

St Peter's Church Magazine

February 2025



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

Diary Dates



Saturday 1st

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

Sunday 2nd The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

- 8.30am Eucharist (BCP)
- 10.00am Parish Eucharist
- 12noon Children's Hotdog Service
- 6.30pm The Service of Light – Readings and Music for Candlemas



Monday 3rd

- 10.30am Halcyon House Eucharist
- 10.30am Bacon, Barms & Banter in the Bier House
- 12noon Funeral of Patricia McCulloch in St Peter's Church



Tuesday 4th

- 10.00am Bible Study *with Ken Ward* at 40 Southport Road **every Tuesday**
- 11.00am Eucharist in Woodlands Care Home
- 11.30am Funeral of Revd Canon Raymond Lee in church
- 4.30pm Junior Choir Rehearsals in the Song Room **every Tuesday in term time**

Wednesday 5th

- 11.00am Eucharist in church **every Wednesday**
- 2.00pm W.O.W service for pre-school children



Thursday 6th

- 2.00pm Mothers' Union in the Bier House



Thursday 6th

- 12.45pm Funeral of Joyce Hurley in Thornton Crematorium

Friday 7th

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



Sunday 9th The 4th Sunday before Lent

- 8.30am Eucharist (CW)
- 10.00am Parish Eucharist and Sunday Club
- 6.30pm Choral Evensong



Wednesday 12th

- 11.00am Eucharist *followed by refreshments*
- 7.30pm Bible Study *with Lilly Nelson* in the Bier House



Thursday 13th

- 2.00pm Singing for Fun in the Parish Hall

Friday 14th

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

February Diary Dates 2025 - continued

Sunday 16th The 3rd Sunday before Lent

- 8.30am Eucharist (BCP)
- 10.00am Parish Eucharist and Sunday Club
- 12noon Baptism of Caleb Ormond
- 6.30pm Choral Evensong



Wednesday 19th

- 7.30pm Primetime Ladies Group in the Parish

Hall



Thursday 20th

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

Friday 21st

- 1.00pm Funeral of John Ryan in church

Saturday 22nd

- 7.30pm Parish Quiz Night in the Parish Hall



Sunday 23rd The 2nd Sunday before Lent

- 8.30am Eucharist (CW)
- 10.00am Parish Eucharist
- 6.30pm Service of Wholeness

Monday 24th

- 7.30pm Timeout – Men, Beer and Topics in the Bier House



Wednesday 26th

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

Thursday 27th

- 2.00pm Singalong Thursday in the Parish Hall



Friday 28th

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



Future Diary Dates 2025

FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Lent Bible Study Series - Monday 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st March at 7.30pm
- Parish Fair - Saturday 17th May
- Confirmation Service in St Peter's - Sunday 18th May at 4pm
- Rev Lilly Nelson Ordination to the Priesthood - Saturday 7th June

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.



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

Dear Friends

Welcome to February, the shortest month of the year, and at one time the last month of the year! Apparently, the Romans had only ten months in their year. They didn't include winter as it was such a dead time with the weather being so cold and no farming being carried out. It was only in the 8th century BC that they added on January and February with February having the least number of days to fit into the calendar!

Poor old February! However, to cheer up the people in the shortest month, they had a festival of love called Lupercalia. The bishops of the time, disgusted at the excesses of behaviour during the festival, tried to Christianise it by remembering a martyr called Valentine. It didn't work! Valentine is now associated with love and romance, plus chocolates, roses and cards.

Amidst all the mushiness of February, the more practically minded will be thinking of refreshing their gardens and getting them ready for Spring! It is a wonderful time as we start to see the first signs of growth as the early snow drops and crocuses begin to appear.

But before looking forward, I'd like to look back to Christmas and to say a huge thank you to all who made Christmas such a special time in St Peter's. There was the Christmas Tree Festival which was a wonderful community event and raised money for many charities, the Carol Service, three Christingle services and much more. I don't think we have ever seen so many people enter the doors of St Peter's. Thank you all involved.



Once again the live stream proved it is was worth installing as one lady, who lives some distance, wrote to me. *“As a ‘streamer’ I just want to say how much I enjoy all the services which I watch every week. I thought the services this Christmas starting with the Sunday before Christmas right up to Christmas*

Day were outstanding. I’ve been watching now since Covid and it’s great to feel a member of the congregation even if I’m not there in person.”

The figures certainly prove it and remember what is recorded is a single view - it doesn't tell us how many are watching in any one house or in the two Care Homes that join our services each week.

In December the Carol Service had 269 views, the Bereavement Service (114), Christmas Day (136), Sunday mornings between 80 and 170, Pet Service (199) and so it goes on. These services are watched by a variety of people for all kinds of reasons and have become a very important part of our outreach. They can be watched live or at a later time and have reached out to families and friends who have not been able to travel for weddings, baptisms and funerals.

Our At Home congregation are very much part of our community, but thank you to Steve, David and Chris who operate the live stream each week to make sure so many feel part of our community.

This year Lent is late – Ash Wednesday is on 5th March. There will be more news about our Lent Series next month. Suffice to say that our four Lent Talks will take the form of a Bible study and begin on Monday 10th March. Each session will be led by the Revd Canon Liz Shercliff.



In the meantime, there is time for a little light relief in the form of a Quiz Night run by the inimitable John Nelson. John's Quiz Nights are legendary and are always great fun. So, put Saturday 22nd February at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall into your diaries. See the back cover for details.

In February we also mark Candlemas which celebrates the lengthening of the days as we approach Spring. Snowdrops are sometimes called 'Candlemas Bells' and they are already appearing in the churchyard. There will be a special Service of Light for Candlemas on Sunday 2nd February at 6.30pm.

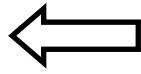
On another note, we are very sorry to see our neighbour, the Revd Mark Stanford, leaving Holy Trinity & St Michael's in February to take up a post in the Cathedral. Our prayers are with Mark and Sam as they begin this new chapter in ministry. Mark came to Holy Trinity in 2012 and is the longest serving vicar in our deanery. It's a sobering thought that that honour of 'elder lemon' now passes to me! All the other clergy in Sefton North have been appointed since I became Area Dean!

Although the days are lengthening in February, the weather is unpredictable. What is predictable is that the worship, witness and outreach of St Peter's continues as our clergy and people offer a ministry to all which is what makes parish ministry so important.

Anne



Thank you to Jannice Crawford, helped by Kaye Kellaway, for designing and creating a lovely new banner for Epiphany.



Ash Wednesday

5th March 2025

11.00am Eucharist

in St Peter's Church

7.30pm ~ A Joint Ash Wednesday Service in St Luke's Church, Formby

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

Passover Full Seder Meal

There will be a Passover Seder as part of St Peter's 2025 Easter activities on Monday 7th April 2025 starting at 6.30pm in the Bier House and will last ~3 hrs. It will follow the traditional Jewish Haggadah liturgy. It will include a 3-course Seder meal, and Eucharist will be celebrated as part of the evening. Passover was the last meal that Jesus had on earth before his arrest and trial.

A cost is £15 per head to cover costs which include a lamb hotpot supper. Places will be allocated on first-come first-served basis. If you would like to be part of this, please contact Mark Andrews, either in person, or on 0777 222 7526 or at mjandrews@aol.com.

There are some roles to be played as part of the ceremony and a script will be provided. Please ask if you would like to play a role. Participation is the key part of this event for everybody.





What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is a special moment in your journey of faith. It's when you say "yes" to the promises made at your baptism, whether by your parents and godparents or yourself if you were baptised as an adult. It's a personal decision to dedicate your life to Jesus and to try your best to live as a Christian. At the same time, God confirms His love for you, pouring out the Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen you.

For many, Confirmation is an inspiring and meaningful step, affirming their faith. For young people, it's also the time they are often welcomed to receive Holy Communion if they haven't already.

Who Can Be Confirmed?

Anyone from Year 5 to adulthood who feels ready to take this step can be confirmed. It's never too early - or too late - to explore this exciting milestone in your faith.

When and Where?

This year, the Confirmation Service will be held at **4:00 pm on Sunday, 18th May**, led by the **Bishop of Liverpool, Rt Revd Dr John Perumbalath**, at St Peter's Church. Churches in our deanery take turns hosting, and this year it's our joy to welcome everyone.

Want to Know More?

We'll organise preparation sessions for anyone interested - both young people and adults. These are relaxed and friendly opportunities to learn and discuss what Confirmation means.

If you're interested or have questions, we'd love to hear from you!

Please get in touch soon to start this exciting part of your faith journey.

Revd Lilly Nelson

Parish Office on ☎ **01704 871171** or ✉ **office@stpetersformby.co.uk**

NEW ELECTORAL ROLL

Under the Church Representation Rules, a new Electoral Roll is to be prepared this year. All people wanting their names entering on this new roll are asked to complete a new application form. No names will be carried forward from the existing roll to the new one.

Applicants must be members of the Church of England or a Church in communion with the Church of England and they must be 16 years of age or more and must be baptised.

Have you followed that so far? If not ask a member of the clergy or Cliff Cotsworth, the Electoral Roll Officer, who will be only too happy to help you.

It is very important that members of our congregation are registered to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Extraordinary General Meetings or at any other occasion as requested.

There have you have it in a nutshell. Forms will be available from 1st March.

Cliff Cotsworth
Electoral Roll Officer



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 on .
Dates 12th & 26th February
Everyone welcome. No specialist knowledge required.
Contact Ted Woods 07899 429081

Friday Bible Study Group at 2pm

in the Bier House on 14th and 28th February and 14th and 28th March and 11th April. We will start with chapter eight of Acts.
Contact Peter Paine for details 07722 127791



Curate's Corner



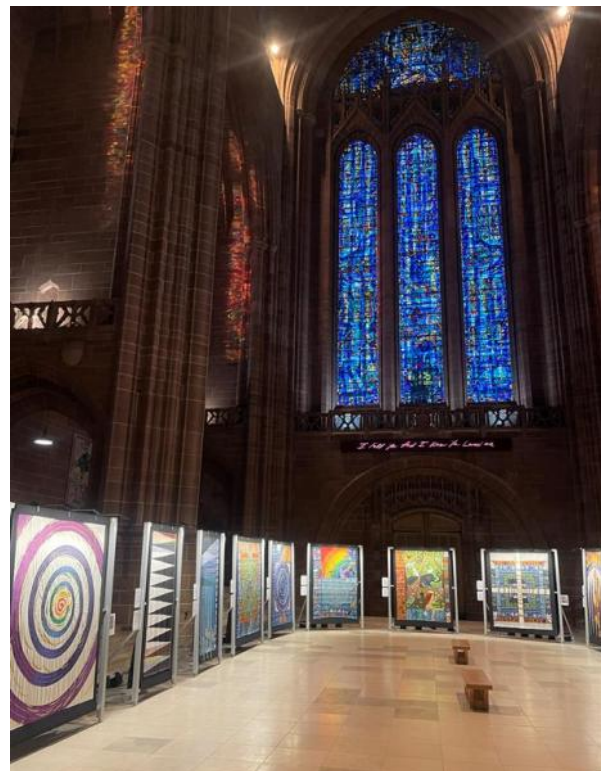
Have you spotted the first snowdrops yet? I remember hearing last year that they are sometimes referred to as 'Candlemas bells', and it is good fortune to give the first snowdrops a 'jingle' when you see them.



Candlemas reminds us that Christ, the Light of the World, shines into our darkness.

In the first notice of the spring shoots appearing we are held in knowing that even when the season's change, Christ is our constant.

Lilly

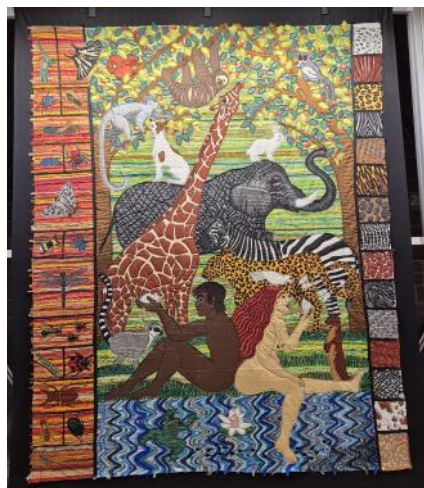


Threads through the Bible – Liverpool Cathedral

Engage and immerse yourself in the biblical story in a way you never have before, through the spectacular silk works of textile artist Jacqui Parkinson.

Threads through the Bible is a culmination of ten years' work, combining three astonishing exhibitions: 'Threads through Creation', 'Threads through the Cross' and 'Threads through Revelation'. In total there will be 38 silk panels, stretching 80 meters in length with more than 25 million stitches!

On display each day until 2nd March.



Light to the Gentiles

So, Christmas 2024 is past. The Church closes the season with the Festival of the Presentation, that story that Luke tells in his Gospel (ch. 2 vv. 22–40) about the meeting of a young family – Joseph, Mary and their first-born son Jesus – with two elderly (for those days) people – Simeon and Anna – in the temple in Jerusalem. The family were fulfilling their religious obligation in the age-old offering of their son to God. Centuries before, however, the horrors of human sacrifice had been commuted by Israel to the offering of an animal or bird, dependent on the wealth of the worshipper, and Joseph and Mary were poor, as Luke indicates, in that they were able to offer only ‘either a pair of turtle doves or two pigeons’, the cheapest of the offerings.

Luke begins and ends his Gospel in the temple, from the confrontation between Zechariah and the angel (‘How can your words be true seeing that I’m too old for parenthood, my wife also?’) to the gathering of Jesus’ followers, worshipping in the temple after the Ascension, worship being conversation between God and believers, a perfect circle which is the hallmark of the classic tale. The temple represents the cornerstone of faith in Israel’s life as a nation, the bedrock of the Church’s existence, the platform from which it moves ever-outward to bring all peoples into the Kingdom of God. As such, it is the fulcrum on which history tips from promise to fulfilment.

Whereas Zechariah argues with God in the person of the angel, Simeon and Anna, equally elderly, rejoice in the fulfilment of their long-held faith that God’s will for mankind should be realised in this small child, Jesus.

Having met with Jesus and his parents, Simeon can die in peace, reassured that the prophecies of the Jewish scriptures on which he has reflected throughout his life are now fulfilled in this child who will attract all peoples to the light cast by God’s grace on all who wish to become one with him, the ultimate end of creation. The contemplative attitude of Simeon in its peacefulness contrasts with the exuberant witness to those around her of Anna, widowed at an early age and resident in the temple as part of a community of widows, such a community providing security for one of the most disadvantaged in the Ancient World. For many women, to be widowed reduced them to poverty without the protection of a husband.



So the Feast of the Purification, the Presentation of Christ and Candlemas marks the fulfilling of the Jewish Law and the breaking in of the new era. Anna and Simeon recognised this, and knew that the time had come for them, like John the Baptist, to fade away that the Light of God’s love and grace could shine in the world (‘He must increase but I must decrease’). Thus the introduction by the Mediaeval Church of candlelight processions, to visually bring the Word to the World.

Jill and Peter Andrews

St Peter's Church,
Formby

The Service of Light

Readings and
Music for
Candlemas

Sunday 2nd February
6:30pm

Morning Prayer

There is a short service of Morning Prayer at 9am on Monday (Bier House), Tuesday (Song Room), Thursday (Bier House), Friday (Church) & Saturday (Bier House).



First Saturday of
each month
Breakfast Church.

Wednesday Eucharist

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



**HEALING AND
WHOLENESS SERVICE**

Dates for your diary
Sunday 23rd February
Sunday 30th March
at 6.30pm

PLEASE NOTE

We have large-print hymn books, bulletins and magazines. Those on duty in church will be pleased to assist in providing copies. Let the Parish Administrator know if you would like a large-print magazine delivered.

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

Magic Moments at Christmas



Just before Christmas, and the third Annual Christmas Tree Festival coming to an end at St Peter's, I sat down and reflected on 'magic' moments I have experienced over the many years of ministry.

Our children were just two and four, growing up in a large Vicarage, built by the cotton mill owner, where we had gone to the forest and cut down a tree of suitable size. We had decorated it and finished it off with foil-wrapped chocolates and it was beautifully lit with a new set of lights. On Christmas Eve my wife noticed that one of the chocolates was half-eaten. Our son got the blame and was told to finish it off. In the quiet before the Midnight Service we could hear a rustling and I looked over to the tree. There was the culprit, happily eating another chocolate decoration – such a pretty field mouse and enjoying his Christmas treat. It was, after all, Christmas Eve and so cosy in the Vicarage, but he had to go and go he did with some encouragement from the Vicar (who later apologised to his honest son who had pleaded innocence).

The Annual Carol Service in my country parish was an absolute 'must', with the church beautifully decorated and 'ready' for all. If you were not there in good time you knew you would be standing, but afterwards the celebrations would continue in the Inn alongside, where the Inn-Keeper certainly made room! There was no formal choir, so I would ask for volunteers to sing particular verses. You got to know those who could belt out 'The Farmer's Boy' at Harvest and you would encourage them, despite their wife's objections. As people left, you would hear them: 'That were a good do', and you knew they were happy for another year. We were never without a good turkey. Old Bill made sure of that. The proudest moment of his life was when he presented Her late Majesty, his Landlord The Duke of Lancaster, with a tray of six eggs, free-range from his farm on the fell.

Naples for dear Sue and me began our final five years of ministry – there were 365 churches and they were full of 'presepe', the unique Neapolitan cribs, made by hand all-year-round in one particular area of the city. I have one which we brought home and it is brought out and packed away carefully each year. In Advent each year we would go on a short retreat to Assisi, where St Francis traditionally introduced the 'crib', in which he would place a human child each night – a child without a home – and that child, at his request, would be taken by a family and given a home.

There were three incidents which I can never forget:

a) at the beginning of Advent one year a visitor appeared in Church, one among a regular flow from all over the world. When we reached the moment of the 'Peace' he stepped back and indicated that he did not wish to exchange hands; he did the same the second week and I was ready for his response, but then came a moment during the next week, when the children from the military school were holding their Carol Service. There was our visitor, tears streaming down his face, sitting listening to these natural young voices.

At the end, he stood and applauded and held out his hand to all around. It was then that he explained that he had been auditioning for the lead role at the San Carlo Opera and he had needed to avoid getting an infection – hence his hesitation at the moment of the ‘Peace’. He had got the lead role and sang for us in Church!;

b) the children at the weekly School Assembly came from various N.A.T.O. countries. The Dutch children brought their tradition of Father Christmas sailing into the harbour on 6th December, properly dressed and bearing a very full sack of presents – they greeted him at the quay-side, singing their most lovely traditional carols;

c) I would drive across from Naples to Bari, on the Adriatic coast, each month to conduct a Service for English speakers. Christmas was the annual highlight with a Carol Service, some 400 present, held in the Basilica of San Nicola. It was a most beautiful restored building, visited constantly by pilgrims from the east from the time in history when the Latin Church had brought the body west before the Orthodox could get it!. At the next School Assembly I told the children that I had been to the place where ‘Father Christmas is buried’ – oh dear! - a sea of faces looking ‘enquiringly’ at me. What had I done? With some very quick thinking I just about managed to talk my way out of it. Feeling very bad, I spoke to the Head Teacher afterwards, and between us rescued things ...

My last appointment before retirement was in Montreux, from where Canon Paul Ormrod has recently retired. Alongside our own Carol Service, when Anton Mossiman brought us mince pies, we held four more Carol Services in different parts of the Valais: Champerey, Anzere, Villars and Gstaad – attracting up to 1,000 attendees. Gstaad was the most magical by far. The annual Christmas Eve Service involved a train journey through the snows. At the station we were met by a horse-drawn sleigh and carried up to the beautiful Reformed Church, made available to us, and there was a Christmas tree, decorated with lighted candles. At the end the glühwein stall was stocked ready for us; then, it was a return down the mountain to make ready for the Midnight Service.



Peterhouse School

These have all been ‘magic’ moments, but it was here in St Peter’s this year that we witnessed a wonderful moment. The Christmas Tree Festival was open for the first morning. A group of young men from Peterhouse School arrived with their teachers (one of the Christmas Trees was decorated by them). One of the students, realising that the microphone was switched on at the lectern, opened the Bible and began to read an ‘obscure’ Old Testament passage. Then, I moved forward and opened for him the Christmas Gospel and asked him to read. With an articulate voice and ‘word-perfect’ he told all present: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God . . .”

My magic moments have been in so many places, yet it was here in front of me this year, that it was all so real.

Arthur Siddall



A free choir for children aged 6-11.
Led by music staff of Liverpool Cathedral.
Rehearsals take place at St Peter's Church, Formby. Tuesdays at 4.30pm.
The Junior Choir has spaces.
For more information on joining please email finlay.gordon@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk

JUNIOR CHOIR SEFTON



On a windswept winter's night, the Sunday before Christmas, I made my way from Liverpool Cathedral to Formby. At the Cathedral I am responsible for worship and music. The occasion was a carol service by candlelight, and my particular reason for attending was the group of children from schools across Sefton Borough, joining with St Peter's Choir, in leading the worship.

Since September my colleague Finlay Gordon has been introducing primary-aged children to choral singing as part of the Cathedral's Schools Singing Programme. He is a professional musician, one of the Cathedral's Lay Clerks, our permanent adult singers. Sharing the joy and opportunity of singing is his great passion. Schools enter a contract with us to teach some of their children, and we then invite them to join a Junior Choir based at a church nearby.



The Cathedral is working with parishes across the diocese to strengthen and reinvigorate choral music, partly as a way of identifying future Cathedral choristers, but also to point children who might have no church connection to the local church choirs. Squeezed into the porch of the packed St Peter's I was overjoyed to hear one of the Junior Choir children sing the first verse of Once in Royal David's City. What a leap of faith!

A huge thank you to David Holroyd, Rev Lilly Nelson and Rev Canon Anne Taylor and to everyone at St Peter's for your warm support and encouragement. I am very excited to see how we can build on this excellent beginning.

Canon Philip Anderson

Canon Precentor at Liverpool Cathedral who was there supporting Sefton Junior Choir on behalf of Liverpool Cathedral's Music Department.

REFUGEE SUPPORT GROUP

We are looking for a new back-up driver as one of our drivers will reach the golden age of 70 in June and will no longer be able to drive.

The role only requires to be a backup to Mark Andrews who is our main driver and your services will probably not be required more than 3 or 4 times a year.

We use the Formby Scout minibus to pick up and return asylum seekers for our Welcome Days which happen 7 times a year.

If you are able to assist us please contact Peter on peterspaine@gmail.com

Thank you.

Peter Paine

Primetime

Primetime Ladies Group



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

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

Next meeting

Wednesday 19th February

In the Old School Room,
Parish Hall, Paradise Lane, Formby

☎ 01704 871171

✉ office@stpetersformby.co.uk



The next meeting of Timeout, a get-together of mostly men for beer, chat and discussion, will be on **Monday 24th February at 7.30pm** in the Bier House.

We look forward to a visit from Jean Finney, entertainer, singer/songwriter, who will present her much acclaimed talk on "The Origins of Nursery Rhymes", tracing their historical roots and reasons in her own inimitable way.



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.

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 or Book of Common Prayer.

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

- 2nd Feb Grange Lane, Freshfield Road, St George's Road
- 9th Feb Wicks Lane, Coppice Leys, Barkfield Lane
- 16th Feb Barkfield Avenue, The Copse, The Birches
- 23rd Feb Argarmeols Road, Argarmeols Grove, Mersey Avenue



***Almighty and everlasting God,
increase in us your gift of faith;
that, forsaking what lies behind
and reaching out to that which is before,
we may run the way of your commandments
and win the crown of everlasting joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.***

Amen.

**PRAYER FOR THE MONTH
A New Series of
Helpful Prayers**



This prayer, from the Alternative Service Book, serves as a good prayer for the beginning of a new year. We pray that our faith may be increased and strengthened. Faith is trusting in the presence of God whatever way life treats us and holding fast to his promise to be with us forever. We are also reminded that Christianity is religion of a new start. Recognising and putting behind us whatever mess we may have made, we can start afresh with hope and faith, seeking to live according to God's way, which, of course, is the way of love.

From the Church Register

Funerals

9 th December	Michael Reece
16 th December	Enid Tattersall
23 rd December	Patsy Fagan
27 th December	Sylvia Knowles
6 th January	Harry Thomas
31 st January	Kathleen Humphreys



Garden of Remembrance

18 th December	Brian Gillbanks
18 th January	Isabel Edney
18 th January	Pamela Hose
31 st January	George Davidson



February Bible Readings

1st – Saint Brigid, Abbess

Hosea 8 / 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 / Mark 4:35-41

2nd – The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)

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

9th – The 4th Sunday before Lent

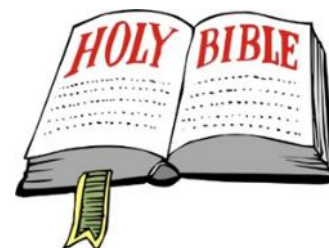
Isaiah 6:1-13 / 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 / Luke 5:1-11

16th – The 3rd Sunday before Lent

Jeremiah 17:5-10 / 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 / Luke 6:17-26

23rd – The 2nd Sunday before Lent

Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-25 / Revelation 4 / Luke 8:22-25



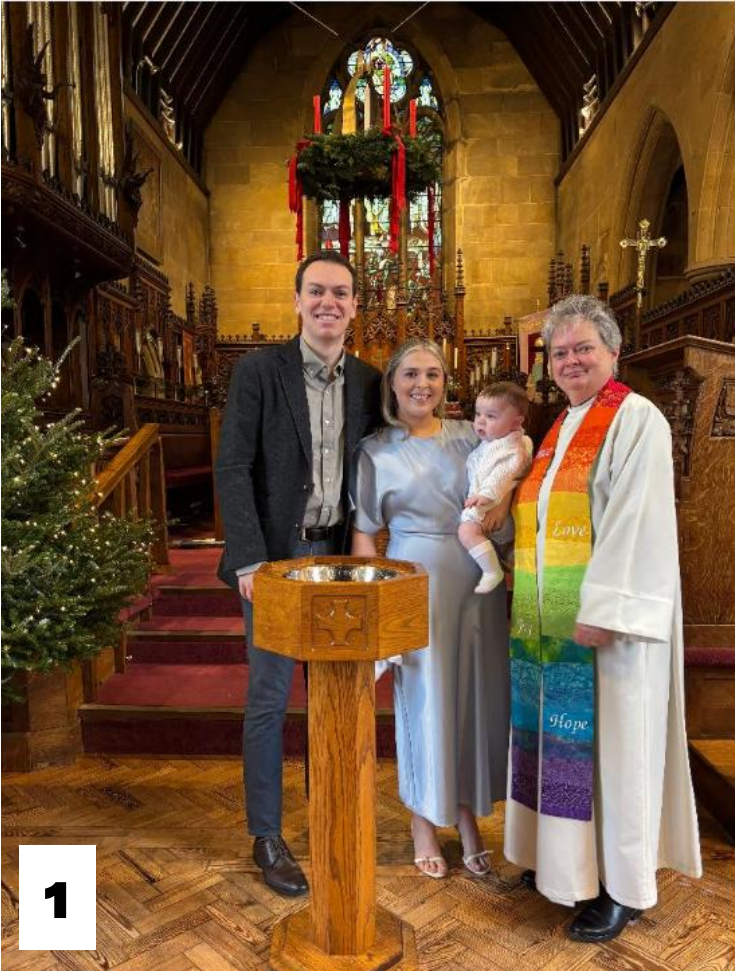
Breakfast Church will be at 9am in the Bier House on Saturday 1st February

Join us for a short service (about 20 mins) in the form of the Iona worship. This is 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



From the Church Register ~ Baptisms



- 1** Sunday 8th December
Harry Matthew Naylor, son of Stephanie & Matthew, was baptised.
- 2** Sunday 22nd December
Luke Aaron Hughes, son of Helen & Ben, was baptised when home from Dubai.
- 3** Sunday 22nd December
Polly Louise Farrell, daughter of Adam & Taylor, was baptised when back from New York.
- 4** Sunday 26th January
Erin Sophia, Eliot Joseph and Jessica Robin Brindle, the children of Anthony & Charlotte, were baptised.

MBE FOR FORMER VICAR OF ST PETER'S

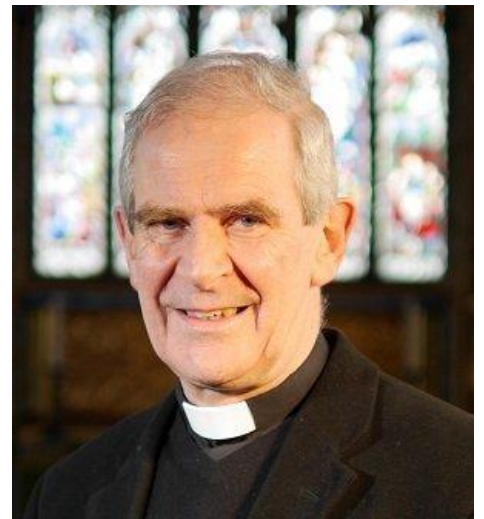
The former Dean of Carlisle, the Very Revd Mark Boyling, was awarded an MBE in this year's New Year's Honours list for services to Carlisle Cathedral.

He oversaw the development of the multi-million Fraternity project – an education, events and hospitality space in the cathedral precinct and helped the cathedral to become one of the first to achieve charitable status.

Mark was Vicar of St Peter's from March 1989 to January 1994, having been personal chaplain to the Bishop of Liverpool, David Shepherd. During Mark's time, the first extension of the Bier House was completed, a link with Markdorf, Germany was established, and with great foresight he set up the St Peter's Educational Trust.

In his history of St Peter's, Neville Carrick records that Mark "impressed the parish by his meticulous organisation of services so that it was not a surprise when he accepted the post of Canon Precentor at Liverpool Cathedral which he took up in January 1994." He later became Dean of Carlisle and retired in 2022 after 18 years in the post.

During his time in St Peter's he married a parishioner, Helen Enoch.



PHOTOS FROM CHRISTINGLE SERVICES



PHOTOS FROM CHRISTMAS AT ST PETER'S



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 5th February at 2pm



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.

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.



February dates

7th February

14th February

21st HALF TERM

28th February

CHILDREN DIARY DATES

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



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.

February dates

2nd February Children's Hotdog Service

9th February Sunday Club

16th February Sunday Club

Inclusive Church

As part of our efforts to become a more inclusive church there will now be 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 will 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



Recycled Gifts!

We are collecting any unused gifts throughout the year that you want to find a new home. They will be used for the Gift Stall at our various events and also for raffle prizes.

Anything that is still new and unused like candles, toiletries, small games, chocolate, wine!

Please leave in the church porch or the Parish Office. Many thanks.

Peace Light Church Parade



On 26th January 2025, the 48th Southport Scout Group passed on the 'Peace Light' to the 9th Formby and Spitfire Explorers here at St Peter's Church. Every December/January, Scouts in Europe have passed the Peace Light across Europe as a symbol of peace, hope and unity for everyone. The Peace Light is a continuously burning flame originating from the Grotto at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem that Scouts have been visiting to light their lanterns and spread the flame to other Scouts.



Translation of the German Badge: **FRIEDENSLICHT AUS BETLEHEM** **Light of Peace of Bethlehem**

Vielfalt leben Zukunft gestalten Living Diversity, Shaping the Future



Peace Babies Much to the delight of adults and children alike Jelly Babies, originally called Peace Babies were distributed among the congregation. George Bassett & Co., one of Britain's oldest sweets manufacturers, launched their own version of Jelly Babies, called **Peace Babies** a century ago to celebrate the end of the First World War.

The chewy sweets were first invented back in 1864 by an Austrian working in Lancashire. The reason why Bassetts called them Peace Babies isn't clear.



Some say the different colours represents different nations coming together in peace. Some say it was because the world needed a sweet treat after the sadness of war. Others that a baby represents new life and a new beginning. You choose!

Next time you pick up a Jelly Baby, rather than biting off its head, please suck it slowly, and as you do so, pray for peace, for justice and for hope in places of conflict in our world.

Elaine Almond



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.

The Church Porch is open every day from 10am to 4pm for donations.

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




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Caroline Speakman

Member of the Society of Willwriters

Email: southportwills@gmail.com

Phone: **07926 587776**

www.southportwills.com





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 Solicitor
 to make a personal appointment
T. 01704 870404



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“It is a beautiful home”



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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!

Mothers' UNION

We held our AGM in January, but unfortunately the severe weather conditions prevented many of the members attending. However we did manage to get through the agenda thanking everyone for their continued support and help throughout 2024.

We discussed the programme for 2025 to 2026 but final decisions were left until the February meeting, when it is hoped that the weather will be better and more members will be able to attend

At our next meeting we are looking forward to a talk by Revd Peter Paine.

With all good wishes

Herbert (873367)

WHAT'S ON AT FORMBY PANTRY?

Welcome Space

Everyone is invited to join us in our welcoming environment where you can relax, enjoy a hot drink, and delicious meal – all at no cost. Get out of the house, make new friends, and stay warm in a friendly community setting.



Uniform Hub

Access Preloved School Uniforms for both Formby High and Range High. Whether you need uniforms or wish to recycle old ones, our service offers them for free or a small donation. This service is open to everyone, and benefits both your wallet and the environment. Why not give your old school uniforms a new life here?



Formby Food Pantry

If you're living on a tight budget, our Food Pantry offers an affordable way to shop weekly, helping you save on your grocery bill and free up funds for other essentials. By becoming a member, you gain access for a year to a variety of fresh, frozen, chilled, and long-life items. Join us and make your weekly shop more manageable and budget-friendly!



What our members say -

"The volunteers at the Pantry were lovely, it gave me back confidence and self esteem. It doesn't matter who you are, from any background, any of us might need a bit of help."

"The Food Pantry has been amazing and a lifesaver for me. I'm not on my own."

Thursdays 11:00am - 12:45pm
at the Gild Hall Activity Centre,
Church Road, Formby L37 3NG

To join call **01704 264505** or visit **www.compassionacts.uk/food-pantry**
To volunteer or donate, drop in and see us on a Thursday.

BIBLE NAMES

O	S	A	J	E	S	U	S	O	N	H	D	D	I
C	L	A	D	A	M	A	I	J	C	A	R	S	I
J	O	S	E	P	H	S	A	A	E	J	P	V	C
E	S	T	H	E	R	R	R	V	M	R	S	H	E
I	H	H	E	D	J	D	E	A	A	C	U	D	A
E	S	A	V	S	A	O	R	D	R	A	E	T	E
J	E	B	A	H	D	Y	H	E	E	I	A	R	H
O	H	R	S	A	D	C	R	N	I	N	E	E	D
N	R	A	P	S	M	O	S	E	S	A	B	T	A
A	S	H	C	H	H	N	H	L	Y	L	R	E	N
H	R	A	J	U	R	J	A	C	O	B	H	P	I
H	H	M	S	A	I	S	A	A	C	T	S	D	E
D	A	V	I	D	V	R	A	S	I	A	C	J	L
M	A	T	T	H	E	W	A	S	A	U	L	M	O

MARY
DAVID
SHADRACH
RUTH
MOSES
CAIN
PETER
JOHN
ISAAC
JOSEPH
ABRAHAM
EVE
JONAH
ADAM
ESTHER
SAUL
JACOB
JESUS
DANIEL
MATTHEW

I made a huge to do list for today. I just can't figure out who's going to do it.

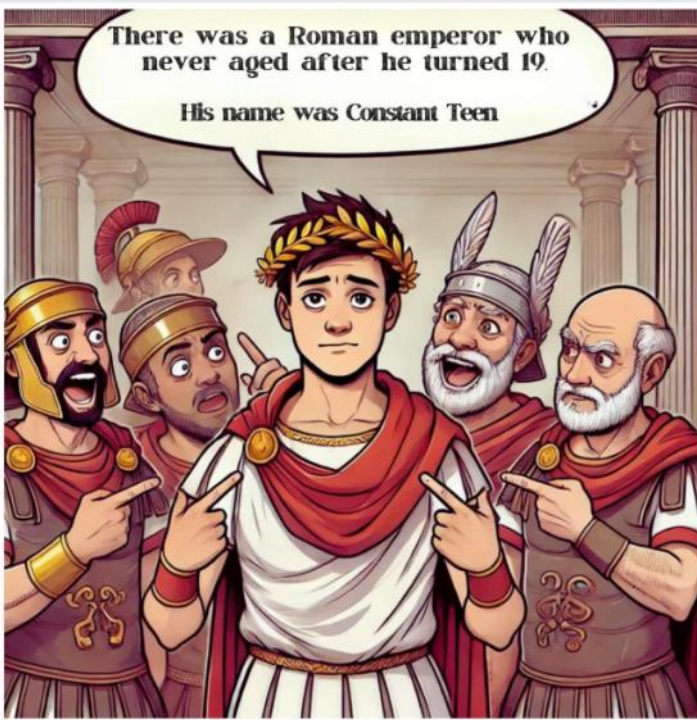
FINALLY MY WINTER FAT IS GONE. NOW I HAVE SPRING ROLLS

My brain said "crunches" but my stomach auto-corrected it to "cupcakes"

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

☎ 01704 871171 ✉ office@stpetersformby.co.uk



I WASN'T LISTENING
 SO I'M GOING TO SMILE, NOD AND HOPE FOR THE BEST

One of my favorite people in the 1880 census: 15-year-old Catharine Cudney, occupation, "Does as she pleases."

Cudney Ezekiel w m 59		1	Farmer
Anna w f 45	wife	1	Keeps house
Alfred w m 21	son	1	work on farm
Catharine w f 15	Daughter	1	does as she pleases

You know what annoys me is when you go round to someone's house and they make you take your shoes off at the front door. 9 times out of 10 they don't even have a bouncy castle.



I saw two huge black birds in my garden this morning and they were stuck together. Turns out they were Velcrows.

The Traitors# look is strong at St Peter's both faithfuls though, obviously!!



From the Back Pew Ted Woods

A MODERN PROPHET

One of my favourite authors is Charles Handy. He died in December last. He was one of those people who had an unnerving ability to see future trends in business and society and to pinpoint the essentials in life.

He was the son of an Irish archdeacon and became an oil executive with Shell.

He always thought that his father should have risen higher in the Church and not have stayed so long in his rural parish away from the centre of things.

But when he went to his father's funeral he was moved to the core by the number of people who had come from far and wide not only to attend the service but to line the roads along which the hearse travelled.

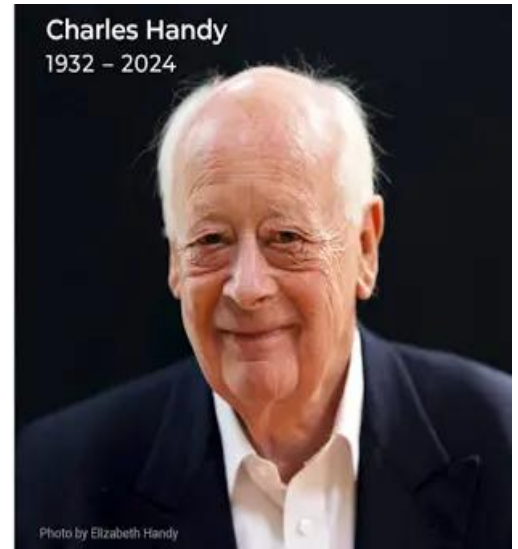
It made him re-think his priorities and what was success and to look at life differently.

Indeed, he credited his heritage with enabling him to question the way things were done. "The Irish are trained to be irreverent; we disrespect systems. That allows me to say that just because things have been done this way since William the Conqueror, that's no particular reason they should go on being this way!"

Leaving Shell, he was instrumental in setting up The London Business School, and was then appointed warden of St George's House, Windsor, a think-tank for leaders in business and the church. This was followed by being self-employed as a writer, broadcaster and lecturer. He decided that for six months of the year his work took precedence, and for the other half of the year his wife's work as a photographer took over and he became her assistant.

He was regular speaker on Radio 4's Thought for the Day.

In one of his talks on Thought for the Day he said that there were seven types of intelligence. "There's intellectual intelligence, of course, but also musical intelligence, the creative intelligence, the practical and physical, the social and the psychic... I like to think that we are all intelligent in our own way. No need feel stupid anymore."



In another talk he recalled the less than affluent stipends clergy were given and how budgeting featured in the vicarage he was brought up in. There was a weekly reckoning of accounts to keep track on spending within stipend limits. It was an agony for his mother who could never remember how she had spent her allocation. The young Handy once asked, “Why do we spend so much sometimes on the SPG when we are so poor?” He knew SPG stood for the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, a missionary group. “Hush”, said his mother, “and never tell your father, but SPG stands for Something, Probably Grub!”

I have a habit of making notes on the blank back pages of books when I come across something I want to remember. It saves a lot of time when I want to look up something.

Here are some from Charles Handy’s books:-

The way we walk is more memorable than the way we talk.

Grow better rather than bigger.

Instead of technology and productivity giving us more time for leisure, as we all expected, we seem more consumed by work than ever.

Life without work is a life without point. He then went on to identify 4 types of work – paid work, work in the home (cleaning, cooking, maintenance, etc), gift or voluntary work and study work (*in a changing world we cannot rely on what we used to know to see us through the future*).

Kings have power. Prophets have principles.

Translating Aristotle’s concept of good life: *It’s not lying on a beach with a glass of wine and a good book but doing your best with what you are best at.*

½x2x3=3P. Half the workforce, working twice as hard to produce 3 times the output or profit.

I had hoped that the increasing interest in the spiritual life would lead to a more caring society, one that reached out to those on the margins. Instead, the new spirituality seems to be more inwardly looking in personal salvation and renewal, focussed on withdrawing from engagement with outsiders instead of seeking it. It is not religion as I knew it.

We continue to hear of threats to the environment, of forests disappearing, of seas and temperatures rising, but few seemed concerned enough to take action. How can one person change the world, they ask, and pass by.

And there are lots more!

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Church Flowers

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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.



SAMARITANS

TALK TO US

If things are getting to you

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This number is FREE to call

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Dementia friendly church

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



Singing Thursdays !

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Light-hearted singing suitable for everyone.

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


Fun and free event, & refreshments in a warm space.

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

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

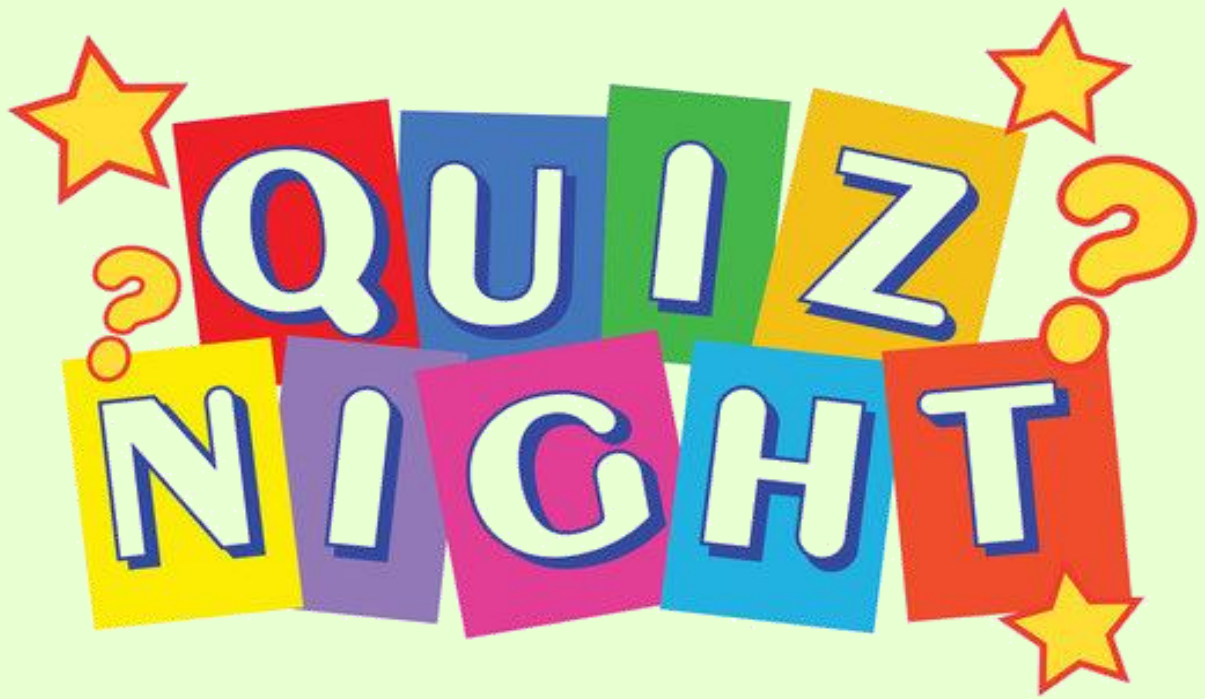
Contacts at St Peter's

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	550768
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 (<i>email: stewardship@stpetersformby.co.uk</i>)	07751 056726
Stewardship	David Holroyd (<i>email: music@stpetersformby.co.uk</i>)	07702 346735
Director of Music	Paul McHenry	871722
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PCC Treasurer	Anne Cotsworth	871808
PCC Secretary	Headteacher - Debbie Pringle (<i>email: admin@tsp.sefton.school</i>) www.trinitystpeters.org	876391
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For more information about any of our organisations please contact the Parish Office on ☎ 01704 871171 or ✉ office@stpetersformby.co.uk



Please note the deadline for the **March 2025** edition of the magazine is **Friday 7th February 2025**. Please send contributions to **magazine @stpetersformby.co.uk**



QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 22nd February 2025

7.30pm start

Parish Quiz Night

Quiz by John Nelson

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

Ticket price £7.50

(Adults only)

Bar available, bring your own nibbles.
Don't have to be in a team, just turn up!
There will be a raffle.



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