

# St Peter's Church Magazine

## April 2024



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

# April Diary Dates 2024



**Monday 1<sup>st</sup>** Easter Monday Bank Holiday

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup>**

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

11.00am Woodlands Care Home Eucharist

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup>**

11.00am Eucharist *followed by refreshments* – each Wednesday

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>**

2.00pm Mothers' Union - *Outing to the Sunshine Tearooms*  
– *Ince Blundell L38 6JE*

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup>**

9.30am No Little Fishes – Easter holidays



**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>**

9.00am Breakfast Church in the Bier House

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



**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

8.30am Eucharist (BCP)

10.00am Parish Eucharist

6.30pm Choral Evensong



**Monday 8<sup>th</sup>**

10.30am Bacon Barms and Banter in the Bier House

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>**

11.30am Fish and Chip Meal in the Parish Hall

2.00pm Singing for Fun in the Parish Hall

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup>**

9.30am No Little Fishes – Easter holidays

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



**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

8.30am Eucharist (CW)

10.00am Parish Eucharist

6.30pm Choral Evensong

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>**

10.00am Refugee Welcome Day in the Parish Hall

7.30pm Primetime in the Old School, Parish Hall, *with speaker Peter Connor who will be telling us about his life and work in EBD (all will be revealed).*

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>**

2.00pm Singing's Good for the Brain in the Parish Hall

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup>**

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



**Front Cover Photo: by David Holroyd - St Peter's Churchyard March 2024**



**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>**

8.30am

10.00am

12noon

6.30pm

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

Eucharist (BCP)

Parish Eucharist & Sunday Club *followed by refreshments*

Baptism of Grace and Eleanor Denash

Service of Wholeness

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>**

7.30pm

Timeout, Men, Beer and Topics in the Bier House

*The Work of the Whitechapel Centre for the Homeless***Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>**

7.30pm

Bible Study *with Ted Woods* in the Bier House**Friday 26<sup>th</sup>**

9.30am

Little Fishes Pre-school Group in the Parish Hall

2.00pm

Bible Study *with Peter Paine* in the Bier House**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup>**

10.00am

Retreat Morning led by Revd Sue Calvely in St Joseph's Prayer Centre.

7.30pm

Darts and Bangers Fun Evening in the Parish Hall

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

8.30am

Eucharist (CW)

10.00am

Parish Eucharist *followed by refreshments*

12 noon

Children's Haribo Service in church *followed by snacks*

6.30pm

Choral Evensong

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup>**

10.00am

Bible Study *with Ken Ward* in the Bier House**Morning Prayer –**

*There is a short service of Morning Prayer in the Bier House at 9am on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday.*

**Wednesday Eucharist**

*There is a Eucharist every Wednesday at 11am throughout the year. The service is followed by refreshments in the Bier House.  
All very welcome.*

**FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY****Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May – 7.30pm Ascension Day Service in St Michael's, Altcar****Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May – Annual Parochial Church Meeting****Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June – 3pm Ordination to the Diaconate of Lilly Nelson****Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July – Summer Parish Fair****For further details please refer to our website:****[www.stpetersformby.co.uk](http://www.stpetersformby.co.uk)**

## *Dear Friends,*

It is always strange to wish you all a Happy Easter when we are still journeying through Holy Week. Our Holy Week journey started with the most moving Palm Sunday. I thank Stephen Lyon for giving the dramatized reading of the Gospel and to David and the choir for singing the Crucifixion by Stainer in the evening. And in between we had a joy filled children's Haribo Service and a much appreciated Relax Service for older people.



These services were full of hope which is exactly what our world needs now and it is easy to be filled with despair when you look at what is happening in so many parts of our world.

We see wars in Ukraine and the Middle East, both incurring untold damage in human and infrastructure terms. Anarchy reigns in Haiti and Yemen.

Ecologically, there are dire warnings about global warming and its devastating effects.

In our own country our donations for the Food Banks remain essential. Intolerance and bitterness are so evident in social media, between political parties and in neighbourhoods. We seem to be becoming an increasing critical and self-centred society.

Even in the Church there are divisions over human sexuality, threats of global splits, safeguarding issues and in many places a decline in attendances and finances leading to panicky reactions.

Hope, it seems, can be in short supply.



Yet it is precisely hope that the message of Easter proclaims.

Despair describes the feelings of Jesus' followers on Good Friday and Holy Saturday. The one in whom they had put their trust, to whom they had committed their lives, had been put to death like a common criminal on a cross. Darkness enveloped them. Their hopes had been dashed. No wonder they huddled together in the Upper Room frightened and fearful for their lives and the future.

And then on the third day, the first Easter day, came the astounding news that Jesus was alive. He had risen from the dead and had appeared, first of all, to the women who had come to tend his tomb. But then he appeared to the disciples, many times, and even to more than 500 people at one time.

The resurrection was real. It wasn't a figment of their imagination or the result of wishful thinking.

And the resurrection continues to give us hope today.

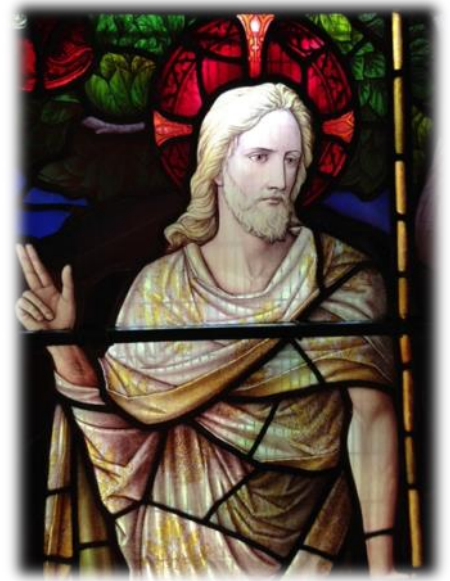
We worship not a dead hero, but a living Lord, who continues to give us courage and strength and hope not just by what he taught but by his presence with us and within us in our daily lives. The risen Jesus walks with us and by us along the road of life.

The resurrection gives us hope that there is life after this life. The Bible confidently proclaims that as Jesus was raised from death, so shall we. Life continues on.

And Christ's resurrection assures us of the ultimate triumph of good over evil. As for the disciples on Good Friday, injustice and darkness seem to have won the day. But Good Friday was followed by Easter Day. In the end, right will overcome wrong, justice and peace will prevail. Not surprisingly, we are called to endurance and faith.

Let's hold on to the hope which Easter proclaims. Let us remember why every shop has been selling Easter eggs since just after Christmas! Eggs are the symbol of new life and hope and our Christian faith gives us just that – new life in Christ and Easter hope.

When in church take some time to reflect on our beautiful east window which depicts Jesus leaving the tomb and rising to new life. Let us not be like the soldiers asleep to the message of hope but be like the women who were the first witnesses and with eagerness spread the word of God's love.



In April we have the opportunity to nurture and grow in our faith as we have a Retreat Morning in St Joseph's Prayer Centre in the Pinewoods on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April led by Revd Sue Calvely. This will be from 10am to 12.30pm and will include a light lunch. This will be a gently-led morning and if you have never attended a retreat morning before please do think about joining us. There is more information on page 9.

A very different event is happening that evening as there will be a social at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall, in the form of a Darts and Bangers evening! The details are on page 17.

Fast approaching is our trip to Kalule, Uganda, and please keep the group and the school and Women's Project in your prayers.

May you all have a blessed, meaningful and hope-filled Easter.

*Anne*





# St Peter's Uganda Project

## TOGETHER WE CAN!

The time of the trip to Kalule is drawing near and we want to thank everyone who has given us donations, from pencils to suitcases, and much more. **Items we still need are -**



**For adults (including the Women's Project):** small soaps, flannels, toothbrush and toothpaste; cotton material for making clothes. Cotton nighties, women's pants (new) and T-shirts.

Suitcases (they are used for storage in their houses so will be left behind).

**For children (some of whom are boarding):** Pencil cases, pens, pencils (plain and coloured), rulers, erasers and pencil sharpeners. Football shirts and shorts (any colour!) or other t-shirts, nightwear (new or good as new), pants (new) and light throws. Children's jigsaws and games (Jenga, children's scrabble etc).

**Deadline – we need all items by Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April.**



**We have enough wool, cotton and needles** – thank you to those who have already donated. If you have wool it would be great if you could knit hats, small jumpers or babies booties that we can take with us.

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 by using the card machine or website.

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

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





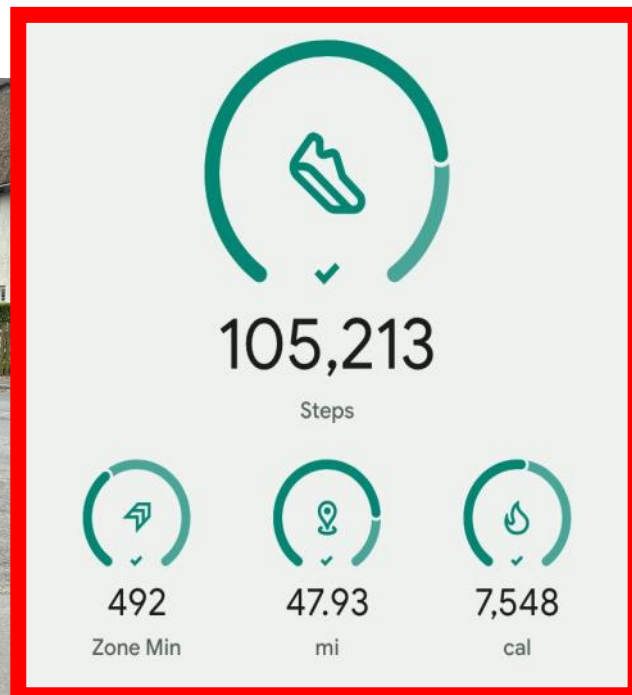
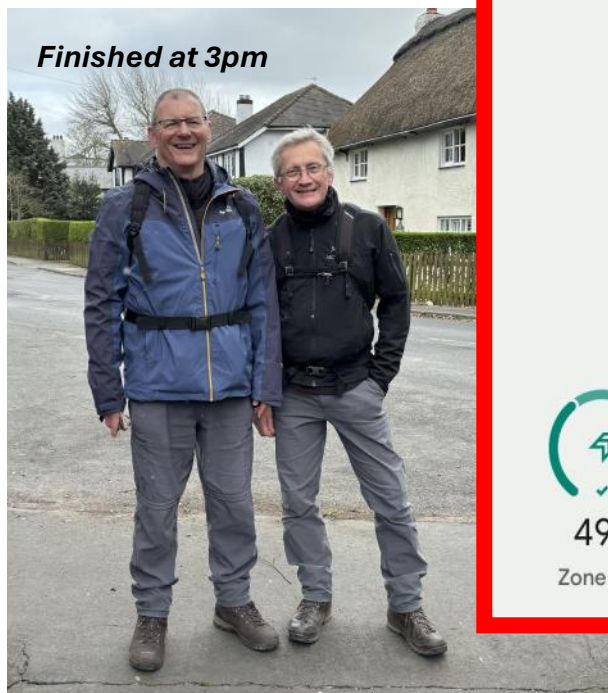
# Walk for Uganda

Congratulations to Steve and Paul for completing an amazing distance through the night in rain, hail and wind!

All the money raised will make a fabulous difference for our Uganda Project and currently over **£4,000** has been donated.



Thank you to Steve and Paul and to all who donated, it is very much appreciated by us all.



You can still donate by using the QR code or leave a donation, in Church or at the Parish Office, in a yellow envelope marked **100,000 Steps Challenge**.



# Bishop John Easter letter

## He is risen. He is risen, Indeed.

This is how Christians in the early church greeted one another as they came together for worship on Sunday mornings. For them every Sunday was Easter. The church accepted Resurrection as the foundation of its faith. Every worship is an occasion to proclaim that the Risen Lord is present in our midst.

The experience of Resurrection was much different from the crucifixion. Crucifixion was a public event. It was witnessed by both believers and non-believers alike. Even the sceptics were able to 'see' it. But the Resurrection was known and experienced only by the believers. Thus, Resurrection belongs to an altogether different category. God's ultimate victory over death can only be discerned by faith.

To argue that all reality should be scientifically proved is to ignore much of our day-to-day experiences which are meaningful, true and important to us. We know that the precious experiences of life and emotions such as love do not always lend themselves to such 'scientific' verification. The Resurrection is an experience of truth that can be known only by faith. Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible!

Resurrection is the victory of the Cross. For the religious and political leaders of Jesus' time, Jesus' tomb was a symbol of the defeat of Jesus' movement. It was victory for the religious and political powers of oppression. But the final victory was not theirs! He is risen. Jesus' Resurrection is a symbol of victory over injustice and oppression by both political and religious authorities. The Resurrection assures us today that the powers of death and oppression can not claim supremacy in this world of God.

Resurrection brings power and authority. Jesus shared this authority and power with his whole church. This is not the oppressive authority such as was operative in Jesus' crucifixion, but a liberating authority which transforms dehumanised people into human beings. It is the power to fight and overcome the evil. The disciples, who had locked the doors of their house for the fear of the Jews (Jn. 20:19), have now become courageous enough to stand outside in the public and declare their faith (Acts 2:14 ff.). God's message to us in the Resurrection is 'do not be afraid'.

For believers in Christ, Resurrection is not exclusively an experience after death. It happens every day. In love we experience many deaths and many resurrections. To Paul the Apostle, the proof of Resurrection is in the quality of the change that it brings about in our relationships. With the Resurrection, Christ brings a new humanity, a new creation. Paul is very specific in Col. 3:1: "Since then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above." What are these 'things above?' Look at verse 13: "As God's chosen people clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." "Bear with one another and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

All these are about daily relationships in the family, community and in the wider society. It is in the daily transactions that we need to experience the ultimate victory of Christ over us and over the world. The summary of all the virtues is again given by Paul: "Over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity." Is this our experience? Looking at the life of our congregation can someone say truly, "Christ is Risen?"

The Resurrection happens every day. In love we can experience many deaths and many resurrections.





## Retreat Morning 'Listening to God'

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2024, 10.30am – 12.30pm  
in the St Joseph's Prayer Centre, Blundell Ave, Formby L37 1PH**

We are delighted that Revd Sue Calveley will lead our Retreat Morning. Sue is a very experienced retreat leader, she established the Spiritual Direction Network for Liverpool Diocese and she developed the Quiet Garden in St Peter's, Birkdale.

St Joseph's is a wonderful place to take time out in prayer and reflection. Never been to a retreat morning? Then come along and feel the benefit.

Coffee & pastries available from 10am and a light lunch at 12.30.

For catering purposes (and dietary requirements) please let Caroline in the Parish Office know that you are going to attend.

[office@stpetersformby.co.uk](mailto:office@stpetersformby.co.uk) 01704 871171



### HOW TO EAT BREAD

21 NOURISHING WAYS  
TO READ THE BIBLE



### A NEW BOOK IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY

How to Eat Bread: 21 Nourishing Ways to Read the Bible *by Miranda Threlfall-Holmes*,

Archdeacon of Liverpool. Miranda spoke at our Lent series and her talk was very much appreciated by those who attended. Miranda has written several books, and this one is now in our library.

In *How to Eat Bread* she deals with scripture itself, quoting a Bible passage, then teases out its importance, and concludes with advice on how to take matters further. Encouraging readers to try out a variety of tried and tested ways of Bible reading, experiment with different ingredients and sample the results.

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.

# THE TIES THAT BIND US

by Stephen Lyon

Later this year a group from St Peter's is going to visit St Peter's Church and school, in Kalule, a town north of Uganda's capital city of Kampala. In common with previous visits in 2018 and 2019 the aim of this visit is not just to help in practical ways but to help people help themselves.



This friendship link between the two St Peter's could simply be seen as a creative way of bringing two very different communities together for mutual learning and benefit. While it is this, this very local link is an expression of a far larger set of links within the Anglican Communion.

The Anglican Communion is, to quote the website, a family of 42 autonomous and independent-yet-interdependent national, pan-national and regional churches in communion with the see of Canterbury. Both St Peter's are part of a diocese – Liverpool in England and Luwero in Uganda – these dioceses are part of the Provinces of the Church of England and the Church of the Province of Uganda. These provinces are two of the 42 regional churches that make up the Anglican Communion.

Like any family, it works best when members can meet one another, get to know one another, and share their joys and challenges. These opportunities to meet happen in very different ways – the bishops meet every ten or so years at the Lambeth Conference; representatives from each province [bishops, clergy, and laity] meet every three years at the Anglican Consultative Council; there are inter-Communion Commissions that meet to focus on a particular area of concern or interest e.g. Inter-Faith issues or the Science Commission – but by far the most creative opportunities to meet are through the local grass-roots links such as this one of the two St Peter's.

But why meet? Surely, we have enough to do here in Formby. After all, following the 275 Anniversary Year, a Vision Day and its follow-up work came up with several initiatives that we felt needed our time and attention. Let me suggest just three reasons why meeting is vital to the life of all the churches in the Communion.

First, being part of a global family is a constant reminder that our horizons can often become narrow and restrictive. Going back to the Vision Day – through it we expanded our understanding of what we are called to be as church by being open to new insights from those who attended. If that Vision Day had somehow sought to draw in a mother from Uganda, a teacher from India or an older person from Melanesia, I am sure the vision that emerged would have been expanded even more.



Second, relating globally challenges our viewpoint on important matters. Like many families, the Anglican Communion has a dysfunctional element to its life together. Several provinces did not attend the last two Lambeth Conferences as they saw some parts of the Communion holding very different beliefs to their own. Recently, this has been due to differences in our understanding of human sexuality but in the past, there have been rifts in the Communion due to different views on marriage, polygamy, divorce, and the role of women in the church. But meeting, often at a local, under-the radar level, has aided better understanding and challenged views held from all positions.

Third, these kinds of relationships offer the opportunity for both give and take. Ensuring both give and take is not always easy because there are significant inequalities within these relationships. The most obvious is the economic inequality between those of us living in the global north and those in the global south. Due to this, it is all too easy for us to see these relationships mainly in terms of what we can give to our link partner. What we can offer is often tangible, visible and leaves a lasting gift. But I am sure that those who will visit Kalule, like those on previous trips, will return changed people saying they were the ones who benefited most from the visit. However, these benefits are often intangible, invisible and the lasting gift they represent are within the lives of the visitors.

The challenge for all those involved in the variety of ‘family get-togethers’ across the Anglican Communion is how do we talk about what we can give to each other in a way that both partners can recognise and value what they mean to the other.

This is far harder for those of us from the global north than our partners in the south. That is why I would wish to turn on its head what the late President of the USA, John F Kennedy, said in his inaugural address in 1961. When it comes to these kinds of partnerships, I’d want to say that their lasting worth, for us might be found in initially asking, and putting into words, not what we can do for our partners but rather what our partners can do for us.



# A REFLECTION FOR EASTER

"He has risen  
he is not here  
he is going before you to Galilee."  
(Mk 16:6-7)

Christ is risen, Christ lives,  
Christ is the Lord  
of the living and the dead  
He is the Lord of history.



So begins Thomas Merton's meditation *He is risen*. Easter Day and the seven weeks leading up to Pentecost are the "Glorious Forty Days" celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. By the end of those forty days Matthew would know the truth of Jesus' promise, "I am with you always to the end of the age" (Mt 28:20).

The resurrection of Christ is not like other events with a beginning and an end. Yes, there was a time before he was risen but now we are in the time of the risen Christ and we say in the Eucharist "Christ *is* risen."

When we think of the way Christ revealed himself as risen we recall the empty tomb and the opportunity of Thomas to touch the risen Christ. What has been most convincing to people down the ages was the change in the disciples from being terrified followers to bold apostles.

There are at least four ways both they and we can experience the risen Christ. The first is through other people. Mary Magdalene met the risen Christ as a gardener. In her grief she could not see beyond his outward appearance. When he spoke her name she was raised to an experience of belief and a new quality of life that we call eternal.

We can know the risen Christ through the Scriptures. The two disciples walking on the road to Emmaus were joined by a stranger who explained the Scriptures to them. Of that experience they said: "did not our hearts burn within us ...while he opened to us the Scriptures?" It was many years ago now that I felt an inexplicable warmth as I read a commentary on John's Gospel in the context of prayer. I took this to be the love of God for me and all people.



Then, thirdly, it was through the breaking of bread that those same disciples perceived the risen Christ. Do we really expect to meet the risen Christ in the Eucharist? We did once in a very special way on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. As I read Luke's "sermon on the plain" (Lk 6 :19-46) for the Gospel reading at an outdoor Eucharist we all felt it was as if the risen Christ himself was speaking those words.

Finally, Jesus promised to be present where two or more are met in his name (Mt 18:20); that is, when they have the same love for one another as Christ has for them. The number of times I have experienced the risen Christ in this way are too numerous to mention.

A prayer I make daily is this: "Thank you God, for the promise of the presence of the risen Christ; may I know his presence among us today."

**Peter Paine**

## **April Bible Readings**

### **7<sup>th</sup> April – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

Exodus 14:10-31 / Acts 4:32-35 / John 20:19-31

### **8<sup>th</sup> April – Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Isaiah 7:10-14 / Hebrews 10:4-10 / Luke 1:26-38

### **14<sup>th</sup> April – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

Zephaniah 3:14-20 / Acts 3:12-19 / Luke 24:36b-48

### **21<sup>st</sup> April – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13 / Acts 4:5-12 / John 10:11-18

### **23<sup>rd</sup> April – George, martyr, patron of England**

1 Maccabees 2:59-64 / 2 Timothy 2:3-13 / John 15:18-21

### **25<sup>th</sup> April – Mark the Evangelist**

Proverbs 15:28-33 / Acts 15:35-41 / Mark 13:5-13

### **28<sup>th</sup> April – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

Genesis 22:1-18 / Acts 8:26-40 / John 15:1-8





## HOLY WEEK 2024

### JOURNEY THROUGH HOLY WEEK

#### 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



## From the Church Register



#### Funerals

4 <sup>th</sup> March	Neil Cain
7 <sup>th</sup> March	Doreen Smith
13 <sup>th</sup> March	Barbara Watts
18 <sup>th</sup> March	Peggy Danson

#### Garden of Remembrance

22 <sup>nd</sup> February	John Deyes
	– Thornton Cemetery
4 <sup>th</sup> March	Neil Cain
24 <sup>th</sup> March	Edward Canavan

## 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 April please pray for all who live in –

7 <sup>th</sup> April	Birch Green, Oakfield Drive, St Peter's Close
14 <sup>th</sup> April	Firs Link, Firs Crescent, Firs Close
21 <sup>st</sup> April	Holmwood Gardens, Lenton Avenue, Vaughan Close
28 <sup>th</sup> April	St Peter's Avenue, College Close, Larch Way





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 24<sup>th</sup> April.

Contact Ted Woods 01704 872824

**Friday Bible Study Group at 2pm**

Date - 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> April in the Bier House

Contact Peter Paine 07722 127791



**A SERVICE OF  
WHOLENESS  
at 6.30 pm**



**Dates for your diary:**  
**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April**  
**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May**  
**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June**  
**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July**

**Garden of Remembrance**

We currently have 5 volunteers on the rota to maintain the Garden of Remembrance, but more helpers would be welcome.



Responsibilities would be to keep grass cut and the area tidy.

Please contact, Keith Millington, the Vicar or Churchwardens, if you feel you can help.  
Thank you.

# Trinity St Peter's Church of England

## Primary School Admission

Please note that if you plan to apply to Trinity St Peter's School for a place for your child you must read the school admissions criteria on the school website. For anyone applying as a church member (category 3) you must attend Sunday services monthly throughout the year before your child starts school.

<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.

If you have any questions please contact the Vicar.



### 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

19<sup>th</sup> April

26<sup>th</sup> April

No meetings on  
5<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> April  
(Easter holidays).



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

**Date: Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April**

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 28<sup>th</sup> April**



### 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.

**The next WOW service will be on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May.**

## 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

**Date: Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April**

**Topic: The work of the Whitechapel Centre for the Homeless**

## Primetime

Primetime Ladies Group will meet  
**on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April**  
**at 7.30pm**

**in the OSR, Parish Hall**

Our speaker, Peter Connor, will be telling us about his life and work in EBD (all will be revealed).

All welcome, especially if returning after an absence or joining us for the first time.

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

**office@stpetersformby.co.uk**

## Breakfast Church will be at 9am in the Bier House on 6<sup>th</sup> April

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

## 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.







At our March meeting we were pleased to welcome Michael Pitts as our speaker. Michael joined us with his wife and a guest to tell us about his invitation to York Minster for the Maundy Service. He was one of 74 people invited to attend the Service and receive the Maundy money from King Charles (74 people: one for each year of the King's life). He entertained us using a series of very interesting hand outs starting with his letter of invitation followed by all other aspects relating to his wonderful day and including a number of photographs.

Prior to Michael's talk we were also reminded that our next meeting on April 4<sup>th</sup> would be our outing for lunch at the Sunshine Tea rooms in Ince Blundell.

The arrangement is for us to be there for 12-30 and anyone needing a lift should contact Herbert to make the arrangement.

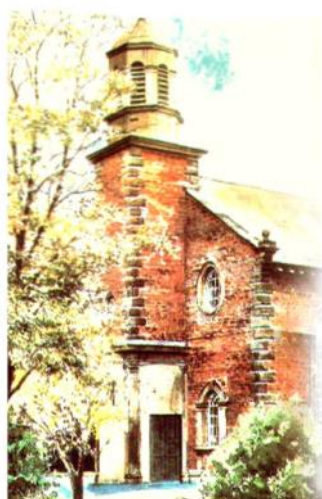
We were further reminded that on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May we will be hosting the Deanery Festival and would need to make suitable arrangements for entertaining our guests in the Bier House after the Service.

Our leader thanked us for supporting our 3 charities regularly and reminded us that at our next meeting we should bring shower gel or soap for the refugees.

Hoping to see everyone at our next meeting,

With all good wishes

Herbert (873367)



## 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.**



# Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will be held on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May. In order to vote at that meeting, your name must be on the Electoral Roll.

The Electoral Roll will be open for revision from Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April to Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April. Application Forms for inclusion on the Electoral Roll will be available in the Church Porch.

Existing members of the Electoral Roll do not need to take any action (apart from notifying any change of address).

The updated Electoral Roll (names only) will be displayed in the Church Porch for a minimum of 14 days prior to the APCM.

David Manning-Fox

Electoral Roll Officer

As a Christian, you should realize  
Jesus is always seeking to express His  
love to others through you.

## A TOUR OF HISTORIC CHRISTIAN IRELAND

Led by the Revd Peter and Carol Paine

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> 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 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](mailto:peterspaine@gmail.com) or Worldwide Christian Travel – [info@christian-travel.com](mailto:info@christian-travel.com) and [www.christian-travel.com](http://www.christian-travel.com) where booking may be made on their website.



# From the Church Register ~ Wedding

Saturday  
23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024

Wedding of  
Daniel Turner &  
Jasmine Rowe







## Success for the Cubs!

On a bright sunny but cold Saturday morning 8 members of the Cub Pack met with 200+ Cubs from across

Southport and Formby for the Annual District Outdoor competition staged at Waterside Lodge District HQ in Southport.

The Cubs competed in Tug-of-War and Chariot racing competitions, with combined scores deciding who won the overall Trophy. The activities were straight knockout competitions, but when the teams lost, they could try Real Archery, Soft Archery and pioneering. Our teams did not get much opportunity on these activities as our Tug-of-War teams got through to the final, coming second and the other team finishing fourth. In the Chariot racing our teams got through to the third and fourth rounds respectively.

Our final positions in the individual events meant that we came out on top, winning the overall competition, and receiving the fine Shield pictured with the team.

The Shield has a long history, the earliest date on it seems to be 1938, and it is actually called the Stewart Challenge Shield for Cubs being presented by Charles Stewart, a former District Commissioner, for what would then have been Southport & Ormskirk Scout District. It's not the first time a Formby Pack has won the shield as it has been previously won by Formby Packs pre-1977 when Formby and Southport were previously together.

Have a look at it as it will be spending the next 12 months on display in the Church as it is a little large for the average Cubs shelf at home!

**Mark Sheil, Cub Scout Leader, Assistant Scout Leader**

**9<sup>th</sup> Formby (St Peters) Scout Group**



# *St George - Did You Know?*

You might think of St George as a heroic knight slaying a ferocious, fire-breathing dragon. But like many early saints, the exact details of his life remain a mystery, but did you know -

## **1. ST GEORGE WASN'T ENGLISH**

St George was born in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD more than 2,000 miles away in Cappadocia (Türkiye). He is thought to have died in Lydda (Israel) in the Roman province of Palestine in AD 303 and that his tomb was in Lod (Israel) and was a centre of Christian pilgrimage.

## **2. HE WASN'T A KNIGHT**

Whilst St George was depicted from the 11<sup>th</sup> century as a chivalric knight on horseback, he would probably have been an officer in the Roman army.

## **3. ST GEORGE WAS A MARTYR**

It is believed that, during the persecutions of the Emperor Diocletian in the early 4<sup>th</sup> century St George was executed for refusing to make a sacrifice in honour of the pagan gods.

## **4. HE NEVER VISITED ENGLAND**

St George's reputation for virtue spread across Europe and his feast day was celebrated in England from the 9<sup>th</sup> century. He became popular with kings. Edward I had banners bearing the emblem of St George (a red cross on a white background) and Edward III owned a relic of his blood. The St George cross was not used to represent England until the reign of Henry VIII.

## **5. THE DRAGON WAS ADDED LATER**

The story goes that St George rode into Silene (Libya) to free the city from a dragon who had a taste for humans, but it's a story which post-dates the real George by several centuries. Images of George and the dragon survive from the 9<sup>th</sup> century – 500 years after his death.

## **6. ENGLAND ISN'T THE ONLY COUNTRY TO CELEBRATE ST GEORGE**

England shares St George with Venice, Genoa, Georgia, Malta & Gozo, Portugal, Ethiopia and Catalonia among others as their patron saint. George has been the patron saint of Bosnia and Herzegovina until 1752 when he was replaced by Elijah.

## **7. PEOPLE TURNED TO ST GEORGE FOR PROTECTION**

From around 1100, St George was sought to protect the army. In William Shakespeare's Henry V, the monarch calls on the saint during his battle cry at the Battle of Harfleur in the famous "Once more unto the breach, dear friends" speech, crying "God for Harry! England, and St George!"

## **8. ST GEORGE REPRESENTS THOSE WE HONOUR**

The Order of the Garter (founded by Edward III) is the highest order of chivalry. St George's cross appears on the Garter badge. In 1940 King George VI created an award for acts of the greatest courage in extreme danger. The George Cross, named after the king, bears the image of St George vanquishing the dragon.





**St George & the dragon, depicted in stained glass  
at St George's Hall, Liverpool**



**A Prayer for St George's Day**

God of hosts,  
who so kindled the flame of love in the heart of  
your servant George that he bore witness to  
the risen Lord by his life and by his death:  
give us the same faith and power of love that we  
who rejoice in his triumphs may come to share  
with him the fullness of the resurrection;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
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.**



**DARTS & BANGERS NIGHT**

Looking for a night out that is not going to break the bank?  
Then look no further than the Darts & Bangers Night in the  
Parish Hall on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April!

See the back page for details and booking.

**What happens at a Darts & Bangers Night?**

There are 4 rounds of throwing darts and between each round there is something to eat. There is a glass of wine/beer on arrival, then soup after round 1, hotdogs after round 2, dessert after round 3 finishing with coffee. Bottles of wine and beer will also be available.

There are up to 5 dart boards and 4/5 teams for each one. Score cards will be provided, the two highest teams go into the final.

You don't have to be good at darts or even to have played before. It's a fun night!

**Numbers are limited, so please book early.**

If you have darts and a board you could loan us for the night, or if you would like to donate a raffle prize, please contact Ted Woods at 07899 429081.





# 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## Commemorative Events List 2024

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May at 7:30pm**

*Ian Tracey (Liverpool Anglican Cathedral Organist)  
with Jack Watson (Tenor)*

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June to Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June**

*Flower Festival*

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June at 7:30pm**

*Sefton Ladies Choir*

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July**

*Family Barbecue*

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July at 10:30am**

*Church 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service*  
with Guest Preacher tbc

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 10:30am**

*150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of First Service at Elbow Lane*  
Revd David Somerville (Bury, ex Crosby Circuit)

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October at 7:30pm**

*Aughton Male Voice Choir*



## Formby Methodist Church

4 Elbow Lane,  
Formby  
Merseyside L37 4AF

### Also

*Exhibition and Talk on the  
Story of Methodism in  
Formby*

## Bacon Barms and Banter

**10.30am - 12 noon**

**Next meeting will be on**

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April**

**(due to the Bank Holiday).**

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

Bus stop right outside  
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option available.



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suitable for carers  
and their loved  
ones.

**Dementia  
friendly church**

*The Church Porch is  
open every day  
from 10am to 5pm  
for donations.*

*Thank you*



### URGENTLY NEEDED ITEMS

SAVOURY CRACKERS

PASTA SAUCE

TINNED MEAT E.G. CORNED BEEF, HAM

TINNED FRUIT

TINNED TOMATOES

INSTANT NOODLES

TOMATO SAUCE, BROWN SAUCE, MAYO

LOGLIFE JUICE AND CORDIAL

UHT MILK

'FREE FROM' ITEMS

JAM

COMPASSION  
ACTS

# 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.

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 to International Aid Trust so that other people can benefit.

Thanks in advance.

Sue Robertson on behalf of Saturday Crafty Crew



International  
Aid Trust

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

## *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.



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

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

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

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singing  
suitable for  
everyone.**

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welcome, no  
special skills  
required -  
so join us.**

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free event,  
& refreshments  
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space.**

**Dementia  
friendly church**





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*"It is a beautiful home"*



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

**Formby Manor Care Centre**  
67 Liverpool Road, Formby L37 6BU  
[newcarehomes.com](http://newcarehomes.com)



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If you would like some more information or some guidance, please feel free to come and have a chat with me, or alternatively please contact me on **07926 587776** to make an appointment.



### Caroline Speakman

Member of the Society of Willwriters

Email: [southportwills@gmail.com](mailto:southportwills@gmail.com)

Phone: **07926 587776**

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# Saint George

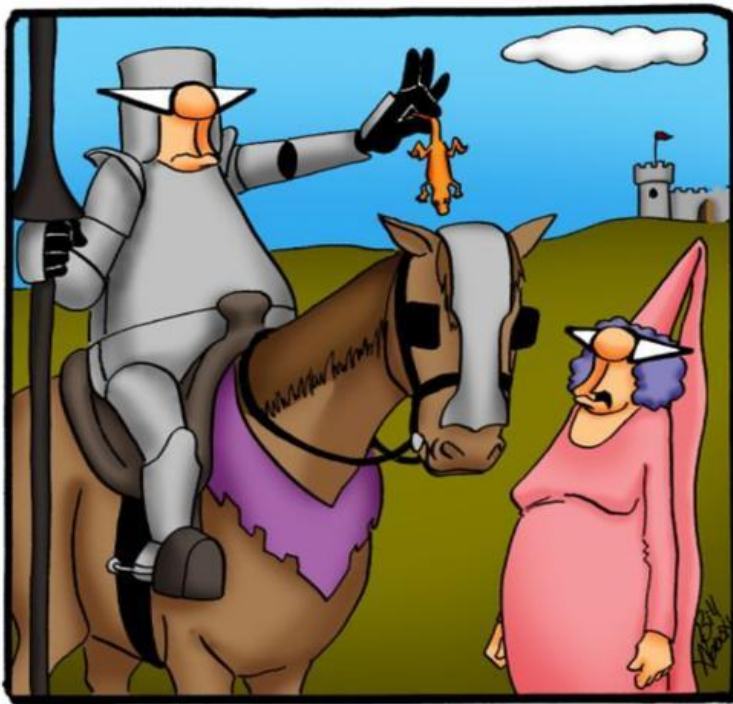
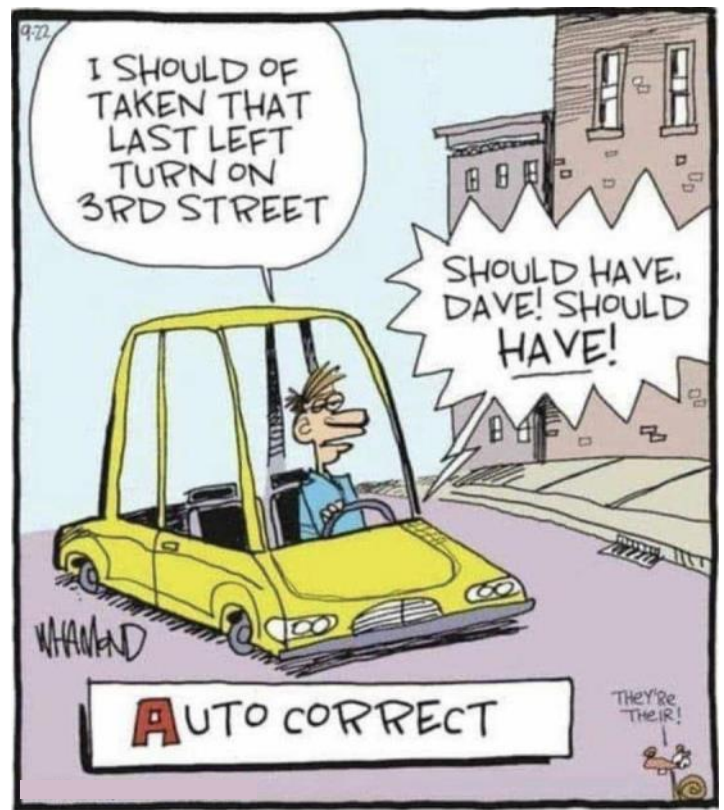
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maiden	flag	knight	shield
sword	horse	April	England
St George	blood	book	Dragon
legend	rose		

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**



Why did the dragon hate to fight knights? *Because he was tired of tinned food.*

I'm reading a book about a short ballerina. *The girl with the dragging tutu.*

I spotted a lizard on a portable toilet. *I suspect it was a commode-o-dragon.*

What's hungry dragon's favourite day of the week? *Chewsday.*

How do dragons make holiday plans? *They don't, they just wing it.*





# From the Back Pew Ted Woods

## WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHERS & VICARS

Two meanings of the verb “to snap” include taking a photograph and speaking in a bad-tempered way.



Both those meanings apply to a report that over 900 wedding photographers have organised a petition to complain about how they are treated by clergy when they go about their job taking pictures of weddings. According to the petition, they have to put up with “rude, humiliating, aggressive and abusive behaviour” from vicars!

It’s a case of snap-snap!

It even led a former Archbishop of Canterbury to remark that there are two sides to the story, and that asking for a photographer to behave properly during the wedding service was “not unreasonable when something significant is taking place.”

So what have vicars to say in their own defence?

First of all, it has to be said that most of the time vicars and photographers get along fine. They have a chat beforehand about what is expected and where the best place to position themselves is while not being intrusive. And that’s that.

But both Anne and I have had photographers who wanted to stand behind us and take photographs over our shoulders as the couple made their vows. Another photographer who had been asked (and agreed) to take snaps from the side started climbing over the communion rails to get a better vantage point! If we hadn’t been wearing long robes, he might have crept between our legs to get a full-on shot of the couple!

Photographers wandering around the front of the church while the marriage service is going on are distracting and obtrusive.

As one vicar put it, “Photographers might like to describe themselves as a near-invisible presence, they are not! They set up stands, fiddle with their technology, wander around, distract the congregation and interject themselves into the scene they are supposed to be silently capturing.” (Giles Fraser in *UnHerd*)

It does help when the vicar and the photographer can meet and discuss things beforehand, but often the photographer arrives at the same time as the bride. Having taken pictures of her leaving her house, they need to take photos of her arriving at the church. And that can take a lot of time as poses are arranged for each step she takes. And then there are the bridesmaids to organise, and there is no time for discussion as the service is now up to 20 or 30 minutes late!

As *The Times* report on the petition remarked, “the modern wedding industrial complex means many big days have the production values of a West End musical! Gone are the days when photographers were expected to get a few pictures for the relatives’ mantelpieces – now they must capture every second of the day.”

And that’s the problem really. The photographer/videographer wants to produce an Oscar winning memento of the couple’s big day, but the church’s architecture often doesn’t lend itself to such an endeavour. There are pillars, communion rails and the space around the altar is often narrower than the nave and it is a ‘holy’ space – a place set apart for the liturgy of the Eucharist, and not for photographers to get a better view.

I don’t want to sound pious but the exchange of vows and rings before God are solemn and serious moments. That’s not to say that during the service there can’t be light moments, relaxing moments, times for humour, but there are also times for solemnity.

A society wedding photographer, Ed Lloyd Owen was quoted in the *Church Times* as saying, “There is always a friction between two people trying to do their jobs,” but went on to stress that he uses long lenses, observes the rules of no flash and only moves during hymns.

In most cases there is a mutual respect for what both the vicars and the photographers have to do, and that is how it should be, but at the end of the day, I would hope that the service itself is more important than the photographic record if it, and that a church is chosen for the ceremony for religious reasons rather than just as a pretty backdrop.

Chat-chat is better than snap-snap!





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## PLEASE NOTE

we have large print hymn books, bulletins and magazines.

Those on duty in church will be pleased to assist in providing copies.

Let the Parish Administrator know if you would like a large-print magazine delivered.

# Contacts at St Peter's

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	Matt Parkes	07971 827246
<b>Reader Emeritus</b>	Michael Pitts	
<b>Parish Office</b>	St Peter's Parish Hall, Paradise Lane, Formby L37 7EH (opposite Trinity St Peter's School) Open Monday to Friday 10am to 12noon <b>office@stpetersformby.co.uk</b> <b>website: www.stpetersformby.co.uk</b>	 871171
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**For more information about any of our organisations please contact the Parish Office on 01704 871171 or email [office@stpetersformby.co.uk](mailto:office@stpetersformby.co.uk)**

Please note the deadline for the **May 2024** edition of the magazine is **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2024**.  
**Contributions please to**  
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St Peter's has a contactless payment machine for donations.







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