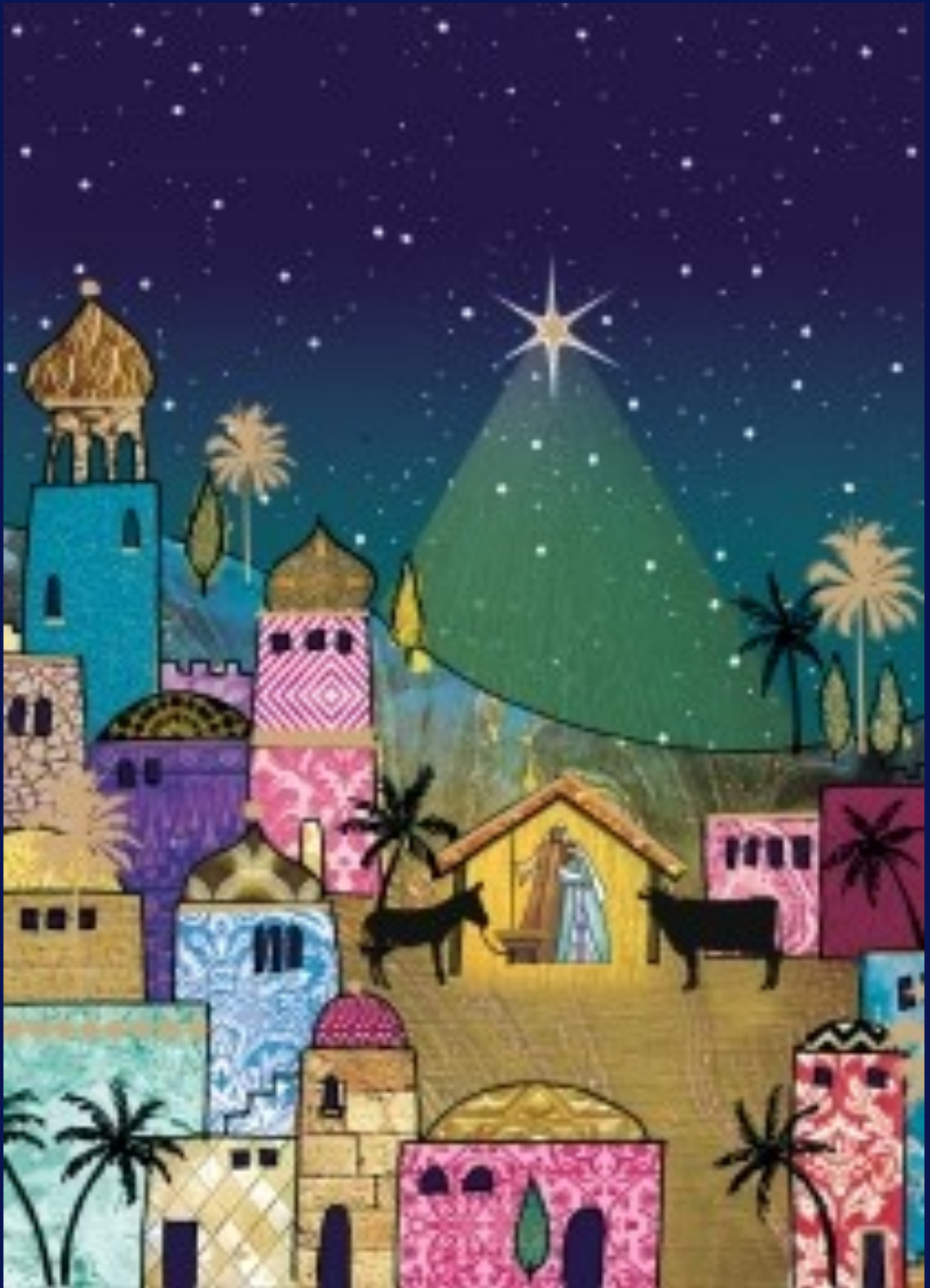


ST PETER'S CHURCH MAGAZINE

FESTIVE EDITION

DECEMBER 2018 AND JANUARY 2019



Advent Appeal – The Samaritans

Donations through the Blue Envelope Advent Appeal are to help the important work of the Samaritans. The envelopes will be available in church and can be put on the collection plate.



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Editor's Note:

We have been informed that the photograph of Christopher D'Aeth in the November issue (Photo 36-29, 2nd Torpid Crew 1930) was reproduced by kind permission of The Master and Fellows of Balliol College, Oxford.

From the Editorial Team



November has been the busiest of months, the most notable event being the Special Remembrance Parade Service, marking 100 years from the end of World War One.

Not a seat was available when the church bells rang out marking this very special occasion.

As usual our uniformed groups, so smartly turned out, did us proud.

Moving on to more festive occasions, the Formby Village Nativity is taking place on Saturday 8th December at 11 am and 12.15 pm.

Dreadful weather has sometimes marred this event in recent years, so please do try to show our support.

With the approach of Advent and beyond, our readers need hardly reminding of the number of Christmas services which are listed on page 23, and what better opportunity exists than to bring a friend, particularly if they know that the service is concluded with a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie!

They can be assured they will receive the warmest welcome at St Peter's.

And from all of us, our best wishes for a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

We'll be back in time for the February 2019 edition.

With best wishes from

The Editorial Team



*Please note the deadline for the February 2019 edition of the magazine is **Friday 11th January 2019**. Contributions to alisonwhiffing@aol.com*

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.

Dear Friends,

As I write this letter there is huge political uncertainty about the future of Britain. The Brexit plan has been passed by the Cabinet and Brussels but will it get through Parliament? And if not, what then? Since the Brexit referendum opinion has been sharply divided.



When Jesus was born there was also a lot of political uncertainty. Palestine was a vassal state under Roman rule. Insurrection and rebellion were never far from the surface of society. Opinion was sharply divided between those like the Sadducees who were happy with the status quo and benefitted from it financially, and, at the other extreme, the Zealots dedicated to the overthrow of Rome and everything and everybody Roman. And in between were the ordinary people, taxed to the hilt, who were not sure what was best.

Jesus resisted getting involved in the divisive political issues of his day. His message of love and forgiveness transcended the squabbles and arguments of those who were politically opposed, and it says a lot about his unifying message and presence that among the disciples were those of all political persuasions and none.

Again at Christmas the message of the angels announcing Jesus' birth rings out, "Peace on earth!" Amidst all the political divisions of today, and the deeply held opinions on all sides, let us remember our unity together in Christ, and let us have the grace to be able to disagree agreeably.



#Follow The Star is the Church of England's Christmas 2018 campaign.

Archbishops Justin Welby & John Sentamu have written –

“For many of us, Christmas brings up so many emotions, memories and expectations. We have one nativity story, but it can seem like we all have very different Christmases. For you it might be a time of joy and togetherness. Or perhaps it's all about planning and to-do lists.

Many others can find it a sad and lonely time – nagged by the feeling that your Christmas is not like those 'perfect' ones we see in the media. But just like the unexpected assortment of people who were invited to meet the baby Jesus, #FollowTheStar doesn't ask you to be perfect.

It says: come just as you are to take the life-changing Christmas journey. Wherever you are this Christmas, you are invited to follow the star and to be with Jesus. You are welcome. You are deeply known and truly loved.

Mary and Joseph and all those caught up in the Christmas story were surprised by the astonishing way that God chose to live among us. Each Christmas we are reminded of God's longing to surprise us with his gift of joy, love and new life. It's the greatest present we can receive and share with others!

We pray this booklet offers a path for your journey closer to Jesus – and we wish you every blessing this Christmas.”

There will be booklets available called **“A Journey through the 12 Days of Christmas,”** inviting readers to travel in the footsteps of the Wise Men this Christmas to meet Jesus. A booklet with daily reflections from Christmas Eve to Epiphany.

But however you journey this Christmas, let us reach out in this often confusing and divided world and invite another to walk with us.

Why not bring a friend along this Christmas to hear the message that God loves us?

It's something we all can do, for let us never underestimate the power of one kind word, one act of friendship, one caring gesture, one invitation.

I thank everyone who will work so hard to make Advent and Christmas a very special and meaningful time in St Peter's – our Musical Director, David and the Choir, Churchwardens, Parish Administrators, mulled wine servers and Christingle makers to mention a few!

The Christingle Services are always a very happy occasion on Christmas Eve. We do need volunteers to help make up the **600 Christingles!**

If you can spare some time on Christmas Eve morning there will be a team in the Bier House from 10am. Please do call in and give a hand.

Ted & I, along with Nathan & Poppy, wish you all a very happy, enjoyable and peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Anne





Bishop Paul's Christmas Message 2018

In the dark, small hours of the night, the time when our sleep is most disturbed as sombre thoughts invade our minds, a child is born. No ordinary child. A child born to banish the darkness and shining a light of hope into all our hearts.

On that night, fearful shepherds gathered around the child to worship him in wonder before going out to tell others. Shortly afterwards the child would be visited by wise people from the East, again worshipping him before heading off to share the news. And throughout his life Jesus would be encountered by many who reflected in wonder and then shared what they had seen.

Was there a common thread?

Of course. Everyone who encountered Jesus was transformed. Transformed in different ways. The shepherds found strength. The Eastern sages had their intellectual curiosity satisfied. The blind were given sight. The outcasts received friendship. The hungry fed. The poor given hope.

They were transformed. How were they transformed? An encounter with Jesus transformed them. How do we know they were transformed? Because they stepped up and spoke about that transformation. In other words they had an inner journey of encounter and an outer journey of proclamation.

Over the last year in the Diocese we have been developing our Rule of Life. I have been talking about both the inner and outer journey. The inner journey where we Pray, Read and Learn as we try to deepen our faith, and widen our understanding of what it means to know Jesus and to act as he did. The outer journey where we put that action into practice - we Tell, Serve and Give. In these ways we show what it is to be a disciple of Christ, part of a transforming movement that longs to make a bigger difference so that more people know Jesus and there is more justice in the world.

Because the world is longing for that justice. From the massive political uncertainties and conflicts between nation states, to the fearful parent wondering how they will feed their child. We see darkness surrounding us, we have our own pressures, the fears and stresses of the world engulf us. In such a world we need hope.

Some seek for hope in luxury, in the excessive commercialism of Christmas. Expensive presents, lavish parties, over-indulgence. Attempts to find release from the day to day. But as people of faith, we find hope in Jesus. In the precious Christmas gift who transformed the lives of those he encountered. Who can, and is, and will, and wants to transform you, and me.

I pray for you, friends, that you seek hope in Jesus, I pray that you encounter that living and transforming Jesus - and I pray you tell others about that Jesus in word and action, this and every day.

Churches Together in Formby Altcar & Hightown

FORMBY MUSICAL

NATIVITY

SAT 8th DEC

Formby Pool Gardens

2 performances with Entertainment from

11 a.m. G FORCE, FRESHFIELD, WOODLANDS & REDGATE SCHOOL CHOIRS

12.15 p.m. MAKE NOISE, MAKE NOISE 2, ST JEROME'S, ST LUKE'S & OUR LADY'S
SCHOOL CHOIRS & LIVE TO LEARN DRAMA GROUP



Free Entry

All Welcome



Distracted

Sometimes when we open the morning paper we are presented with a full-face drawing of a person wanted by the police. Recently there has been some amusement over the poor representation but all these portraits are shown full-face, staring straight at us. This is the usual way of presenting an image of a person, but the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool has put on an exhibition which takes a different approach.

Called "Between You and Me," it has given over a gallery to painted portraits of people not looking at you, the viewer. This can be disconcerting as you want to know what has caught their attention or what is on their mind as they are paying no attention to you. They seem to be saying that you are not relevant to their lives, certainly not at that moment. There is a narrative in the painting which you have to guess at, there being no clue as to what has made them look away.



Also in the Walker Gallery is a wonderful picture of the passion of Christ, the Master of the Aachen Altarpiece, painted in the early 1600's. Fixed to the back are two side panels. One of these shows a miracle, a pope is faced with a man saying that he does not believe in Christianity. The pope prays at the high altar for evidence to convince the man and Christ appears as a vision for all to see. The picture concentrates on the pope seeing the vision with two priests and patrons of the church, but the man to be convinced is not in the picture. But there, in the foreground, a young acolyte holding a candle is looking back behind him either distracted from what is going at the altar, or maybe he wishes to see if the vision has affected the atheist.

It can be disconcerting when the person depicted does not look at the viewer. We, the viewers do not matter, the distraction is too strong.

There is one portrait everyone hates and that is their passport photo, we are grateful it is only seen occasionally by an unknown official. This self-conscious approach as to how we are projected as an image to others probably interferes with how we want to be accepted; the portrait limits this.

There is a Renaissance painting which shows a child being handed over to an old man dressed in rich robes. The child is reaching towards him with delight and not bothered by the aged and disfigured face. This is part of the Christmas message for Christmas allows us to see the Holy Child and He is unconcerned as to how we look. We are accepted as we are by Him and the Holy Spirit.

Rod Jacques

Uganda Update

See below the result of our contributions to the parish project in Uganda! Pictured are some ladies from the women's project wearing their smart new glasses. A retired optician donated glasses & trained Revd Sheilagh Williamson to conduct basic eye tests – allowing the ladies to further utilise the light for their enterprises.

This, in addition to the electricity infrastructure that is currently being installed, will make a great deal of difference to the ladies, school & church. Thank you for all of your support – Sheilagh (after a visit in November) reported that the ladies were 'thriving' and 'all was going well with the school and church projects'.

The Uganda Committee (a sub-committee of the PCC) met this month to hear progress reports and consider some options going forward. A similar group, made up of representatives from the three groups in Uganda, also met to discuss their aims & objectives. With the instalment of electricity, it is hoped that a plethora of options will open up; assisting with the site's security and expand educational capability. Anne & Ted have received the names of those interested in a return trip next May and there will be more news in the February magazine. Ted is in regular email contact with Bishop Eridad in Kalule; who is fully supportive of our project and hopes the team will join him for a meal at 'his place' when we return.

We have also received some lovely pictures of the sports equipment being used by the school and we look forward to hearing from Sheilagh all the latest news. We can keep up our support here through talks, awareness and prayer.

Thank you to all who have raised or donated funds for the Uganda Project - To David and St Peter's Choir & friends for a wonderful concert for the Project raising nearly £1000; the Voices from the Churchyard team (£700) and TSP for a sponsored run on World Food Day for funds for the chicken project (£340) and for all the personal donations that have made such a difference. Thank you!

Nathan Thorpe



From the Church Registers

Sunday 25th November
Baptism of Vinnie Yearsley,
son of Nathan & Chelsea



Singing for Fun

November's Singing for Fun had more than a touch of 'Remembrance' as David Davies kindly led a packed room of enthusiastic singers!

On 3rd December we will be having our Christmas sing-a-long with guests Maggie & Mandy and on 7th January 2019 Peter Connor and SoS will be helping us banish the January blues.

We meet at 2pm in the Bier House, everyone welcome. Thank you to everyone who has helped make the group possible this year.

Vicky Hall

For further information please contact the Parish Office on 01704 871171 or stpetersformby@gmail.com.
Website: stpetersformby.co.uk





CHURCH LIBRARY

Read a Book for Advent

There are four books in the Church Library to help as we enter the season of Advent:-

“Walking Backwards to Christmas” Stephen Cottrell explores the Advent story through the eyes of some well - known characters.

“Do Nothing, Christmas is Coming!” also by Stephen Cottrell. For every day of Advent, Stephen Cottrell provides short, practical steps to help us slow down, take time out - and resist the pressure of the Christmas whirl.

“Advent for Everyone” A Journey through Matthew by the popular Christian writer and commentator, Tom Wright.

“Reflections for Christmas” by Steven Croft & Joanna Collicutt. This is a daily devotional companion throughout Advent.

If you would like to borrow a book or DVD please write your name in the register provided. The Library is situated in the Bier House. Take time to have a look.



Beer & Christmas Carols

Come along, sup & sing with the Choir and friends who will be carol singing in aid of the Samaritans.

**Tuesday 18th December
at 7.30pm
in The Grapes**

The more the merrier so please do join us.



Children start in church (10am) and then move to the Bier House for lots of fun. An adult comes with the child and can join in with the activities. All children are welcome though it is designed for the younger age group (up to Year 2).

Sunday Club Dates 9th and 16th December



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Saturday 19th Jan 2019 from 7pm

At **Holy Trinity Church Hall** Rosemary Lane, Formby, L37 3HA

Tickets: Adults **£10** Under 18's **£5** **Price includes Hot Pot Meal**

Please bring your own drinks and nibbles

Friends and family welcome

Raising funds for Christian Aid



Ethiopia – a new tour – 17-28th October 2019

I invite you on this McCabe pilgrimage to Ethiopia. It is a country of beauty and mystery whose Christian history reaches back to the beginning of our faith – the Queen of Sheba who visited King Solomon.



We will begin with a day in the capital Addis Ababa and then travel back in time to Axum, an ancient capital and supposed home of the Ark of the Covenant, Lilibella with its unique and famous rock hewn churches, and the castles of Gondar.

We spend a night in the Simien mountains and go on safari to see the Gelada Baboons before travelling to Lake Tara where we visit remote island monasteries by boat and the source of the Blue Nile.

For a brochure with full details please contact Revd Peter Paine, 01704 809517, peterspaine@gmail.com

Primetime

Primetime will be meeting on the following Wednesday evenings 7.30-9.30pm

December 19th - our Christmas Party in the **Bier House**. Contributions of food, drink and entertainment welcome - please let us know in advance.

January 16th - John Phillips from Formby Civic Society will talk about "The Old Cafes on the Shore" in the Parish Hall.

February 13th - date for your diary (1 week early to avoid half term!) in the Parish Hall.

£2 contribution per meeting suggested towards costs.

All ladies welcome, especially if joining us for the first time.



For further details call Sonia, Elaine or Ali on 833781 / 874635 / 879976



TIMEOUT

Men, Beer & Topical Issues!



I helped the Conservatives to stay in power in 1987!

With the recent news on the use of personal data to influence voter behaviour, you may think that this is a new phenomena. However in 1987 I led a team that collected, analysed and used constituents' personal information and concerns to help win the key marginal seats - learn how this was achieved in a pre-digital era.

**Speaker – Andrew Greenyer,
Raise the Roof Marketing & Churchwarden
Wednesday 5th December at 8pm in the Bier House**

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December Eco Tips – Alison Belford

How to be ECO friendly this Christmas

Decorations Choose sustainable materials. Rather than buying new decorations this year, revamp your old baubles and give your tree a whole new theme. By re-covering them with recycled papier-mâché or even newspaper, you can create a cheap, eco-friendly home spun look that saves money, packaging and energy. For an even more organic approach, why not use nature to decorate your home. Try using holly branches, berries and ivy. Another really special Christmas present idea is to dedicate a tree for someone.



Go to: woodlandtrust.org.uk/dedicateforchristmas

Wrapping paper Buy gift wrap made from recycled materials. Make your own gift wrap from cloth and other materials. Save wrapping paper from gifts you receive to use next year. Reuse boxes for shipping and gifts, rather than buying new ones.

Christmas cards As well as recycling the cards you receive in the post, why not get crafty with the kids and make your own eco-friendly Christmas cards to send. Use recycled card and envelopes and cut down on plastic packaging, or you can buy recycled cards if crafts just aren't your thing.

Limit Lighting Use LED Lights. These small Light Emitting Diodes use 80% less energy and last 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs, plus they're cool to the touch. Look for the Energy Star seal for ones with the highest energy efficiency rating. Turn Christmas tree lights on only when you're in the room to enjoy them.



Cleaning for Christmas visitors Use eco-friendly products such as "eco cover" and Delphi's eco, all the bottles are made from sustainable products and our recyclable too. They have the whole range from washing up liquid toilet cleaner to multi-surface cleaner.

Christmas Toy Appeal

Marie Curie Fundraising Group are asking for your support in helping with a local appeal for unwanted toys. The toys are needed to stock the Marie Curie shop ahead of Christmas. A donation of any unwanted toys and games in reasonably good condition would be very gratefully received.



These toys help families who cannot afford to buy Christmas presents in the large toy shops and also raises crucial funds for supporting families affected by cancer.

Please bring any toys along to any of the church services in December or leave into the Parish Office. Your help will bring joy and hope this Christmas.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC)

A brief report on the November meeting of St Peter's PCC

- **REPORT FROM ALLAN JONES, CHAIR OF GOVERNORS OF TRINITY ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL:**
This is an annual report covering the life of Trinity St Peter's School. The number on the school roll is 233. Governors – there are 14 Governors of which St Peter's two foundation governors are Paul McHenry and Allan Jones. St Peter's Diocesan governor is Sue Wong. Issue facing the school and Governors is the move towards Diocesan Multi Academy Trusts. This would not happen without full consultation with all concerned over a 12 month period. Admissions Policy – the admission criteria is being reviewed at present through a public consultation and will commence in September 2020.
- **VICAR'S ITEMS** — the Vicar plans to take study leave in 2020.
- **CHURCHES TOGETHER** - St Peter's have a vacancy to fill on this Committee.
- **UGANDA PROJECT** – as reported in the magazine.
- **REPORTS FROM SUB COMMITTEES**
 - **Finance:** Receipt of £20,000 legacy from the estate of Bob Fairburn was reported with thanks. Accounts and investments were looked at in detail.
 - **Fabric:** New item: Holly Trees – The holly trees on the path leading up to the main entrance to church are dead or are dying and will be removed next year.
 - **Faith and Outreach** – Singing for Fun has increased in numbers. Christmas Shoe Box Project was well supported. There will be Carol Services at St Joseph's Care Centre, Halcyon House and Woodlands Nursing Home with pupils from TSP.
 - **Horizons** – With the remaining funds the following will be sent donations - Claire House (£300); DEC Indonesia (£330) and Toilet Twinning, Zambia, (£360).
 - **Social** – future plans include a Table Quiz and Summer Fair in 2019.
- **ECO GROUP REPORT** – an up-date was presented.
- **DEANERY SYNOD REPORT** – A report on the Deanery Synod meeting of 2nd October was given.



St Peter's Shoebox Appeal 2018

This year's appeal has marked a turning point in St Peter's shoebox programme. For the first time we are sending boxes for older adults/pensioners alongside the children's boxes. And we are **still collecting items** to put into the boxes. The great teamwork by everyone has resulted in our sending 363 shoeboxes, so far. They are being distributed by International Aid Trust and we will try and find out their destination in the New Year.

In the meantime, we are now knitting the hats/gloves, etc., for next year. If anyone can spare some wool, please put it in the 'Shoebox Donation' box in the Bier House.

Many thanks to everyone who donated money, goods and time.

Vicky and Anne S



Trinity St Peter's
Y2 & Y5 children
Christmas shoe box
appeal



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS EVERYONE!

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE
UGANDA APPEAL



St Peter's Church, Formby



We wish you a joyful and peaceful Christmas

Happy Christmas from St Peter's Church.

With this greeting comes an invitation to join with us for any of our Christmas Services which are listed on the opposite page.

St Peter's is an inclusive church and welcomes all who wish to worship with us.

Christmas is a time to remember and to rejoice in God's love, and you will find a warm welcome in St Peter's.

Revd Anne Taylor, Vicar
Revd Nathan Thorpe, Curate



Christmas Services at St Peter's Church 2018

Sunday 9th Dec **2.30pm** **A Relaxed Christmas Service**
30 minute service for older people followed by refreshments

Sunday 16th Dec **6.30pm** **Carols by Candlelight**
followed by mulled wine & mince pies

Christmas Eve **3.00pm** **Christingle**
for pre-school & primary school age
4.30pm **Christingle**
for pre-school & primary school age
6.00pm **Christingle**
All-age service with choir
11.30pm **Midnight Eucharist**

Christmas Day **8.00am** **Eucharist (Traditional)**
10.00am **Parish Eucharist**



For further information please contact:
the Parish Office: 01704 871171
email: stpetersformby@gmail.com
or visit our website: www.stpetersformby.co.uk

Special Remembrance All-Age Parade Service



9th Formby
St Peter's Scout
Group

After the service the church bells rang marking the end of World War One.



1st Formby St Peter's
Brownie Group

Remembrance Sunday— The Armour of God



Trinity St Peter's pupils Act of Remembrance



At our meeting on 3rd November Nick Phillpot spoke on 'Mr. Bradshaw comes to Southport,' a history of the Liverpool to Southport railway line. The line opened in 1846 from Waterloo to Southport, then beginning to develop as a seaside resort, but was soon extended to Sandhills.

At first there were no comprehensive timetables published. George Bradshaw was a Quaker, born in Pendleton in 1800, who in 1836 began producing a series of comprehensive guides of all train times and prices. The first Southport line guide was published in the late eighteen-forties. Since then the line has followed the same track and the stations mostly remain in their original locations.

Freshfield was added in the eighteen-fifties when Thomas Fresh was Superintendent of Nuisances in Liverpool and arranged for night-soil from Liverpool to be brought to fertilise his fields at what became Freshfield. The line had a tremendous impact on the development of the Sefton coast. The two worst crashes occurred at Waterloo in 1903 and Hall Road in 1905. In the 1960s the line was earmarked for closure by Dr. Beeching but was reprieved. Today it is one of the most heavily used local lines in the country with a 96% record for punctuality. New coaches are now in production.

We are grateful to Nick for giving us such an interesting and informative talk.

Our next event is the Christmas agape lunch on Thursday 6th December, at 1.00 pm in the Parish Hall. **Please note date and time.** The entrance charge will be £1.50, to include wine and soft drinks.

On Friday 7th December there will be an MU Eucharist at 12.00 noon in the Cathedral Lady Chapel.

The Deanery Christmas Party will be held on Tuesday 18th December, at St Michael's, Blundellsands at 2.30 pm. Please bring a small, wrapped gift (approx. £2.00 - £3.00.).

At the branch meeting on Thursday 10th January, at 2.00pm in the Bier House, Peter Paine will be talking about the expedition he led to Bulgaria.

The AGM and Bring & Buy will be held on Thursday 7th February at 2.00 pm in the Bier House.

We have been informed by the Diocesan Office that the MU subscription for 2019 is £22.00. To this we add 50p, of which 30p goes to the deanery and 20p we retain, making a total of £22.50. It will be very helpful if you can pay this at the Christmas lunch by cheque made payable to 'St Peter's Mothers' Union' and handed to Tricia Shaw.

As members enjoyed the event last year, for our 2019 outing we have again booked a cruise with lunch on the Shropshire Union Canal from the Mill Hotel, Chester. This will be on Thursday, 4th June. As we have already paid a deposit in

order to secure a booking, if you intend coming could you please let Tricia have a cheque at the lunch on 6th December for £10.00 made payable to 'St. Peter's Mothers' Union' as a deposit. The total cost will be £25.00. Transport arrangements will be separate.

Items for our three projects will be collected at branch meetings:

- * *magazines, woollens, etc. for Seamen*
- * *cash for the yellow bucket in aid of holidays for disadvantaged children*
- * *toiletries for male refugees*

To ensure that the most needed toiletries are covered it has been suggested we should collect a specific item at each meeting. *Tooth-brushes* will be collected at the meeting on 10th January and *toothpaste* on 3rd February. Any toiletries that you have will of course be welcome.

As always, we welcome visitors to all our meetings. If you are interested in joining the MU, please telephone Herbert on 873367.

Finally, we wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Herbert and Jean



REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

**Each day you add an item to the box
and before Christmas Day you donate
the contents to a foodbank**



Lest we forget

Recently I watched a programme on television about the real Emmerdale, the village of Escholt where it was originally recorded. Escholt is the village where my Mother's family lived and as a child we visited an aunt there regularly. The programme was about the village during the World Wars and showed how the people lived then. My grandfather was in the battle of the Somme and as he came out of the battle for rest he met his son going in there. He knew what his son, my uncle Sam, was going into but could do nothing but pat him on the shoulder and wish him luck. They both survived but did not go back to Escholt as there were no jobs there.

Each November 11th we remember those who did not survive, but is it enough to stand for two minutes to think about those who died for our freedom; two minutes out of a whole year? There are many things and people who should be remembered by all of us. In every family in the land there is someone who stands out in our memories to be thought about and be thankful for. I was a very sick child and think with great affection of my old doctor, who came out to me day or night and stayed until all hours with me until I was on the mend. I remember my wonderful parents who had to scrimp and save to pay the doctor's bills, or I would not be here now. My teachers, who were very patient with me as I missed so much schooling and had to be taught in playtimes to catch up with the rest of the class, I often think of them with affection, but to them I suppose I was a pest who spoilt their break time. All these people, now long gone stay in my memory and prayers, but I don't forget what they did for me.



I remember the sick children I taught in the hospital, for they gave me such humility, as they never complained but were little stoics who accepted their treatment with no problem and just "got on with it."

It is time to recollect the most important reason to remember: the Christ Child being born in the stable. It is a joy for us all to remember.

Christmas, when Jesus came into all our lives. It is not just all the glitz and carols and overindulgence that we should remember, but the Hope and Love that He gave to us. Don't ever let us forget that.

Happy Christmas.

Martha.

Let's talk about

CHRISTMAS

MEMORIES

Come and join us as we remember Christmases of old and sing some Christmas songs together!

Saturday 15th December,

11am until 1pm

**St Luke's Church Meeting Room,
Formby**

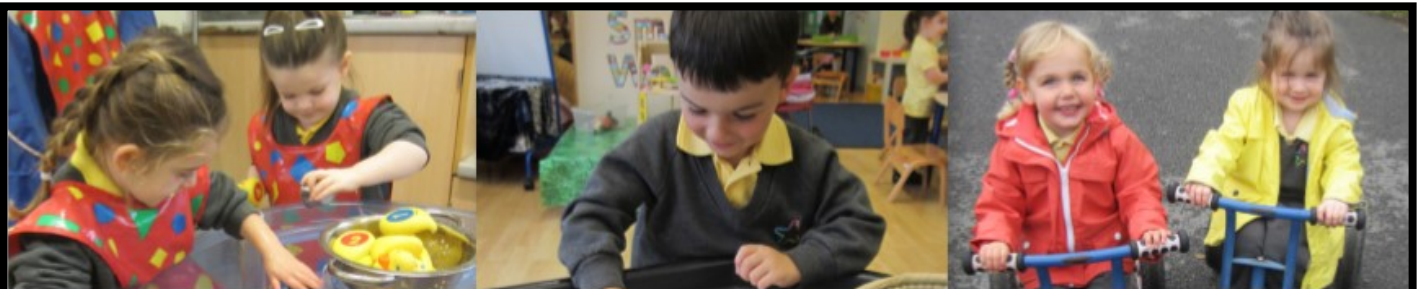
For more information please contact Sally Nicol on 01704 877655

DAA Dementia Action Alliance



CHRISTMAS TO-DO-LIST

- ~~buy~~ ^{BE} presents
- ~~wrap gifts~~ ^{SOMEONE IN A HUG}
- ~~Send gifts~~ ^{PEACE}
- ~~shop for~~ ^{DONATE} food
- ~~See~~ ^{BE} the lights



Here at Trinity St Peter's we are very proud of the way we do things! Our vibrant Foundation Stage and Wrap Around Care enables children to flourish and learn in a safe and happy environment. We are able to provide affordable, flexible, full-day care from 7:40am - 6:00pm, for children from the age of three and are now also offering the 30 hours provision.

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For further information, please phone: **01704 876391**;
email your enquiry to: **admin@tsp.sefton.school** or visit
the school's website: **www.trinitystpeters.org**



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

Caroline Speakman **Member of the Society of Willwriters**

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Phone: 07926 587776

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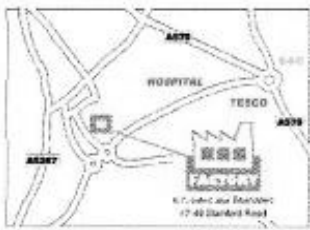
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Curate's Bad Joke Corner.....

What do you call a kid who doesn't believe in Santa?
A rebel without a Claus.

What is the popular Christmas carol in the Desert?
Camel ye Faithful.

Never catch snowflakes with your tongue until all the
birds have gone south for the winter.

Knock knock Who's there? Hannah. Hannah who?
Hannah Partridge in a pear tree.

Keep groaning!



Christmas Spirit

It was just before Christmas and the magistrate was in a happy mood. He asked the prisoner who was in the dock, 'What are you charged with?'

The prisoner replied, 'Doing my Christmas shopping too early.'

'That's no crime', said the magistrate. 'Just how early were you doing this shopping?'

'Before the shop opened', answered the prisoner.





A Politically Correct Christmas

~ Anon

Twas the night before Christmas and Santa's a wreck...
How to live in a world that's politically correct?
His workers no longer would answer to "Elves",
"Vertically Challenged" they were calling themselves.
And labour conditions at the North Pole,
were alleged by the union, to stifle the soul.

Four reindeer had vanished without much propriety,
released to the wilds, by the Humane Society.
The runners removed from his beautiful sleigh,
because the ruts were deemed dangerous on the highway,
And millions of people were calling the Cops,
when they heard sleigh noises upon their roof tops.
And as for his wife suddenly said she'd had enough of this life,
joined a self-help group, packed and left in a whiz.

And as for gifts...why, he'd never had the notion
that making a choice could cause such commotion.
Nothing of leather, nothing of fur.
Nothing that squeaked or made lots of noise.
And not for just girls and not for just boys.
No candy or sweets...they were bad for the teeth.

So Santa just stood there, dishevelled and perplexed,
he just couldn't figure out what to do next?
He tried to be merry but his sack was quite empty,
Acceptable gifts were not to be found.

Something special was needed, a gift that he might,
give to all, without angering the left or the right.
A gift that would satisfy - with no indecision,
each group of people in every religion.
Every race, every hue,
everyone, everywhere...even you!

So here is that gift, it's price beyond worth...
"May you and your loved ones enjoy peace on Earth."

From the Church Registers

Funerals

2 nd	November	Cynthia Jones
8 th	November	Thomas Grogan
16 th	November	Patricia Wilde
26 th	November	Cynthia Rogerson
7 th	December	Jean Pritchard



Interment of Ashes

28 th	October	Tony Warner
29 th	October	Joyce Rees
14 th	November	Mike Ward

Regular Church Services

Sundays

8.00am	Holy Communion (1662)
10.00am	Parish Eucharist (Coffee afterwards)
6.30pm	Choral Evensong

Service of Wholeness at 6.30pm - Sunday 9th December 2018
Sunday 27th January 2019

Weekdays

9.00am	Morning Prayer
	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday
11.00am	Wednesday Eucharist (excluding Boxing Day)
6.30pm	Eucharist 1 st Friday of each month
9.00am	Breakfast Church – 1 st Saturday of each month

We would like to include the announcement of births, engagements and special anniversaries etc. **so please let us know - alisonwhiffing@aol.com**

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 stpetersformby@gmail.com. This is a way to help us keep in touch.

Email addresses will be used only by St Peter's.

Woodlands Lodge Christmas Fair

Saturday 1st December 1.30-3.30pm

Everyone Welcome

Includes Mince Pies, Mulled Wine, lots of stalls, including a vintage one, Father Christmas, raffle etc.

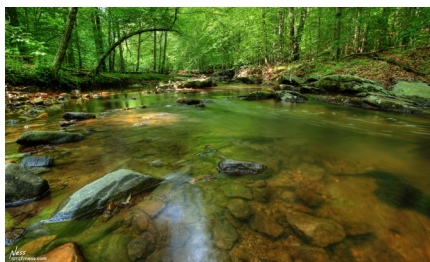


Woodlands Lodge is on Church Road
(opposite the fire station).

Formby Quiet Time

 1st Friday of the month 10.00am to 12 noon

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



Quiet Time is based on the Quaker tradition of silent worship. The meetings are open to everyone, of faith or no faith, who would like to come and share half an hour of peace and reflection with refreshments provided afterwards.

Sue Jacques

Church Flowers

Many people have special days in the year which they commemorate. Flowers on the altar of St Peter's Church can fittingly mark the special event of a birth, baptism, marriage or anniversary.



We invite you to remember your family and friends with a donation towards our Church flowers. Suggested donation is £20.

The occasion would be printed in the Sunday bulletin (if you would prefer not to be included in the bulletin, please let us know).

If you would like to make a donation for flowers on a particular Sunday here is what to do –

- ❖ Contact the Parish Office (871171) to check the date you would like is available. stpetersformby@gmail.com
- ❖ Once you have a date please send or deliver the details you would like on the bulletin and the donation to the Parish Office (Paradise Lane) or give to the Clergy.
- ❖ 'Gift Aid' can be added to your donation.
- ❖ Cheques made payable to 'St Peter's PCC'.

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



From the Back Pew Ted Woods

CLERICAL ODD-BALLS!

I've always been fascinated by the idiosyncrasies and foibles of clergy. Nearly all of them come from the past and there are fewer "characters" around today. In recent decades clergy selection and training has been more focused and harmonized resulting in more of a clergy jelly mould! Although some still are able to break free from it!

But church history provides a rich harvest of eccentrics and odd-balls.

The founder of the modern Harvest Festival was one such. The Revd Robert Harker was the vicar of Morwenstow in Cornwall in the 1800's. He was usually followed into church by nine or ten cats who clambered over pews and people during the service. He "excommunicated" one of his cats who killed a mouse at one of the services. Hawker forbade the cat to enter the church again. The church-going cats were not his only idiosyncrasy. He wore multi-coloured clothes in those days when clergy always wore black. His coat was purple, his gloves were scarlet and he wore a yellow poncho. He built himself a wooden hut out of driftwood – perhaps the first man-shed? – where he would sit for hours in a haze of opiates chattering away to the birds and writing nonsensical poetry.

Archbishop Trench of Dublin was a hypochondriac who also had the habit of talking to himself out loud. He expected that the first sign of impending death would be paralysis. Sitting at a reception one evening he could be heard declaring to himself, "It's come at last! It's come at last! I have been pinching my knee for the last 20 minutes and there is no feeling whatsoever." Whereupon the lady sitting next to him said, "Your Grace, it may be of comfort to know that these past 20 minutes it's been my knee you have been pinching!"

One of the most famous of eccentric clergy was the Revd William Spooner who was born in London in 1844. He is so well known for his verbal confusions that the word "spoonerism" has come into the English language. Announcing the notices in church one morning he said, instead of "I publish the banns...", "I banish the pubs!". - which didn't go down well with his thirsty parishioners. At a dinner one evening he was called upon to toast the Queen, which he did by raising his glass to "The queer old Dean" instead of "The dear old Queen."

After the last war Bertram Pollock, Bishop of Norwich, was largely responsible for the rebuilding of Norwich Cathedral. A dinner to celebrate the restoration work was held on the same day that the bishop's young wife gave birth to their first child. A very tired and exhausted bishop attended the dinner that evening and, not surprisingly, nodded off during the speeches. The final speaker ended by saying, "I am sure we would all like to congratulate the bishop and his wife on their most happy event earlier today." All eyes turned to the sleeping bishop. His chaplain shook him hastily and whispered, "My Lord, they are congratulating you." Bishop Pollock rapidly rose to his feet, and thinking they they were talking of his work for the cathedral, replied, "Please, please, ladies and gentlemen. I assure you that the Dean had as much to do with it as I did!"

So it was a great delight to be told of a new book that has been published called "A Field Guide to the English Clergy" by a Liverpool curate, the Revd Fergus Butler-Gallie. It's subtitled, "A Compendium of Diverse Eccentrics, Pirates, Prelates and Adventurers; All Anglican, Some Even Practising."

In it there is an Archbishop of York, Lancelot Blackburne (1658 – 1743) who began his career as a privateer in the Caribbean.

There is the Revd Ian Graham-Orlebar, a vicar in St. Alban's who travelled round his parish on a ride-on mower.

William Webb Ellis, to whom the game of rugby is attributed, was a breaker of many rules in school. Though the one he is famous for is having "a fine disregard for the rules of football." When he caught the ball, instead of kicking it backwards as the rules laid down, he ran forward placing it with a great flourish in the goal. And so rugby was born. He later became Rector of St. Clement Danes, a role in which he was "devastatingly unimpressive."

The Revd Jeremiah Carter was a curate in the early 18th century. In those days vicars were often absent from their duties, leaving their poorly paid curates to do all the work. Carter's stipend from his vicar was £20 a year, which didn't go too far as he had a wife and 13 children to support. He remedied the situation by becoming the landlord of the local pub and each Sunday after the morning service he would play his violin and lead the congregation, conga style, from church to pub where he exchanged preaching for pulling pints!

Yes, the church produced many odd-balls and misfits, and if you want to hear about more of them then read Fergus Butler-Gallie's book "A Field Guide to the English Clergy" published by OneWorld ISBN 978-1-78607-441-6. Could be one for your Christmas present list!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY –

December 2018



Saturday 1st 9.00am Breakfast Church
 10.30am Saturday Crew in Bier House
 11.00am Wedding of Gareth Martin & Jenny Oliver



Sunday 2nd The 1st Sunday of Advent

10.00am All Age Parade Service
 6.30pm Advent Carol Service (followed by sherry & shortbread)

Monday 3rd 2- 3.30pm Singing for Fun in the Bier House

Tuesday 4th 10.00am Bible Study Group *with Ken Ward* in Bier House

Weds 5th 8.00pm Timeout in the Bier House

Thursday 6th 1.00pm Mothers' Union Christmas Party & lunch (Parish Hall)

Friday 7th 9.15-11.30 Little Fishes in the Parish Hall

6.30pm First Friday Eucharist

Saturday 8th 11.00am Wedding Blessing for Matthew & Helen Thorpe

11.00am & 12.15pm Village Nativity



Sunday 9th The 2nd Sunday of Advent

10.00am Parish Eucharist & Sunday Club
 12 noon Service of Baptism for Sonny & Remi Clarke
 2.30pm Relaxed Service
 6.30pm Service of Wholeness

Monday 10th 10.45am Meditation in Bier House (restarts Jan 14th)

1.30pm Christmas Service in St Joseph's Day Care Centre

Tuesday 11th 10.00am Bible Study *with Ken Ward* in Bier House

Weds 12th 2.00pm WOW pre-school Service

7.30pm Bible Study *with Alison Woodhouse* in Bier House

Thursday 13th 2.00pm Halcyon House Carol Service – all welcome

Friday 14th 9.15-11.30 Little Fishes Christmas Party in the Parish Hall

Saturday 15th 5.00pm Wedding of Stuart Leyland & Barbara Smallwood



Sunday 16th The 3rd Sunday of Advent

10.00am Parish Eucharist & Sunday Club
 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight (Mulled wine & Mince pies)

Tues 18th 7:30pm Beer & Christmas Carols (The Grapes)

Weds 19th 9.00am Trinity St Peter's School Christmas Service in St Peter's

Thursday 20th 7.30pm Primetime Christmas Party in the Bier House

2.00pm Halcyon House Eucharist

3.00pm Woodlands Lodge Eucharist

Sunday 23rd The 4th Sunday of Advent



For all the details of the Services on Christmas Eve & Christmas Day see the centre pages.

Weds 26th No 11am Eucharist

Sunday 30th **The 1st Sunday of Christmas**
No Evensong

January 2019



Weds 2nd 11.00am Eucharist
Thursday 3rd 2.00pm Mothers' Union in the Bier House
Friday 4th 6.30pm First Friday Eucharist
Saturday 5th 9.00am Breakfast Church
10.30am Saturday Crew in the Bier House

Sunday 6th **The Epiphany**
Monday 7th 3.30pm Singing for Fun in the Bier House
Tuesday 8th 10.00am Bible Study Group *with Ken Ward* in Bier House



Sunday 13th **The 2nd Sunday of Epiphany**
10.00am Parish Eucharist & Sunday Club
Monday 14th 10.45am Meditation in Bier House
Tuesday 15th 10.00am Bible Study Group *with Ken Ward* in Bier House
Weds 16th 2.00pm WOW pre-school service
3.15pm Fishy Club begins again

Christian Unity Week – 18th to 25th January
Friday 18th 9.15-11.30 Little Fishes start back in the Parish Hall



Sunday 20th **The 3rd Sunday of Epiphany**
10.00am Parish Eucharist & Sunday Club
4.30pm Christian Unity Service at Elim Pentecostal Church
Monday 21st 10.45am Meditation in Bier House
Tuesday 22nd 10.00am Bible Study Group *with Ken Ward* in Bier House
Weds 23rd 3.15pm Fishy Club – after school club for Year 4 to 6
Friday 25th 9.15-11.30 Little Fishes in the Parish Hall

Sunday 27th **The 4th Sunday of Epiphany**
12noon Hot Dog Service for Children
6.30pm Service of Wholeness
Weds 30th 3.15pm Fishy Club





**THAT MOMENT WHEN YOU'RE
SO DESPERATE TO PROTECT
YOUR CHILD THAT YOU RISK
FLEEING TO ANOTHER COUNTRY**