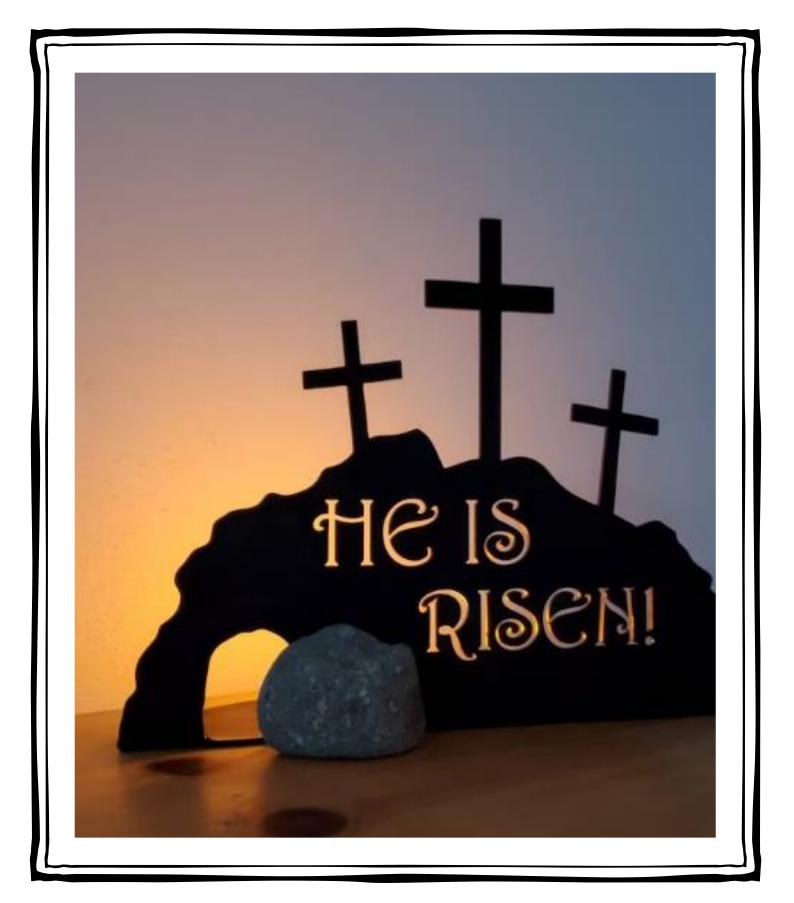
St Peter's Church Magazine March 2024



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

March Diary Dates 2024

Friday 1st 9.30am 2.00pm Saturday 2nd	Little Fishes Pre-school Group in the Parish Hall – <u>each Friday</u> World Day of Prayer Service in Holy Trinity Church
9.00am 10.30am	Breakfast Church in the Bier House Saturday Crew all things crafty in the Bier House
Sunday 3 rd	3 rd Sunday of Lent
8.30am	Eucharist (BCP)
10.00am	Parish Eucharist & Sunday Club
6.30pm Monday 4th	Choral Evensong
10.30am	Bacon Barms and Banter in the Bier House
12.30pm	Memorial Service & Interment for Neil Cain
7.30pm	Lent Study Series in the Bier House – see notice on page 6
Tuesday 5 th	
10.00am	Bible Study <i>with Ken Ward</i> in the Bier House – <u>each Tuesday</u>
Wednesday	6 th
11.00am	Eucharist followed by refreshments – each Wednesday
7.30pm	Churches Together Meeting in the Bier House
Thursday 7 ^{tl}	
2.00pm	Mothers' Union with speaker Michael Pitts in the Bier House
Friday 8 th	Dible Other with Deter Deine in the Dian Lleves
2.00pm	Bible Study with Peter Paine in the Bier House
Sunday 10 th	Mothering Sunday
8.30am	Eucharist (CW)
10.00am	All-Age Parade Eucharist
6.30pm	Service of Wholeness
Monday 11 th	Sino for Flint
7.30pm	Lent Study Series in the Bier House
Thursday 14	
1.45pm (2pm	n start) Singing For Fun in the Parish Hall
Friday 15 [™]	
7.30pm	Amadeus Concert in Church in aid of Cancer Relief
Sunday 17 th	5 th Sunday of Lent / Passion Sunday
8.30am	Eucharist (BCP)
10.00am	Parish Eucharist & Sunday Club
6.30pm	The Cross of Christ – special service of music and readings.
Monday 18 th	
7.30pm	Lent Study Series in the Bier House
Wednesday	20 th
	Primetime in the Old School Room in the Parish Hall with David Kinson talking about The Hidden World of Commercial Laundry
Thursday 21	
1.45pm (2pm	n start) Singing's Good for the Brain in the Parish Hall
Friday 22 nd	
2.00pm	Bible Study with Peter Paine in the Bier House

2



Saturday 23rd

10.00am – 12noon **Quiet Time with God** – Journeying through Holy Week in the Bier House and Church, with Churches Together

Wedding of Daniel Turner & Jasmine Rowe 1.00pm

Uganda 100,000 step challenge finishes in the Bier House 3.00pm

Sunday 24th **Palm Sundav**

- 8.30am Eucharist (CW)
- 10.00am Parish Eucharist followed by refreshments
- 12noon Haribo Children's Service
- Easter Relax Service for Older People 2.30pm
- Crucifixion music by John Stainer 6.30pm

Monday 25th

Compline in Church 7.30pm

Tuesday 26th

7.30pm Compline in Church

Wednesday 27th

- 11.00am Eucharist & Hymns followed by refreshments
- 2.00pm WOW service for Children in church
- 7.30pm Compline in Church

Thursday 28th Maundy Thursday

- 9.15am Trinity St Peter's School Easter Service in Church
- 7.30pm Eucharist in church followed by a Vigil of Prayer 7.30pm

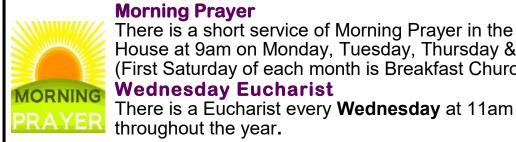
Friday 29th **Good Friday**

- 10.30am Walk of Witness meeting at the Bier House
- 11.20am Village Passion Play in Formby Pool Gardens
- Hour By The Cross Last Words of Love in church 2.00pm

Sunday 31st Easter Day

8.30am	Eucharist (BCP)
10.00am	Parish Eucharist & Sunday Club
	Easter Egg Hunt following the 10.00am service
6.30pm	Choral Evensong

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



FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 27th April – Retreat Morning led by Revd Sue Calveley in St Joseph's Thursday 9th May – 7.30pm Ascension Day Service in St Michael's, Altcar Monday 13th May – 2pm Deanery Mothers' Union Festival Service in St Peter's 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,

Once again, we're in the season of Lent, that period in the church's year that runs from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday. A time of 40 days as we remember our Lord's 40 days in the wilderness as he prepared for and prayed about his ministry.



For the mathematically minded, Lent covers 46 days!

But the 6 Sundays in Lent are not included. Down through the centuries, Christians were not expected to fast on Sundays which were regarded as "little Easters," as Sunday is the day we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus.

In days of old fasting in Lent was a serious business. Eggs, fish and meat were forbidden. And so, the day before Lent began, Shrove Tuesday, the larder would be cleared of all forbidden food. The food wasn't thrown out. It was eaten, and the eggs and fat were used to make pancakes, a tradition that we still observe on Shrove Tuesday.

In many parts of the world Shrove Tuesday became a time for partying. After all, if you're going to have to fast for 40 days, you might as well have a bit of fun the night before!

In South America they introduced carnivals on Shrove Tuesday. Carnival means "farewell to meat!" Similarly, Mardi Gras is French for "Fat Tuesday," a time to eat up rich fatty foods before the strictures of Lent.

Gradually, in more modern times, fasting has been more symbolic than actual – giving up sweets or chocolate or alcohol. And indeed, the emphasis today is more positive than negative – a time for taking up rather than giving up.

As the word 'Lent' comes from a word denoting the coming of Spring, many Christians try to use Lent as a time for spiritual spring-cleaning, a time for spiritual refreshment and renewal. As we begin to tidy up our gardens, so we begin to tidy up our spiritual lives.

Here in St Peter's, we have a special series of events each Lent to help us think and reflect on our lives as Christians.

This year, the Faith Committee has organised four sessions on the meaning of the Eucharist. **The Eucharist** is our main service each Sunday morning, so what better time than Lent to step back and reflect on the many meanings of this sacrament.



Someone has said about the Eucharist that its depth will never be plumbed or its meaning exhausted. It can match our every mood: joy or sorrow, peace or penitence, praise or petition, hope or healing. Each week it draws us into a deeper relationship with God. One writer summed up the Eucharist like this, "Through the Holy Communion our union with Christ is deepened and strengthened. By faith we receive new life from Jesus."

Helping us in our reflections this Lent will be Revd Jane Morgan, Revd Dr Crispin Pailing, Archdeacon Miranda Threlfall-Holmes and Revd Peter Paine. See page 6 for more details.

"Journeying Through Holy Week" will be the theme of a Quiet Morning led by Revd Jane Morgan on Saturday 23rd March in the Bier House at 10am.

And then, of course, there will be a reflective service each evening in Holy Week. From Monday 25th to Thursday 28th March the services will be at 7.30pm, and on Good Friday, from 2pm we will gather around the cross, using a new service produced by the Royal School of Church Music, entitled **"Last Words of Love."** We will reflect on the seven last words of Jesus from the cross in readings, prayers, music and silence.

On a completely different tack, it was wonderful to welcome to the Deanery the young people from Mullingar as they presented "Lighten our Darkness" in Holy Trinity Church on 17th February. It was a full weekend as we took the group on a tour of Liverpool including the Cathedral and Anfield! Many of them spoke in local churches on the Sunday morning, and it was good to welcome back to St Peter's, Canon Alastair Graham, the Vicar of Mullingar.

Everyone who met the young people were impressed by their dedication, faith and enthusiasm for the world around them. The Precentor of Liverpool Cathedral, Canon Philip Anderson, who kindly gave us a tour, needed to explain how they are coping with their carbon footprint while heating such a large church!



I hope all were inspired by the young people and we will in St Peter's

work towards our Gold Eco Award this year as we are part of a pilot project towards the Church of England wanting to be carbon zero by 2030. We all have a part to play in protecting our world.



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.

Anne



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 has arranged a Lent Series to explore some of its many facets.

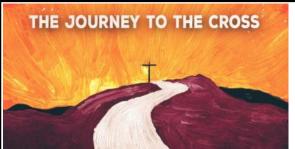
4th March The Eucharist and the Feeding of the 5000 *Revd Canon Dr Crispin Pailing, Rector of Liverpool Parish Church*

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.



Quiet Time with God 'Journeying through Holy Week' Saturday 23rd March 2024, 10am – 12 midday in the Bier House

As we move into Holy Week this is an opportunity to spend some time in God's presence and reflect on Jesus' journey to the cross and how that can speak to us in our lives today.

Using a blend of music, prayer, art and silence this time together helps us to deepen our relationship with God, refreshes our soul, and enables us to live joyfully. Life is too precious to waste and we can live life more fully, even in the challenging times that we may all experience, knowing that God holds us close, loves us and wants the best for us.

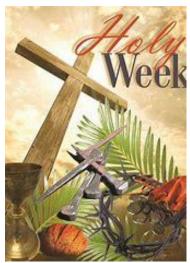
You are invited to join us to relax and reflect and enjoy the presence of God.

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you, James 4: 8a

Reverend Jane Morgan

A Reflection for Holy Week

Holy Week, the sixth and final week of Lent, a week when we recall the events, the 'passion narratives', leading up to Jesus's crucifixion, starting on Palm Sunday and ending on the evening of Holy Saturday. It begins with Christ's humble yet triumphal entry into Jerusalem on a donkey on Palm Sunday to observe Passover. We're told of Jesus being greeted by crowds of people who laid their coats and palm leaves on the ground, proclaiming him as the Son of David. We read that after this huge display of popularity the Sanhedrin (the Jewish Supreme Governing council and court) gather to plot to kill Jesus.



The Gospel readings take us through the week and how the events unfold. From the cleansing of the Temple, the anointing of Jesus by a woman during a meal a few days before Passover, 'Spy Wednesday' where Judas betrays Jesus to the Sanhedrin for money, the Last Supper where Jesus predicts his betrayal and Peter's denial, and the institution of the Eucharist, his agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, his arrest and trial, the way of the cross, his crucifixion, and the burial of Jesus, it's easy to see why Holy Week is a week of great significance, the most sacred week in the Christian year. Each day and event is filled with meaning and significance that enriches our understanding of what it means to be a Christian as we reflect on the life and death of Jesus.

Holy Week is celebrated around the world and different Christian cultures have different traditions to commemorate the events of Holy Week. As we meditate on the life of Jesus in that final week, we are challenged by the significance of the cross and the unconditional love of God. Journeying through Holy Week and reflecting on the events described in scripture enables us to draw closer to Jesus and all that happened in that week so that we may experience the true joy on Easter Sunday as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

This time of spiritual reflection encourages us to reflect on what Jesus' life, death, and resurrection means to us personally. It is also a time to focus on the teachings of Jesus as an encouragement to live a life that reflects His teachings. Spending time with the key people in the narrative helps us to be more fully into the passion of Jesus which addresses the challenges we face today.

As we journey through this significant week we pause to reflect on where the light and darkness is in each event that Jesus encounters and reflect on what that means in our own lives as we wait with hope to celebrate Jesus' resurrection and the triumph of life over death—a day that changed everything.

So commit to walk slowly and purposefully through this Holy Week, reflecting on each day of the week, so that when Easter Day comes you can truly experience the wondrous joy, thanksgiving and celebration of the risen Jesus Christ.

Be blessed in Holy Week.

Revd Jane Morgan

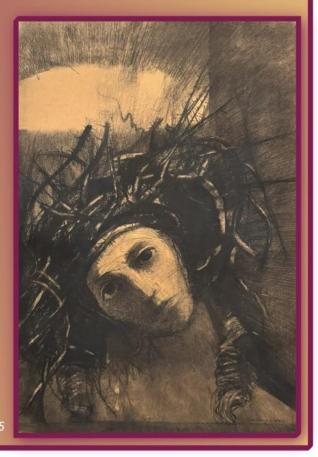
A prayer for Holy Week from the Archdiocese of Dublin God of all times, as we walk with Jesus as he walks towards the cross of Good Friday, be present with us in all of the twists and turns of this Holy Week story. Amen.

SPECIAL SERVICES FOR PASSIONTIDE

Passion Sunday 17th March - 6:30pm The Cross of Christ

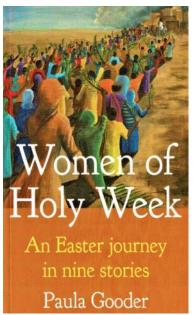
Palm Sunday 24th March - 6:30pm Crucifixion music by John Stainer

Good Friday 29th March - 2:00pm Last Words of Love



Odilon Redon Christ crowned with thorns, 1895

CHURCH LIBRARY TWO BOOKS FOR HOLY WEEK & EASTER



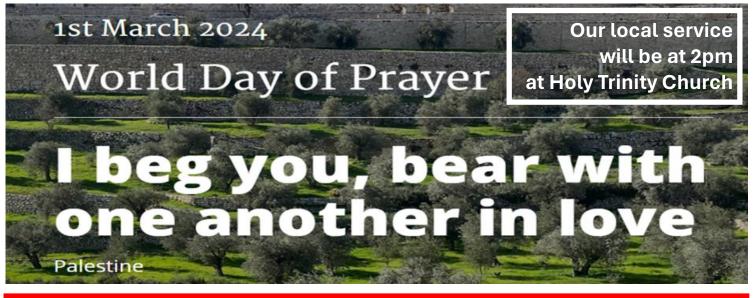
Women of Holy Week – An Easter journey in nine stories by Paula Gooder

Starting with Palm Sunday and finishing with Ascension Day, these nine stories imagine what it might have been like to accompany Jesus in this final week from the perspective of nine women. From people who had the most fleeting encounters with Jesus to his most devoted followers.

The Things He Carried: A Journey to the Cross: Meditations for Lent and Holy Week by Archbishop Stephen Cottrell

Reflections focussing on the things that Jesus carried: not just the cross, but the crown of thorns, the seamless robe, the other burdens laid upon him, and also the hopes and fears that he carried in his heart.

If you would like to borrow a book please write your name in the borrowing book provided. The Library is situated in the Bier House. We hope this will be a useful resource for all ages. Please browse and enjoy reading our books.



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.



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 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.

Breakfast Church will be at 9am in the Bier House on 2nd March

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 breakfast very welcome. The service is followed by tea, coffee, toast, crumpets etc. Give it a try! Susan Parkes

March Bible Readings

1st March - St David's Day 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-13 / Acts 20:28-35 / Matthew 11:25-30

3rd March - 3rd Sunday of Lent Exodus 20:1-17 / 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 / John 2:13-22

12th March - 4th Sunday of Lent / Mothering Sunday Exodus 2:1-10 / Colossians 3:12-17 / Luke 2:33-35

17th March - St Patrick's Day Psalm 22 / Jeremiah 15:1-21 / John 8:48-59

17th March - 5th Sunday of Lent / Passion Sunday Jeremiah 31:31-34 / Hebrews 5:5-10 / John 12:20-33

19th March - Joseph of Nazareth 2 Samuel 7:4-16 / Romans 4:13-18 / Matthew 1:18-25

24th March - Palm Sunday Isaiah 50:4-9a / Philippians 2:5-11 / Mark 11:1-11

28th March - Maundy Thursday Exodus 12:1-14 / 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 / John 13:1-17, 31b-35

29th March - Good Friday Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12 / Hebrews 10:16-25 / John 18:1 - 19:42

31st March - Easter Day Isaiah 25:6-9 / Acts 10:34-43 / Mark 16:1-8

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 March please pray for all who live in -

- 3rd March Argarmeols Road, Argarmeols Grove, Mersey Avenue
- 10th March Montagu Road, Stanlawe Road, Fisherman's Close
- 17th March College Avenue, College Path, Golf Road
- 24th March Victoria Way, Shireburn Road, Fairways Court
- 31st March Tower End, Badgers Rake, Harington Road







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.

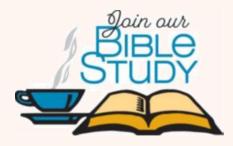
So if you haven't already thought about it, please consider joining a group.

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 - starts again 24th April Contact Ted Woods 01704 872824

Friday Bible Study Group at 2pm Date - 8th and 22nd March in the Bier House Contact Peter Paine 07722 127791





St Peter's Church Green Lane, Formby L37 7DL AMADEUS THE CHAMBER CHOIR

Friday 15th March 7:30pm

In aid of Cancer Research



A SERVICE OF WHOLENESS at 6.30 pm



Dates for your diary: Sunday 10th March Sunday 21st April



online at: www.trybooking.co.uk/DDUz 07817 540133 or by using the QR code

Donations will also be welcomed on your way out! or online via www.trybooking.co.uk/DDUZ





Our Chocolate Appeals !

Many thanks to everyone for your donations of Christmas chocolate for Southport Soup Kitchen. They were thrilled with our support and mentioned it on Facebook several times, especially the donation from our uniformed groups.

Suddenly, Easter is upon us, and we are hoping you will help by donating Easter Eggs, Bunnies, and Easter themed chocolate.

Please do not underestimate how much the homeless and needy families appreciate the gifts you give.

As ever, a box will be in the porch.....

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.

Children start in church at the 10.00am service and then move to the Bier House for lots of fun. Dates: Sunday 3rd, 17th and 31st March

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 24th March

1st March 8th March 15th March 22nd March No meeting on 29th March (Good Friday)

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Little Fishes dates



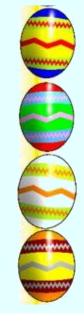
is a service designed for pre-school children.



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 27th March



Ordinand Lilly Nelson discusses her time in Canterbury during Holy Week 2023, which she attended thanks to the St John's Student Opportunities Fund.

It was through the Cranmer Hall Administration's team I was informed of the unique opportunity offered by the senior staff at Canterbury Cathedral as an experience week over Holy Week, and it is through the generous contribution from the St John's Student opportunities fund this was made possible.

I was a 1st Year MA Student based at Cranmer Hall as an Ordinand (Training for Priesthood in the Church of England). Holy Week, particularly as my final liturgical year as a laywoman, spending time in the Mother Church of the worldwide Anglican Communion, offered a full, rare insight into the ministry of the Cathedral, and the workings of Canterbury Diocese. The programme over the week included behind the scenes tours of the theology library archive, organ loft and stainedglass department as well as the unique services offered by the Cathedral over Holy Week. This included worshipping in the company of young people from the Community of St Anselm, a community who join for a year from all over the Anglican Communion.

I was one of seven Ordinands from different theological institutions throughout Europe. It was a fantastic experience to share part of my journey with a range of diverse individuals who were also training for Priesthood.

The most precious experience from my time in Canterbury was the opportunity to serve in the worshipping life of the Cathedral.

A particular gift of this was being in the presence of his Grace, The Archbishop of Canterbury, who joined with us for worship each day. A former student of St John's College himself, Archbishop Justin Welby did remark on this in our conversation. Having an opportunity to



meet, pray and serve alongside the most senior priest was an incredible privilege for me: he met the Ordinands as a such a simple, genuine, Holy Spirit filled priest.

I feel fully encouraged by my experience at Canterbury and will be forever blessed by the richness of the encouragement and the encounters with God throughout my time there. Lilly

OUR ICON REVISITED

Readers may remember the article in the December issue of the magazine about our Russian Icon of the Madonna and Child, which had been donated to St Peter's in the 1970s by the Worrall family, and is lovingly displayed on the altar every Christmas and Mothering Sunday. In January, completely by coincidence, Justin, a member of that family, contacted the church office asking if the icon was still at St Peter's, and if we had been given any history of the relic when it was gifted to the church. Justin was especially interested in his ancestor, John William Frost, the original owner of the icon.



Justin, his brother Giles and sister Victoria all attended St Peter's School in the 1970s and 80s.

Justin's story of his ancestors differed somewhat from the information from the label on the back of the icon. My wife, Ros, who is interested in Russian history and in genealogy, has managed to piece together the story of the Frost family's journey to Russia and back between the years of 1851 and 1905 using available on-line records. It is with Justin's permission that I recount that journey.



Photo: John William Frost

John William Frost was born in Sutton near Macclesfield, in 1845, the son of a silk worker. Sometime after 1851 his father Matthew moved the family to Russia for work reasons, but returned to England in 1856 following the death of his wife. The family appear in the 1861 census living in Cheshire with John now apprenticed as an iron turner at Platt & Co, Oldham.

In 1863 John Frost, now aged 18, moved back to Russia to work at a cotton mill and, according to Russian records, he married Elizabeth Ann Bladd in St Petersburg in 1867.

They had a son and a daughter before Elizabeth died in 1879 whilst giving birth to twin girls, who also died in infancy.

By 1880 John was the manager of a cotton factory run by the Sherbakov brothers in Ozera, near Moscow. That same year he married Agnes Jane Walker in Moscow and they went on to have seven daughters who were all given Russian names, with some of the girls being baptized into the Orthodox church. At some stage the family acquired the Icon – perhaps during John's first marriage or possibly following their involvement with the church in Ozera.



Sometime in the late 1890s the four eldest daughters of John and Agnes returned to England, including Agna, their fourth daughter. According to the 1901 census, these young women were living with an uncle and aunt in Everton, Liverpool. John Frost and Agnes his wife remained in Russia but probably moved back to England sometime before 1905 when civil unrest broke out in their adopted country. They are recorded living in Liverpool in the 1911 census.

Photo: Worrall family group in WW2. Agna in centre

In August 1905 John Frost's daughter, Agna, married John Heath Worrall, estate agent, in the church of St Chrysostom, Everton. Following Agna's death in 1947 her son John "Dan" Worrall inherited the icon. Justin, his grandson, remembers the icon hanging in his grandparents' home in Piercefield Road, before it was gifted it to St Peter's.

By a weird coincidence, Ros and I bought that house in 1979, and it was our home for seven years!

On a recent visit to Formby Justin and Giles Worrall were able to visit St Peter's, where they were pleased to have a closer look at the icon which they remember from their childhood.

Nick Philpott



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.

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.



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!

PARIS GIVIN SCHEME A TOUR OF HISTORIC CHRISTIAN IRELAND

Led by the Revd Peter and Carol Paine Sunday 8th to Sunday 15th September 2024

We will visit Corrymeela, a place of witness to modern Christianity where differing Christian traditions meet in dialogue and reconciliation. The tour also includes visits to Dublin and Belfast, as well as the Giant's Causeway.

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.christiantravel.com where booking may be made on their website.





Ghost in the Machine

Did you spot Spot the robotic dog that played a star part in the 2023 Royal Institute Christmas Lectures (BBC i-player: BBC 4)? His co-star was a common-or-garden toaster. The audience was asked how Spot should be treated: should he be bashed with a baseball bat or not? Few of the children had qualms about hitting an ordinary toaster but a robotic dog, looking doglike, moving like a dog ... activated by Artificial Intelligence (AI)?

The more life-like a robot appears the greater the likelihood that we will give it a personality, until distinguishing between man and machine becomes difficult. They are essentially different, however: robots are incapable of original thinking – they depend on the quality of the data that is fed into their memories. With all the hyperbole that surrounds AI now, with its promises of untold benefits, are we in danger of preferring the copy over the unique?



Take the comments on the readings for Trinity 13 2023 that appeared in the *Church Times* of 1 September 2023: the issue had been devoted to AI and its implications for religious belief. One appeared in the weekly reflections on Sunday readings; the other was composed by a machine specifically for this issue. The Old Testament reading was Jeremiah 15:15–21, his 'confessions.'

'That label witnesses to the natural and human way in which the prophet converses with God: he speaks to God ... and records God's responses ... These confessions are a sometimes confusing mixture, combining language from the law court (pleas for God's justice) with lament and – as here – reproach.'

'The reading highlights the significance of open and genuine communication with God in times of doubt and adversity. It teaches us that seeking solace in God's promises and unwavering love can lead to personal transformation and a renewed sense of purpose.'

The first comment was written by the Revd Dr Cally Hammond, who currently writes the weekly series of reflections. The second comment was compiled by ChatGPT, a chatbot or program designed to mimic human conversation. The one more personal the other less so, the first requires thought, the second is composed without thought from pre-edited machine code. Preferring the second to the first is rather like preferring a copy/forgery in place of something that is original – very much the spirit/ghost that makes the human machine in contrast to the spiritless husk of the manufactured machine. A form of unwitting idolatry (another story)?

Peter Andrews

At our meeting on the 1st February we were pleased to welcome the Venerable Arthur Siddall to talk to us about his long service in the Church of England. He gave us a brief summary of his many appointments and then spent the rest of the time entertaining us with the details of his service in Europe and a very fascinating talk it was.

At our next meeting on Thursday 7th March we are looking forward to Michael Pitts coming to talk to us about his service as a lay reader.

We continue to collect toiletries for the refugees and we are asked to bring flannels and/or sponges to the March meeting.

In April we are hoping to pay a return visit to the Sunshine Tea Rooms for lunch and as early booking is recommended it is hoped that members wishing to go will give their names to Herbert at the next meeting.

Hoping to see everyone at our next meeting.

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!

NB There will be NO TIMEOUT in March

Next meeting

Date: Monday 22nd April Topic: The work of the Whitechapel Centre for the Homeless

Mothers

Primetime

Primetime Ladies Group will meet on Wednesday 20th March

at 7.30pm

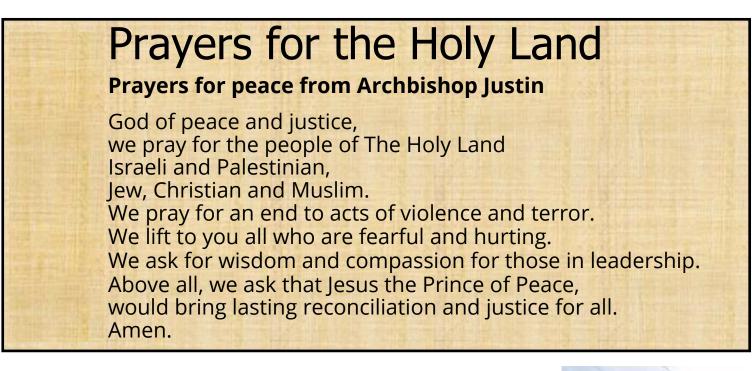
in the OSR, Parish Hall

when David Kinson will tell us about how 'It'll All Come Out In The Wash (The Hidden World of Commercial Laundry).'

Please join us, you will be very welcome, especially if coming along for the first time.

For more information please contact Sonia or Elaine or the Parish Office. **§ 871171**

office@stpetersformby.co.uk



A Church Near You

Not many kilometres south of Saumur lies the small town of Doué-la-Fontaine, renowned for its zoological gardens, and home to the English-speaking church which Fr Kevin Eastell, Vicar of St Peter's from 1976-82, established in the Église Notre-Dame in 2003.





We introduced ourselves and presented a copy of the current edition of St Peter's Magazine. What a warm welcome we received from Kevin and Ann – and their congregation! Our first visit just happened to be on the 6th July, anniversary of the death of St Thomas More. Fr Kevin was in his element and preached a fascinating sermon about his much-loved hero!

It was the first of many visits; we were much saddened to learn of the deaths of both Ann and Kevin in recent years.

The Diocese of Westminster website gives an interesting summary of Fr Kevin's life. <u>https://rcdow.org.uk/news/fr-kevin-eastell-rip/</u>

Travelling in a campervan gives us great flexibility. Finding ourselves in Aranjuez, some 50km south of Madrid, we took a Sunday morning train to Recoletos station and paid a visit to St George's Church. Fr Paul Ormrod and Jill were amazed to see us and made us very welcome. By chance that day there was a double baptism – twins! After the service, refreshments were served in the courtyard, under the shade of a spreading fig-tree – it all seemed very biblical.



HOLY WEEK 2024 JOURNEY THROUGH HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday

- 8.30am Eucharist (CW)
- 10.00am Parish Eucharist 'The Drama of Holy Week'
 - 12noon Children's Haribo Service
 - 2.30pm Relax Service for Older People
 - 6.30pm Crucifixion *music by John Stainer*

Monday 25th March

7.30pm Compline – 'Go!'

Tuesday 26th March

7.30pm Compline – 'Stops Along the Way'



Wednesday 27th March

11.00am Eucharist *with hymns*7.30pm Compline – 'Moving On'

Maundy Thursday

7.30pm

Eucharist – 'Destination' – followed by optional vigil of prayer until 10pm

Good Friday

2.00pm Last Words of Love

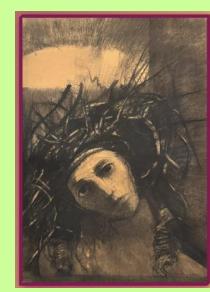


Easter Day

- 8.30am Eucharist (BCP)
- 10.00am Parish Eucharist & Sunday Club followed by Easter Egg Hunt
- 6.30pm Choral Evensong

Compline is a reflective sung service with hymns and a short talk on the theme.





From the Church Register ~ Baptism



Sunday 11th February

Arlo James Donegan, son of James & Melissa with brother Ethan and sister Macy.





From the Church Register

Funerals

23rd February 28th February

Morag Montgomery Dennis Currie

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.

11 years on ...

As we drove out of the driveway of St Peter's Vicarage in 2013, little did we realise what lay ahead. Behind us our home for the last 18 years and all the happy memories associated with it, and our two sons, Jon and Greg, waving us off.

Ahead Madrid and the (almost) unknown, dreaming of our expanding horizons. How we came down to earth with a bump, sitting in our apartment for two weeks in the searing heat of a Madrid summer waiting for our furniture to arrive. Thank goodness for air conditioning!

Our horizons were truly expanded, meeting people from so many different countries and cultures. St George's Madrid was made up of people from about 26 countries. It showed us the length and breadth that the Church of England can be at its very best. Paul's Spanish improved no end.

He took bilingual weddings and even preached in Spanish at the Anglican (Spanish speaking) Cathedral in Madrid. Not to mention dealing with the many Spanish speaking groups which used St George's facilities.



PHOTO: We were invited to the Ambassadors residence for a garden party celebrating the marriage of Harry and Megan. It became rather life-affirming with Paul and many others (being at the front of their organisations) being presented with a certificate in 'recognition of your outstanding contribution to the local community in Spain.' A very special occasion! 19th May 2018 · Madrid, Spain



We also attended functions at the British Ambassador's residence on a number of occasions but were never offered any Ferrero Rochers!

We both adapted to the heat and Paul took weddings in Madrid and Seville, both indoors and outside. One memorable bilingual wedding was interrupted by light failure (Paul had to leave the happy couple at the altar while he went off to turn the fuse back on) and just as he was about to pronounce the final blessing, the groom's uncle passed out, due to the heat. This time it was the turn of the groom to leave Paul and his new wife at the chancel steps while he went to check on his uncle!



Jill with St George's Madrid Mothers Union, Bishop David and Paul



Another wedding in Switzerland was in the open air on a mountainside with the backdrop of the range of mountains where the groom had proposed! Stunning!

Ten years on, we adapted to the cold of the Swiss mountains at another wedding. The service went very well. The chapel was at an altitude of over 1,200 meters and on the way home, some 22km away, ensuring our 4 -wheel drive was engaged, in the dark, through freezing fog and a snowstorm it was rather hair-raising at times!

> Paul waiting for one of his mountain weddings, Switzerland



Throughout our travels we have always felt greatly supported by the lovely, prayerful folk at St Peter's Formby. When Paul was licensed in Madrid twenty six of you came with your love and prayers and to have a drink on the balcony of our new home. When Paul was collated as a Canon by the Bishop in Europe (in southern Spain at Archdeaconry Synod), then installed in the Pro-cathedral in Malta (St Silas' seat), again the support team was there.

Of course, some of you were only there to pick me up after I slipped and fell under a stationary car. Thank goodness only a few people noticed!

Then to Montreux. You once again lent us your support, helping us through what was to be a rather demanding period of our lives. Sadness and joy, mixed with awe, wonder and inspiration.



And so, as we begin to look ahead once more, listening to what God has in store for us next. We keep in mind the famous quote from Julian of Norwich (Revelations of Divine Love).

"All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well."

The phrase "all manner of things shall be well" does not eliminate misfortune, sickness or death from life. It is pointing to the notion that we will find peace, and even joy, in the eye of the storm of simply living. We must come to trust that there is something that transcends chaos and impermanence.

Our little house in Ainsdale is looking more and more inviting but we know we still have work to do where we are. But watch this space ...

Jill Ormrod

150th Anniversary

Commemorative Events List 2024

Thursday 7th March at 7:30pm *Two Formby Artists* An illustrated talk by Joan Rimmer

and Stephen Gerrard.

Tuesday 19th March at 7:30pm *G:Force Gospel Choir, Formby*

Sunday 31st March at 10:30am *Easter Sunday Celebration Service* Revd Dr Sheryl Anderson, Chair of Liverpool District

Friday 12th April at 7:30pm *Magic & Mayhem - The Gilbert & Sullivan Story* The Houghton Players (Tickets £8)

Bacon Barms and Banter

1st Monday of each month (except Bank Holidays) 10.30am - 12 noon

The Bier House, St Peter's Church, Green Lane, Formby L37 7DL Bus stop right outside the venue. Free admission, breakfast butties and hot drinks. Vegetarian option available. This is especially suitable for carers and their loved ones.







Formby Methodist Church

4 Elbow Lane, Formby Merseyside L37 4AF

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LONGLIFE JUICE AND CORDIAL

UHT MILK

'FREE FROM' ITEMS

JAM



Southport Offshore Rescue Trust (SORT) Good Friday 29th March 2024 10:00 - 16:00 Free Entry



Vision Mission

Julie Rowlandson from International Aid Trust came to speak to the Saturday Crafty Crew recently. She updated us on the distribution of the shoe boxes we had filled last year.



She also told us about a new project set up by two retired opticians called **Vision Mission** who have taken old spectacles to Moldova. They tested approximately 1,200 people and were able to provide them with recycled glasses.

X Read the full story here: *http://bit.ly/49aQwK4*

If you have any old spectacles (and cases) that are no longer suitable for you could you please leave them in the box in the church porch? We will then pass them onto International Aid Trust so that other people can benefit.

Thanks in advance.

Sue Robertson on behalf of Saturday Crafty Crew



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





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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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The Case of the Empty Tomb

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. John 20:1 (NIV)



Based on John 20:1-18 (NIV)

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BELIEVED	LINEN	DAY	DARK	CLOTH
RISE	REMOVED	TOMB	FOLDED	MARY
WEEK	ANGELS	FIRST	BURIAL	LORD
CRYING	STRIPS	HEAD	DEAD	STONE

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 Solution office@stpetersformby.co.uk



Funny Bunny Easter jokes

- How did the Easter Bunny get their job? They had eggs-perience.
- What do you call an unconventional Easter egg? Egg-centric.
- How does the Easter Bunny stay safe? They've got a bunny guard.
- Why does the Easter Bunny have such a good complexion? They eggs-foliates.
- Why couldn't the Easter Bunny sleep on Easter eve? They were too egg-cited.
- What did one Easter egg say to the other? "Know any good yokes?"
- How do dinosaurs celebrate Easter? They don't. They're eggs-tinct. •
- What kind of stories does the Easter Bunny like? Ones that have a hoppy ending. .
- What do you get when you cross a rabbit and a bumble bee? A honey bunny.
- Why'd the Easter Bunny cross the road? They were following the chicken.
- What does the Easter Bunny say before dinner? "Lettuce pray."
- What did the Easter Bunny say to the carrot? It's been nice gnawing you.
- Did you hear about the Easter Bunny wedding? They lived hoppily ever after.
- Why does the Easter Bunny stay in bed the day after Easter? They're eggs-hausted.
- What do you call an Easter egg from outer space? An egg-straterrestrial.
- What do you call mischievous Easter eggs? Devilled eggs.





From the Back Pew Ted Woods

SERENDIPITY

I am an inveterate note-taker! Whether at a talk or reading a book, I have pen and paper to hand. So, this month, I want to share some of the things that I have read recently and marked as worth recording. I hope you find something of interest in them too.

In today's Church of England, there is a flight from tradition and the turning away from inclusivity towards segregation and a gathered church. Huge amounts of money have been poured into mission initiatives that compromise and rival the parish system, to little appreciable benefit. The Chote Report of 2022, for example, noted that of 89,375 new disciples promised in Strategic Development Funding projects from 2014 – 21, only 12,705 has been 'witnessed...While fewer clergy care for even more congregations, especially in rural areas, the number of people employed by diocesan structures has grown exponentially. This dual system of parish and Resource Church creates ever more layers of bureaucracy with a taxi-rank system for occasional offices such as baptisms and funerals.

Alison Milbank in The Once and Future Parish

God did not ration our human potential. He just calls it different names in different people. I revel in the research that has pinned down seven different types of intelligence. There's the intellectual intelligence, of course, but also the musical intelligence, the creative intelligence, the practical and the physical, the social and the psychic.

Yes, in that sense pop musicians are intelligent, so are footballers, so are those who can take a carburettor to bits and put it together again but could not spell to save their lives. To me, now, it is an article of faith that everyone is intelligent in some way. No-one need feel stupid any more.

Charles Handy in *Waiting for the Mountain to Move*

It is often necessary to make a distinction between real and illusory religion. The future is open. Craving for certainty is no substitute for faith. The philosopher John Macmurray tells us that the maxim of illusory religion runs like this: 'Fear not; trust in God and he will see that none of these things that you fear will happen to you.' But that of real religion is quite contrary: 'Fear not: the things you are afraid of are quite likely to happen to you – but they are nothing to be afraid of.'

There is nothing you can do that will make God love you any less or any more. God's love for you is complete, abundant and over whelming.

Martyn Percy in Thirty-Nine New Articles





This is not an easy time for words. It's been said that the political current in the USA at the moment can be summed up as: 'If you're not at the table, you are probably on the menu.' President Trump campaigned in graffiti and governed in tweets. With excited talk about 'fake news' we rather get distracted, it is hoped, from fake politicians or populist slogans, generalisations that smooth over, at best, complexity and, at worst, truth. This is not new, of course, it's just particularly bad at the moment – and such abuse, a sort of 'truth decay,' spreads across our globe very quickly.

Mark Oakley in *By Way of the Heart*

It is worth remembering that early Bibles had no chapter and verse referencing whatsoever. Eusebius of Caesarea began to categorize each Gospel into numbered sections, but the first New Testament to have anything like our modern divisions of chapters and verses was published by the printer Robert Estienne in 1550. Over the broad sweep of Christian history, chapter and verse theology is a distinctly modern invention.

Of course, it's a convenience and helps the reader find their way about. But what it has done is give the impression that biblical truth exists at the level of individual sentences. The meaning is revealed within the narrative as a whole.

Giles Fraser in *Christianity with Attitude*

If we are prepared to avoid trying to give a simple answer to the problem of evil, we can build a picture which takes Scripture seriously, takes science seriously and takes the existence of evil seriously. God chose to give human beings freedom – freedom to reject him and indeed to nail him to the cross. God limits himself through the giving of freedom. But what if God chose to limit himself not just to the giving of human freedom but gave the universe a degree of freedom to explore its own potentiality? Thus, God creates through an evolutionary process that includes chance, in order to give human beings the possibility of development, with the consequence of the risks of suffering.

This suggests that God allows the physical processes of the universe to proceed freely. God is omnipotent but limits his own power to give freedom. God is omniscient in knowing everything that can be known but there is a degree of uncertainty about the future.

David Wilkinson in When I Pray What Does God Do?

And to finish, A world without God is a book without a plot. A curry without taste. A life without purpose. But like science, fashion and jazz, just because I might not understand it, doesn't mean it doesn't exist.

Milton Jones in 10 Second Sermons

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. Thank you to everyone who has already given donations towards the weekly flowers.



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Contacts at St Peter's

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	Matt Parkes	07971 827246
Reader Emeritus	Michael Pitts	Father
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For more information about any of our organisations please contact the Parish Office on 01704 871171 or email office@stpetersformby.co.uk

Please note the deadline for the April 2024 edition of the magazine is **Friday 8th March 2024. Contributions please to magazine@stpetersformby.co.uk** St Peter's has a contactless payment machine for donations.

100,000 STEPS IN 24 HOURS CHALLENGE (APPROX. 46 MILES)

We will be starting this challenge on 22nd March finishing on 23rd March at 3pm at the Church (or over 5th/6th April depending on the weather!) to raise funds for St Peter's Uganda Kalule Project.

FOR ST PETER'S UGANDA KALULE PROJECT

IN 24 HOURS

You can donate by using the QR code above or leave a donation, in Church or at the Parish Office, in a yellow envelope marked

100,000 STEP

CHALLENGE TO R

100,000 Steps Challenge.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Steve and Paul



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