

SHINE

Issue 1, April 2017

News from the parish communities of St Peter's, Hazel Grove and St Philip's, Offerton



CYMFFED
flame

Searching for more...





ST SIMON'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



30 HOURS' FUNDING FOR THREE AND FOUR YEAR OLDS FROM SEPTEMBER 2017



From September 2017 we plan to offer full-time and part-time Nursery sessions (during school hours). Combined with our Early Bird and Night Owl clubs this means that childcare for three and four year olds will be available on site from 7.30am to 6.00pm, Monday to Friday during term times. This could provide an affordable solution to your childcare needs. For further information on funding eligibility go to:

www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator or www.familyandchildcaretrust.org

Or contact school for further details on:

0161 483 9696 or sbm@st-simons.stockport.sch.uk



FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

Welcome to our new venture into publishing! An essential part of the life of any community is communication and our purpose in this magazine is to tell one another what is going on in our parish communities. Hopefully we will produce an edition of Shine three or four times a year but we shall see, because that will be up to you. Our first edition reflects a variety of activities that go on around our parishes either by individuals or parish groups. I know there are lots more things happening so do let us know.

We are very fortunate in St Peter's and St Philip's that so many people give so generously of their time and energy to keeping our parishes moving along and I thank all of you. Particular thanks go to those who have contributed to this first edition. I hope more will feel encouraged to share news, memories, stories and reflections in the future. Let your light shine and help others!

Fr Peter

Shining a light on our parish communities

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Shining a light on our parish communities



The Knights Templar of England & Wales

Here's a suggestion from Margaret Purcell you might find of interest.

Have you heard of The Knights Templar? Well, John and I are members. It is a Christian organisation and its aim is to lead a good life, help people and raise money for charities.

The organisation has a long and interesting history dating back to its origin in 1118, when nine knights who protected pilgrims in the Holy Land, lived in the palace of King Baldwin 11, on the site of Solomon's Temple; hence the name of Knights Templar.

If you are interested in learning more about this organisation, feel free to look up all the details on the website: www.knight-templar.org.uk.

Choirs achieve great things

In a wonderful feast of choral music at the Hazel Grove Musical Festival 2017 on Saturday 4 March, our choirs achieved great things!

St Peter's School Choir sang very well in the Junior Choir class in the morning, although they didn't win this year. Our church junior choir were, however, victorious in the Youth Choir class, retaining for the third consecutive year First Place in their class.

They were judged to have performed "with distinction" two contrasting pieces: I am the Bread of Life and Didn't it Rain, accompanied by Christopher Ellis and under the



direction of Eileen Rigg. As in previous years the Junior Choir were up against the James Goodwin Musical Theatre School who presented two strong and varied pieces.

Congratulations to them.

In the afternoon our adult choir came third in a closely contested

competition in which everyone thoroughly enjoyed taking part.

If you would like to join one of our prizewinning choirs you would be most welcome! Adult choir practices are held in St Peter's church on Thursday evenings from 8.00 until 9.30pm; junior choir on Fridays in term time from 5.45 until 6.30pm.

Thanks must be given to Eileen and Chris for all their hard work supporting music within our parish and most especially supporting our young people.

Here's to success once again next year. Look out for details in the parish newsletter and maybe you can come along to the Festival and support your choirs.

Jim Burns looks back.. ..and gives a brief history of St Peter's parish

The first Catholic church in Hazel Grove was a mission chapel in Commercial Road which had previously been the Mount Zion Chapel and was opened in 1897.

Hazel Grove was part of the parish of St Philip and St James in Edgeley, which became Our Lady and the Apostles in 1906. Clergy from Edgeley came to Hazel Grove on Sundays to celebrate Mass.

This became the nucleus of an identifiable Catholic community. As numbers grew, a permanent home was required and eventually the church was built in Green Lane. The official opening of the church took place on Sunday 12 April 1931.

In the news about this time were stories on themes such as the passing of a Bill which legalised the Sunday opening of cinemas. Opponents of this Bill vowed to continue to fight against anything that ruffled the calm of the Sabbath. The Empire State Building in New York was opened and the Budget in the UK added tuppence to the price of a gallon of petrol, increasing it to about 7 pence in today's money.

The hub of the parish activities was the hall. Activities taking place in the hall included dances, concert parties, wedding receptions and whist drives. The Union of Catholic Mothers and the Children of Mary held regular meetings in the hall.

In the early 1940s groups of children were evacuated from the Channel Islands and many of them came to Hazel Grove. These children were able to use the hall as their school.

The original structure of the hall was of timber which was replaced with what we have today. The new facilities were officially opened on 17 March 1965. The Parish Priest was Fr Thomas Osbyrne. He emphasised that the new facilities would be a meeting place for parishioners, a centre for activities and functions and a means of nourishing the community spirit within the parish of St Peter's. This is maintained up to the present day.

Farewells and welcomes

Since Christmas the following have had their funerals from St Peter's or St Philip's:

Alwyn Davies, James Holtom, Lois Parker, Mary Hayward, Eileen Pritchard, Charlotte Bell, Josephine Slavin, Alan Schofield, Barbara Binnie and Bernard Cosgrove.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

We welcome into the family of the Church the following who have been baptised at St Peter's or St Philip's:

Lily Witter, Carter Mark Burgess, Oliver Edward Daniels, Rocco James Howard, Chidike Jason Elope, James Anthony Handby.

For baptisms in either church contact Fr Peter.

Sheila Smith introduces the Friendship Group in Offerton.



Genuine and lasting friendship at St Philip's

St Philip's Friendship Group was initially formed after the refurbishment of the church when the porch was extended giving space for group meetings.

It began as a craft group but, through ill health and deaths, the numbers decreased and other people seemed reluctant to join, pleading they had no skills. A skeleton group continued and, in 2009, the meetings were changed

from afternoons to Friday morning from 10 til 12 noon. By mutual agreement we renamed as The Friendship Group.

Everyone is welcome and we have become a truly ecumenical group. The first Friday of the month we prepare and share a soup lunch; significant birthdays are also marked. Everyone is encouraged to share any skills they have, practical or social, however small; a smile, a chat, preparing a quiz,

playing whist or board games, knitting, crocheting, jewellery and card making, painting, folding the parish newsletter or just simply listening over tea, coffee and biscuits.

Everything is quite informal. During school holidays we have visited Bury, Bakewell and Manchester markets, we've been to Etherow and Marple parks, to Moseley Street And Whitworth art galleries, to Southport in the

summer and for our annual Christmas dinner at a variety of venues.

There have also been occasional visits to Manchester for a Chinese meal! The choice of activities is endless, friendships are formed and no one is left feeling isolated.

**Why not come and join us?
You'll be sure of a
friendly welcome!**

WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE MASTER

Our very own Fr Peter shares his thoughts on his recent trips to the Holy Land with members of our and many other parishes.

Every day I read a passage from the gospel at Mass. It may be a parable or some teaching of the Lord or it may be an account of something he did at a particular place. You do your best to imagine what it would have been like, but it is really only when you go to the land where Jesus himself walked, that the whole Christ event really comes to life.

Walking through the Garden of Gethsemane and brushing past the ancient olive trees you wonder, 'Did the Lord pick an olive off this branch or did he just brush past it?' – some of the trees are old enough. Then we can spend some time in quiet prayer by the rock of Gethsemane in the Church of All Nations. Walking along the streets and passageways of the old city of Jerusalem and praying the Way of the Cross we get a glimpse of what it might have been like on that Good Friday.

The people go about their business with all the din of the traders and market stalls rushing to get their business done before the start of the

Sabbath and you can imagine the Lord carrying his cross through these same streets; just another criminal on his way to Golgotha.

At the end of the Way of the Cross is the Church of the Holy Sepulchre which commemorates the death and resurrection of the Lord. Here all the Christian groups meet and, it has to be said, rival each other and vie with each other for slots for their various celebrations and processions. At least in 2016 they agreed that the Tomb could be repaired and when we were there in November it was shrouded in scaffolding as the work of repair and restoration went on. The most important site for the Jewish religion is the Western Wall where the Jews still go to pray and where Pope John Paul 2 prayed during one of his visits. A visit there is a must for any pilgrim to Jerusalem, if only to pray for peace.

Then there is Galilee. Enter the ruins of the synagogue in Capernaum and just a few strides away is the house where Jesus cured Peter's mother in law. Above this house a modern

church has been built and where we celebrated Mass on our last visit in November 2016. It is quite remarkable to think that we were celebrating Mass just above where Jesus had spent some time with his friends. Along the shores of the lake are the various places associated with the ministry of the Lord: the Church of the Primacy, the place of the multiplication of the loaves. Then there is the Mount of the Beatitudes, and as well, of course, the lake itself. Out on the lake we can look around and see the mountains that the Lord himself looked at or we can take a short ride to Mount Tabor and climb the mountain of the Transfiguration in the footsteps of the Master with Peter, James and John.

Nazareth was the home of Mary and Joseph at the time of the Annunciation and a huge basilica commemorates the great mystery of the incarnation when Mary gave her consent to become the Mother of the Saviour. It was in Nazareth that the Holy Family lived and where Jesus lived until he began

his public ministry of preaching and healing. A visit to Galilee will always include Cana where the water was changed into wine and there are lots of shops selling Cana wine, but be warned – it is an acquired taste! Cana is a place where many married couples will come to renew their wedding vows.

From Nazareth Mary and Joseph had made their way to Bethlehem for the census and it was here that the child was born. The place is commemorated by a simple star set into marble and made holy by the constant flow of pilgrims down through the ages. How sad that the birthplace of the Prince of Peace is now a place where there is persecution and harassment of his followers. When you go through the wall that divides Israel from the West Bank you go to poverty and a constant struggle to make ends meet. Here in Bethlehem the University, run by the

The place where Jesus was born is commemorated by a simple star set into marble and made holy by the constant flow of pilgrims down through the ages



Rock of Gethsemane in the Church of All Nations



The Western Wall where the Jews still go to pray



A basilica commemorates the great mystery of the incarnation



Our diocese is organising a pilgrimage to the Holy Land at the end of October for young people (17-25) 22nd – 29th and for more mature people 23rd – 30th. Details and downloadable brochures and booking forms are available from the diocesan website.
www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/news/local-news/diocesan-noticeboard

Why do I go to Lourdes?

Many people ask me why I return to Lourdes again and again each year and what I enjoy and get out of the pilgrimage. I always reply with the same response: "I really don't know how to explain it!" Lourdes is a place that really has to be experienced, but I'll have a go at describing it...

The pilgrimage is not just about the week in Lourdes. Preparation for the year starts shortly after we return from the previous trip, with our annual group social and

catch-up in September. The group meets regularly throughout the year to organise and hold fundraising events that helps subsidise the cost of the pilgrimage for the group.

After the departure Mass the pilgrimage begins. A coach takes us to Dover where we catch a ferry to Calais, finishing our journey by train through France. The journey overland takes over 20 hours but despite the length, it's a great opportunity to get to know the group better and to begin making lasting

James Walker reflects on his many years' visiting Lourdes and gives us an insight into the work involved.

friendships. Once we've arrived in Lourdes, we have the evening to settle in and get to know the town.

Each day begins by meeting outside the hospital, starting the day with a prayer and finding out the plan for the day. It's here we are buddied up with another volunteer and meet our VIP pilgrim whom we look after for the day. Our days can include any kind of working on the hospital ward: cleaning, serving meals, helping the VIPs get ready, taking the hospital VIPs out for the day –

or we might be allocated hotel duty. Hotel duty is where we take our more independent VIPs out for the day; they don't need the assistance of the medical team but require assistance in getting around, which is where we come in.

Throughout the week we participate in Masses, services, processions, passage through the grotto and we have an opportunity to visit the baths. The one I personally look forward to is the Hospitality Mass. After three years' service, volunteers

are enrolled into the Shrewsbury Hospitality at a celebratory Mass to recognise their ongoing hard work and dedication to the sick.

Whilst in Lourdes, the volunteers work really hard and there are some long days too. So, the evenings off duty are often spent socialising with the others from the diocese and taking time out to reflect. I always look forward to visiting the grotto at night on a few of the evenings; it's a perfect opportunity to spend time with the group.

Despite feeling exhausted at the end of the week, it is so incredibly rewarding. You meet some amazing people, all with a story to tell, and I have been privileged to have made a number of lifelong friends from both within the group and from all over the diocese.

I would like to thank each and every one of you for your generosity and continued support over the years and, as always when we take time out to reflect at the grotto, we will remember your intentions.



St Peter's Hazel Grove in Lourdes, 2016



Preparing to go to Lourdes

*Helen Lyons reflects on her involvement in Lourdes, working with our young people. She has been inspired to help. **Are you?***

In 2006 I took my Mum to Lourdes. My daughter Sarah had been going on the pilgrimage for six years and every time she came back, she would encourage us to go another time.

I went as a pilgrim and came back as the next Group Leader.

Anne Rogowski had done it for ten years and was moving on, so Father Pat, who was also moving on, asked me to take over. I had been so impressed with the young people, the way they worked so hard, their loving, caring attitude towards the people they were helping and to each other. It was such a wonderful experience so I didn't hesitate to accept. The following year I shadowed Anne and then took over with the help of other leaders in 2008.

It was a large group that year as it was the 150th jubilee of the apparitions of Our Lady. Lourdes was extremely busy and we all worked hard, but it was so rewarding. The group did the Hospitality Service, where volunteers who have been going for three years get their Hospitality Medal. We were all so proud of them as it was done so well and in such a dignified way.

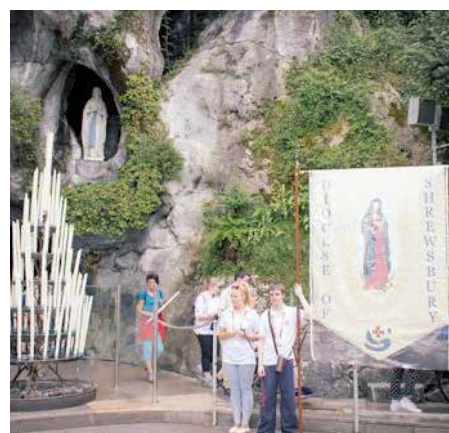
Helping to run the group does not just involve the week in Lourdes but a whole year of fundraising to help with the cost of the pilgrimage. We are so blessed at St Peter's because the parishioners are so generous. We have held some wonderful events that have been well attended and enjoyed by family, friends and parishioners.

All good things come to an end and I have decided, after 10 years, to step down as a Group Leader and after this year will be going as a Mature Helper. It has been a privilege to work with the wonderful youth of St Peter's and those from surrounding parishes and also the other Leaders and Mature Helpers who go on the pilgrimage.

It isn't all hard work. We have time in the evening to sit and relax with each other outside our hotel, or someone else's hotel, with a drink or a trip down to the grotto at midnight when it is so quiet and peaceful.

I would recommend the role to anyone who enjoys working with young people, who appreciates the camaraderie of like-minded people in a holy place where time to go to Mass and to pray is always plentiful.

If you are inspired to know more, Helen would be delighted to oblige. You can contact her by Email at helenlyons1957@hotmail.co.uk or by phone on 07854 928072



Manchester to Mumbai

Tom Mercer shares his recent experience in India.

I attend Aquinas College in Stockport and last month I travelled to India with a group of students and teachers to visit schools and work with some of the children. It was a long journey and we arrived in Mumbai nine hours after leaving Manchester. As we stepped out of the airport, the heat hit us like a wall – and can you believe bright sunshine in February? I was astonished as I saw all the vivid colours everywhere, even the buses and lorries were decorated with bright colours and flowers. People waved and smiled at us as we travelled to our hotel and the drivers in the busy traffic were sounding their horns loudly.

The Prem Dam charity school is run by nuns for children aged between 4 and 5. The children live in the slums where conditions are awful. There is no running water and the families are poor, have little to eat and often do not speak English. For people to get out of poverty in India it is important for them to speak English. This helps them to get a good job and helps them and their families to



leave the slums. The Garden school and others like it, teach the children English for one year. When they are aged six, if they pass an exam and they can find someone to sponsor them, they can go to an independent school and receive an education.

Some of the other schools in Mumbai are situated in the slums. The lack of health and safety surprised me. Children had to climb steep metal stairs, with no rails, to get to their classrooms. Teachers worked for free and there was no paper or pencils to use, just blackboards and chalk.

Since September, we had raised money by doing sponsored walks,

cake sales, car washes and more. We used the money we had raised to buy lots of felt tips, glitter, paper, masks, paints, scissors, glue, books, face paints, sports equipment, pens and pencils. We took large trunks full of these things to each school we visited in India. We did crafts, painted pictures and decorated masks. We painted the children's faces and they painted ours too! We played games and had sports matches. The children really enjoyed our visit, but we had an amazing time too. The Indian people have very little. They do not have the latest iPhone or new trainers but they are all very happy! They smile and laugh and enjoy life.



The Justice and Peace group at St Peter's continues to be very busy and recently they have reacted to local needs in our community, in a BIG way.



Our new refugee friends invited us to their New Year celebrations held in the parish centre.



It is often said that the Lord works in mysterious ways – and this was never more true than the way He chose to introduce our parish community to asylum seekers when they found themselves lodged in our locality. The encounter started in September 2015 with the appearance of just one young man at the first meeting of “The Gift” programme in the parish centre.

When the meeting was over, a parish member, seeing the young man alone, went over to talk to him. You can imagine his amazement (and sympathy) when he learnt that the young man was an asylum seeker, staying in a hotel within the parish boundaries, along with another hundred or so desperate people who had fled their homelands in fear of their lives. All the time the parishioner spoke with him the young man was

descended on us in such numbers? But, where there's a will there's a way – and the will to help was definitely there.

To begin with of course, we had no resources whatsoever, so we approached our parish priest for some start-up funding. Next, we enrolled one of the asylum seekers, who had excellent English, into our planning group and he went among the rest to draw up a list of the most desperate needs.

Our helper differed from most of the other asylum seekers in that he was not without personal funds and he had his wife and two children with him. At home in Pakistan he had lived the high life as a successful banker, working for some years in Dubai before settling back home. He was also something of a local celebrity as a cricketer.

We set up a volunteer planning group and we advertised our needs widely. Donations of clothes and funds poured in; clothes racks, hangers, shoe rails, plastic boxes, covers, labels and, most importantly, volunteer sorters. We were truly astonished by the magnificent generosity and compassion shown not only from our own parishioners, but from people far and wide, our sister parishes, our local Christian churches, our schools and colleges and the wider community. We built up an especially close friendship with Dialstone Methodist Church whose community cared for the needs of women and children, whilst we looked after the men.

Within two or three weeks we had a slick operation going in the parish centre. Our asylum seeker friends were able to walk down from their lodgings

During Advent 2015, the parish community raised £2000 to contribute to the work of Boaztrust, a Christian charity serving destitute asylum seekers and refugees across Greater Manchester.

each week and have their most urgent need for winter clothes attended to, as well as receive basic toiletries.

The funding we gathered meant we were able to buy a continuous supply of trainers, underwear and toiletries. Each new visitor was given a plastic bag containing soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush, razor, new socks and a pair of new underpants.

It was also a place to drop in for a cup of tea, friendly smiles and conversation, as we had two wonderful helpers fluent in some Middle Eastern languages. Our male volunteers assisted the men upstairs to find clothes and trainers of the right size, whilst downstairs our female helpers distributed plastic bags, tea and biscuits and friendship. Each week saw between 20-25 asylum seekers come to the store, though one week we were completely overwhelmed when we had 60!

We heard many heartbreaking stories during these visits. One young man had lost the toes on one foot from frostbite as he escaped over the mountains in his flip flops; another was blind in one eye, having been hit by a bullet ricocheting off a building as he ran away.



Blessed by the arrival of asylum seekers

beaming. His reason for this was that at last he was 'safe!' Our new friend's name was Deusdedit which he told us in English meant 'Gift of God' – and here he was turning up unannounced in our parish centre! The significance of this was not lost upon us.

Next day a couple of us went down to the hotel to see what we might do to help as a community. It was a fairly chilly day and we were shocked to see large numbers of people milling about wearing only T shirts, shorts and flip flops. The people in charge of them at the hotel told us that this was all they had. They had fled their homes with only what they stood up in, so it would be a great help if we were able to get them some warmer clothing and especially footwear more suitable for the autumn and winter weather that lay ahead. They usually stayed at the hotel for a week to ten days, so that would give us opportunity to be of use. However, we were told any help given needed to be given off the hotel premises!

Initially of course we were totally nonplussed. How were we going to clothe these 'gifts from God' that had

His big fall from grace was when he gave up his Muslim faith and became a Christian. He lost his work and his status in the community and finally the death threats came. If he did not leave, he, his wife and his children would all be killed – so he had to flee. He was such an impressive man and his help was invaluable. We did have some amusing situations and some struggles when we went into Stockport with his list to do the shopping. His culture made it hard for him to accept women had the same status as men, so he found it hard to go shopping with two women who were as forthright as he and who stopped him when he was going outside our budget! When it was time to go to the tills he did everything he could to avoid going to a till operated by a woman, but had to laugh when it was our turn with a male operative, who smiled at us, said it was his lunch break, shut down his till and directed us to the next female operative. He agreed with us on the way home that he would have to get used to this equality of status! Once the community became aware of the desperate situation only down the road, the response was phenomenal.



A poster thanking our parish community for all the clothes we sent out to Kurdistan.

Many had no idea what had become of other members of their families. One particularly moving event occurred near Christmas when into the centre came a beautiful young woman accompanied by her very protective husband. They were Christians who had fled from persecution. She was heavily pregnant and spoke hardly a word of English, but she blessed us with her lovely shy smile. It was a sort of heart-stopping depiction of the visit of Mary and Joseph to the inn before the Nativity. We asked her through sign language and the odd word if she had a name for the baby. “I no know” she said, “I look in Bible.”

In addition to all the donations of goods that continued to flow in, during Advent 2015 the parish community raised £2,000 to contribute to the work of Boaztrust, a Christian charity serving destitute asylum seekers and refugees across Greater Manchester.

Abruptly our store came to a close after nine months' operation.

Continued next page >>>

Almost overnight the asylum seekers were moved out of the hotel to another some miles away. There was some talk that they might be back so we left the store ready for some months for immediate re-opening. For a number of weeks we sent trainers and toiletries to the hotel in Wigan where the asylum seekers were now lodged, but eventually we were informed it was impossible to distribute goods anymore as they were being moved on almost as soon as they arrived. In our community we were left with mounds of usable clothes and some funding, and no refugees to support. We were quite desolate about this.

Then we had another visit; this time from the husband of our Kurdish friend who had acted as an interpreter whilst our store had been in operation. He was part of the Manchester based Kurdish Charitable Association and the association was desperate for clothing for the refugees who were pouring out of Mosul and into a hillside camp in their homeland. Winter was approaching and many of the people would freeze to death if something wasn't done for them as the camp was composed only of tents.

Our team was called back into action. All of us were delighted at the prospect of our store once again being put at the service of the most vulnerable and needy. In a very short space of time we had cleared the store (and the store down at the Dialstone Methodist Church) and packed over 65 large containers of clothing ready to be taken overland to Iraq and the hillside refugee camp. Men from the Kurdish community were driving the van and they arrived one Saturday to take away all our stock. Some of our funds were used to help pay for the petrol for the journey. The Kurdish community were so grateful for our support both of asylum seekers and the refugee camp near Mosul that they arranged a special celebration to which all those who had helped were invited. We had a wonderful evening together and were overwhelmed by their warmth and generous hospitality. All In all, we felt well pleased with the way we had responded to the 'gifts from God' that had found their way into our community. It felt like a job well done – service offered and nothing wasted.



Teaching English to some of the Kurdish refugees

However, we soon discovered the Lord hadn't finished with us yet. Some weeks ago our Kurdish friends approached us again. We learnt there was quite a community of Kurdish people who now had refugee status living in the area and they were desperate to learn English. Some of them had been here a number of years and had never had a conversation with a native speaker. They asked us if we might be willing to give them some English lessons as they could not afford to pay for those

One of our refugees gave up his Muslim faith and became a Christian. He lost his job and received death threats, he, his wife and his children would all be killed, so he had to flee.

available to them. It is truly astounding what skills and talents can be found within the community, and with what generosity they are shared! Now, each week between 8-10 women come to the parish centre to extend their knowledge of English and have a great deal of fun in the process. Our class is led by a hugely talented retired drama teacher who carefully prepares what is to be covered each week and is then supported in its delivery to the class by a band of voluntary 'learning companions' who give one to one support to the students. We all enjoy it very much and get as much out of these shared experiences as the students themselves.

One member of the class is a young girl who hopes ultimately to become a medic, but unfortunately her education was interrupted when she and her mother had to flee Syria. We discovered she was enrolled on a GCSE course that was run entirely on the internet.

She had no text books and all written work had to be submitted via the web. Imagine our astonishment when we discovered she had no computer and was trying to follow the course using the screen on her mobile! Some of our remaining funds allowed us to purchase a second-hand lap top for her, which gave her the greatest happiness. Most recently we have discovered that the De Paul Trust has a home in Rochdale especially for unaccompanied refugee children and it was to here that we donated the rest of our refugee funds.

Recently our new refugee friends invited us to their New Year celebrations held in the parish centre. We ate their wonderful food and were taught their celebratory dancing and together we had a wonderful evening. They were delighted when the SPY (St Peter's Youth) group came in and celebrated with them. It is obvious in our conversations that they get great pleasure from our efforts to reach out to them in friendship.

Our interaction with asylum seekers and refugees in the last couple of years has been an immense gift and blessing to our own community. It has given us larger hearts and greater understanding and compassion. Friendships have been forged between us that will, we hope, continue on into the future. We have, in effect, proved to be gifts to each other.

Mary's corner

- + Sit down in a quiet place.
- + Take some time. Don't rush.
- + Enjoy reading this Easter reflection by Mary Hardiman.
- + She always looks at the Scriptures in an interesting, thought provoking and inspiring way.
- + Chances are, you won't just read this once..

Jesus meets Mary Magdala

From John 20:11-18 NIV

Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have

put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabbuni" which means Teacher. Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

In John's gospel, Mary of Magdala or Mary Magdalene was the first to see Jesus after his resurrection. Why her? I recently read an account that by Lake Galilee there was a Roman camp called Magdala. If this is true, then Mary of Magdala would therefore have been Mary of the Roman Camp. Her status as a woman would have been low enough, but her connection with the Roman soldiers, the enemies, would have made Mary an object of contempt and derision among the Jews of the time. I am not at all surprised that Jesus loved her.

Mary had followed Jesus to Golgotha. She would likely have

- + heard of his arrest
- + seen him bound and shackled
- + witnessed his scourging
- + listened to the crowd baying for his death
- + watched him fall under the weight of the cross
- + seen him crucified.

Mary saw firsthand the ignominious death of her Lord, brutal and wicked. She saw him endure the cruelty in silence, punctuated only by words of love, mercy, healing and forgiveness.

How must Mary have felt? Impotent, afraid, bewildered? And yet how much courage did it take this woman to walk with Christ to his death? And now that she can do something for him, that opportunity is denied to her. There is no body to anoint for burial, no chance to perform this one last service for the lover of her soul.

No wonder Mary is weeping.

We read that Mary stayed outside the tomb. Why did she stay? Peter and John had arrived, seen, believed and gone home. But something was compelling Mary to stay. What was it? Simple. Mary stayed because she had a divine appointment with Jesus, pencilled into the celestial diary at the beginning of time. Somehow Mary sensed that. She had learnt to listen to the still, small voice of God, inviting her to believe the impossible.

The angels ask her why she is weeping. 'They've taken my Lord away and I don't know where they have put him.'

Where do we put Jesus? Sometimes we take the Lord away and put him somewhere. Fear, embarrassment, frustration or self-will can cause us to hide Jesus away. And you see, when we do that, then it just means that others who may be searching for him, can't find him.

But Jesus will always come and find us, just like he does here; not in a flash of blinding light or a blaze of glory, just gently, unobtrusively. Again Mary is asked, 'Woman, why are you weeping?'

Who said the gospels aren't funny? Mary thinks Jesus is the gardener! How has that happened? And not only that, but she offers to go and get Jesus' body herself! How exactly was she going to do that I wonder? I imagine the disciples all having a good laugh about that afterwards – I hope they did!

So many things can blind us to the presence of Jesus in our midst. But the beautiful part of this story for me is that Mary recognised his voice. How? Because Mary had spent time with the Lord. She'd listened with her heart. He only had to say her name and she knew exactly who he was. Rabbuni, teacher. This two word exchange is so significant, so profound. Think about it. Jesus doesn't need our long winded explanations of what we want, our shopping list of needs. We complicate it; he keeps it simple.

So maybe you could try this during Eastertide: Go out into your garden or to the local park. If you can't get out then simply look out. It doesn't matter where you are or how you're feeling because, as we've seen, Jesus will meet us where we're at. Let him call your name, respond with the word Rabbuni and see what happens.

Then go and tell somebody about it. . . Happy Easter!!



DON'T WALK BY ON THE OTHER SIDE!

Hazel Grove is a wonderful community, a busy district with plenty of amenities and friendly people. During the day the A6 is busy with traffic, with people shopping, meeting up and hurrying from A to B.

In the evening, Hazel Grove has a great reputation for its nightlife, with an abundance of cafés, restaurants, bars and takeaways. It is a magnet for people from all over Stockport and further afield who come to the 'strip' and experience the atmosphere. Most of the revellers and visitors enjoy a great night - but for some, the night can end in distress, danger and violence.

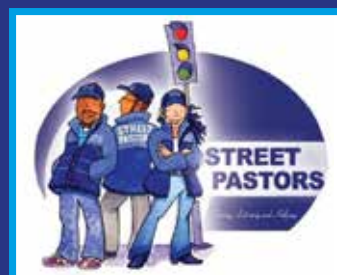
This is where the Stockport Street Pastors come in, helping the vulnerable, stopping things from escalating and offering a listening ear when people want to share their troubles.

What Are Street Pastors?

Street Pastors is an initiative of the Ascension Trust and was pioneered in Brixton in 2003, when gang and knife violence was a real problem.

There are now 11,000 trained Street Pastors, and they play an active part in 270 towns and cities around the UK. And since December 2016, they're now in Stockport too!

Street Pastors are trained volunteers from local churches, who engage with people on the streets to care for them, listen to them and help them. They work together with other partners in the night-time economy to make communities safer. They co-operate with the police and local authority



to identify the hot spots in the town where vulnerable people congregate.

Stockport police recommended Hazel Grove as the most appropriate place to set up Street Pastors.

A Day in the Night of a Street Pastor

A snapshot of a typical night patrol: they open their base at 10 pm on a Saturday night (in the United Reformed Church (URC) off Commercial Road, just a few steps from the 'strip' and the entrance to the Bamboo Club). After a brief time of prayer, they collect their packs and

head out onto the streets, leaving the Prayer Pastor who remains at the base, maintaining contact with the team by phone and providing prayer cover throughout the night.

As the team starts the early part of the patrol, they develop their relationships with the owners of the various bars and food outlets and converse with those on the streets. There is rarely any serious problem before midnight. To give practical help, their packs are equipped with first aid kits and a mini dustpan and brush to sweep up glass. They also have a stash of water bottles for those who are dehydrated and flip flops for those ladies who can no longer cope with their high heels! In their pockets are sweets - and especially lollipops. All these small items help to 'break the ice' so that it's easy to start conversations and defuse aggression; it is difficult to be mouthy and argue whilst sucking on a lollipop.

As the night goes on, there will be longer interactions with people. One example would be a teenage guy under the influence of drink and drugs and at risk of getting into trouble. Why was he drinking? His sister had just died of cancer and he couldn't cope with the grief. Another example would be a young lady freezing and collapsed, semi-conscious, outside a night club

and therefore extremely vulnerable: her friends had moved on, but we were able to help her get safely home.

Sadly, there are often results of violent outbursts such as a man laid on the pavement awaiting an ambulance. Our newest recruit ended up kneeling on the wet pavement for almost an hour to comfort him until the ambulance arrived.

Now we are in operation, the police have become very supportive and encouraging. We can intervene before things get serious and avert incidents before they escalate into a police matter.

Why do we do it?

The most frequent question asked of us is "why are you doing this?". Our answer is simply "because we care".

By helping people, listening to their problems, we show as well as tell that God loves and cares for them.

The people out on the streets late at night are unlikely to be sitting in church on a Sunday morning, so this is one way they can hear about the love of Jesus. And often the reason they are out drinking is to mask a deep need in their life.

So being available to talk in the midst of their problems means people are open to listening. How else will they hear of God's love?

And even the practical tasks - clearing the broken glass, removing discarded bottles and glasses, clearing up, caring for the sick, ensuring people get safely home - they show God's love.

How could you help?

We are now a growing team of Street Pastors and new trainees but we also need a small group of Prayer Pastors who would be willing to join the team. We would really welcome your prayers and would love to give you more information if you are interested.

One final thought: once we know of a problem, can we be too busy and look away, ignore them and leave it to somebody else? Or do we cross the street and care for them?

If you'd like to get in touch, please call Peter Rodger on 07894 585952 or Karen Jordan on 07974 024288.

The preparation course began in the parish in May 2015. This followed training sessions run by the LPA to ensure the same course was offered by all local parishes. Since then, we have had 74 babies, young children and their families attend the course.

The course runs for three weeks in the parish centre after the 10 am Mass on Sunday. The first week begins with the families being introduced to the parish during the Mass. The response of the parish has been lovely to see and the families have commented on how welcome they have been made to feel, and how surprised they have been at how accessible and enjoyable Mass is, despite juggling babies and toddlers!

A testimonial from the most recent course:

“For someone who has never been to Mass, I felt very welcomed and was not made to feel uncomfortable in any way or at any point. They’re a very nice team.”

During the sessions we discuss the role of the parents as the first teachers of the faith. We listen to their own experiences from childhood and discuss suggestions for sharing their faith, whilst clearly stating that we are not the experts! It is a delight and privilege to be able to spend time with these young families and they are very appreciative of the time that is put into preparing them for the sacrament – not forgetting the crèche run by Ruth, Clare and Charlotte that allows them a little bit of thinking time. As well as the knowledge about the sacrament of baptism, the families gain a sense of the vibrant and welcoming community to which they belong and it is particularly lovely to see so many of the families from the last two years attending Mass and parish events.

New team members are always welcome, so if you’d like to help in any way, contact Karen on 07939 052357.

Anne-Marie Galogly, Karen Haines and Elaine Rhodes run the course to help families prepare for the baptism of a family member. Anne-Marie explains a little about it.



Preparing for baptism



Melanie and Andy will be baptised this Easter

Hello, I’m Melanie. I’ve been coming to St Peter’s with my partner Andy and our daughter Amber for around 11 months now and we’ve been made to feel incredibly welcome. I want to share my Alpha experience with you so that you can know a little more about it and I’d love to encourage others to try it.

Just over two years ago, I was blessed with my daughter, Amber, after nine years of being told by medical professionals that it would be unlikely I’d ever have a baby. She really was an unexpected miracle and my most desperate prayer answered. There are no words to explain my overwhelming thanks and sense that she was a true gift from above. After much soul searching, I felt the need to explore faith.

I felt a little lost but knew I wanted to attend church, although at this point I couldn’t tell you why or what it was I believed. I had a catholic education although I come from a non-religious family. Deciding to attend church was a big decision for me. Fortunately Andy felt the same and so we decided to embark on this journey together. This led us to St Peter’s.

A chance meeting with Rachel who helps to run Alpha resulted in an invite to the course. I had no idea what it was about but, with her encouragement, I decided to go. I’ll admit after researching online I was a bit dubious about what it involved but, as with most things, you should definitely ignore the online extremes and see for yourself first hand what something is really like!

Alpha opened my eyes, my mind and my heart and allowed me to explore

and ask questions without judgement in a wonderful group of people who were all at different stages of their faith journey.

The course is set over 10 weeks, each week covering a different topic. I found it helped me to have a better understanding of Christianity and put it into context in the current world. It also helped me to see that if you have faith, you can find God and Jesus, their truth and love, in everyday life.

Alpha has changed me. As cheesy as it sounds; it’s changed my life!

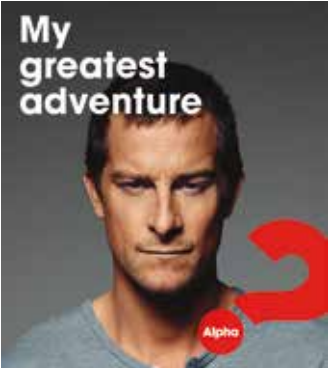
It’s given me the ability to see things from a different perspective, to allow myself to ask questions and to seek comfort and confirmation in the answers. I feel like the seed of faith already planted within me has blossomed and this cemented my decision to be baptised this Easter.

And to prove I’m not a one off, Andy had a similar experience, in a different Alpha group and he also wants to be baptised this Easter!

So how can you get involved with Alpha?

You may be thinking ‘well, I’m already a catholic’ or you may be completely new to the idea of church and faith and want to find out more. Maybe you attend church regularly but, like so many others, it’s just become a habit and you want to deepen your faith. You may be a little curious or looking for something new.

If any of these are you and you want to explore faith, seek answers or even just find company, then please consider coming to the next Alpha. It’s really laid back, friendly and completely without pressure. Give it a try and like me, it could just be one of the best things you’ll ever do!



The next Alpha is in the evenings, starting on Wednesday 26th April 2017 with supper at 7 pm at St Peter’s Parish Centre (members lounge.) Alpha runs for ten weeks excluding half term. Everyone welcome!

For more information speak to Karen 07939 052357 or email Rachel on mckay7897@hotmail.com or have a chat with Fr Peter.

From this day *forward...*

Alison McGarr shares her experience of the recent Marriage Course that's been running.

My husband Andy and I have recently been attending The Marriage Course held at St Peter's Parish Centre on a Thursday evening and, contrary to expectations, we have really enjoyed it!

The course was first mentioned to me about three years ago and I remember thinking at the time that it sounded like something I needed to avoid at all costs. So when we were invited to attend last year, we were very quick with our excuses. This year, however, we found ourselves somewhat reluctantly agreeing to attend the course and our trepidation only grew as the unknown approached. I know now that we need not have worried as the course is helping us enormously.

So what is involved?

Firstly, for seven consecutive weeks it's a night out with a meal and drinks provided. In our marriage we have just entered that teenage phase and have not had many opportunities over the last 15 years to go out each week on our own, so Thursday night has become something to look forward to. The food is really lovely and we have enjoyed the chance to catch up with each other in the midst of our chaotic lives!

Secondly, each week covers a different topic and there is a video to watch as well as a book to read with lots of activities to do. The topics are relevant and thought-provoking and have helped us to unpack some of the areas in our marriage that in the busyness of everyday life get overlooked and pushed to one side.



Alison and Andy

Some of the sessions are more challenging than others and I suppose that depends on the couple involved. Sometimes we have laughed all the way through the session and

sometimes we have found the content really challenging.

I think the best way of describing the experience is that it has been like going into our garden after the winter and sweeping up all the dead leaves only to find a

snowdrop or a daffodil shoot and being reminded that with a bit of hard work our marriage is alive and well.

It is also important to know we have had homework to do each week! As part of the course we have committed to finding marriage time, some might call it a date night.

For me this has become the best part of the course, because Andy and I have started going out to the pub on a Saturday afternoon. It has been a revelation... Who knew people were actually out enjoying themselves at 4 o'clock on a Saturday afternoon? Drinking alcohol?

Well, that's now us. We can be found in the Ladybrook enjoying a pint and a glass of wine on a Saturday afternoon doing our homework. We take our books with us and sit doing the activities; whilst I think we probably look a bit strange, it has been really good fun. I am really hopeful that, even after the course has finished, we will continue to have marriage time and we will continue to reap the benefits for years to come from this really rich and rewarding course.

So, the Marriage Course is much more than I expected it to be and I strongly recommend anyone in a long-term, committed relationship, whatever your age and stage, to enjoy the fruits of this well planned and thoughtfully presented course.

The course sessions include:

- **Building strong foundations**
- **The art of communication**
- **Resolving conflict**
- **The power of forgiveness**
- **The impact of family – both past and present**
- **Good sex**
- **Love in action**

Making arrangements

The flower arrangers at St Peter's are grouped into four teams who come on a rota basis so each team arranges the flowers once a month. This ensures that there are flowers at every service, except during the penitential seasons of Lent and Advent when the church is bare of decoration.

There is a certain amount of flexibility as to when the flowers are arranged, as most people have to slot it in with their other commitments such as childcare, family or work, but in general they are done either on Fridays or Saturday mornings.

We all come together for special occasions such as Easter, Christmas and Harvest Festivals, when we pull out all the stops. It's a case of 'all hands on deck'.

Why we do this

Arranging church flowers is both satisfying and relaxing. Flowers have traditionally been given as an expression of love, be it one person to another, or playing their part in a wedding or funeral service. Flowers, in their own way, can speak volumes. So it could be said that flowers in church are there as an expression of our love for God.

A bit of background

Each team is responsible for purchasing the flowers each week and these are usually sourced from the local florist shops and supermarkets.

Individual flower arrangers are not required to take on any financial outlay as all monies spent are refunded from the church budget.

For special occasions we purchase our flowers from a wholesaler in

Manchester who is happy to give advice and deliver our order if need be.

To keep costs to a minimum, regular watering and spraying during the week allows some flowers to survive and be used for a consecutive week. We also use greenery and flowers from our own gardens.

Weddings, funerals and commemorative arrangements

We are happy to arrange the church flowers for weddings at St Peter's and to discuss ways in which we can assist in co-ordinating their floral decorations with the regular church flowers. We are very willing to share our considerable experience of what colours and styles work best where.

Similarly, we are always willing to discuss and create arrangements for funeral flowers, for arrangements in memory of a loved one or to celebrate an anniversary or other important event.

Why not come and join us?

We would love to welcome anyone (and we are not sexist!) who feels that they would like to join the flower arranging team and take their turn on the rota. Our flower arrangers are friendly, happy teams. No professional experience is necessary, just a passion for flowers and a willingness to help. You don't have to be an expert – just keen to learn and to share in this very rewarding ministry.

I am sure all our ladies would agree that learning the art of flower arranging and being able to use our talents to contribute to the life of the church in this way is very rewarding.

For all enquiries please contact Colette Christie on 0161 427 4982 or Email to colette.christie4982@hotmail.co.uk.





Pause for breath at Buxworth



Lunch/Wine Break in Corneglia



Snow in New Mills

Walk with me...

The first walk of the St Peter's Walking Group was in February 2001. We parked at the Sett Valley car park in Hayfield and did a circular walk via Birch Vale and the ascent up Chinley Churn and back to Hayfield. Exhaustion obviously set in and the sheep came out in sympathy with foot and mouth disease. So it took until August that year to enable us to recover to complete a second walk starting from the Cat and Fiddle car park towards the Three Shires Head.

So, since August 2001 we have managed to walk once a month for at least ten months of the year; we've made the January walk an opportunity to have a Christmas meal afterwards.

The first such meal was at the Ram's Head in Disley and is remembered particularly, not for the meal, but for the fact that during the walk we were all soaked through, so much so that the men had difficulty with their hair styles in time for lunch!!!

On the May Bank Holiday Monday in 2006, for the parish's 75th anniversary we walked the parish boundaries. This stretched nearly 18 miles and we actually had Fr Jonathan Brandon accompanying us for the first six miles. We were tempted to give him the sacrament of the sick at the Fiveways!

We have managed a walk across Morecambe Bay with over 50 walkers; some parishioners, anxious for a day out in Grange over Sands, made the coach trip there with us.

In 2009, we ventured even further afield when 15 of us flew to Pisa and stayed in Monterosso in Liguria.

After two small walks we all managed to complete the whole of the Cinque Terra coastal path. Sadly a couple of years later, that area suffered torrential downpours and it is no longer possible to complete the whole of the coastal walk.

We continue to tread the highways and byways. Anyone is welcome to come and join us at the meeting point which is published in the parish newsletter.

We tend to leave promptly so, if you are coming, make sure you are on time. We would hate to leave someone stranded at base. Alternatively, let someone know the day before to expect you.

All the walks are circular and we have discovered recently that the further afield we venture, the fewer the walkers, so we are tending to remain closer to home.



L A M B S (less abled in mind and body)

Tony Martin explains how you could help once a month for a couple of hours – and become an expert disco dancer.

Since 1994, a small band of people have met regularly once a month in the parish centre at St Peter's, to provide a Sunday afternoon disco and refreshments. This has a dual purpose: it provides a friendly afternoon for people of all ages with a disability and their carers, to enjoy a disco, dancing and tea; it also shows the face of the caring parish community.

We are very fortunate. Several parishioners have now become extremely well practised disco dancers – and we receive

donations of sandwiches and cakes for the hungry and grateful visitors, from numerous parishioners. The group has in the early years been funded by donations from the parish Christmas Fair, but over the last few years, from providing teas and coffees after the 10am Sunday Mass. We are very grateful for all the support we receive.

One of the highlights for the LAMBS is the annual Christmas Party, which is usually attended by over 40 people and their carers.

We would love to have more volunteers to join us, to chat with those less fortunate, to serve food and drinks and to dance. We meet on the last Sunday of every month, except May and August Bank Holiday weekends. We're there from 4 til 6pm and you would be most welcome.

We've been extending our activities through three of the committee who have been visiting Norwood in Marple to help bake cakes, to entertain and to sing with the residents. The welcome the residents give to them is well worth the visit.



Harrytown's ski trip to Austria 2017

From the 18th to the 25th of February I went with my school, Harrytown Catholic High School, on a ski holiday to Austria. We set off from school early afternoon on the 18th and started our 27 hour coach journey! We got the ferry across the Channel and travelled through Germany during the night. We made it to Austria on Sunday morning, enjoying the beautiful mountain scenery on our journey. We were a mixture of excited and tired as we arrived at our hotel that afternoon.

The hotel was a family run business called the Gasthof Mühlthaler in a town called Kuchl. The hotel owners were lovely and gave us everything we needed to enjoy our week. Elsa looked after us very well and gave us a speech every morning, telling us to stay safe and to come back with a good appetite. We did. Her husband Franz, the chef, made sure we had good warm food every night and a filling breakfast so we had lots of energy for the day ahead.

We had an early start every morning so we could get out to the slopes as

Ruth Gallogly from Year 10 in Harrytown Catholic High School looks back on her time on the slippery slopes earlier this year.

quickly as possible. The ski resort was called Salzburg Sportwelt and our days out skiing were organised by our instructors. Rob was the instructor of my group. He was very encouraging and helpful. He even taught me a few tricks by the end of the week. At the start of the week we had no idea what to do with any skis, but by the end we could all fly down mountains thanks to them.

On Monday we started to get used to our skis and learn the basics. After a full day of learning new (and very difficult!) skills, the teachers took us all out for ice cream on our way back to the hotel.

By Wednesday all the groups had gone from the nursery slope to the mountains! The views from the tops of the mountains were amazing. It was great to be able to experience everything and make our way down the slopes alongside professional skiers.

We were expecting cold weather and snow everyday there but the weather was very unpredictable. My suitcase was filled with thermals to keep me warm but I don't think I used half of them! On Monday it was so warm I didn't need my ski jacket on; I did need sun cream though. We had rain once but eventually by Friday we got snow.

The teachers who came with us on the trip were all amazing. They always made sure we were safe and had a good time too. They gave up their half term to make this trip possible and all the students were very grateful – and so were our parents as we all made it home safe with no injuries at all!

I absolutely loved the trip and will never forget it. I learnt so many skills and fell in love with skiing. I'm definitely planning to carry on with skiing.

On Saturday 11 March 2017, 34 of us from the parish, including Fr Peter, journeyed to Flame, a youth event organised by CYMFED (Catholic Youth Ministry Federation) at Wembley Arena. We left Stockport station on our way to London in the same 'quiet' carriage as Bishop Mark, much to the delight of the other passengers in the carriage!

Matt Redman led the worship; the theme of the day was the title of one of his songs, 10,000 Reasons. Ten thousand reasons to keep hoping, to be grateful and to go out and live our lives to the full. It was a day with music and dance – and a talk from Cardinal Vincent Nicholls who shared a personal message from Pope Francis to us.



The St Peter's crew at Wembley



"I enjoyed the adoration and the final songs – I felt in touch with God"

Tom

"Young people not afraid to share their love and enthusiasm for the Lord. A lot of smiling and laughter"

Joe



*This is the link to David Well's video, 10,000 reasons to build a wall.
www.youtube.com/watch?v=_NwtHN-oA8A&feature=youtu.be*

Carry the flame of hope in today's world!

Anna McKay shares an inspirational day for young people and others give their reactions.

Cardinal Charles Bo from Myanmar (Burma) spoke really powerfully about how it had been Lent for a long time in his country under military rule – with enforced poverty, people being displaced from their homes or trafficked to other countries and no education for the children. He urged us to "carry the flame of hope in today's world" and, in a world where voices of hatred were growing stronger, that we must counter this. "Hope has no expiry date" he said. They were starting to see the 'dawn of Easter' with the coming of democracy to his country, though extremists were still disrupting life. Yet he spoke of a church

'I enjoyed benediction when Wembley fell into silence and everyone came together to praise Jesus'

Molly

that was growing despite all this suffering and how his young people would walk long distances to spread the Gospel to others. He said that the value of something "depends whose hands it's in". In God's hands we're all of great value, especially those who find themselves living in poverty or as refugees due to war

and violence. He said he had travelled 13 hours from Burma to London and would travel 13 hours back, 26 hours just to speak to us for 15 minutes at Wembley. For us, it was well worth his journey though! He also said that he had paid £20 to have a tour of Wembley stadium to look at the empty seats – that was a month's salary for him! His talk really highlighted for me how much we take life for granted.

The input of David Wells on 'Ten thousand reasons to build a wall' was inspirational. He said, "Let God be the reason that you live this adventure we call life."

With performances from RISE theatre highlighting the needs of refugees around the world and talks from CaFOD about their work, we had plenty of food for thought, as well as being kept on our toes by the giant Mexican wave that flowed round the arena. Fr Peter was catching it all on his iPad! The day was so alive

and the arena was so full of people, yet we all had something in common with each other, and it was amazing to see the sheer number of people who had travelled from as far as Norway to as close as just Wembley! A stand-out moment was Adoration – over 9,000 of us in complete silence! In this time of

peace, amidst a jam-packed day, we had some time to take in and reflect on what we'd shared, being very aware of the presence of Jesus with us in that moment. Then the day closed with more music from Matt Redman, leaving us feeling uplifted and inspired to go out and live out the message of all that we had heard.

"I enjoyed Matt Redman's songs and Mike Pilavachi's talk – "We're worth more than five cows!"

Louis

"The sheer delight in watching 10,000 individuals worship and praise along with Matt Redman. David Wells was super funny and I loved the impact of texting someone not at the conference to plant a seed of interest to open up discussion on your return from the conference. A huge thankyou to Fr P for funding the travel"

Karen

"I found it really interesting especially when we sang to praise God and didn't just pray. Overall I had so much fun"

Libby



Can you spot 5 differences?



s d x a j h z x x k n x h k f
a u i m e l a s u r e j w n p
j l n s r o k n n k b h n i s
y k i d c s j s d v n o g t p
s f j v a i i m k q i b x s p
r g e o e y p p x t y e q u o
w u a a y d f l c t t l b s b
w k n m s y p e e h o w f e y
z y a t k t r r t s m s l j w
n r w a m r e v t k b q a n e
y e a t u r s r v h p s l v d
z l v s i c r o s s b l s k n
q l e s j j f p n l t f e e v
k r e s q j c r o g q x u b y
z n w g n z x l l i v w m d t

**Can you find these words
alive, cross, disciples, easter, jerusalem,
jesus, joy, mary, resurrection, risen,
sunday, tomb**

Alison's recipe

Serves 4

1-½ lb lamb shoulder diced
4 carrots cut into 1" pieces
1 onion chopped
½ cup dried apricots halved
½ cup pitted olives
2 cloves garlic finely diced
2 tbsp flour
1 tsp paprika
1 tsp ground cumin
½ tsp cinnamon
½ tsp ground ginger
1 tsp salt

Method

Season lamb and seal in
hot frying pan.
Mix all ingredients together
in slow cooker - 5hrs on high
or 8 hours on low.

Serve with

1 cup couscous cooked as
instructions on packet.
Sprinkle with chopped pistachio nuts and cilantro leaves
(or flat parsley if not available) and a wedge of lemon.

ENJOY !



Here's a list of the parish groups and activities at St Peter's

Celebrating Liturgy

Altar linen
Pat Tomlinson: 0161 456 7627

Altar servers
Fr Peter, for now

Church cleaners
Margaret King: 0161 483 4584

Eucharistic ministers
Housebound
Maureen Horton: 0161 483 1590
mary.horton@ntlworld.com
Church
Tony Martin: 0161 483 7720
tony.martin@ntlworld.com

Flower arrangers
Collette Christie: 0161 427 4982
colette.christie4982@hotmail.co.uk

Lay-led liturgy
Rachel McKay: 0161 487 1659
mckay7897@hotmail.com

Adult and junior choirs
Eileen Rigg: 01625 872948
emrigg@hotmail.co.uk

Folk group
Steph Leyden: 0161 456 6285
stephleyden@icloud.com

Piety stall
Denise Noon: 0161 483 0217

Posada
Maria Oates: mzoates@icloud.com

Readers
Monica Beckett:
admin@stpetershazलगrove.org.uk

Welcomers
Anne-Marie Bailey: 0161 456 2213
ambailey@cheerful.com

Creating social activity

Parish newsletter
Monica Beckett
admin@stpetershazलगrove.org.uk

Parish noticeboards
Outside - Julie Williams:
juliewilliams10@gmail.com
Inside - Barbara Goodier

Parish trips
Fr Peter
petersharrocks@stpetershazलगrove.org.uk

Parish website
Maria Oates: mzoates@icloud.com

Special events
Helen Lyons: 07854 928072
helenlyons1957@hotmail.co.uk

Tea and coffee after Mass
Maria Oates: mzoates@icloud.com

Theatre group
Tony Martin: 0161 483 7720
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Walking group
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Exploring faith

Alpha
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Baptism programme
Anne-Marie Galogly

Confirmation programme
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Marriage preparation
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Vocations
Fr Peter

*Names and contact
details are correct at
the time the magazine
went to print, but are
subject to change.*

Sharing faith

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Rosary groups: adult and children
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Praise and worship
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Supporting Families and Youth

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Little fishes
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Marriage and family life group
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SPY group
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Outreaching in the community

Hospital chaplaincy
Chaplaincy Office: 0161 419 5889

Hospital Chaplaincy (Emergency)
Hospital switchboard will bleep
0161 483 1010

Via St Peter's
0161 483 3476
petersharrocks@stpetershazलगrove.org.uk

Justice and peace
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LAMBS
Janet Mullen: 0161 456 2595

Lenten lunches
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Jackie Mackay: 0161 483 6348
Kath Coll: 0161 456 0881

Luncheon club
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Lourdes group
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Missio
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Refugees store
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Schools chaplaincy
St Peter's
Fr P Sharrocks: 0161 483 2431
0161 483 3476

St Simon's
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St James' High School - Via School
0161 482 6900
office@stjamesche.org.uk

Harrytown High School - Via School
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Aquinas 6th form college
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£3,000 is needed to build two classrooms to help provide primary education for displaced children in north east Nigeria.

My name is Yakubu Karagama and I am running the Great Manchester 10K run on Sunday 28 May 2017 to help provide basic education for these children.

Currently, there are about 1 million children in north east Nigeria who have been forced out of school as a result of the insurgency from the terrorist sect Boko Haram. Most of the schools have been burnt down completely by the terrorists. Thousands of children have been directly affected through mass abductions, physical and mental abuse and forceful relocation. Many of these children have lost their parents. Perhaps the most notable attack on education and children's rights by the sect was the April 2014 abduction of 276 Chibok girls from a government secondary school.

The 'Education Must Continue Initiative' (EMCI) has been set up by Paul and Beckie to help these children back to school again. There are currently two schools that need to be built in the areas worst affected. Each school has about 2,000 children (boys and girls) of primary school age. You can find out more about the EMCI from their website: www.emcinitiative.org

I am originally from this area of Nigeria and was fortunate to have received an excellent education in normal times. It is heartbreaking for me to see these children growing up with no opportunities. They are innocent victims.

The government is stretched in trying to make the place safe and the education for these youngsters hasn't really been considered a priority. These children need to go back to school NOW!

Yakubu Karagama running for the children in north east Nigeria



Children need education



An example of the devastation



With help from friends and well wishers like you, I would like to raise funds to build two classrooms. Every little will help. If you'd like to donate, simply follow this website link:
www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/Education-Must-Continue-Initiatives-EMCI

The future for Shine is bright!

We hope you've enjoyed this first issue of Shine and have learned about some of the many activities that our two parish communities are involved in. If you would like to contribute to a future issue of Shine, please get in touch with Terry Thiele by email: terrythiele@hotmail.co.uk.