



St Peter's Church Magazine February 2024

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

February Diary Dates 2024



Thursday 1st

2.00pm Mothers' Union – speaker Revd Peter Paine - in the Bier House

Friday 2nd

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



Saturday 3rd

9.00am Breakfast Church in the Bier House

10.30am Saturday Crew: *all things crafty* in the Bier House



Sunday 4th 2nd Sunday before Lent

8.30am Eucharist (BCP)

10.00am Parish Eucharist & Sunday Club – preacher Revd Sheilagh Williamson

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Monday 5th

10.30am Bacon, Barms and Banter in the Bier House

Tuesday 6th

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

Wednesday 7th

11.00am Eucharist *followed by refreshments* – each Wednesday

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

Thursday 8th

1.45 for 2pm start Singing for Fun in the Parish Hall



Friday 9th

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

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

Sunday 11th Sunday next before Lent

8.30am Eucharist (CW)

10.00am Parish Eucharist and Sunday Club

6.30pm Choral Evensong



Wednesday 14th Ash Wednesday

11.00am Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes *followed by refreshments*

7.30pm United Ash Wednesday Service in St Stephen's, Hightown

Thursday 15th

1.45 for 2pm start Singalong Thursdays in the Parish Hall



Friday 16th

No Little Fishes Pre-school Group – school half-term

Saturday 17th

7.00pm 'Lighten our Darkness' Presentation by the young people of Mullingar in Holy Trinity Church.

All welcome. After the presentation there will be gathering of young people from across the Deanery.



Sunday 18th 1st Sunday of Lent - Environment Sunday

- 8.30am Eucharist (BCP)
- 10.00am Parish Eucharist - preacher Canon Alastair Graham
- 6.30pm Service of Wholeness

Monday 19th

- 7.30pm Timeout in the Bier House

Wednesday 21st

- 7.30pm Primetime in the Parish Hall in the Old School Room
- 7.30pm Bible Study *with Ted Woods* in the Bier House

Thursday 22nd

- 1.45 for 2pm start Singalong Thursday in the Parish Hall

Friday 23rd

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



Sunday 25th 2nd Sunday of Lent

- 8.30am Eucharist (CW)
- 10.00am All Age Parade Service
- 12noon Haribo Children's Service
- 6.30pm Choral Evensong



Monday 26th

- 7.30pm Lent Study Series 'Understanding the Eucharist' –
Revd Jane Morgan in the Bier House

Wednesday 28th

- 2.00pm WOW service for pre-school children in Church



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.



FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Sunday 24th March - 2.30pm Easter Relaxed Service for Older People**
- Saturday 27th April - Retreat Morning led by Revd Sue Calvely in St Joseph's**
- Thursday 9th May - 7.30pm Ascension Day Service in St Michael's, Altcar**
- Saturday 22nd June - 3pm Ordination to the Diaconate of Lilly Nelson**

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

Dear Friends,

It's lovely to see the appearance of the green shoots of Spring flowers and plants breaking through the ground, ready to bloom in the coming weeks and months. After all the cold and rain of winter, they are a sign of new life and things to come.



Not, I hasten to add, that we in St Peter's have been asleep over the winter months! Christmas was a busy time in the church with the Christmas Tree Festival, the Carol Service and the Christingles. It's good to report that between them all we had more people through the doors of St Peter's than ever before. Over 1,000 people attended services over Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and the church looked spectacular both inside and outside. Thank you to everyone who made Christmas in St Peter's so very special.



Now, we look at the year that lies ahead and first up in the calendar is Lent.

Ash Wednesday falls this year on 14th February!

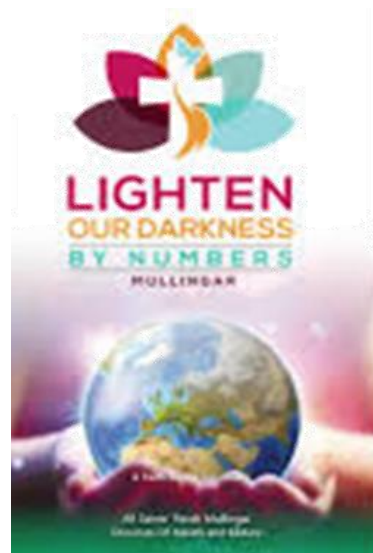
Valentine's Day and the beginning of Lent on the same day! What a coincidence!

What to do about chocolates and champagne this year?!

We will have our usual 11am Eucharist when we will have the Imposition of Ashes and hymns. Then we are invited to join the other Anglican Churches in Formby, Altcar and Hightown, by coming together for a service in St Stephen's, Hightown, at 7.30pm, where the Vicar is the Revd Keith Thornborough. It is only twice a year that we make a special effort to join together for worship and that is Ash Wednesday and Ascension Day and we take it in turn to host the service. If anyone needs a lift please let me know.

Following hard on the heels of Ash Wednesday is a visit by a group of young people from Mullingar in Ireland. They have come together to spread awareness of climate change using faith as a compass for making a positive difference to our world.

Under the leadership of their vicar, Canon Alastair Graham (who preached at our Harvest Thanksgiving last October), these young people came together to form '**Lighten our Darkness through Numbers**' and have produced a presentation through word and music about what we can do to help repair our broken world.



They have shared this presentation at the General Synod of the Church of Ireland, and also at the Corrymeela Centre for Peace and Reconciliation, and have even come to the notice of Sir David Attenborough who has said, "It is wonderfully encouraging that so many young parishioners in Mullingar are taking such an active role in dealing with the world's problems through Lighten our Darkness."

Their eco presentation will be given in Holy Trinity Church, Formby, on **Saturday 17th February** at 7pm. Please do your best to come along. Climate change affects us all and we can learn from them on how to make a difference. After the presentation there will be a opportunity for the young people of our deanery to join together and that event is being organised by Revd Nathan Thorpe. Please encourage anyone from Yr 6 and older to come along.

We are designating **Sunday 18th February** as our **Eco Sunday**, and Alastair will preach. Members of the group will be speaking at churches in the Deanery.



One of the results of our 275th year (I have very few tea-towels left if anyone needs one!!) was that a Faith Group was formed to organise courses and events to help us grow spiritually. The first of these courses will be this year's Lent Course which will focus on **The Eucharist** and what it means. The Eucharist is our main service each Sunday and it will be good to take some time to delve into the richness of its meaning during Lent.

There are four sessions in the Bier House on Mondays in Lent with some local and some visiting speakers. As well as Revd Jane Morgan and Revd Peter Paine, we will welcome Canon Dr Crispin Pailing, Vicar of Liverpool Parish Church and the Ven. Miranda Threlfall-Holmes, Archdeacon of Liverpool. Everyone is welcome and no specialist knowledge is needed.

Looking further ahead, we have a group of 16 going to Uganda at the end of May to work on our project in Kalule. This will be our third visit. We will be joined by the Revd Sheilagh Williamson, who founded the project. She will be meeting the group on 3rd February and will be our special preacher in St Peter's at the 10am Eucharist on **Sunday 4th February**.



Please see the article on the next page which lists the sorts of things we want to take out with us, and if you can help in this way, it would be very much appreciated.

And finally, at the end of June, we will welcome Lilly Nelson who will come to us as our curate after her ordination on 22nd June. Please keep Lilly in your prayers as she finishes her training in Cranmer College in Durham.

So, all in all, a busy few months ahead of us in St Peter's – but what's new!

Anne



Thank You for your generosity at Christmas time –

The Advent Appeal for the Whitechapel Centre for the Homeless raised **£806.25**

The Christmas Tree Festival supported 16 charities and in total raised **£2,649.52**

Christingle Service Collections for The Childrens Society raised **£1,201.40**.

St Peter's Uganda Project

TOGETHER WE CAN!



On Monday 20th May, a team of sixteen people from St Peter's will travel to Uganda on our third work project to help people in the village of Kalule.

Kalule is about 25 miles north of the capital, Kampala, and our work will be focussed on the church (also called St Peter's!), the school and a women's project. The church and the school need repainting. The local school teachers will benefit from the experience and advice from the teachers in our group, including two from Trinity St Peter's who are part of our team.

Agnes, the principal of the school, has requested that we paint the classrooms, share computer instruction, help teachers in their classes, organise a Sports Day, as well as other practical work.

As in most schools in Africa, education focuses on 'the 3 R's' - Reading, wRiting, and aRithmetic." Sporting activities are not part of their curriculum, so sports, games and craft activities for the children will be a great bonus.

Some years ago, the Revd Sheilagh Williamson, founder of the project, assisted the local women set up a catering and sewing co-operative to help pay for the education of their children. School fees and books have to be paid for by the children's parents – schooling is not free in Uganda, and the women have asked for business advice and help in strategic planning for their co-op. We also want to take out material and wool for them to work with.

The local school has about 200 pupils and we are asking the pupils of Trinity St Peter's and families in the parish to make up pencil cases for each of the pupils in Kalule. Pencil cases should include pens, pencils (plain and coloured) a ruler, rubber and pencil sharpener. It is hoped that once again the two schools will exchange news.

For adults (including the Women's Project): soap, a flannel, toothbrush and toothpaste; cotton material for making clothes / quilts; wool; cotton; sewing needles. Cotton nighties, women's pants (new) and T-shirts.

Suitcases are much sought after (they are used for storage in their houses), so if you have an old suitcase, it could be used by the group and left behind!

For children (some of whom are are boarding): pencil cases, crayons, football shirts and shorts (any colour!) or other t-shirts, nightwear (new or good as new), pants (new), light throws.

The airline is giving us a 46kg allowance each so that we can take as much as we can!



We would welcome donations of any of the above items which may be left at the Vicarage, Parish Office or brought to Church. Financial donations are also welcome and may be put on the plate in church clearly marked Uganda Project or made by using the card machine. Each member of the group is paying for their own fare and accommodation and all donations will go towards financing the work that will be undertaken. We will also buy books and craft materials.

There is great excitement in the school at the prospect of our visit and it is a wonderful experience as we learn from each other.

The Revd Sheilagh Williamson will be our special preacher at the 10am Eucharist on Sunday 4th February.

Members of the group are:- Steve & Shena Edwards, Pete, James & Christopher Hawkins, Gill Holroyd, Tricia Barrett, Kyle Whitham, Mike Fletcher, Liz O'Callaghan, Alex Warner, Anne Taylor & Ted Woods, Rachel Woods, and from Trinity St. Peter's - Jo Molloy and Aimee Jones.

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 in the Bier House

Contact Ken Ward 01704 871927

Wednesday Bible Study Group at 7.30pm

in the Bier House

Dates - 7th and 21st February

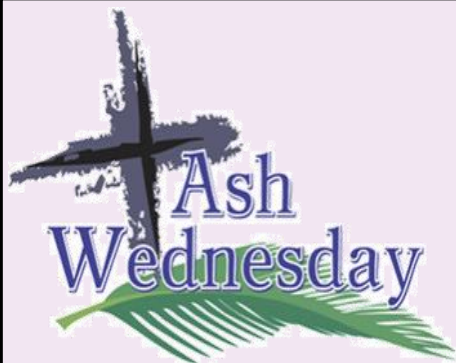
Contact Ted Woods 01704 872824

Friday Bible Study Group at 2pm

Date - 9th February in the Bier House

Contact Peter Paine 07722 127791





Wednesday 14th February

11am Eucharist

with The Imposition of Ashes

**7.30pm ~ A Joint Ash Wednesday Service
in St Stephen's Church, Hightown**

Joining with the people of St Stephen's, St Luke's, Holy Trinity & St Michael's Churches worshipping together as we begin the journey of Lent.

February Bible Readings

4th February – 2nd Sunday before Lent

Proverbs 8:1,22-31 / Colossians 1:15-20 / John 1:1-14

11th February – Sunday next before Lent

2 Kings 2:1-12 / 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 / Mark 9:2-9

14th February – Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 / 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 / John 8:1-11

18th February – 1st Sunday of Lent

Genesis 9:8-17 / 1 Peter 3:18-22 / Mark 1:9-15

25th February – 2nd Sunday of Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 / Romans 4:13-25 / Mark 8:31-38

LENT
Pray + Fast + Give



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 February please pray for all who live in –

4 th February	Old Town Lane, Rymers Green, Derby Road
11 th February	Grange Lane, Freshfield Road, St George's Road
18 th February	Wicks Lane, Coppice Leys, Barkfield Lane
25 th February	Barkfield Avenue, The Copse, The Birches



St Peter's Lent Series THE EUCHARIST

Our main morning service in St Peter's is the Eucharist. It is a sacrament which is rich in meaning.

To help us understand and appreciate more of what the Eucharist means, the Faith Committee have arranged a Lent Series to explore some of its many facets.

26th February Jesus and Table Fellowship *Revd Jane Morgan*

4th March The Eucharist and the Feeding of the 5000
Revd Canon Dr Crispin Pailing, Rector of Liverpool Parish Church

11th March The Road to Emmaus
The Ven Miranda Threlfall-Holmes, Archdeacon of Liverpool

18th March The Last Supper *Revd Peter Paine*

Each Monday session will start at 7.30pm in The Bier House (at the church gates) and will conclude with a short act of worship.

All are very welcome.



CHURCH LIBRARY

Thinking about what to do during Lent that would be spiritually uplifting? Then why not read a book from the selection in our church library, which is in the Bier House. Have a browse, pick a book and write your name on the list. There for all to enjoy.



Some suggestions, but there are many more –

From Dust to Glory by David Runcorn. There is a meditation for each day of Lent dealing with living and believing.

Lent FOR Everyone – Matthew by Tom Wright. Each passage is followed by a reflection and a prayer.

Wisely Pray the Psalms by Ambrose Tinsley offers “a prayerful companion to reading the psalms.”

Lent is for Loving by Sheila Cassidy. Expanding on the words Love, Empathy, No and Thankfulness.

Reflections for Lent a meditation a day written by some of today's leading writers.



Trinity St Peter's Church of England Primary School Admissions in 2025

Following a public consultation Governors at Trinity St Peter's Church of England Primary School have amended the school's Admissions Criteria from 2025/26 (children commencing school in September 2025).

The main changes are to the definition of "Church" in line with Church of England guidance and the removal of WOW Services and Redgate church services from services counting towards meeting criteria 3 and 4. The new Criteria are on the school website.

<https://www.trinitystpeters.org/page/admissions/24343>

There is a yellow folder at the back of the church that needs to be signed to record attendance. Please note for school admissions in September 2025 attendance needs to be recorded on a Sunday throughout 2024.

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

2nd February

9th February

NO MEETING

16th February because
of Half Term

23rd February



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

Dates: Sunday 11th February

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 25th February



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
In Church**

Wednesday 28th February

St Peter's Brownies

The Brownies were keen to work towards their Charity Badge last term. It was a perfect opportunity to be involved with the Christmas Shoebox appeal.



Anne Scarrott from Saturday Crew at St Peter's organised a few of our meetings. Firstly, discussing with the girls what goes into a Christmas Shoebox and how the process works, from filling the Shoeboxes to loading them on to the lorries to take them to the countries to whose people are in need. We also made Christmas Cards to go into each box. No messages, just lovely pictures to put a smile on the face of the person opening the Shoebox.

Julie Rowlandson, who is the Community Ambassador at International Aid Trust, spent an evening with our Brownie pack helping the Brownies to fill the Shoeboxes and then talking to them about the journey their shoeboxes would take. She showed us photographs of happy recipients over the years from Ukraine, Transylvania, Cuba, Sierra Leone, Moldova and other countries.

Sending a Smile ☺

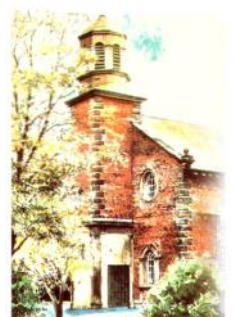
The whole process over the weeks was so heartwarming for all of us. We would like to thank Anne Scarrott for all the time she gave to us over those weeks in the preparation of the Shoeboxes and to Julie Rowlandson for taking her time to come over and talk to us about the work of International Aid Trust.

Caroline Speakman
Leader St Peter's Brownie Group



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**



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

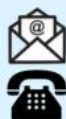
<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/formby-st-peter-formby/>

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!



A Church Near You

For more years than we care to count, Pip and I have travelled at home and abroad with our caravan and latterly in our campervan. On our expeditions we have always tried to find a church in the local area where we can join in Sunday worship with the local community.

In this country it has generally been a simple matter of studying our extensive collection of Ordnance Survey Landranger maps and finding the conventional symbols. We always found a welcome – and usually refreshments after the service to linger and chat.



Emboldened, we ventured across the English Channel. As our capacity to speak and understand French was limited to rusty O-level status, we were relieved to find that the Intercontinental Church Society provided a chaplaincy at what rapidly became a favourite campsite near Saumur in the Loire Valley.

Services were held in one or other of the two Roman Catholic churches in the area and attended by a sizeable congregation from the UK and Eire, together with a number of Dutch families whose ability to speak English put us monoglots to shame. One of them even referred to the roof-box on his car as “the mother-in-law’s coffin.” On another occasion, a candle on the altar burned down and a small fire erupted. No problem! A lady in the congregation extracted a teatowel from her handbag and extinguished the flames. Talk about “Be Prepared!” – Baden-Powell would have been proud of her!

David Manning-Fox

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.

Thank you to everyone who has saved, snipped and brought in stamps from their Christmas post. These will soon be sent off to the Bone Cancer Research Trust where they are sold to stamp dealers to raise funds for life-saving research.

We send stamps to the BCRT all year round, so please keep dropping them into the box in the Church Porch.

Many Thanks, Sonia.



A TOUR OF HISTORIC CHRISTIAN IRELAND

Led by the Revd Peter and Carol Paine

Sunday 8th to Sunday 15th September 2024



On the 21st December the rising sun of the winter solstice sheds a ray of light along a narrow rock passage and alights within the inner chamber of the 5,000 year-old Iron Age burial chamber of Newgrange. It will last for seventeen minutes. Ireland is not only home to this remarkable construction but also hosts the most elaborately carved high crosses anywhere in the world, as far as I'm aware.

We will also visit Corrymeela, a place of witness to modern Christianity where differing Christian traditions meet in dialogue and reconciliation. The tour also includes visits to the two capital cities of Dublin and Belfast, as well as the world-famous geological formation of the Giant's Causeway. There are other sites, too, connected with St Columba and the poet W. B. Yeats.

I hope you will be able to join us on what will be a fascinating insight into the ancient and modern Christian life of the Emerald Isle.

A brochure and booking form from Peter – peterspaine@gmail.com or Worldwide Christian Travel – info@christian-travel.com and www.christian-travel.com where booking may be made on their website.

Dates for your diary:

Sunday 18th February

**A SERVICE OF
WHOLENESS at 6.30 pm**



Breakfast Church will be at 9am in the Bier House on 3rd February

Join us for a short service (about 20 mins) in the form of the Iona worship. This a small gathering in the Bier House.

You will be made very welcome. The service is followed by tea, coffee, toast, crumpets etc. Give it a try!

Susan Parkes



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

Sundays at 8pm - 9.30pm and

Mondays at 2pm - 4pm

Tickets are 50p each

Refreshments are available – 20p for Tea and Biscuits.

Contact Pat Boardman office@stpetersformby.co.uk

The Mothers Union Christmas Party held in the Bier House on the 7th December was, I am told, a great success.



Unfortunately I could not be there due to illness, but Ken and the other committee members made sure that everyone had a great time.

Our thanks must also go to Carol Paine who once again was kind enough to play for the carols.

Our January meeting was the Annual General Meeting which gave me an opportunity to say thank you to everyone who helps to make our monthly meetings progress smoothly. It also gave us an opportunity to discuss the programme for 2024-2025 and decide whom we would like to invite as speakers and where we would like to go for our annual outing.

Last year we had a very pleasant trip for lunch to the Sunshine Tea Rooms in Ince Blundell and since everyone seemed to enjoy that trip we shall probably be discussing the possibility of returning there. However there will also be an opportunity for other possible venues to be discussed.

We continue to collect toiletries for the refugees and in February it is suggested that we bring toothpaste and then in March shower gel.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 1st February in the Bier House and our speaker will be Revd Peter Paine.

Looking forward to seeing you all at our meetings in 2024.

With all good wishes,

Herbert (873367)

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:



Monday 19th February

Topic: The Ronald McDonald House at Alder Hey Hospital.

Speaker: Richard Edwards


Primetime

Our next meeting will be on

**Wednesday 21st February
at 7.30pm
in the OSR, Parish Hall.**

**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

A REFLECTION FOR LENT



40 is a number we come across in the Bible very frequently. In the Scriptures it is used as a good round number to designate a very long period in terms of human existence and endurance.

For example, 40 years is the estimated length of a generation in the Bible before the next one starts. Isaac and Esau both married at 40. Various references in both Old and New Testament see it as the point of real maturity in a person's life.

The Children of Israel, spent 40 years wandering in the desert – a rebellious and disobedient generation had to be changed before a new generation took possession of the Promised Land.

In 1st Kings, the 480 years from the Exodus to the building of the Temple by Solomon is counted as 12 generations – 12 times 40. The 40 years of the reigns of David, Solomon and Joash were seen as signs of divine favour.

And when we come to 40 days, we remember that it seems to be the limit of human survival. Noah was 40 days in the Ark, Paul was lashed with 40 strokes save one.

There are 40 days between Christmas and the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, and 40 days between Easter and Ascension.

And, of course, there are the 40 days of Lent as we remember how Jesus fasted in the desert for that period before he began his public ministry.

40 days seems to represent the limit of achievement, the time that is really needed to make a change.

In a sound-bite culture such as today, we are not into long periods of commitment. But change, development, really making a difference takes time and perseverance.

So as we reflect on our lives at the beginning of Lent, perhaps we can give ourselves a target for the 40 days of this season. There is perhaps more value in taking up something positive than giving up something negative. Like the 40 Acts Challenge or 40 days of kindness – encouraging us to focus on how we can have a generous Lent.

In the days of the early church Lent was a special time for teaching the Christian Faith to those who would be baptised at Easter. Which is why churches, including our own, run Lent courses which is a positive aim to take on so that we can grow in our spiritual lives.

During Lent we are encouraged to think of others. God's love for us is meant to flow out in love for others. May we let God's love help us during this Lent to show how we can spread the wonderful, life changing message of God's love to others.

And Lent is an opportunity for making time for the really important things in life, for sorting out priorities, for finding time for God, for others and for reflection. It is a time to think about our attitudes to others, how we speak and act, and for challenging ourselves to be more like Christ in our lives.

The 40 days of Lent can be a significant time if we take the time to use it.

A.E.T



A PRAYER FOR LENT

Loving God,
I commit this coming season of Lent to you
And ask you to show me what I need to turn away from,
And what I need to turn towards.
Shine your loving light in those dark parts of my heart,
And bring new life, new hope and new possibilities.
Help me to walk more closely with Jesus,
To know that I am deeply loved,
And to share his love with others.
Amen.

ARCHBISHOP JUSTIN WELBY

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 ~ Baptism

Sunday 3rd December

Baptism of Louie
Alexander Martin, son of
Joanne & Steven





Congratulations
to Peter and Tricia Shaw
on their 50th Wedding
Anniversary
16th February (1974).



From the Church Register

Funerals

7 th December	Thomas Barton
8 th December	John Trueman
15 th December	Roger Backhouse
20 th December	William Sheil
28 th December	Iona Stanley
29 th December	Thomas Lee-Lane
31 st January	Kathryn Bushell

Garden of Remembrance

15 th December	Kenneth Sixsmith
---------------------------	------------------



CHRISTMAS 2023





Bossey Ecumenical Institute (Chateau De Bossey and World Council of Churches) Geneva October 2023 by Lilly Nelson

*Made possible by the generosity of the Pauline Webb Ecumenical Fund,
Churches Together Britain and Ireland*

Photo: UK Group photo outside the
Chapel, a former wine press



The opportunity to visit The Bossey Ecumenical institute was open to Anglican Ordinands for a week long study trip. 15 from the applications from various Anglican training institutions from across Europe attended.

Organised by Revd Canon Rodger Spiller (Coventry Cathedral) the candidates were chosen for this trip at the discretion of our Training Institutions. The application process was based on our leadership potential. Previous to my studies as an Anglican ordinand, my experience of ecumenical chaplaincy at Liverpool Hope University, in addition to the unique ecumenical partnerships in native Liverpool, ignited my interest in the theology and history of ecumenical relationships and combined worship.

What I experienced with the students at Bossey was a shining example of this done well with integrity and respect.

Upon arriving in Geneva, I also had free time when I visited St Peter's Cathedral, the preaching home of John Calvin, an important site for the Protestant Reformation.

On our arrival to Château de Bossey, we were hosted by the students who were undertaking their studies gathered from all different Christian denominations from all over the world. We had an opportunity to be hosted and to chat, learning of the richness of the Christian communities across the world. We were made aware of being welcomed as distinctive Anglican students as part of the group.



Photo of Canon Spiller
and introductions hosted
by Bossey students

The life of Bossey was conducted in the common language of English (in teaching and worship). A number of students being new to the language (some for only 3 months) which made their welcome even more impressive and courteous. Overall there was a keen interest in learning and sharing our journeys and training.

The programme of study included an ecumenical Bible study examining the Lord's Prayer which we were able to approach with our own insights.

Mostly our study was undertaken with our visiting group, studying the historical context and theological importance of Geneva and the Reformation. This included an overview on the history of the World Council of Churches and adding our voices in a workshop planning the forthcoming Conference commemorating the Nicæan Creed in 2025.

The lecturers included academics from the Lutheran and Serbian Orthodox tradition. It was of particular interest to hear of the history and development of European Protestantism. Alongside input from a Catholic theologian Rev Dr Laurence Iwuamandi helping us explore the history of Catholicism alongside the WCC. To reflect, the emphasis was on unity being on the basis of encounter and not compromise.

Ecumenical Chapel and worship

We kept the regular office of Morning and Evening Prayer which varied between joining the Bossey students and our own UK group.

The ecumenical chapel, located in the former winepress tower, was a simple and flexible space. The international range of worship meant the liturgy was unique and was presented combined from the students. This was explained as each student introduced their tradition and their native language when appropriate.

A memorable service was a German Lutheran Morning Prayer woven with Chinese worship music. This allowed for diversity and the encouragement of the difference in the room, all joining to worship God.

The chapel also held host to a stained glass window donated by the brothers of Taizé (see photo on next page).

The UK Group were able to lead and introduce the Bossey community to Anglican liturgy in the form of Common Worship Morning Prayer. This offered us an opportunity to share this liturgy and answer questions from the students, meeting as curious siblings with an openness and willingness to learn and be encouraged.



Photo: Ecumenical Chapel altar

Part of the lecture series we experienced was on the sobering and, at times, uncomfortable history of the Anglican communion, the importance of which was to know and understand as a candidate for ministry and to further understand my own Anglican identity.

Alongside the Château de Bossey we also had the opportunity to visit the World Council of Churches Library which was fantastic and rich in resources.

Later in the week, we had the opportunity to visit the World Council of Churches building and Conference Centre as part of the experience.

It was an absolute privilege to experience study and worship with a diverse group of individuals, learning and growing closer to Jesus Christ through our own traditions with healthy honesty.



Stained glass window in the ecumenical chapel donated by the Brothers of Taizé

Photo: World Council of Churches Library



I will take away with me the gifting of ecumenical relations as a place for encounter with grace and understanding. It is with deep gratitude to the Pauline Webb Foundation and Churches Together for this opportunity.

Lilly

Lilly will be ordained deacon in June and then join us as curate in St Peter's.

In future magazine articles Lilly will continue to share some of her experiences of being in Theological College in Durham.





OUR SHOPPING LIST

We are currently in need of the following items:-

Biscuits
Soup
Jam
Coffee
Tinned fruit
Tinned hot + cold meat
Long life juice
Shampoo + shower gel
Men's razors
Toothbrushes

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everyday from 10am to 4pm
for donations.
Thank you***

Singing for Fun - please arrive at 1.45pm for 2pm start.

**Singing
Thursdays!**



**All groups
will meet at
1.45pm and
finish
approx.
3.30pm.**



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**2nd Thursday of every month
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4th Thursday of every month**

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Singing for the Brain with Maggie & Mandy
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suitable for
everyone.**

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Caroline Speakman

Member of the Society of Willwriters

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Matthew Dean
Branch Director



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Lent

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

Love	Resurrection	Foot Washing	Passover
Jesus	Forty Days	Palm Branch	Palm Sunday
Easter	Good Friday	Holy Week	Lent
Fasting	Prayer	Sacrifice	Wednesday
Ash			

I hired a handyman and gave him a to-do list.

When I got home only items 1, 3 and 5 had been done.

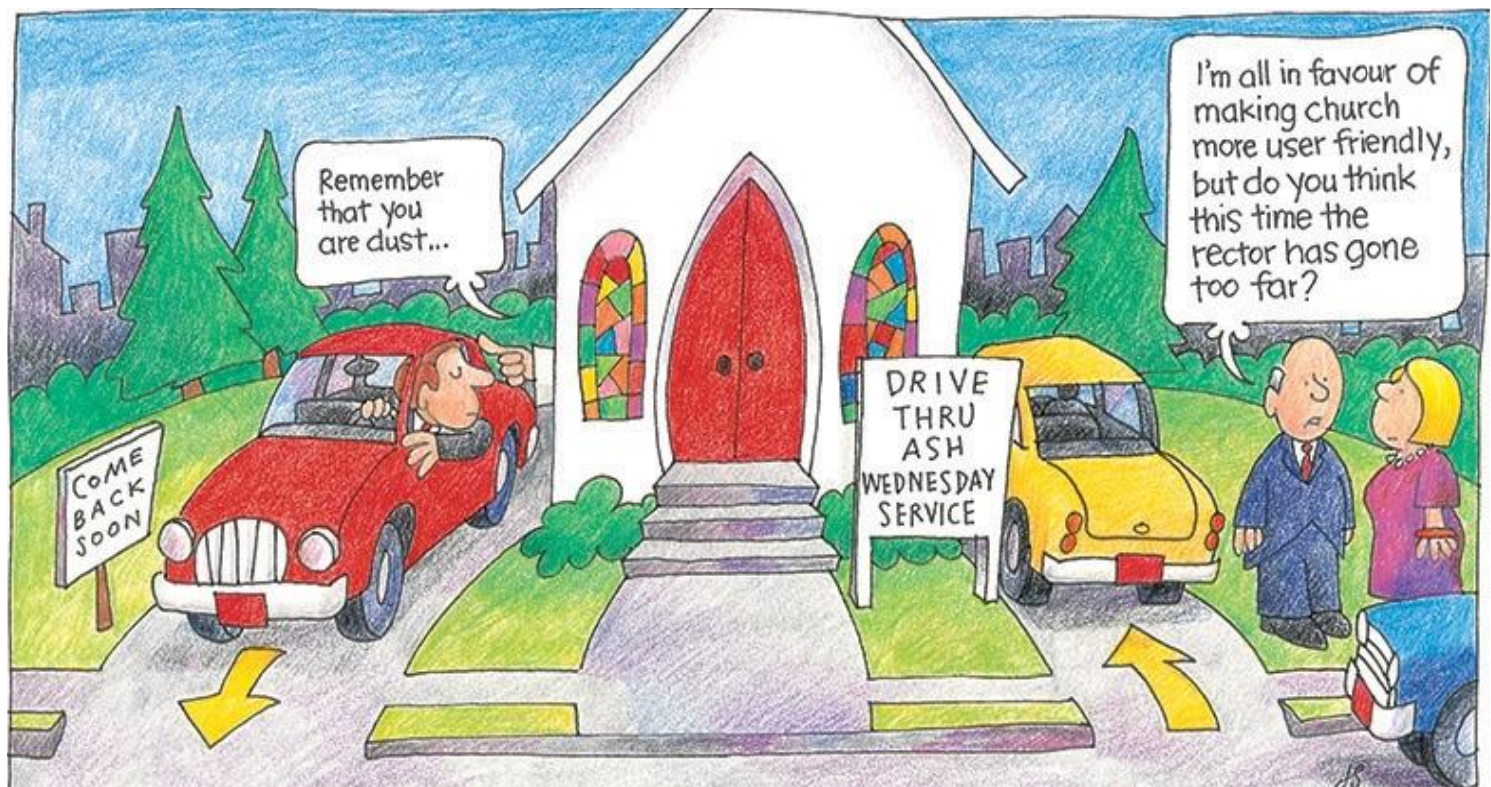
Turns out he only does odd jobs.

Just cost me £1. Yes, one English Pound, to put air in my tyres. Used to be 20p.

Suppose that's inflation for you.

I had a happy childhood.
My dad used to put me in tyres
and roll me down hills.
Those were Goodyears!

Where do Bad Rainbows go?
Prism
It's a light sentence, and gives
them time to reflect.



Reverse Lent

Volunteer
your time



Take up a
challenge



Give to charity/
foodbanks

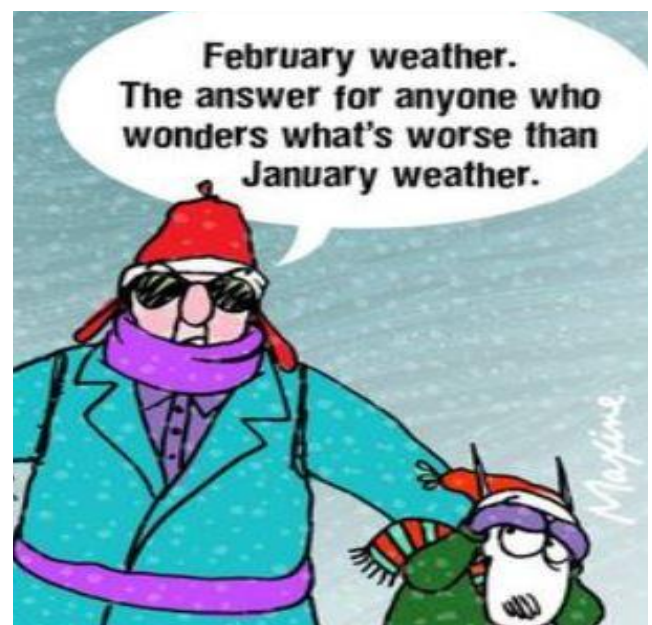


Start a new
habit

Give your time
to someone



Take up
a new hobby



FOUR WORMS AND A LESSON TO BE LEARNED!!

A minister decided that a visual demonstration would add emphasis to his Sunday sermon. Four worms were placed into four separate jars. The first worm was put into a container of alcohol. The second worm was put into a container of cigarette smoke. The third worm was put into a container of chocolate syrup. The fourth worm was put into a container of good clean soil.

At the conclusion of the sermon, the minister reported the following results:
The first worm in alcohol - Dead. The second worm in cigarette smoke - Dead
The Third worm in chocolate syrup – Dead. Fourth worm in good clean soil - Alive.
So the minister asked the congregation. What did you learn from this demonstration?
Young Toby was sitting at the back, quickly raised his hand and said,
'As long as you drink, smoke and eat chocolate, you won't have worms!'
That pretty much ended the service!!





From the Back Pew Ted Woods

CHRISTIANS IN THE HOLY LAND TODAY

Gaza has been constantly in the news since October 7th when Hamas attacked southern Israel, killing more than 1,200 Israelis and taking 240 hostages. This sparked off retaliatory action by Israel which has left more than 24,000 Palestinians dead.

Christians make up a very small proportion of the population in Gaza, even though their legacy goes back to New Testament times. (See Acts chapter 8). In 1967 there were only 2,300 Christians in Gaza, a figure which fell to 1688 in 1997. Today there are only about 1,100. Many left before the present outbreak of war due to food shortages, a poor health system and the lack of employment.

In spite of their small numbers, Christians in Gaza have made a massive contribution to life in the region running 5 schools, 1 hospital, 4 health centres, 2 training centres and the YMCA.



Church of St Porphyrius in Gaza City

Gaza Christians are centred in three churches – a Greek Orthodox, a Roman Catholic and an Evangelical church. The Greek Orthodox Church, St Porphyrius, dates from the 5th century. It was damaged by an Israeli airstrike on 19th October. Of the 450 Christians and Muslims sheltering in the church, 18 were killed.

It is not only in Gaza that there is a steep decline in the Christian population. In the West Bank there are about 47,000 Christians, down from 70,000 a hundred year ago. As in Gaza, the majority have left for economic reasons.

About half of Palestinian Christians are Greek Orthodox, while 38% are Catholic. Anglicans, together with Lutherans and Evangelicals make up the rest.

In Jerusalem itself, there are 12,900 Christians, of whom a large proportion are Anglicans.



Bethlehem in the West Bank

The Diocese of Jerusalem is led by Archbishop Hosam Naoum and it covers Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. It is a part of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East, and has diocesan offices at St George's Cathedral, Jerusalem.

The whole diocese has a membership of around 7,000 people, with 35 service institutions, 29 parishes, 1,500 employees, 200 hospital beds, and 6,000 students.

Though small in population, the Anglican presence spreads wide and reaches deep into society. The archbishop says, "Pastoral care and church ministry is really important. Our social outreach is the DNA of the diocese. Our institutions show Christ in action, reaching out to the whole community."

Christians in the Holy Land are feeling beleaguered. The Very Revd Richard Sewell, Dean of St George's Cathedral in Jerusalem has said, "It seems that hope is scarce in many parts of the world. I cannot be alone in feeling a sense of foreboding about what lies ahead. I have been clinging on as best I can; but it is a struggle. Christians are experiencing greater pressure on their lives and on their very existence, now possibly more than ever before."



Birthplace of Jesus in the Church of the Nativity

In all the sad and depressing news we hear of the Middle East, let us spare a thought and a prayer for our fellow-Christians who are suffering so much in a region that has experienced so much hatred, suffering and violence.

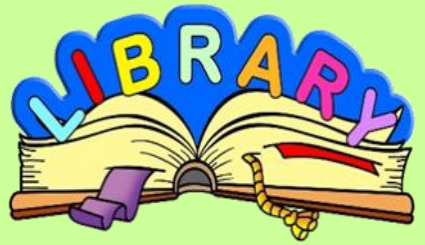
Our diocesan prayer

Loving Father,
by your grace we long to see
more people knowing Jesus,
and more justice in your world.
Help us to live as your disciples in the
power of the Spirit
and to work to your praise and glory.
Amen.



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.

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.

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Readers	Peter Davies	550768
	Matt Parkes	07971 827246
Reader Emeritus	Michael Pitts	
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	David Manning-Fox	833124
Advertising	Elaine Almond	

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

*Please note the deadline for the March 2024 edition of the magazine is **Friday 9th February 2024.** Contributions please to magazine@stpetersformby.co.uk*

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100,000

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