

St Peter's Church Magazine
October 2024

ANNUAL PET SERVICE

Sunday 13th October
at 12noon

A service for all members of the family!



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



Diary Dates October 2024



Tuesday 1st

10.00am Bible Study with *Ken Ward* at 40 Southport Road **every Tuesday**
 11.00am Woodlands Care Home Eucharist

Wednesday 2nd

11.00am Eucharist in church **every Wednesday**



Thursday 3rd

2.00pm Mothers' Union Service in church *followed by refreshments*

Friday 4th

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

Saturday 5th

9.00am Breakfast Church in the Bier House
 10.30am Saturday Crew *all things crafty* in the Bier House



Sunday 6th 19th Sunday after Trinity

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



Monday 7th

10.30am Bacon, Barms & Banter in the Bier House
 7.30pm Autumn Talks – **God and the Old Testament**
by Revd Canon Liz Shercliff . In the Bier House.



Wednesday 9th

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

Thursday 10th

2pm start Singing For Fun in the Parish Hall



Friday 11th

11.00am Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Sheila Woodcock in church.
 2.00pm Bible Study *with Peter Paine* in the Bier House

Saturday 12th

12.30pm Murder Mystery Afternoon Tea – Performance 1
 – in the Parish Hall - see notice.
 7.00pm Murder Mystery Dinner – Performance 2
 – in the Parish Hall – see notice.

Sunday 13th 20th Sunday after Trinity

8.30am Eucharist (CW)
 10.00am Parish Eucharist
 12noon Pet Service – all very welcome
 6.30pm Choral Evensong



October Diary Dates 2024 - continued

Monday 14th

7.30pm Autumn Talks – **The Holy Spirit** by *Revd Canon Dr Rod Garner* in the Bier House.

Wednesday 16th

7.30pm Primetime in the Old School Room

Thursday 17th

2pm start Singing For Fun in the Parish Hall



Sunday 20th 21st Sunday after Trinity

8.30am Eucharist (BCP)

10.00am Parish Eucharist & Sunday Club

6.30pm Choral Evensong



Monday 21st

7.30pm Autumn Talks – **The Miracles of Jesus** by *Revd Mark Waters* in the Bier House.

Wednesday 23rd

2.00pm WOW service for pre-school children in church

7.30pm Bible Study with *Lilly Nelson* in the Bier House



Thursday 24th

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

Friday 25th

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

Saturday 26th

10.00am Quiet Time with God in the Bier House



Sunday 27th Bible Sunday

8.30am Eucharist (CW)

10.00am Parish Eucharist – *guest preacher Revd Mark Siddall*

12noon Children's Hotdog Service

6.30pm Choral Evensong



Monday 28th

7.30pm Timeout out Men, Beer and Topics – speaker *Hugh Macauley* on his role with LFC in the Bier House.



Future Diary Dates 2024

FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Fauré's Requiem – Sunday 3rd November at 6.30pm

Parish Retreat Day – with *Revd Sue Calveley* 'Leading us into Advent' - Saturday 30th November 10am to 1pm in St Joseph's Prayer Centre

Christmas Tree Festival – 11th to 15th December

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

Dear Friends,

As I write this letter it is all go as the **Harvest Festival** has begun. There's a great buzz around the place and I'd like to say a big thank you to all who delivered harvest cards, created scarecrows, decorated the church and provided food and staffed the Bier House Coffee Shop. There will be more about the Harvest Thanksgiving in the November magazine.

A new season of activity has well and truly begun!

The Autumn Series of talks begin on Monday 7th October and these will run for three Mondays in the Bier House at 7.30pm. We will be looking at some questions that many have about faith. Liz Shercliff, a writer and teacher in Biblical Studies, will look at how we are to understand the way God is presented in the Old Testament. Then, Rod Garner, a popular speaker and writer, will deal with who, or what, is the Holy Spirit, while Mark Waters, a retired priest and retreat leader, will consider the miracles of Jesus. Please do come along. It should be a stimulating and informative series.

A very different event will be a presentation of a **Who-Dun-It Murder Mystery** play, when we all play detective and find the culprit. There will be two performances on Saturday 12th October and the details are on page 6.

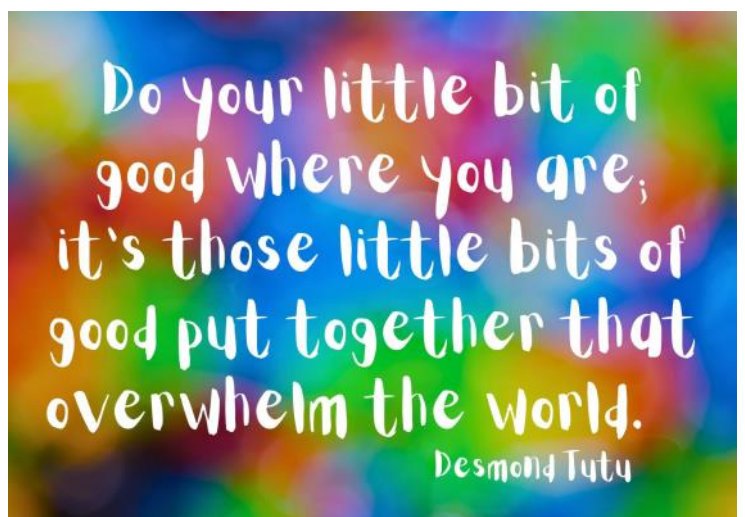
Then we have our annual **Pet Service** on the 13th. Pets play an important part in many people's lives and it's only right that we should recognise that and ask God to bless them. So, please bring along your two-footed, four-footed and no-footed pets! The more the merrier!

Rounding off the month there will be a **Quiet Morning** led by Revd Jane Morgan on Saturday 26th in the Bier House.

It is always a joy to welcome **visiting preachers** as this gives us all the chance to learn and be challenged by different voices and approaches. In September we welcomed Bishop Adrian Wilkinson to our Harvest Thanksgiving. On Bible Sunday, 29th October, our visiting preacher will be the Revd Mark Siddall. Mark is vicar of Quedgeley in the Diocese of Gloucester and the son of our own Arthur Siddall. Then in November for St Cecilia's Day (who is the patron saint of music) we welcome professional harpist, Revd Anne-Marie O'Farrell.

Of course, there is the usual routine of services and activities, which all serve to make St. Peter's a parish for everyone. And that is what we seek to be – a place where God can be found, all are welcome and a community of service and care for each other and the world around us.

Anne



UGANDA PROJECT UPDATE

One of the decisions that was made as a result of our visit to Kalule last May was to convert the school chicken coop into a dormitory for girls. This was not a small coop! It was a large block-built building as high as a two-storey house!

Because the final year students now board at the school, two of the classrooms were serving as dormitories, one for boys and the other for girls. But school enrolments were increasing and space was at a premium. What to do?

The solution was to convert the school chicken coop into a dormitory. Walls would need to be plastered, a solid floor laid, proper windows and doors provided and a matron's room built inside. We had employed a builder, Godfrey, to repair the surrounding of a large water butt, and we asked him to quote for the conversion. His figure came out at £4588, including labour and electricals! The first phase is now nearing completion and the second phase of wiring and the installation of doors and windows is due to start.

We also agreed to fund 30 three-tiered bunks for both girls and boys. The cost of the steel bunk beds is £2667.

We hope to pay another visit to Uganda in 2026, and so we are continuing our annual sponsorship of 20 needy pupils. In 2024 this came to £3579 – this includes eight boarders. The money raised from the Harvest collection will be a great help.

The school has improved both structurally and educationally since we got involved in 2017. In a very deprived area education is the key to young people's future. In Agnes, the headteacher, we have an enthusiastic leader and the school is now high on the list of successful schools in the diocese.

We are doing what we can to support her and the pupils of Kalule. Thank you for your continued support.



AUTUMN FAITH TALKS



Each Autumn we hold a short series of talks to help us explore our faith. This year our Parish Faith Committee has chosen to look at some difficult questions – how do we match God often portrayed as violent and exclusive in the Old Testament with the loving, inclusive Father of the New Testament, and what about miracles and who is the Holy Spirit?

Here is this year's programme:-

Monday 7 th October	God and the Old Testament	Revd Liz Shercliff
Monday 14 th October	The Holy Spirit	Revd Dr Rod Garner
Monday 21 st October	The Miracles of Jesus	Revd Mark Waters

Liz is an author and teaches Biblical Studies and Practical Theology.

Rod is also an author and was Vicar of Holy Trinity, Southport and Diocesan Theologian. Mark is a spiritual director and retired vicar who teaches on prayer.

All meetings will be held in The Bier House at 7.30pm and will be followed by a short service of Compline.

Murder Committee!

Our **Murder Mystery** meals on
Saturday 12th October
St Peter's Parish Hall, Paradise Lane

12.30pm - 3.30pm - Lunch time performance

includes Afternoon Tea

7:00pm - Evening performance

includes a hot meal

Come as a group, come with a friend, or come on your own ... and be the amateur sleuth who discovers who killed whom on the church fund-raising committee!

Tickets:

Afternoon - £15 - Evening - £20

Book with Shena:

shenaedwards@btinternet.com

or call the Parish Office 01704 871171

Wine, beer and prosecco will be available and **FREE RAFFLE**



September was a momentous month for me – I finally submitted my dissertation, *FINALLY* tying up loose ends in Durham – I can't begin to explain how much of a relief it has been, thanks be to God!

So, I've now settled in with lots of things in Formby, and also began to reconnect back into life in Liverpool. Prior to ordination and serving in chaplaincy, you may or may not know that I spent my working life in the museum and art

gallery sector across Liverpool. Art, particularly modern art, still continues to be a passion of mine and I thoroughly enjoy seeking out and visiting exhibitions.

There are so many things to ponder with the overlap of art galleries and sacred spaces. The etiquette, the wonder, the history, indeed, the interpretation and the questions.... I will reflect more on this in the coming months, but for now I would like to share one of my recent gallery adventures.

While visiting friends in Birmingham, I found time to visit the marvellous Victorian Radicals exhibition (on display until 2025). Located in Birmingham Art Gallery, it is a small compact exhibition hall which was opened while the main gallery is under construction.

My interest in the Pre-Raphaelites and their overlap with the Oxford Movement was brought about when attending a lecture at St Anthony's Priory, Durham last year, by a visiting Professor from Pusey House Theology College – focusing on the historical inspiration of the artists. In all honesty, I am not usually a fan of paintings, however there is a slow burning interest in the history, which perhaps reflects my growing interest in historical rhythms of the 'traditional' style of church.

There were so many treats on display, my favourite, which I would like to share, is the painting "May Morning on Magdalen Tower", created in 1888–90 by the great Pre-Raphaelite artist William Holman Hunt (1827–1910). There are two versions of this work, and a larger one is housed at the Lady Lever Art Gallery in Port Sunlight.

It is not particularly seasonal for this issue of our magazine as it depicts the Oxford choristers and academic clerks in May. They are climbing the tower to sing Hymnus Eucharisticus (composed in the 17th century) to welcome the beginning of spring.

The example of children engaging with the music is worth pondering particularly as St Peter's now have the joy of a Junior choir in conjunction with Liverpool Cathedral.

Lilly



Quiet Time with God

Quiet Time with God



Our next Quiet Time with God is
Saturday 26th October 10am-12noon
in the Bier House.

Our mornings run along something like this:

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 10.00 - 10.15 | <i>Welcome, refreshments, introductions, explain the format & opening prayer</i> |
| 10.15 - 10.45 | <i>Input followed by personal quiet time</i> |
| 10.45 - 11.00 | <i>Reflection</i> |
| 11.00 - 11.30 | <i>Input followed by personal quiet time</i> |
| 11.30 - 11.45 | <i>Reflection & Sharing (optional)</i> |
| 11.45 - 12.00 | <i>Drawing threads together & Closing prayer</i> |

It's an opportunity to take a break from your usual routine to relax and reflect with a time of prayer and worship, some input to stimulate your reflection, quietness, and enjoy the presence of God. Church will be open and there are the grounds if you want to be outside.

Look forward to seeing you,
Revd Jane Morgan

Parish Retreat Saturday 30th November 10am-1pm will be led by Revd Sue Calveley 'Leading us into Advent' at St Joseph's Prayer Centre, Blundell Ave, Formby L37 1PH.



A SERVICE OF WHOLENESS at 6.30 pm
Dates: Sundays 6th October and 10th November



Morning Prayer

there is a short service of Morning Prayer in the Bier House at 9am on Monday, Tuesday (in the Song Room)



Wednesday Eucharist

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



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.

Daily Prayer

Daily Prayer is an easy-to-use free app

to help you follow Morning, Evening and Night Prayer, wherever you are. The services are from Church of England Common Worship.

It is available as an app (with integrated audio) or as a podcast. For every day of the year, it presents the three services and includes Bible readings, psalms, canticles and seasonal variations.

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 **October** please pray for all who live in –

6th Oct Mawsley Close, Moss Green, Cattan Green

13th Oct Flaxfield Road, Altcar Road, Stephenson Way

20th Oct Glenmarsh Way, Burlington Avenue, Lowes Green

27th Oct Old Mill Lane, Willow Grove, The Warren

October Bible Readings

6th – The 19th Sunday after Trinity

Job 1:1, 2:1-10 / Hebrews 1:1-4;2:5-12 / Mark 10:2-16

13th – The 20th Sunday after Trinity

Job 23:1-9, 16-17 / Hebrews 4:12-16 / Mark 10:17-31

18th – St Luke the Evangelist

Isaiah 35:3-6 / 2 Timothy 4:5-17 / Luke 10:1-9

20th – 21st Sunday after Trinity

Job 38:1-7, 34-41 / Hebrews 5:1-10 / Mark 10:35-45

27th – Last after Trinity / Bible Sunday

Isaiah 55:1-11 / 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 / John 5:36b-47

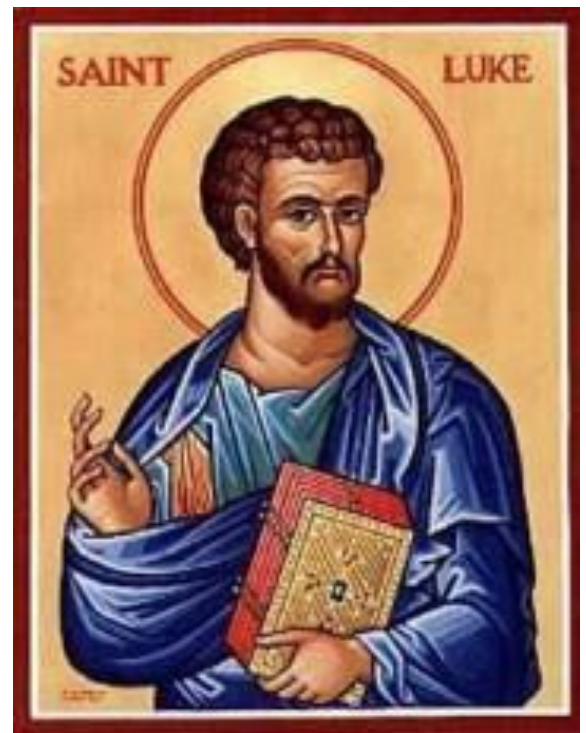
28th – St Simon and St Jude Apostles

Isaiah 28:14-16 / Ephesians 2:19-22 / John 15:17-27



A REFLECTION ON SAINT LUKE

Who was St Luke? He was born around 10 AD and probably came from Antioch. He was a Greek speaker who was clearly well-educated, and he comes across as a caring and gifted person. It is thought that he accompanied Paul on some of his journeys and is referred to as a physician. This may explain why he had an interest in the people around him and clearly had a deep concern for their welfare. Although it is unlikely he met Jesus during His lifetime, Luke contributed to nearly a quarter of the New Testament.



Not only did he write one of the longest gospels, but he also wrote the Acts of the Apostles. He may not have witnessed the life of Jesus, but he was an important witness of the development of the early Church and the Christian message.

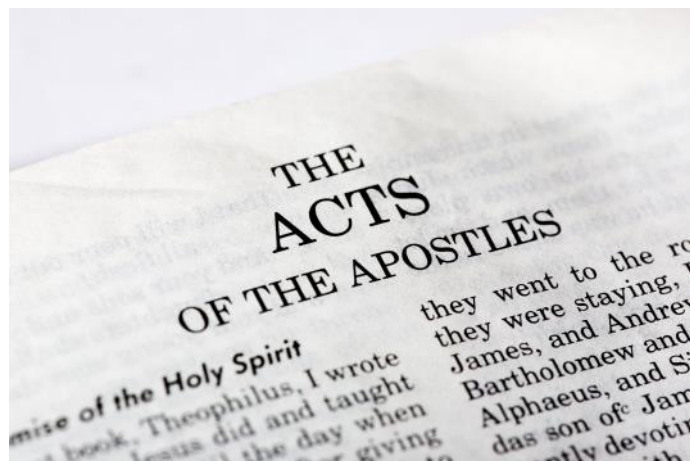
How does St Luke carry this message across to us today? As mentioned earlier, he was a caring person and one who clearly put others before himself. His empathy and feeling for other people was one of his outstanding qualities. Although he probably came from a relatively wealthy background, he is careful to stress about the dangers of having too much money and the need for generosity. His particular focus is on how Jesus showed His concern for the marginalised and impoverished members of society.

The characteristic of Luke which perhaps rises above everything is his clear affection for people. The account of the healing of the centurion's servant is the first occasion in his gospel where Jesus meets with a Gentile. Normally, the nature and character of a Gentile would not receive much prominence, and the appearance of a Roman official would cause some consternation – but not to Luke. He sees the centurion as a human-being like everyone else and is at pains to bring out the good points about him. Following on from the healing of his servant, we read about the son of the widow of Nain. She is grieving deeply over her dead son and Luke brings this feeling of grief out by mentioning that he was her only son.

Other events described by Luke in his gospel bring his love of and compassion for other people to the forefront. Notice how he contrasts the upright Pharisee and the humble tax-collector at prayer.

The love and devotion of the sinful woman who anoints Jesus is strongly palpable. It is only Luke who records those words of Jesus: “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” There are, no doubt, other instances that can be found but one that really underlines the nature of Luke is a single sentence just after Peter’s third denial of Jesus: ‘The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter.’ That look of tenderness caused Peter to realise instantly what he had done and brought him to immediate repentance.

As we commemorate St Luke’s Day on the 18th of this month, this may be a good time to reflect on what he achieved and how he has contributed towards Christianity. How different things would be if there were no St Luke’s Gospel, no book on the Acts of the Apostles!



Peter Davies

PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

A New Series of Helpful Prayers

**Almighty God,
you have shed upon us
the light of your incarnate Word,
giving us gladness in our sorrow
and a presence in our isolation:
fill our lives with your light
until they overflow with gladness and with praise;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen**



This prayer by the Ven. David Silk, Archdeacon of Leicester from 1980 – 1994, recalls the opening verses of St John’s Gospel that with Jesus a new light has come into the world. “What has come into being in him (Jesus) was life, and the life was the light of all people.” John goes on to say that “the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”

Life for everyone can have its dark moments. We may experience sickness, bereavement, failure, disappointment, breakup or loneliness.

But we don’t have to be alone and isolated. Jesus, who has promised never to leave us or forsake us, comes alongside us to lighten our darkness and our burden. He helps us not only to cope but also to hope, transforming a groaning point into a growing point.

Bargain Hunters

Most of us like a bargain – but is my bargain at your expense? The best bargain throughout history must be slavery, unless you're a slave, and endemic in society even now, albeit we might not be conscious of it.



Some years ago, the sight of the toppling of the statue of Edward Colston, merchant and philanthropist, into Bristol harbour (7 June 2020) because of his slaving activities in the eighteenth century prompted many organisations to research their historical links with this market in human beings, research that the Church of England had begun in 2019. Along with all business organisations, the Church is dependent on sound financial management as one source of its income, financial management that is now in the hands of the Church Commissioners who duly reported on their findings in 2023. In March 2024, they proposed the creation of a £100 million fund to be used as reparation for the injustices of the Church's involvement in the trade; it was then proposed to increase this amount further to over £1 billion of assets. In today's figures, the Church had apparently received some £440 million from slave trading between 1720 and 1729.

The Church Commissioners

The Church Commissioners manage both landholdings and clergy pensions. They were founded in 1948 by the amalgamation of the Ecclesiastical Commission (established 1835) with Queen Anne's Bounty (established 1704) whose members had invested in Government annuities through the South Sea Company, commonly believed to be involved in slaving. There has been controversy about the interpretation of the historical records.

Queen Anne's Bounty

Queen Anne's Bounty was monies given by the Crown to the Church for the relief of poor benefices by the purchase of land, income from which investments would augment the stipends of often indigent incumbents. In effect, the Crown was returning to the Church money taken from it by the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1536, the tail end of a centuries-old dispute with the Papacy over control of the Church's wealth in England. Returns from the Bounty were never apparently great in the immediate term, and financial provisions had to include the maintenance of former Royal Mistresses and illegitimate children of Charles II.



South Sea Company

In 1720 Queen Anne's Bounty converted some of its holdings of government securities into South Sea shares. In fact, it lost serious monies on this investment: the South Sea Company had been created in 1711 as a trading company with the Spanish colonies in South America ('the South Sea').

As a matter of course, trading involved the slave trade, but slaving was not taking place at this time because of war with France, Queen Anne's War, over territorial control of North America. Under the terms of the Treaty of Utrecht (1713), the Asiento de Negros allowed Britain to supply 4,800 slaves per annum to Spanish colonies for 30 years. The trade was never profitable.

In 1723, South Sea Company shares were split by Parliament into shares (in trading activities) and annuities (paid by government). Annuities came from taxpayers and had no connection with slaving – the South Sea Company acting in a clearing-house capacity only for monies owed by the Government to the Bounty. Critics of the Church Commissioners' report argue that the shares have been confused with the annuities, the accounts for both having been combined to produce incorrect estimates of the profits from slaving – accurate figures are impossible because accounting records are missing.

This is more than an entertaining academic spat about things safely in the past. It's a challenge to the way we live now. Rightly, we abhor the slave trade of the eighteenth century but ... what of the slave trade in the twenty-first century? It exists, uncomfortably, under our noses, if we take the time to investigate. A bargain is a bargain, however, and cheap goods of all kinds increase our spending power. It would be foolish not to buy cheaply whatever is on offer without asking too many questions.

Peter Andrews

Note: The full text of the report *Church Commissioners' Research into Historic Links to Transatlantic Chattel Slavery* (2023) can be found online, together with various comments on the issue, including material taken from the *Church Times* archives.

Breakfast Church will be at 9am in the Bier House on Saturday 5th October

Join us for a short service (about 20 mins) in the form of the Iona worship. You will be made very welcome. The service is followed by tea, coffee, toast, crumpets etc. Give it a try!

Susan Parkes



On Thursday 5th September we returned from our Summer break to welcome Revd Peter Paine to talk to us. Peter had taken a small group to Iona and he, together with two of the ladies from the group, gave us a wonderful talk about their visit but also giving us information about the Iona Community.

The current Community is an ecumenical Christian organisation founded in 1938 by Revd George MacLeod, then a minister in Govan, Glasgow. George brought together young ministers in training and unemployed craftsmen to rebuild the ancient monastic buildings.

Peter also showed us a DVD covering the work of rebuilding but also giving us details of an important anniversary which took place in the 1960's as this was 1,400 years since the original foundation.

Prior to our talk we were given information relating to two MU services in the Cathedral

- 1) **Friday 18th October at 12-00 in the Lady Chapel**
Modern Day Slavery
- 2) **Monday 25th November at 12-00 in the Lady Chapel followed by lunch**
Speaker from Sefton Women's and Children's Aid

We continue to support our three charities and are asked to bring toothpaste to our October meeting.

This meeting is our Annual Service and will be held in church at 2.00pm on 3rd October.

With all good wishes , **Herbert** (873367)



Bible Study enables us to see how scripture can help us in our everyday lives. It is more fun to study and journey together and all that is needed is a willingness to read the passage. There are 3 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 with Ken Ward
at 40 Southport Road, Formby
Contact Ken Ward 01704 871927



Wednesday Bible Study Group at 7.30pm

in the Bier House.

This year the theme will be "MEETING GOD IN MATTHEW'S GOSPEL"

9th & 23rd October,

13th & 27th November.

Everyone welcome. No specialist knowledge required.

Contact Ted Woods 07899 429081



Friday Bible Study Group at 2pm

In the Bier House on Friday 11th and 25th October.

Contact Peter Paine 07722 127791

From the Church Register



Funerals

2nd September Isabel Edney
12th September Eileen Vick
23rd September Sheila Woodcock

Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Sheila Woodcock will be held on Friday 11th October at 11am in St Peter's Church.

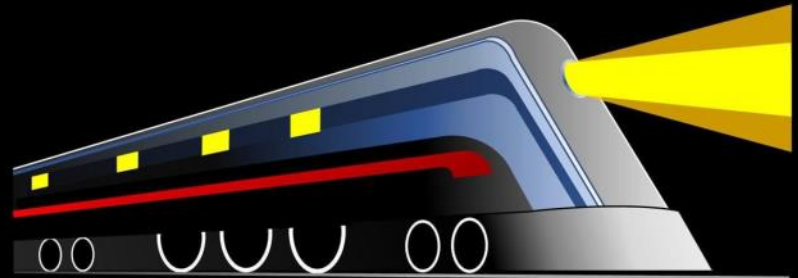
Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Rod Jacques will be held at 11am on Friday 1st November in St Peter's Church.

Garden of Remembrance

28th August Thomas & Margaret Cairney
6th September Cyril & Eileen Goulbourne
7th September Gwyneth O'Hara
Derek Postlethwaite
17th September Bill & Fran Giltrap
26th September Tony O'Donnell



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finlay.gordon@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk

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**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 23rd
 October at 2pm**

CHILDREN DIARY DATES



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

Date: Sunday 6th October

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.

Sunday 13th October – Pet Service

Sunday 20th October – Sunday Club

Sunday 27th October – Hotdog Service



BEER & DISCUSSION MAINLY FOR MEN

Timeout is about getting together for a beer and chat in the Bier House and hearing about a topic from an invited speaker. We've had plenty of informative discussions 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!

Monday 28th October

Hugh Macauley on his role with Liverpool Football Club.

Monday 18th November

Keith Elford 'Recollections of a Family Court Magistrate'.



Primetime

Primetime Ladies Group will meet on **Wednesday 16th October at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall**

We'll be having a Pamper Evening with Jools Tropic Skincare.

All welcome, please join us.

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



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

A 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

Fridays
4th October
11th October
18th October

The Children's Hotdog Service is back!

Once a month at 12noon. This is a 30 minute informal children's service, with an interactive talk and songs, followed by hotdogs in the Bier House.

All very welcome.



What are you reading ?

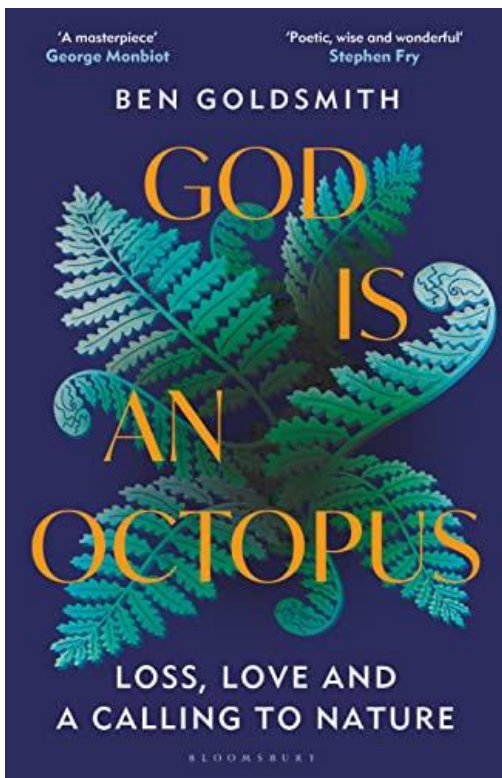
Over many years I knew that, either for Christmas or my birthday, my late wife would give me Ronald Blythe's latest book and, consequently, I have a good collection of them. The last of them, *Next to Nature*, pub. 2022, was given to me by my children on my 80th birthday. He is remembered by many for his weekly column in the Church Times, *Word from Wormingford*. He was an authority on John Clare and made a CBE for services to literature in 2017.

I am not an avid reader and tend to major on books that speak to my own self. The first of those, and one which made a great impression in my teens, was the account by John Ridgway and Chay Blythe of their rowing of the Atlantic in a tiny boat. *A Fighting Chance*, 1966, recounts their experiences in a 20ft dory, named 'English Rose III, with the age-old reminder: The sea is so great and we are so small ... On our honeymoon in Sutherland we came across that boat, laid-up in a small shed at the head of a lochan on John Ridgway's estate.

It was my College Pastoral Studies lecturer, who encouraged me to read *Man's Search for Meaning*, by Victor Frankl, 1946, an account of his experiences in the camp at Auschwitz. He tries to identify a purpose to each individual's life through one of three ways: the completion of tasks, caring for another person, or finding meaning by facing suffering with dignity. His theory of *logotherapy* is summed up: 'He who has a why? to live can bear with almost any how?

Most books I have read have been essentially 'practical', relating especially to regular pastoral ministry, but it was in a rural parish in Lancashire that I read a most inspiring book, *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly – Le Scaphandre et le Papillon*, 1997. It is a memoir by journalist Jean-Dominique Bauby, describing his life before and after a massive stroke, which left him with locked-in syndrome. He had been editor-in-chief of French *Elle* magazine. His only movement was via his head and his eyes and he wrote the entire book by blinking his left eyelid. It took him two months working 3 hours a day, 7 days a week. He blinked 200,000 times at an average of two minutes per word. Two days after the book was published Bauby died of pneumonia.

I admit to reading less in retirement, but trips to London invariably include a visit to Hatchard's on Piccadilly, always busy but in a civilised calm. It was there recently that I came across *God is an Octopus*, 2024, by Ben Goldsmith. Five years ago Ben Goldsmith lost his 15 yrs old daughter, Iris, in an accident on their family farm in Somerset.

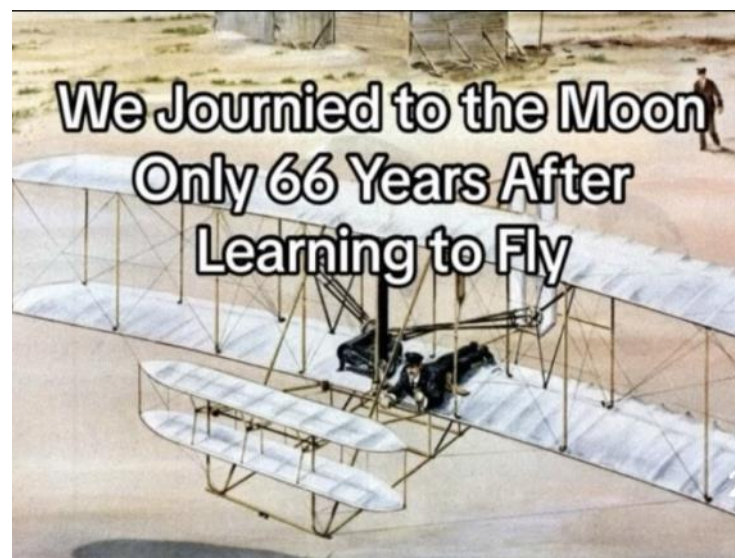
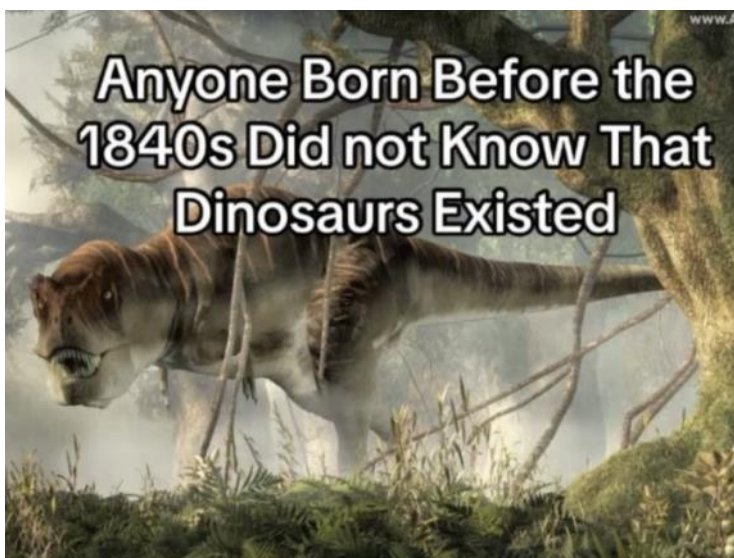
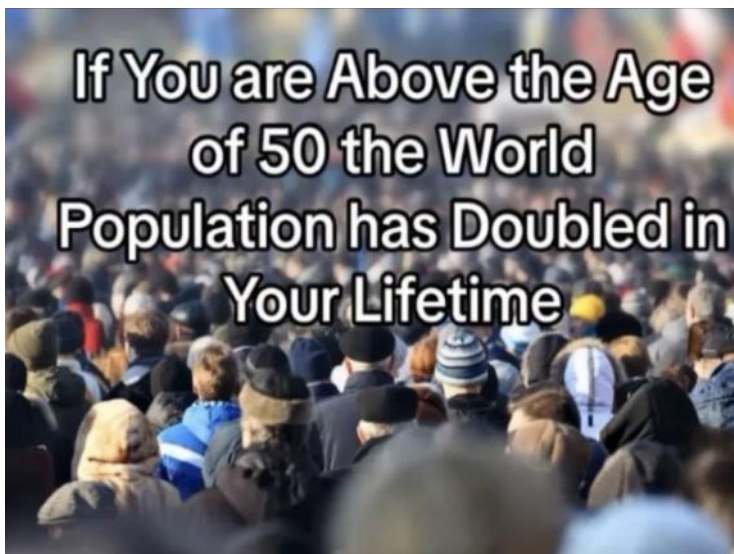


The book describes his year of soul-searching and how he found healing by immersing himself in the restoration of nature on his farm. It is a powerful and inspiring story of finding comfort and strength in nature after suffering loss and despair.

Arthur Siddall

A copy of this book is available from the Church Library. The library is in the Bier House and there are lots of interesting and inspiring books to borrow.

FACTS THAT WILL MESS WITH YOUR PERCEPTION OF TIME





Thank you to everyone who made our Harvest Festival so very special. Lots more photographs next month.



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SATURDAY

2nd NOVEMBER 2024

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

Children in Church

We love to have children in church but we don't want them to be bored and we want to make it as easy as possible for children and parents to attend services.



There are boxes with books, toys etc., for the children at the back of church. There are also activity bags.

Please do help yourself or ask the welcome team for help. The Bier House is open during services where you will find a box of toys, a toilet and the service is also relayed onto a screen. During refreshments after the service there is juice and biscuits for the children.

Please feel welcome.

Inclusive Church



As part of our efforts to become a more inclusive church there are two bags available in church which contain equipment to be used by people with autism to help them communicate, self-regulate and take part in our services.



ASC (autism spectrum condition) is a condition which affects the way a person processes the world around them. As well as experiencing sensory inputs in a different way to a neurotypical person (sensitivity to sounds, lights or smells), they can also find social interaction to be difficult and a mine-field of misunderstanding. Individuals who are nonverbal or have limited speech often use the PECS (Picture exchange communication system) to communicate. Our bags include a selection of PECS symbols to be used during our services.

There are example sheets for each service along with the symbols which will act as a guide. Individual activity symbols are attached to a blue card to produce a timetable of the events/ activities which take place during a service. As each activity has finished, the symbol is removed and put in the bag with the "finished" symbol on it to indicate it is over and we are on to the next activity.



Each bag contains ear defenders and a selection of fidget toys as well as items to be used for massage or stroking the skin such as the bath glove, scourer and paint brushes. Hand fidgets can help manage anxiety, improve attention/ ability to focus, or even help children calm down when dealing with a surge of emotions such as extreme anger or frustration.

If anybody has any questions regarding the use of these bags or needs information regarding autism, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Shena Edwards

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

**Singing
Thursdays!**



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



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Formby
L37 7EH

2nd Thursday of every month
3rd Thursday of every month
4th Thursday of every month

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& refreshments
in a warm
space.

Dementia
friendly church



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 used only by St Peter's.



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 5pm.

Bacon Barms and Banter

10.30am - 12 noon

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Dementia
friendly church



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Caroline Speakman

Member of the Society of Willwriters

Email: southportwills@gmail.com

Phone: **07926 587776**

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Formby Methodist Church 150th Anniversary

Commemorative Events

Sunday 6th October, 10.30am

**150th Anniversary of first service
at Elbow Lane**

Revd David Somerville

Friday 11th October, 7.30pm

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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 01704 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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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!

On Friday 2nd August 2024 Scouts from 4th Formby, 5th Formby, 9th Formby, Vikinghar Explorers, Spitfire Explorers and Sefton North (Formby) Network, along with their leaders, descended on Formby with DPSG Weilburg Scouts, Explorers and Network.

After a visit to the beach, a rare opportunity for the German Scouts, they came to St Peter's Church Hall grounds for a BBQ, hosted by the 9th and Spitfire Explorer leaders. They camped at Linnet Clough Scout Camp, near Stockport and were assisted with their transport costs to Formby by St Peter's Educational Trust.

The Trust is happy to provide financial support for the youth of Formby and a simple letter of request to the Trust outlining the support needed will be considered.



**Formby Scouts
&
DPSG Weilburg
Camp Visit
to Formby
Summer 2024**



St Hywyn's Church, Aberdaron

During a holiday in North Wales this Summer Sue and I visited the village of Aberdaron which is at the end of the Llyn Peninsular looking out over the nearby island of Bardsey. While there we decided to visit the parish church of St Hywyn. The church and Bardsey appear as the final destination in the recent television series "Pilgrimage."



St Hywyn was a Celtic Saint from Brittany who travelled with St Catfan in the 6th century to Wales to spread Christianity in that area.

The site of the present church has been a place of worship since that century and the building a parish church since the 13th century. Bardsey has been a place of pilgrimage since before then and Pope Innocent III (a contemporary of King John) stated that three pilgrimages to Bardsey were worth one pilgrimage to Rome (King John was probably in favour at the time).



When Sue and I visited on a Wednesday a service was in progress so we decided to take part. Being on a wild coast remote from any large centre of population and so close to the forces of nature made attending the service there a powerful yet peaceful experience. Pilgrims describe the place as a thin place where the earth is close to the divine.



The content of the service was interesting and we discovered afterwards that the preacher was the recently appointed Bishop of Bardsey David Morris, who was preaching in the church for the first time. His sermon was a reflection on two paintings of Thomas doubting the presence of the living Jesus, one by Caravaggio and the other being contemporary picturing Thomas in a group of 21st century people.

On a lighter note, as a sidesperson at St Peter's I could not resist counting the congregation – there were 20. Unlike at St Peter's one lady was doing her knitting during the service.

It was a pleasure visiting St Hywyn's. The local congregation made us most welcome and we were even able to have a good chat with the Bishop.

Patrick Parkes

Zacchaeus Meets Jesus



When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. Luke 19:5-6 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 19:1-10 (NIV).

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

CLIMB	LOST	SAVE	SEEK	JERICHO
CHIEF	WELCOME	HOUSE	WEALTHY	DOWN
TAX	CROWD	TREE	ZACCHAEUS	COLLECTOR
COME	POOR	SINNER	GUEST	SHORT

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

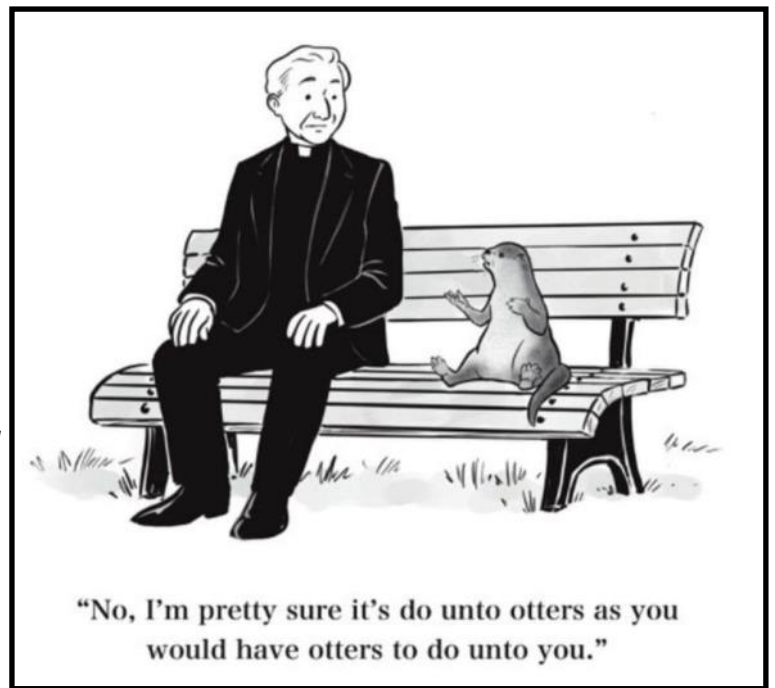
'I'm sure God loves me, I know that is true. He gave me so many great things to chew!' From the Life of a Puppy

'It's not the size of the dog in the fight, it's the size of the fight in the dog.'
 Mark Twain

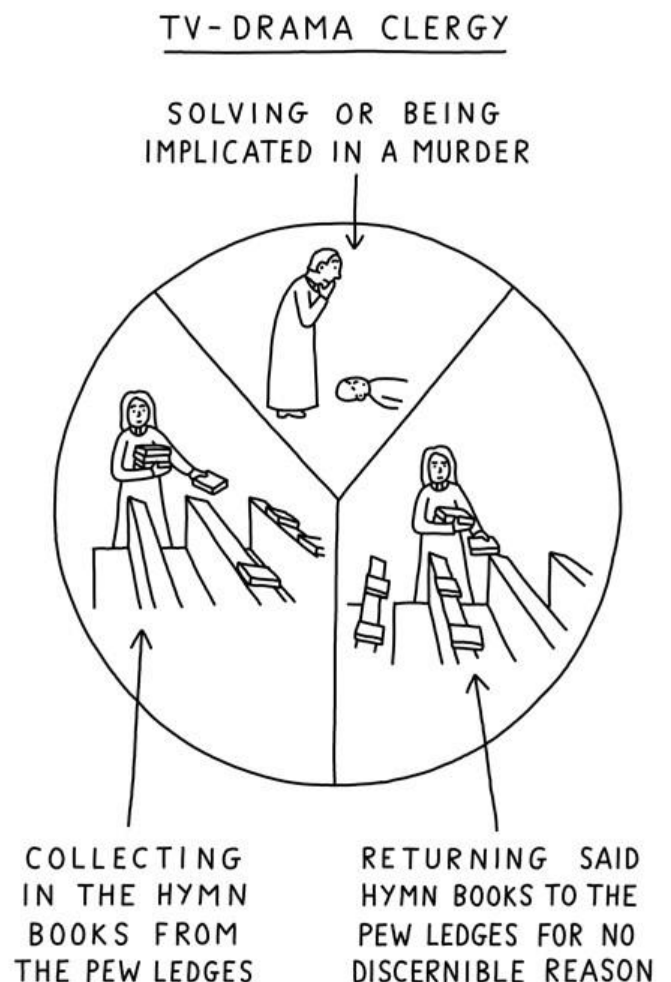
'I looked up my family tree and found three dogs using it.' Rodney Dangerfield

We've begun to long for the pitter-patter of little feet - so we bought a dog. Well, it's cheaper, and you get more feet.
 Rita Rudner

'Women and cats will do as they please, and men and dogs should relax and get used to the idea.' Robert A. Heinlein



ALLOCATION OF TIME





From the Back Pew Ted Woods

THE CHURCH THAT NEEDS NO MONEY!

A vicar in a neighbouring parish to mine in Dublin, known for his wit and sense of humour, once wrote an article for his parish magazine entitled “The Church That Needs No Money!”

His parish, in an affluent seaside town, was beginning to struggle to make ends meet, and his appeals to encourage his parishioners to give more were not only falling on deaf ears but generating a lot of criticism.

So, he wrote the article. In it, he suggested, that instead of heating the church in winter, they should all put on extra layers of clothes and two pairs of woollen socks. The church was beside the sea and at the mercy of some very chilly winds.

To save on electricity, he wrote that they should bring their own torches on dark mornings, and instead of paying an organist, that anyone who played a musical instrument could bring it along to lead the hymns – much like the amateur bands that used to play in church galleries centuries ago.

To save on repairs they could buy buckets for the inevitable leaks that would develop, and when the church became unfit for use, they could meet in their comfortable, well-heated homes.

In fact, he suggested, they could make him redundant and not have to contribute to the diocesan parish share. They could take the services themselves. After all, he had heard that some of his parishioners had said that they could do better than him!

And so it went on.

It was all tongue-in-cheek. I never did hear if it had the desired effect, though he ministered there until his retirement.

The often un-realised fact is that it costs a lot of money to run a parish. Earlier this year this magazine recorded that it takes over £600 a day to run St Peter’s! And that is a lot of money by any standards, especially at a time when money is tight. The Government is struggling to make ends meet, and so are many dioceses and parishes.



Writing in The Church Times recently, the Revd Lucy Winkett, rector of the fashionable and thriving St James, Piccadilly, said this, “We cannot let St James’s remain precarious, so that we’re living hand to mouth, coping in unsuitable buildings, keeping our church alive, creative and active, just about, because we don’t take seriously what it costs to keep this place open and safe every day; and run the inclusive programmes with the energy and commitment it takes to keep going in such challenging times.”

I still enjoy reading the clerical situations vacant in The Church Times. That was how we ended up in Formby 10 years ago! But the ads give a great overview of the state of the Church of England on the ground.

A feature in recent years is the number of House for Duty ads that proliferate. In other words, there is no stipend paid, but a house is provided in return for duty. Also increasing are ads for part-time posts, some of which have startling expectations about what could be defined as “part-time”!

With falling incomes these parishes can’t pay their parish share in full and are trying to stay open with a much-reduced cover. In other ads, amalgamations feature and in some the number of grouped parishes runs into teens. I saw one which consisted of 18 churches! What an impossible job for any cleric!

I’m afraid that the church that needs no money doesn’t exist, but it’s all a matter of priority. Jesus said, “Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

If a parish – clergy and people - is doing its best, with good worship and good pastoral care, seeking to meet the needs of the community it serves, outward looking and inclusive, then the money end of things will take care of itself, and not become the be-all and end-all of its existence.

What we should be and do as a parish should determine our budget, not the budget determine – and limit – our mission.

Eco Tip - Prepare now and give a bird a home in 2025

It might seem to be a strange time to be thinking about bird boxes, but this is the season in which many of our resident birds slowly begin the process of looking for nest sites for next year.



Therefore, it is a really good idea to get as many new boxes up as you can and clean out the ones used this year before the end of the autumn season, as it will make it more likely for boxes to be used next spring.



GIVE HELP

DONATE FOOD

Our foodbank relies on your goodwill and support throughout the year. Local client need continues to be pressing and we are grateful to all of you for your continued loyal support which has enabled us to meet this need so far.

Over 90% of the food distributed by foodbanks in The Trussell Trust network is donated by the public – that's why your food donations are absolutely vital to our ability to give everyone referred to us a balanced and nutritious three day supply of food.

Our shopping list on the right shows the food items that we need right now.

URGENTLY NEEDED ITEMS

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LOGLIFE JUICE AND CORDIAL

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'OPERATION OBVIATE'

Saturday 12th October

The Royal British Legion in conjunction with the military vehicle trust will be staging this event at The Pheasant Inn, Moss Lane, Hightown from 12noon to 4.00pm.

Contacts at St Peter's

Vicar	Revd Canon Anne Taylor, St Peter's Vicarage	(01704) 872824
Curate	Revd Lilly Nelson	07706 419034
Wardens	Sarah Gorman Gill Holroyd	875013 07910 561155
Readers	Peter Davies Matt Parkes	550768 07971 827246
Reader Emeritus	Michael Pitts	
Parish Office	St Peter's Parish Hall, Paradise Lane, Formby L37 7EH (opposite Trinity St Peter's School) Open Monday to Friday 10am to 12noon office@stpetersformby.co.uk website: www.stpetersformby.co.uk	 871171
Parish Administrator	Caroline Speakman	
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Dave Johnson	07751 056726
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Director of Music	David Holroyd	07702 346735
Lay Chair	Paul McHenry	871722
PCC Treasurer	Irvine Rawcliffe	870569
PCC Secretary	Anne Cotsworth	871808
Trinity St Peter's School	Headteacher - Debbie Pringle <i>admin@tsp.sefton.school</i> www.trinitystpeters.org	876391
Refugee Support Group	Peter Paine	07722 127791
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Please note the deadline for the **November 2024** edition of the magazine is **Friday 4th October 2024**.
Please send contributions to
magazine@stpetersformby.co.uk





St Peter's Church

Green Lane, Formby

L37 7DL

**Sunday 3rd
November**

6:30pm

Gabriel Fauré

REQUIEM MASS

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

St Peter's Singers

Celebrant

Revd Anne Taylor

Preacher

Revd Beverley Smith

