woods giving us some of the details of "The Life of a Vicar" and what an amazing life it is!!!

He gave us some of the details under five headings, all beginning with P

- (1) PRIESTLY - i.e. Services such as Sundays BUT also all those extras like weddings and funerals etc, most of which have visits associated with them
- (2) PASTORAL - (there is no job description) however it is expected that they should be the shepherd tending and guiding the flock
- (3) PUBLIC - this relates to activities outside the parish such as Diocesan committees
- (4) PRIVATE - the essential time for their own private prayers and study time, frequently requiring them to attend courses
- (5) PERSONAL - the need for some time to relax, have holidays and spend time with the family

All in all a very busy schedule and sometimes it can be almost impossible to fit everything into a "normal" week.

Our next meeting is the Annual Christmas Party which this year will be in the Bier House on Thursday 7th December at 1-00pm.

In addition in December there were two dates of note

- (a) MU Carol Service at St Michael's, Blundellsands, at 2-00pm on Saturday 2nd December
- (b) St Michael's Christmas Party on Tuesday 19th December at 2-00pm.

We received thanks from Revd Peter Paine and his wife, Carol, for the toiletries we provided for the refugees. So in January we start our next collection with toothbrushes and then toothpaste in February.

On Thursday 11th January at 2.00pm we will hold our Annual Mothers' Union AGM in the Bier House.

Tricia also spoke about our donation to the Central authority which remains at £29. We are also asked to wait until January before paying the money to Tricia.

Wishing you all a Blessed Christmas,

Herbert (873367)



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 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

Dates - every Tuesday (except Dec 26th and Jan 2nd) 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: 17th January in the Choir Room
and 31st January in the Bier House

Contact Ted Woods 01704 872824



Friday Bible Study Group at 2pm

Dates: 8th December, 12th and 26th January in the Bier House

Contact Peter Paine 07722 127791

An Appeal for Mince Pies!!!

In St Peter's we love to offer hospitality and we are hoping you will be willing to help by providing mince pies for the Carols by Candlelight (17th December), by Monday 11th December please.

Please bring along to church or drop them into the Parish Office.

Many thanks.



SUPPORT THE...

**BONE
CANCER**
STAMP APPEAL



By saving just 1kg of stamps you can help fund one hour of our life-saving research! Carefully cut the stamp from the envelope or package, leaving a 1cm border around the edge.

There are so many different types of stamps and we love them all! Whether they are new or used, first or second class, foreign, first day covers, horizon labels or part of a larger collection or album. We can use them all to help fund our life-saving work.



Please put your stamps in the box in the Church Porch.

Teddy Bears wanted and other new toys (good as new) for the Christmas Shoe Box Appeal and other charities. Please bring to church and everything will find a good home this Christmas.



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

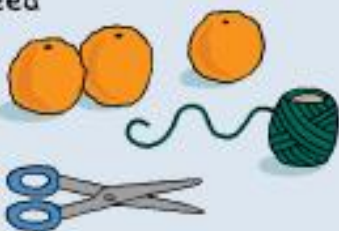


How to make eco-decorations

DRIED ORANGE GARLAND

You will need

- Oranges
- String
- Scissors
- Cinnamon sticks (optional)

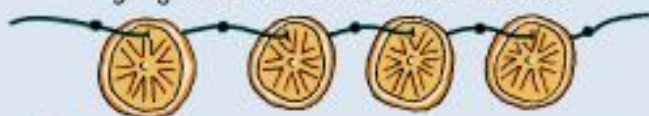


- 1 Get a grown-up to help you thinly slice an orange and then dry it out in the oven heated to 140C for 45 minutes.



Put a small hole in each slice before drying it out.

- 2 When the slices are fully dry, thread the string through the orange slices, tying a knot between each one.



- 3 If you want, you can tie in cinnamon sticks between each slice.



TWIG STAR DECORATIONS

You will need

- Twigs (five per star)
- String



- 1 Choose five twigs of equal length.



- 2 Tie the ends of the twigs together with string.



- 3 Tie the end of your final twig to the free end of your first twig, and twist into a star shape.



Loop string through the stars to hang them on your tree!



www.wildlifewatch.org.uk

← For more activity ideas

PINE CONE GARLAND

You will need

- Pinecones
- String
- Scissors



- 1 Carefully shake your pinecones outside to get rid of any minibeasts, clean them and let them dry out.



- 2 Cut string into 25cm pieces and wrap one around the base of each pinecone.



- 3 Then cut a longer piece of string for the garland – tie each of your pinecones onto this.



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 meetings:

Monday 4th December

An Evening with the Vicar!

Monday 8th January

The Role and Challenges for Church Schools Today – speaker Stuart Harrison, Director of Education for Liverpool Diocese.

Primetime

Primetime Ladies Group will have their Christmas outing on

Tuesday 12th December

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

(Please note day change, there will be no meeting on 20th December).

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 17th January at 7.30pm in the OSR when Joan Rimmer will be joining us to talk about her interest in local history.

All ladies welcome, especially if it's your first visit.

For more information please contact Sonia or Elaine or the Parish Office.

☎ **871171**

✉ **office@stpetersformby.co.uk**

REFUGEE SUPPORT GROUP

First of all a really big '**THANK YOU**' to all in the community and especially the Mothers' Union who have supported our activities over the course of the year. We have run seven Welcome Days this year and every time we have delivered clothes and sometimes bicycles to Asylum Link Merseyside.

We are also most grateful to Rory, our link person at ALM who gathers a group of asylum seekers for us to pick up.

Our guests are always keen to visit the beach regardless of the weather and frequently we find that one or two have never been to a beach before.

Whatever your stereotype of asylum seekers might be, it is worth noting that in September we welcomed two teenage sisters who spoke six languages each. Their English was excellent but only their fourth language! In November the six guests at my dinner table totalled eleven languages between them. In October I introduced Bishop John to Ewan and the activities at ALM. He was duly impressed, giving a blessing to everyone including the volunteers in the bicycle workshop.

We are decorating a tree at the Christmas Tree Festival so I hope we may see you there. Our first Welcome Day next year will not be until 17th April due to the dates of Ramadan.

Happy Christmas, Peter.



LETTER FROM SCOTLAND



Well hello again! It is time to wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

I'm sure that you will be having some wonderful services and functions to attend this coming month, starting with the Advent Carol Service. Advent is preparation time, preparing for Christmas, the festivities and most of all, the birth of Christ.

My Christmas cake was made last month; card and present buying lists are already made for friends and family.

How different it is now from that first Christmas. There were no fairy lights or decorated trees on that night. No expensive turkeys and mountains of sweetmeats then, only what could be bought at the town street shops, probably, little and poor as Bethlehem was overcrowded that week with the Roman Census being taken. Joseph probably had to manage with buying bread and maybe wine or milk to take back to Mary in the cold stable.

Many people are cold today, being unable to heat their homes as they used to because of high prices of fuel. Others have to decide whether to heat or eat. It is frightening, and those who have "Enough" are lucky for enough is all we need.

Food banks are life savers for many people now in our communities and I know how generous the St Peter's people are; the box is always well furnished and well used, particularly at this time of year.

It is now my third Christmas living in Scotland and it is very different here. Only Christmas Day is celebrated as the important time is Hogmanay at New Year and only the churches celebrate the real Christmas. How I miss the wonderful services and fellowship at St Peter's which I celebrated for thirty seven years with you all. Many of my friends are with us no more, but those who are, I treasure.

May you all have a wonderful, happy, healthy and warm Christmas.

Martha

Saturday 4th November

Scout Group Bonfire and Fireworks Spectacular

After heavy rain during the setup in the afternoon we had a drizzly evening, but thankfully no wind, so we had a fantastic bonfire and firework display.



Thanks to all who attended and supported us. And a massive thank you to the 9th Formby & Spitfire Explorers Team of leaders, parents, partners and current and ex-members of the uniformed organisations. Without them, this would not have been the success it was.

The result was a profit of £1,700. All proceeds go towards running our wonderful Scout Group.

Thanks again to all who helped and attended.

Hope to see you next year!

9th Formby (St Peter's) Scout Group



Christmas Greetings Wall

With all good wishes for Christmas and 2024 to everyone at St Peter's Formby; with best wishes from



Sarah,
John,
Robert and
Edward
Gorman

Patrick
& Sue
Parkes

2

0

2

4

David &
Glenis
Poole

Judy
Holroyd

Revd
Jane &
Pete
Morgan

David
Brooks

Steve &
Shena
Edwards
& family

Richard &
Valerie
Walker

Thank you all for your contributions to the
Christmas Greetings Wall

Your donations have helped Support

UGANDA CHILD SPONSORSHIP

- and saved cards and stamps!

Barbara
Guest

Graham &
Diane
Leech

Gill &
Mike
Warr

Wendy
Enoch

Shirley
Potter

Nick
& Ros
Philpott

Paul &
Cath
McHenry

Glyn &
Mon
Jones

Enid
Helm

Ray and
Jill
Harvey

Anne
&
Ted

Rod
Jacques
& family

Fiona &
David
Martin

Tricia
Barrett,
Steph, Kyle,
Amelia,
Maddison &
Matthew

Marilyn
& Kit
Siddons-
Smith

Kate, Amy,
Matt,
Amalie &
Arty
Bateson

Adele
Dickinson

Angela
Ryder-
Jones



From the Church Register ~ Baptism

Sunday 5th November

Baptism of Summer Lowe
Garster-Ward,
daughter of Leigh and Daniel.



**Happy 100th
Birthday wishes
to
Wilf Bushell**



It was wonderful to be able to celebrate with Wilf, along with his family, in church on 5th November. Congratulations Wilf and we look forward to you being part of St Peter's for many years to come.





Christmas 2010

concerned as to how the bride would negotiate her way to church, a working party of volunteers was assembled at very short notice, to clear a path through the snow.

The bride and bridegroom's Christian names were **Holly and Nicholas** - how 'Christmassy' was that!

Glyn Jones

PS Trish Shaw produced a "laminated sign which was placed next to the porch door on a snow support - "Holly's Path."



On the evening of, if my memory serves me correctly, the second Friday of December 2010, a foot of snow fell on Formby.

Remembering that there was a wedding being held at St Peter's on the next day, and being

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.



From the Church Register

Funerals

23 rd October	Samuel White
1 st November	Hildegard Densham

Garden of Remembrance

28 th September	Fay Trickett
30 th September	Ian Edmondson
18 th October	Helen Atherton
7 th November	Laurence Lissett
19 th November	Peter Ware (St Luke's Graveyard)





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Matthew Dean
Branch Director



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Caroline Speakman

Member of the Society of Willwriters

Email: southportwills@gmail.com

Phone: **07926 587776**

www.southportwills.com



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Singing for Fun - please arrive by 1.45pm for 2pm start.
Last meeting on 14th December and restarts on 11th January 2024.

**Singing
Thursdays!**



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



St Peter's
Parish Hall
Paradise Lane
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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
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Refuge



For women and children.
Against domestic violence.

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



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.

A green poster with the Samaritans logo at the top. Below it, the text 'TALK TO US' is written in large, white, bold letters. Underneath, in smaller white text, it says 'If things are getting to you'. At the bottom, there is a white telephone handset icon next to the number '116 123' in large white letters, followed by the word 'FREE' in a speech bubble. Below the number, it says 'This number is FREE to call'.

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.

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.

A Christmas prayer

Gracious God, who sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary, and was laid in a feeding trough, by your Spirit, renew our faith in you and our desire to follow Jesus as disciples. Unite us in one body, and, as bread is broken and given in the eucharist, send us to feed the hungry in body and spirit, Amen.



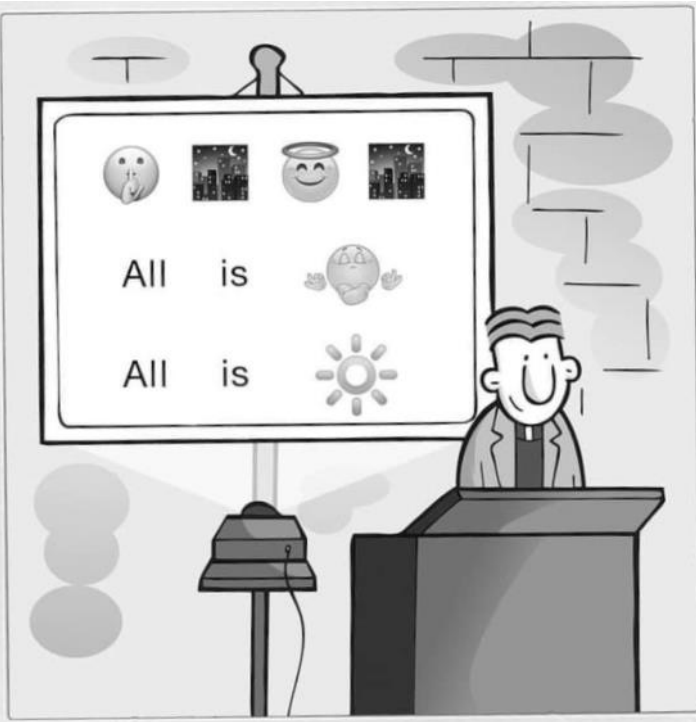
www.cte.org.uk/

Nativity Word Search

NATIVITY	NIGHT
CHRISTMAS	SHEEP
MANGER	MOTHER
DONKEY	GIFT
STABLE	
DECEMBER	
ANGEL	
SHEPHERD	
BABY	
STAR	



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



It's Derek's way of making his carol services more appealing to Millennials!

**As one door closes,
another opens.
-Me, eating through a
chocolate advent
calendar.**



1. What do you call an obnoxious reindeer? *Rude-olph.*
2. Why did no one bid for Rudolph and Blitzen on eBay?
Because they were two deer!
3. What do you call a scary looking reindeer? *A cari-boo.*
4. What do you call Santa's little helpers?
Subordinate clauses.
5. What do you call a bunch of chess players bragging
about their games in a hotel lobby?
Chess nuts boasting in an open foyer!
6. What did the beaver say to the Christmas Tree?
Nice gnawing you!
7. What's every parent's favourite Christmas Carol?
Silent Night.
8. What does Santa do with out-of-shape elves?
Sends them to an elf Farm.
9. Who hides in the bakery at Christmas? *A mince spy!*
10. How do snowmen get around?
They ride an icicle!



Quiet Time with God

‘Finding God in the messiness of life – Living Water, Hidden Treasures’

On Saturday 11th November, 13 of us met in the Bier House to spend some protected time with God. It's not always easy to find time to sit in God's presence, to pray or to reflect and be quiet in the busyness of our lives, so it was helpful to do this with others, to share this time together, making time in our lives to just 'be'. Using a painting by Sieger Koder which depicted the woman at the well and focusing on the accompanying scripture we spent time considering her story and her treasure that Jesus revealed to her. And then we reflected on the treasures we have been blessed with in God's created world, including ourselves, before ending with a short act of worship.



We plan to hold more 'Quiet Time with God' in the New Year on a regular basis, possibly 6 weekly. Do come along, take some time out to just bask in God's presence.

Our next Quiet Time with God is

Saturday 27th January 2024 10am-12 – 'New Year.'

All are welcome.

With every blessing, Revd Jane Morgan

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 December please pray for all who live in –

3rd December	Old Lane, Little Brewery Lane, Brewery Lane
10th December	West Lane, Stanley Road, Rimmers Avenue
17th December	St Anne's Road, St Anne's Path, St Anne's Close
24th December	Massams Lane, Green Lane, The Paddock
31st December	Cricket Path, Timms Lane, Timms Close

During January please pray for all who live in –

7th January	Victoria Road, Red Barns, Mayfield Court
14th January	Cummings Avenue, Queens Avenue, Gregsons Avenue
21st January	Gores Lane, Deans Court, Piercefield Road
28th January	Byron Close, Graburn Road, Formby Mews



DECEMBER BIBLE READINGS

3rd December – Advent Sunday

Isaiah 64:1-9 / 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 / Mark 13:24-37

10th December – 2nd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11 / 2 Peter 3:8-15a / Mark 1:1-8

17th December – 3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 / 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 / John 1:6-8, 19-28

24th December – 4th Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-11,16 / Romans 16:25-27 / Luke 1:26-38

Christmas Eve Midnight

Isaiah 52:7-10 / Hebrews 1:1-12 / John 1:1-14

Christmas Day

Isaiah 9:2-7 / Titus 2:11-14 / Luke 2:1-20

26th December - Stephen, Deacon and First Martyr

2 Chronicles 24:20-22 / Acts 7:51-60 / Matthew 10:17-22

27th December – St John Apostle and Evangelist

Exodus 33:7-11a / 1 John 1 / John 21:19b-25

28th December – The Holy Innocents

Jeremiah 31:15-17 / 1 Corinthians 1:26-29 / Matthew 2:13-18

31st December – 1st Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3 / Galatians 4:4-7 / Luke 2:15-21



JANUARY BIBLE READINGS

1st January – The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus

Numbers 6:22-27 / Galatians 4:4-7 / Luke 2:15-21

7th January – 2nd Sunday of Christmas / Epiphany

Isaiah 60:1-6 / Ephesians 3:1-12 / Matthew 2:1-12

8th January – The Baptism of Christ

Isaiah 43:1-7 / Acts 8:14-17 / Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

14th January – 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

1 Samuel 3:1-20 / Revelation 5:1-10 / John 1:43-51

21st January – 3rd Sunday of Epiphany – Christian Unity Week

Genesis 14:17-20 / Revelation 19:6-10 / John 2:1-11

25th January – The Conversion of St Paul

Jeremiah 1:4-10 / Acts 9:1-22 / Matthew 19:27-30

30th January – Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

Malachi 3:1-5 / Hebrews 2:14-18 / Luke 2:22-40





Diary Dates December 2023

Friday 1st 9.30am Little Fishes Pre-school Group in the Parish Hall
Saturday 2nd 9.00am Breakfast Parish in the Bier House
 10.00am Saturday Crew *all things crafty* in the Bier House



Sunday 3rd **1st Sunday of Advent**
 8.30am Eucharist (BCP)
 10.00am Parish Eucharist and Sunday Club
 11.30am Service of Baptism
 6.30pm Advent Compline



Monday 4th 10.30am Bacon Barms and Banter in the Bier House
 7.30pm Timeout Men Beer and Topics in the Bier House - 'An Evening with the Vicar!'



Tuesday 5th 10.00am Bible Study *with Ken Ward* in the Bier House
 11.00am Eucharist in Woodlands Care Home

Wed 6th 11.00am Eucharist *followed by refreshments* – EVERY WEDNESDAY
 2.00pm Eucharist in Halcyon House

Thursday 7th 1.00pm Mothers' Union Christmas Party in the Bier House
Friday 8th 9.30am Little Fishes Pre-school Group in the Parish Hall
 2.00pm Bible Study *with Peter Paine* in the Bier House



Saturday 9th 1.30 – 3pm Halcyon House Christmas Market

Sunday 10th **2nd Sunday of Advent**
 8.30am Eucharist (CW)
 10.00am Christmas All Age Parade Service – preacher Julie Rowlandson, Christmas Shoe Box - International Aid Trust
 2.30pm Christmas Relax Service for Older People
 6.30pm Bereavement Service



Tuesday 12th 10.00am Bible Study *with Ken Ward* in the Bier House

Wed 13th **Christmas Tree Festival begins**
 2.00pm WOW – Christmas service for pre-school children in church

Thursday 14th **Christmas Tree Festival**
 1.45pm for 2pm start Singing for Fun in the Parish Hall

Friday 15th **Christmas Tree Festival**

Saturday 16th 9.30am Little Fishes Pre-school Group in the Parish Hall – Christmas Party

Christmas Tree Festival
 11.00am Formby Village Nativity – Formby Pool Gardens



Christmas Services are on page 3 of the magazine

Sunday 17th 10.00am Sunday Club
Monday 18th 11.00am Carol Service in Woodlands Care Home
 2.00pm Carol Service in Halcyon House
Tuesday 19th 9.15am Trinity St Peter's Christmas Service in Church
Saturday 23rd 10.00am Christingle making the Bier House
Wed 27th *No Eucharist*

Sunday 31st **The First Sunday of Christmas**

8.30am Eucharist (BCP)
 10.00am Parish Eucharist
Please note there will be no 6.30pm service



January

Diary Dates January 2024

Tuesday 2nd	11.00am	Woodlands Care Home Eucharist
Wed 3rd	11.00am	Eucharist <i>followed by refreshments</i> – EVERY WEDNESDAY
	2.00pm	Eucharist in Halcyon House
Saturday 6th	9.00am	Breakfast Parish in the Bier House
	10.00am	Saturday Crew <i>all things crafty</i> in the Bier House
Sunday 7th		Epiphany
	8.30am	Eucharist (BCP)
	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
	12noon	Children's Haribo Service <i>followed by snacks</i>
	6.30pm	Choral Evensong
Monday 8th	10.30am	Bacon Barms and Banter in the Bier House
	7.30pm	Timeout Men Beer and Topics in the Bier House
		Topic - Church Schools Today
Tuesday 9th	10.00am	Bible Study <i>with Ken Ward</i> in the Bier House
Thursday 11th	2.00pm	Mothers' Union AGM in the Bier House
	1.45pm	for 2pm start Singing for Fun in the Parish Hall
Friday 12th	9.30am	Little Fishes Pre-school Group in the Parish Hall
	2.00pm	Bible Study <i>with Peter Paine</i> in the Bier House
Sunday 14th		The 2nd Sunday of Epiphany
	8.30am	Eucharist (CW)
	10.00am	Parish Eucharist and Sunday Club
	6.30pm	Choral Evensong
Tuesday 16th	10.00am	Bible Study <i>with Ken Ward</i> in the Bier House
Wed 17th	7.30pm	Bible Study <i>with Ted Woods</i> in the Choir Room
Thursday 18th	1.45pm	for 2pm start Singalong Thursdays in the Parish Hall
Friday 19th	9.30am	Little Fishes Pre-school Group in the Parish Hall
Sunday 21st		The 3rd Sunday of Epiphany
	8.30am	Eucharist (BCP)
	10.00am	Parish Eucharist and Sunday Club
	6.30pm	Service of Wholeness
Tuesday 23rd	10.00am	Bible Study <i>with Ken Ward</i> in the Bier House
Thursday 25th	1.45pm	for 2pm start Singalong Thursday in the Parish Hall
Friday 26th	9.30am	Little Fishes Pre-school Group in the Parish Hall
Saturday 27th	10.00am	Quiet time with God Group in the Bier House
Sunday 28th		The Presentation of Christ in the Temple
	8.30am	Eucharist (CW)
	10.00am	All Age Parade Service
	6.30pm	Candlemas Service
Tuesday 30th	10.00am	Bible Study <i>with Ken Ward</i> in the Bier House
Wed 31st	7.30pm	Bible Study <i>with Ted Woods</i> in the Bier House



FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Ash Wednesday – 14th February 2024

Lent Series – The Eucharist

Monday 26th February, 4th, 11th & 18th March 2024

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



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



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

**Church & Coffee Shop
OPEN
Wednesday - Sunday
10:00am - *4:00pm
* 5:00pm on Friday & Saturday**

Christmas Tree Festival

**Wednesday 13th —
Sunday 17th December 2023**



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