

SHINE

Issue 3, December 2017



St Peter's Advent Appeal



The School of Joy

What a lovely name for a school. You can read all about it on page 7 in Tom Mercer's article. All the young people on the pilgrimage to the Holy Land in October felt so moved by their experience in the School of Joy. It was their initiative to suggest we might focus our Advent project on these children and help them as much as we can with our

fundraising and prayers. They really need some funds to get a machine that will help them with their olive wood carvings.

They produce and sell these to provide an income for the school. The machine costs just short of £3,000 so the Advent Project is an Advent challenge this year.

If you would like to help, put your offerings in the box marked "Advent project" at the back of church near the entrance door.



FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

Welcome to our third edition of *Shine*. What a varied collection of articles there is for you to read. The Holy Land, Rome, Lourdes, India are places visited by parishioners over the past few months and these experiences are shared with us in this edition. It's not only travel but a varied range of other activities is chronicled here so, hopefully, there is something for everyone. Perhaps you will write something for our next edition which will be published in time for Easter.

I look forward to welcoming you to either or both of our churches over the Christmas feast and into the New Year. You and your families will be very welcome.

Fr Peter

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

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Christmas Services at St Peter's & St Philip's

Reconciliation services

Monday 18 December in
St Philip's at 7.30pm

Tuesday 19 December in St Peter's
with the Local Pastoral Area
at 7.30pm

Christmas in St Peter's and St Philip's

Christmas Eve Night
24 December Mass times

St Peter's at 7pm and 10pm
St Philip's at 8pm

Christmas Day 25 December Mass times

St Peter's at 8.30am,
10am (children's Mass) and 11.30 am.
No evening Mass

St Philip's at 10am

Shining a light on our parish communities

Extending friendship

Seeing a pattern in a magazine and a chance meeting with a lady on a Stockport market stall who was raising funds for a charity Revive a Life, prompted one of our Friendship Group to suggest that those of us who could sew might make some dresses for the children of Uganda supported by this charity. 36 dresses were made and delivered; at the end of August they were taken to Revive a Life House in Kampala and some to Gulu prison for children there with their parents. Each of us received a touching thank you card with a photograph. Short snippets of Gulu prison can be seen on You Tube.

.....
In the near future our Friendship Group is booked for TWO Christmas dinners at interesting venues. Tell you next time! One involves a lecture, the other water...! Otherwise things jog along as usual.



Yakubu's update

Readers of Shine will recall how Hazel Grove parishioner Yakubu Gadzama Karagama was hoping to raise an optimistic target of £3,000 to help start the re-building of a school in Lassa, north east Nigeria.

He is delighted to report, "We sent £5,500 to the Education Must Continue Initiative and they can't send enough thanks on behalf of the children. The three classrooms we planned to fund turned into six! In fact, the new school just needs the roof. The kind and generous people of St Peter's parish community have made this possible! Thank you to everyone for your prayers and your generosity."

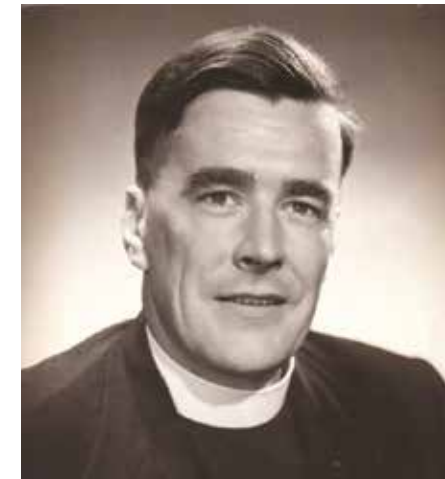


Memory jogger

We asked in our last issue if anyone was familiar in this procession photo to any reader... and guess what? The priest has been identified as Canon John L Roper who was an assistant priest at St Peter's 1954-63.

The eagle eyed reader was none other than his own sister, Mrs Mary McDermott (née Roper) who was reading Shine during this year's Shrewsbury diocese pilgrimage to Lourdes.

Both Mary and daughter Margaret Norton were surprised and delighted to see the photo. They told us that after his time at St Peter's, he went to St Alban's, Liscard (1963-68). He went as Parish Priest to St Mary's, Congleton (1968-75), St Mary's, Madeley (1975-78) and St Patrick's, Wellington (1978-83).



Here's a picture of him in his younger days.

He was then appointed Administrator of the Cathedral in 1983 and joined the Cathedral Chapter the same year. He died on 15 October 1993.



Where we are

St Peter's Church and presbytery
16 Green Lane, Hazel Grove
Stockport SK7 4EA
Tel 0161 483 3476

St Philip's Church
Half Moon Lane
Offerton
Stockport SK2 5LB

Email: admin@stpetershazeltgrove.org.uk
Fr Peter: petersharrocks@stpetershazeltgrove.org.uk
Our joint website is www.stpeterscatholic.church

Farewells and welcomes

Since our last edition the following have had their funerals from St Peter's or St Philip's:

Irma Guest
Maureen Foudy
Friederike Magdalena Maltby
Patrick Joseph Smith
John Lendon Barrow
Kathleen Mary Gingell
Joan Burgess
Anne Dennehey
Barrie Hart
Ken James
Sean Bonner
Irene Heap
Winifred Cartwright
Patricia More
Heather Kershaw
Margaret Dunne

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



We have welcomed a number of children into the church through Baptism.

Silver Mae Cassidy
Diana Leah Mariano Borges
Eli William Henry-Clouston
Lottie Mae Bailey
Flora Violet Johnson
Orla Grace Poppy Mills
Mia Holly McGowan
Florence Elizabeth Young
Dexter Robert Hall
Mason Bailey Kamren
Mills-Chard
Luke Antony Ponseka
Benjamin Douglas Kewley
Ruby Louise Mulvey-Kelsall
Grace Louise Carney
Joseph Michael Williams
Evie Jane Evans
Hattie Jane Evans

Defibrillator training

A big thank you to Samantha Sellars from the North West Ambulance Service who guided us in the installation of a defibrillator on the outside wall of the church a short while ago. This defibrillator is available for use not only on the church site but also for any emergencies in the local community happening in about a 200 metre radius around the church. Samantha did two training sessions for us in church which were extremely useful and interesting. The sessions were really well attended by both parishioners and members of the local community.



When in doubt...

For many young people going through Sixth Form or College, making decisions on what to do in the future is very difficult. One of our own young parishioners, Tom Small experienced just that crossroads' moment in the spring of this year.



Unhappy in his college at the time, he looked into changing college or maybe taking up various apprenticeships, but he couldn't work out what was right for him. However, God soon revealed his plans!

Family friend, Rachel McKay, received a tweet from Alpha entitled "Dare to Lead", which detailed a 9-12 month internship with Alpha Ireland. Tom's parents David and Laura, shared the advert with Tom and were presented with "Yes, I'll go for it!". Applicants had to be 18 years old and the job was to start in November. Tom's 18th birthday was in October!

Tom, having had a conversion experience at the 'Joel's Bar' Easter Catholic youth retreat, followed this up with attendance on the summer term Alpha course at St Peter's. He applied for the internship with Alpha Ireland and was interviewed a week later. After a nervous wait for an answer, he found out whilst on holiday that he had been accepted as the intern for Dublin. Tom started work in Ireland on November 15. He commented "I thoroughly enjoyed the Alpha course in the parish and was amazed how in depth and interesting both the discussions and the videos were. I found that Alpha spurred on my curiosity about faith and helped me travel on my journey even further. I am very excited, and nervous, to go to Ireland, but hopefully with prayers and support I will enjoy it to the full. I really hope I can inspire transition year students to take the plunge into their own faith journey".

We hope to hear more about how Tom is getting on in the next issue. Do keep him in your prayers.

IT'S A CRACKER!

A cabbie picks up a nun. She gets into the cab and notices that the VERY handsome cab driver won't stop staring at her. She asks him why he is staring.

He replies: "I have a question to ask, but I don't want to offend you."

She answers, "My son, you cannot offend me. When you're as old as I am and have been a nun as long as I have, you get a chance to see and hear just about everything. I'm sure that there's nothing you could say or ask that I would find offensive."

"Well, I've always had a fantasy to have a nun kiss me."

She responds, "Well, let's see what we can do about that..."

- 1) You have to be single and
- 2) You must be Catholic."

The cab driver is very excited and says, "Yes, I'm single and I'm Catholic!"

"OK," the nun says "pull into the next layby."

The nun fulfills his fantasy with a kiss that quite overwhelmed him. But when they get back on the road, the cab driver starts to cry.

"My dear child," asks the nun, "why are you crying?"

"Forgive me, but I've sinned, Sister. I lied and I must confess - I'm married and I'm Jewish."

The nun says, "That's OK. My name is Kevin and I'm going to a Halloween party."



The School of Joy

Tom Mercer reports on his reactions to time spent at the wonderfully named School of Joy.

While we were in the Holy Land, we went to the School of Joy. This is a school for children with learning difficulties. Many of them had physical problems too.

When we arrived, the priest who was in charge spoke to us about the children to tell us what to expect. As we went into each class, the teacher told the children to greet us. They were very excited and very friendly. They came up to us, shook our hands and said "Hello!" then they counted for us in English. They were very proud of themselves. We were impressed to see how cheerful they were in spite of all their problems.

Before we left, the priest showed us items in olive wood that had been carved at the school. He explained that the money made from these religious souvenirs, together with any donations, went to pay for the operations needed by many of the children. Obviously, we all wanted to help with this.

We were sad to leave these brave, cheerful children. They had welcomed us to their school and shown us how they overcome the difficulties in their lives. They inspired us all to face and cope with any problems we may have.



In October 2016, Bishop Mark Davies visited the Franciscan University of Steubenville, a Catholic university in Ohio, USA. There he issued an invitation to a group of students to spend time as youth missionaries in the diocese of Shrewsbury during the following summer 2017. Now team member **Charis Willey** shares their recent mission experience.



“ We also got to spend two nights with St Peter’s Youth in Hazel Grove, an experience which brought joy and renewal to each one of us as we witnessed the abundant faith and life present there! ”

we embarked on our missionary activity. Over the course of the next two months, we had an experience of mission work which has impacted and shaped each of us in new and profound ways. We were blessed to

We spent time with the cathedral parish confirmation group, travelling to parishes to lead Holy Hours, and visited many Catholic schools to lead day retreats. One of the greatest challenges that we encountered was

seeks each soul and calls us back to union with Him.

Hearts were definitely moved as we prayed over each teenager, interceding for God’s presence in their hearts and lives, praying specifically for their intentions. We realised that there is a great hunger in their hearts for truth and for love, to recognise that they are created with beauty and purpose – a message many had never received before. The God-shaped hole in human hearts was truly evident as lives were touched and opened this summer. Seeing this transformative action of grace in turn touched and transformed each of us.

Now the summer is over; we have returned to the US, to our studies and life at the Franciscan university. But the work God has begun we pray He will continue. We pray for Bishop Mark, for the diocese of Shrewsbury, for the parish of St Peter’s, for every single individual we were fortunate enough to encounter this summer..

We are truly grateful to all who showed us the love of Christ in a far land, and we hope someday to return. Yet, even if we do not, we are united in prayer and in faith and in hope in God, building His kingdom throughout the world. As Father Peter said on our last day at St Peter’s parish, “We’ll see you in heaven, if not before!”

On a mission to England

Bishop Mark’s invitation greatly excited the students, who immediately envisioned drinking tea in castles! And so the “Mission to England” was born.

We formed a mission team of seven members: Susan, Becca, Steven, Emmanuel, Daniel, Joshua and Charis. Then, over the months between October 2016 and May 2017 when we flew to Manchester, we worked to get to know each other, to pray together for all the souls we would encounter, to figure out the format of the retreats we would lead, to fundraise for our flights and to organise all the small but important logistics of preparation for two months spent spreading the Gospel. The time flew by in a whirl of preparation, during which at several points as we sorted out flights and battled with fundraising and in-team communication (and Steven got a leg

injury that he had to have operated on!), it seemed like nothing was going to work out quite right. But eventually the big day came, 25 May, and we took off for England! Even that didn’t go smoothly as Becca’s connecting flight was delayed so she got stranded in New York for 24 hours while we brought her another

ticket for Manchester. Thankfully we had just enough money left over from fundraising to do that; God provides just what we need. We arrived in Shrewsbury where we were going to live at the cathedral parish, and after a few days of welcome and orientation meetings (which always involved tea – the British stereotype is true!),



have a chapel in our home, and so the team developed a life of prayer together each morning and night along with attending daily Mass; this daily prayer time was our source of strength and unity, both personally and as a team. St Bernard of Clairvaux wrote a beautiful meditation in which he spoke of “our need to become reservoirs of grace, to receive all the gifts that God wishes to pour into our hearts until they must overflow in our words and lives”. Our daily time in the chapel was our reservoir.

the realisation that we were meeting many teenagers who had no faith, who were self-proclaimed atheists. However, after spending time speaking with them, we frequently discovered that they were not opposed to faith but had simply never met anyone who could answer their questions about God.

They did not know the reasonableness of faith and had never encountered God’s love in a deep and personal way. They just had never heard that although humanity fell, He loves and

Fr Michael, *then and now*



Fr Michael Cupit had just celebrated Mass in his necessary wheelchair at the special altar (table-height to suit him) in the chapel at Bowdon Vale Nursing Home. The chapel is part of the original doctor's family house; the house has been added to over time and is now an extended nursing home where Fr Michael lives and where he is able to continue with his priestly vocation – and deal with his difficult post-operative circumstances.

A dozen or so retired religious Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Apparition live in the nearby convent of Saint Emilie in the same quiet grounds of the nursing home. Some lay people too make up Fr Michael's small congregation and daily Mass celebration. The chapel is now a Chapel-of-Ease under the direction of Fr Michael in the wider parish of St Vincent's in Altrincham where Canon John Rafferty is parish priest; he was at one time parish priest at St Peter's, Hazel Grove.

Also in the house at Bowdon Vale is the same room where in 1964, an almost

Gerry Clarke, retired head teacher of *St Simon's, Hazel Grove* offers a personal profile of Fr Michael Cupit, who was parish priest of *St Philip's Offerton (1997-2010)*. He includes the new phase of Fr Michael's life and vocation at Bowdon Vale Nursing Home.

severely deteriorating, completely paralysed Sr Teresa Moran of the congregation was miraculously cured. The miracle, a remarkable story in detail, was attributed to Mother Emilie De Vialar, the foundress, and whose presence was felt in the room by her Sisters. The room, which was always part of the house, is now preserved in her memory. I made an overdue visit to this special room, now a shrine, and where Fr Michael recommended anyone might go; maybe to become a place of pilgrimage? Emilie De Vialar was soon canonised by Pope Pius

XII in our own time, in 1951. Still in his vestments after Mass and always wheelchair bound in order to move around, Fr Michael's leg amputation is a huge trauma and challenge. He and I made our way carefully to the care home's elegant, spacious drawing room: a real pleasure for both of us with its rare period furniture, several beautiful 'objets d'art', Renaissance prints and a polished oval table overlooking the manicured lawn and long drive. A thoughtful Sister Magdelene, as usual, served us tea and biscuits. With his warmth,

customary good humour and hint of steel, Michael is relaxed and ready as ever to talk about his life and 45 years as a priest.

The eldest of three (two sisters, one deceased), Michael was born in 1944, in Seacombe in the Wirral: "exactly a mile to the centre of Liverpool through the tunnel" he said, and where his football heart is. "At Anfield," he added, "but don't mention Manchester United!" His early schooling was with the Irish Christian Brothers at St Anselm's in Birkenhead and priestly training at St Mary's, Oscott near Birmingham.

Theology, scripture, music and preaching were principally to become a very significant part of his life over time – and still are. Communication with electronic technology is another of his strengths with videos on the Mass, background of the psalms, special services, general absolution, use of pictures and quotations, writing music...

Also in good times for Fr Michael, he was a strong chairman of Churches Together, a determined ecumenical group of over thirty parishes in the Macclesfield and Stockport areas.

A series of fulfilling appointments, initiated at St Joseph's Winsford, lasted seven years. Supportive parishioners, the presence of a congregation of religious sisters, and meeting up with significant personalities were part of his musical background and vocation. They are greatly appreciated by Michael to this day. He played violin, became an excellent guitarist under a very good tutor and led his own-created orchestra. Omnifarious tastes!

Indeed, lots of music soon became a major enjoyment in so many aspects of Fr Michael's life though now somewhat restricted. Painstaking therapy, particularly with his prosthesis, is challenging.

The beautiful house chapel at Bowdon Vale with its superb acoustics does not prevent him from singing or celebrating at his meticulously prepared Mass, nor from delivering a compelling homily.

Preaching, in fact, Michael feels, is an essential part of the priesthood. Not surprisingly, Canon Rafferty has now invited him to give three talks under St Vincent's auspices at St Hugh of Lincoln's church hall entitled "The People of God – are we?". Fr Michael enjoys it, reads widely about it and has many years of scripture study and inspiring teachers behind him: no written homilies, no notes, remarkable scholarship and much common sense – all in his head! I

seldom, if ever, come away from his homily without fresh insights and being scripturally wiser.

But a prompt lunch time usually draws our meetings to an end. A touch of humour and we are heading for a solitary meal in his consoling, newly personalised, fitted out ground floor room. A huge improvement for Michael and a relief from a more confining room on an upper floor. Always warm and upbeat in the face of seclusion and loneliness – "a part of a priest's life and seldom far away" he added. Mentally strong, creative by himself, and, despite the struggle to gain confidence in using his prosthesis, the popular and much loved Fr Michael is optimistic and committed to this new role in his life and vocation at Bowdon Vale.



Saint Emilie De Vialar



Divine Renovation

A date for your diary. If you missed the Divine Renovation conference at St Mary's University, Twickenham in October, we can offer an opportunity to hear about the themes from Fr James Mallon's book which are transforming his parish from maintenance to mission.

Michael Roche will be coming to St Peter's parish centre on Saturday 27 January from 9.30 am-4pm to lead the day. This event is open to all parishes so why not come along with your parish team and hear more.

To reserve a place and for more information please contact Rachel at: mckay7897@hotmail.com

Loreto Altrincham meets Loreto India

Students **Anna McKay** and **Lois Kelly** headed off to India this summer on a school project. Anna shares her experience there.



From the 8th to the 22nd of July, 30 girls and six teachers from Loreto Altrincham went out to visit three Loreto schools in Kolkata, India. The two weeks we spent there were so inspiring and were filled with such joy! Whilst we were there we witnessed the incredible work that the IBVM nuns are carrying out there.

On our first day we met Sister Cyril. She introduced the 'Rainbow programme' through which street children, who would not otherwise get an education, can stay at Loreto schools and then go out to Bengali schools during the day to learn in their own language. In India, Loreto had a reputation for only being for the rich children, yet over the last 30 years, through her work, Sr Cyril has opened the schools up by encouraging education for all. She also seems to have rescued many of India's cats as large numbers of them wander into her office each day to be fed!

Our group was split amongst three Loreto schools where we spent each day. I was at Loreto Entally, which was a short walk from 'Seva Kendra' where we were staying, so luckily we didn't have to brave the minibus each day like the other schools did. When we got there each morning we would go into the assemblies that were very similar to those at our own school. We then went into the class with the girls.

Entally had some girls who were day schoolers and others who were boarders. The boarders were mainly orphans and many received sponsorship that enabled them to attend the school, yet they were all taught together. I was based in class two in which the girls were mostly seven and eight. One of my favourite parts of each day was 'Catechism class' which some of the girls from class two would go to. In this we got to lead action songs and tell stories and get to know the girls. I quickly caught their contagious excitement, and our favourites were 'The banana song' and 'The penguin song'. We would then take out some of the girls who needed extra help with spellings or times tables; as the classes were made up of 40 - 50 girls it is difficult for

teachers to give the students individual attention. We would return to 'Seva Kendra' at about three o'clock each day when the day girls would go home.

We then went back to Entally at five o'clock for playtime with the boarders! This was my favourite part of each day. As the bell would ring, the children would all run outside to us and we would play with chalk, colour in, skip, play basketball and play games. When you are there you form incredible bonds with them and I will keep all the cards and pictures they made me forever. There was a nun there called Sr Mabina who is doing amazing work for the boarders!! She works in the school during the day and then stays with the boarders after school. She looks after them all so well and it is easy to see how much she loves them. She was out playing basketball with everyone each day.

The nuns and the boarders rely on donations, and although the girls had very little - for most just a couple of dresses, a comb and a toothbrush - they just wanted to share with us. On one night we all had sweets and they all were halving their sweets and tried to give them to us! I learnt so much more from them than I could have ever taught them.

Being there was such a culture shock, with the complete change in food, the incredible heat and humidity, and the crazy roads, yet in a place that was so different, the schools felt so homely and they made us feel like a real part of the community. This made it so sad when we had to leave; I just wanted to take all the girls with me. But when we did leave, the children in the schools all did a little concert for us and sang and danced. We attempted to Irish dance and sing for them too!

A big 'thank you' to St Peter's parish for supporting our trip to India. The donations that you gave to Lois and myself when we did teas and coffees went towards buying the games, crafts and colouring resources that we took over with us. The children really loved them and we loved sharing in the activities with them.

One day I really want to go back and see my most favourite people!



When approaching people about the Marriage Course, many different responses are often made.

“We have been married x years and everything is OK, thanks.”

“I will never get my husband along to the course.”

“We don’t want to rock the boat.”

The expectation is that the course will have a negative effect on the relationship. The course however, is very much the opposite and is effectively an invitation to ‘make the most of the rest of your married life’.

The Marriage Course runs over a seven week period, split into weekly sessions on Tuesdays at 7.15pm covering various aspects of married life and relationships. Each week will consist of a candlelit dinner for two, well planned and thoughtful videos, discussions (in couples only) and some homework for the week ahead. Each guest is given their own workbook/manual for the course.

The course is an opportunity for couples to spend quality time with each other each week and extends this into a concept of ‘marriage time’, ie designated time each week to build your relationship. At the end of the course you come away with a better understanding of each other and a set of tools that will help you going forward.

Take a look at some reactions of people on previous courses.

- *This course was extremely helpful and provided us with useful tools to further build our relationship. The people running the course were welcoming and kind. Would highly recommend it.*

Try the Marriage Course – it’s highly recommended

In an earlier edition of Shine, we read of the experience of Alison and Andy McGarr, who had just completed the Marriage Course held at St Peter’s. We are about to embark on our next Marriage Course, which will start in the second week of January 2018 in the parish centre.

- *Even after 35 years of marriage, we have learned a lot and been challenged – all in a very comfortable environment. Thanks to all the team.*
- *Life often gets in the way: pressures of work, keeping on top of the housework and looking after the children. The marriage course reminds you of the importance of making time for each other and building on the foundations of your first years of love and excitement as you move into later years.*
- *Married 45 years, but learned new things about me and my wife. Marriage tools are very useful.*
- *A rich and rewarding experience that has enhanced our marriage – definitely worthwhile.*
- *Give it a try! You won’t regret it. We learned so much.*
- *You will take away a perfect set of tools useful for married couples of all ages.*
- *A time to reflect on your marriage, understand and take forward into your marriage together.*

The next course starts on Tuesday 9 January 2018 at 7.15pm. To book or to ask any questions call David or Laura on 01625 876752.



Each couple dines together



The smiles show the course is working!

I Love Christmas!

No wonder I was born on the feast of St Nicholas who eventually morphed into Santa Claus; a neighbour’s child told me he was born in the “chocolate month” – the Advent Calendar.

One tradition I have always particularly enjoyed is the Christmas tree.

Ours is traditional: at the top an angel cross-stitched by a friend 35 years ago; a pipe cleaner Santa given to me by my grandparents when I was 19 days old – my first Christmas; various ornaments from different countries given by well-travelled friends, and of course many of the more usual ornaments.

Since I grew up in Manhattan, I also loved the huge tree at the Rockefeller Center. The lights used to be switched on on 6 December – a nod to when the city was New Amsterdam. The Dutch give presents then; Christmas is a solemn feast day.

To get to the tree from 5th Avenue (St Patrick’s Cathedral is across

Eileen Wilcox shares her thoughts on Christmas traditions from her American homeland – and her pending birthday!

the avenue), you walk through the Christmas Gardens – past the many beautiful angels bearing their trumpets – all in a soft white light. Now the tree is lit in late November for all the early shoppers.

The most awe inspiring, exquisite tree, however, is in the Medieval Sculpture Gallery of The Metropolitan Museum of Art. It stands in front of a massive screen from the cathedral of Valladolid in Spain.

The tree itself has over 50 angels in rich silk dresses, some are jewelled, others carry objects of gold and silver. At the base of the tree is the Nativity scene complete with shepherds, sheep, the kings and their attendants. On the fields and low hills around them peasant life goes on, as it does in various

paintings by Bruegel – all unaware of the miracle of the Incarnation so near them.

The 200 or so figures are from 17/18th century Naples, where wealthy patrons commissioned artists to create stunning Nativity scenes. Those in the museum were donated by various collectors; they range in size from six inches to twenty inches. All have been beautifully moulded with painted arms and heads. Their bodies are of wire so that they can be posed in different positions, and their costumes are silk. The scene is lit by electric church candles and sacred music is played. It’s a wonderful experience just to ‘stand and stare’.

But of course, your favourite tree is the one in your own home – and so it should be!



The Metropolitan Museum Christmas tree



The Rockefeller Center Christmas tree

It's surreal to think it's almost been a week since we came back from the Holy Land. What a privilege to have gone and walked in the land of Jesus! I've absolutely loved telling everyone about it back at Uni this week, but I have to say, I've struggled. It's so hard to put it into words. "It was **ABSOLUTELY insane!!!**" is usually my 'go to' phrase but honestly it doesn't do the experience justice. I'm so desperate for people to go out to the Holy Land and experience what I experienced. Here are just a few extracts from the journal I kept.

27/10/17

Think today has been the best day yet! We left Bethlehem this morning at 7.30 and then headed over to Jerusalem to pick up the adults to make our journey to Galilee together. The journey would take three hours but we made several stop offs on the way. First was the Dead Sea that was like a beach and a spa resort. There's so much salt in the water that you can't swim in it as you just float to the top. Reminded me of when I was learning to swim and doing 'star fish' on the water, but in the Dead Sea it was effortless. After a good bit of time in the water

we then covered ourselves with mud and sand. It's so good for your skin – then washed it all off in the showers.

Next step was Temptation Mountain and the Jordan River. I was so struck by the heat there and it really felt like a holy place! We renewed our Baptismal promises while some people were actually getting dunked in the water. Then we had a paddle in the water. It looked grimy I have to say, so I wasn't expecting much, but it was the most refreshing water I've ever paddled in – the temperature was perfect. My feet felt so clean and still do – bizarre! Jesus was

baptised in that water. I think it's going to hit me when I get home that 'I've been there!' Then it was time to head to Nazareth. Lunch first, cracking falafel and then on to the church of the Annunciation. I still can't come to terms with the experience there... it was so overwhelming being in the place where Mary was called by God – still need to process what I was feeling. I love Mary so much; feel like I have a real connection with her – love her boldness and her gutsiness! I feel so lucky to be here experiencing all this and thankful for all the people that I am getting to share it with! So grateful to Fr Peter and Fr David.

29/10/17

Climbed (in a minibus) to the top of Mount Tabor where the transfiguration took place. Then last stop of our pilgrimage is Cana – saw one of the jars in which the wine is kept. We were free in the afternoon and went back down to the Sea of Galilee for a swim. Feels like we've been away for ages, probably because we've done so much and yet it's also flown by. Highlights have got to have been the church of the Annunciation and the River Jordan. I loved all the fun at the Dead Sea as well.

It's been such a life changing trip; my whole visual perspective has changed and it's brought reading the Bible to life. Being there adds a whole other dimension to reading the Gospels. Smelling the smells, hearing the sounds, seeing the sights, getting a feeling for the place; it's just brought everything to life. Jesus is in the busyness of Jerusalem and Bethlehem and the calm and peacefulness of Galilee. Being in those old ancient places has just affirmed in my heart even more that Jesus is SO alive!

Sarah's Holy Land diary

University student **Sarah McKay** shares her recent experiences in the Holy Land at the end of October

23/10/17

Cracking journey! A groovy bus picked us up from Knutsford, coffee machine and everything! Two stops at services, a few coffees and a punnet of grapes later we arrived at Heathrow. All interrogated before handing over our bags, then given our programmes and tour group hats – rather fetching! Cracking flight and then a half hour transfer to the hotel which is so nice, sharing a room with Ailish. Our tour guide is called Lazarus – seems like a legend. Saw the wall as we were driving through – he says he's going to tell us about all the politics. Can't believe we're here!



24/10/17

Following the visit to the Shepherds' Fields, we went to the Church of the Nativity which marks the place where Jesus was born. It was absolute chaos and really noisy, which in some ways was really disappointing. When I touched the star though, I felt a great sense of power and love. And one good thing: I've learned how much Jesus means to me and it really made me think about how respectful I am to Jesus in my daily life.

I've loved being in Bethlehem and Jerusalem. I don't know if it was what I expected. It's been so busy and so touristy but during those times there have been real moments of peace and encounter. Also the busyness makes it more relatable to Jesus' time. Witnessing the conflict between Israel and Palestine and going through the wall has been so sad.



28/10/17

We just had Mass at the Primacy of St Peter, just by the shore of the Sea of Galilee where they caught the fish "on the other side" and then had breakfast. Where Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love me?" three times. Just been on a boat on the Sea of Galilee and now sitting in the church where the stone is from which Jesus fed the 5,000. Getting 5,000 people to hear your voice is immense, never mind being able to feed them all with five loaves and two fishes!

Now in the church built above the house of St Peter's mother in law. It's so peaceful and still as well, such a nice place to sit. It's right by the Sea of Galilee in the old town of Capernaum. I love the contrast of being here by the sea with the busyness of Bethlehem and Jerusalem.

I've just turned around and realised that this is where we are having confession! Woozaroones what a gift confession is! I'm just sitting on a rock with my feet in the water! Thank you that nothing can separate me from you!

Been to the Mount of the Beatitudes and now at Magdala in the church where the altar is in the shape of a boat.



Youth pilgrimage to the Holy Land

At the beginning of last week we embarked on a monumental journey at sunrise to a country many of us had never been to, with a group of people many of us didn't know.

The youth pilgrimage to the Holy Land really began at Heathrow airport, with a disgruntled group of sleepy teenagers being bombarded with questions by (probably equally tired) El Al airline staff. The heightened security was an unsettling reminder of the political turmoil that sadly exists in a country so steeped in history and beauty, but it served to add to our experience of the Middle East.

Arriving in Bethlehem on the first night, a world that had only existed through stories in the Bible and the news came

Roisin Nolan considers the negatives and positives of her Holy Land experience

to life around us. Despite the initial culture shock some of us had – “what do you mean we can't drink the tap water?” – there was a sense of familiarity associated with a place we'd grown up hearing about.

One of the most moving aspects of the pilgrimage was being able to talk to young Palestinians growing up in the Holy Land, from students at Bethlehem University with plans to relocate to the US, to a running group who hold marathons as a form of protest for freedom of movement.

Hearing their views made one thing clear to us – everyone just wants peace. And peace we found; on the shore of the Sea of Galilee where we had a

reconciliation service, at an outdoor Mass in Jerusalem with the Islamic call to prayer reverberating around the city, and at the Dead Sea where we felt weightless in the dense salt water.

A week after returning home, we've been able to reflect on the extraordinary trip and the things we experienced there. We've built strong friendships with the fellow pilgrims and though we're missing the hot weather and hummus, it's been fun to reminisce with them.

Of course, none of this would have been possible if not for the group leaders, especially Fr Peter and Fr David who led the youth pilgrimage, and their tireless efforts organising the trip despite many setbacks. It was better than we could have hoped for and we're all extremely grateful.



Bronze statue of St Peter on the shore of the Sea of Galilee

Golden days in Rome

Josephine Smith from St Philip's recounts the experience of the group who travelled to Rome recently.

To celebrate our joint Golden Jubilees, parishioners from St Philip's Offerton and Holy Spirit Marple, together with St Peter's Hazel Grove embarked on a pilgrimage to Rome.

Sunday 15th October saw us all meeting up at Manchester Airport at the early hour of 4.45am. After an uneventful flight we landed to find blue skies and sunshine in Rome. Here we met our tour guide, Pilar and were whisked away to Beda College for Mass. This was followed by getting to our hotel for a welcome meal and some time to unpack and relax.

Day 2: It was an early morning call for departure for Mass at St Peter's basilica at 7.15am at the altar of San Giovanni Paolo II. Early Mass meant that we avoided the crowds! Even so, by the time we had had Mass and time to explore the basilica, many people were entering St Peter's and the queues to go through security were growing by the minute! After the early start, breakfast back at the hotel was much appreciated, especially as we were soon on the coach again going back into Rome. Here Pilar guided us through the Piazza Navona, the Pantheon, the Trevi fountain and the Spanish Steps.

Day 3: Our journey was to Montecassino, 81 miles from Rome. The monastery, founded by St Benedict, sits at the top of a rocky hill and is reached by a series of hairpin bends. For a place with such a violent history, and the scene of fierce fighting in WW2, it now feels full of peace and calm. Our Mass at Montecassino was in the crypt which was so beautiful with many mosaics covering the walls. As a bonus, the acoustics were wonderful and amplified our singing greatly.

After a wonderful lunch a visit was made to the Commonwealth War Cemetery which was a very moving and thought provoking experience. On the side of Montecassino is a war cemetery dedicated to all the Polish soldiers who died in the fighting there – again a sombre and moving sight.

Day 4: Wednesday 18th October, we set off on the coach at 8am for the Papal audience. We thought we would be in

good time and get good seats for this. However, the Roman traffic had other ideas – it was so bad – by the time the coach had parked, the queues to go through security seemed to be miles long and the Pope arrived early!! So, no seats and nowhere near the front – but we could see Pope Francis on the big



screens and as a tiny figure far away. Not what we hoped for but we were there and for me it was well worth it. As a treat (?) or maybe a test, we were now let loose to find our own way to the church of Santa Maria Trastevere for Mass at 3pm. A bit daunting, but with Pilar's help in drawing a route on our maps, all arrived safely and on time. This church is one of the oldest in Rome and has many 13th century mosaics. A real treat was a great meal that evening at the Casa Coppelle and a coach tour of Rome by night.

Day 5: Started with a coach trip to Nettuno, which is on the coast. Our Mass today was in the Crypt of Sanctuary of St Maria Goretti. Here, under the altar in a glass case is the wax figure of the saint, within which lie her skeletal remains. A little further down the coast is Anzio, where again we visited the Commonwealth War Cemetery. Here, Giuglio, a friend and colleague of Pilar, gave a very interesting talk about the

history of the Anzio landings; it was very much appreciated. After our visit to Anzio it was back on the coach for a short drive to a great seafood restaurant for lunch – amazing food. I don't think I've seen or eaten so many different fish – delicious.

Day 6: Friday 20th October was our last full day in Rome and after a leisurely breakfast (no early call today!) we left by coach for the Church of the Twelve Apostles for Mass.

This church is a minor basilica and was originally dedicated to St James and St Philip whose remains are kept there. After Mass it was back on the coach to drive to Santa Maria Maggiore, the largest church in Rome dedicated to Our Lady. Under the high altar is the Crypt of the Nativity where a crystal reliquary contains wood from the Crib of the Nativity.

Our final church of this pilgrimage was the Pope's church in Rome, St John Lateran. It is the Papal archbasilica and, being the oldest, it has precedence over the other papal major basilicas. After our visit to St John Lateran the coach took us back to the hotel. Time to don our glad rags for a Grand Gala Dinner. From the Kir Royale cocktail to the delicious cake and all the courses in between, it was a truly magnificent dinner and a fitting end to our pilgrimage to Rome.

Time then to return to reality – goodbye sunny Rome and hello Manchester which was in the grip of Storm Brian and a VERY hairy landing. It goes without saying that this pilgrimage would not have been the success it was without all the hard work done by Peter Smith in organising it, our very knowledgeable tour guide Pilar and Father Peter and Father Bernie to say Mass for us.



Matthew and James Allen aged 17 and 12, both former pupils of St Peter's school, are involved in SPY (St Peter's Youth) and in the young peoples' music at church. Last year Matthew went to Poland for the World Youth Day with other young

people from the parish and both boys attend Celebrate (charismatic Catholic) events and Fanning the Flame camp in summer. They both share a love of acting – and would seem to be pretty successful so far!



One, no two, **to watch**

Matthew writes...

It was an amazing experience to play Wally Webb in 'Our Town' at the Royal Exchange Theatre. Working with an outstanding director, exploring different ways in which characters can show their inner selves and playing with different ideas of expressing this, was mesmerising. The play followed everyday people through their lives, reflecting on life and death and 'the eternal' within us.

I made great contacts, even friends, with people who have worked and studied at the most prestigious institutions such as RADA and RSC.

I'm so lucky to have been part of many productions, for example at the Royal Exchange, RNCM (Royal Northern College of Music) and elsewhere including National Youth Theatre last summer. Little pieces of TV and film work have been great experience; last year in 'Doctors' I played Finn Shawcross in an episode.

However, the stage is what I love most. Throwing myself around as Cosmo on stage to 'Make 'em laugh' in 'Singin' in the Rain' at the RNCM was an exhilarating experience, literally making people laugh is something I strive to do! Playing music is still a big part of my life, including at SPY and at Youth Masses and I hope to use this in my career.

Once I finish my sixth form musical theatre studies (hard work, but great fun and worthwhile training in dance and singing as well as acting), I'm hoping to get to drama school, to study acting. In the meantime, I'm available for work... and seeing as many productions and meeting as many people in the industry as possible.

James writes...

I'm really enjoying being part of 'Elf the Musical', playing Michael Hobbs in rotation with three other boys. Rehearsing in London and performing in Plymouth has meant missing school (and friends!) but I've had a tutor to help me keep up. It's the biggest role I've had so far and great fun (although rather hot on stage in full winter clothes!).

I love making people happy and that's what Elf is all about. When you see the sleigh, it makes you feel excited and happy, remembering all the special times at Christmas.

I'd like to be an actor when I'm older. I've learned a lot from my brother and love being on stage, for example in the Royal Exchange's productions of 'Hamlet' and 'Husbands and

Sons' and in other musical productions across the North West. I've also really enjoyed voice acting this year, playing Kerry the frog in the children's animation 'Mofy' on Channel 5. It's good fun and great to see the results.

I'm looking forward to coming home again and performing in 'Elf' at the Lowry, then in another series of 'Mofy' and who knows what next? I know I'll be glad to be back with my friends and family, playing music with my sister and spending time with my friends from school and church. I really have missed playing my instruments and can't wait to get back on the drum kit again!





Mary's corner

Time now just to take a break from the hustle and bustle, to sit down quietly, relax your body, settle your mind and let Mary Hardiman's reflection on this familiar piece from scripture find a place in your heart.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that through him the world might be saved. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God."

John 3: 16-17

I have two questions for you to think about today.

- 1. How would you feel if I asked you to give away your most treasured possession?***
- 2. How you would feel if you were asked to publish here in this magazine the worst thing you have ever done?***

Please bear with me – both questions are relevant.

God loved the world so much that He gave His only son. A child is the most precious thing any parent could want. I have heard many parents talking about the difficulties they face when their children leave home; some call it 'empty nest syndrome'. And whilst every parent knows it has to happen, it comes at a great emotional price. Any love is a costly commodity, especially parental love. God gave the world His most treasured possession – not a piece of jewellery, a family heirloom, a car or a house; he gave the world His only son, in full knowledge of the itinerant life Jesus would live, the rejection he would experience and ultimately the ignominious death he would suffer. But He did it anyway. Because He loves us that much.

God gave us the gift of Jesus so that we would not be lost. Again and again in the gospels we read stories of how Jesus sought out the lost: the parable of the missing sheep, the lost coin, the Samaritan woman at the well, the woman who touched His cloak, the woman caught committing adultery, Mary Magdala, Levi, Zaccheus, Bartimeus... the list goes on.

What does it mean to be lost? Lost in what? Being lost means we can't find our way somewhere. People can be lost in loneliness and isolation, in bad relationships, in spiritual blindness, in despair or in a cycle of sin. People can be lost when they don't feel needed. God doesn't want that. He wants us to know where we are going, to be certain of our destination and of how to get there – to Zion, the holy city of God. You and I are heaven bound, where one day we will see God face to face. Nobody said the journey would be easy – there may be so many obstacles which mean we have to

go back and start down a different path. But God keeps on beckoning us towards Him, with the Holy Spirit to guide us.

But you know, the everlasting or eternal life Jesus speaks of in this passage is not just something for after we die. It starts now, in this moment, in the life of our eternal God which flows in us and through us. This life is free, free of charge. We don't have to DO anything to get it – Jesus did that bit already. We just have to accept it. I don't know about you, but when I think of everlasting life, I think I'll need the whole of eternity just to thank God for what He's already done for me.

There's a tough message too though in this bit of John's gospel. Jesus says that He's not come to condemn the world but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already. So, if Jesus hasn't come to condemn the world, then who is doing the condemning?

I work two days a week with people who suffer from alcohol or drug addiction. A good number of those I work with have been brought up in Christian households. I have listened to many clients talk about the guilt and shame around their behaviour and around the choices they've made. What makes me feel really sad is that the God they understand is often a God of judgement and harshness. The condemnation they feel is not from God but from someone else's view of God, passed onto them in childhood. They cannot live in the light because they don't know God's mercy. And neither can we live in the light unless we too know God's mercy. There is a familiarity and safety in the darkness and in the protective wall that keeps us there.

God keeps it simple; His mercy or our condemnation. We have a choice:

Trust – surrender – believe – receive.

Don't trust, don't surrender, don't believe, don't receive.

WE complicate it, not God. We make God so small. We can't accept that God loves us because we don't really love ourselves. I think we're all frightened of being shown up as evil and guilty. I asked you at the start how you would feel about sharing the worst thing you'd ever done in our parish magazine. We don't want those things brought into the light because maybe they are shameful or embarrassing. We may feel rejected if people knew what we were really like.

To get back to the people I work with... when I listen to their stories, I often feel as though I'm sitting in the heart of God Himself and, in some small way, I can see them through the eyes of Jesus. I know that it's a gift, but I see that as part of the eternal life that Jesus offers to all of us, not just to me. We may condemn others, we may condemn ourselves but I don't think for one minute that we can pin that badge of condemnation on God. The light of God's love will never hurt our eyes – it just shows us the way to salvation.

I want to finish with a quote. It's from Jean Vanier, the founder of the l'Arche community which works with and for people with disabilities. He says this:

"We cannot accept our poverty and frailty unless we discover that we are loved just as we are. When we realise that we do not have to be clever, powerful or successful in order to be loved, then we can live in truth, come to the light and be led by the Spirit of God. We are no longer fearful."

God loved the world so much that He gave His only son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not be lost, but may have eternal life.

Lourdes as seen by *two doctors*

I last visited Lourdes with the Shrewsbury diocese as a third year medical student in 2005. I travelled there and back on the 'Jumbulance', a coach-cum-ambulance transporting some of the most dependent and disabled pilgrims. I was a willing helper, but my relative lack of medical knowledge and experience limited my ability to offer more. I remember thinking at the time that it would be wonderful to come back as a fully qualified doctor one day and work as part of the medical team.

Now a fully qualified GP and A+E doctor, I am finally able to take leave whenever I like. I was very pleased to have the chance to go back to Lourdes with Shrewsbury diocese this summer. It was a pleasure to meet and work with some senior medics and the excellent nurses, so well led by Nuala Fitzmaurice. Also impressive were all the healthcare assistants and other volunteers.

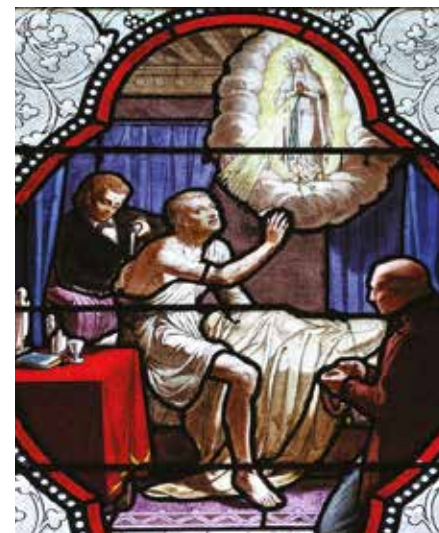
It was inspiring to witness all these experienced and busy healthcare professionals giving up their valuable free time to help make happen a safe, happy and successful pilgrimage to Lourdes, year after year.

I travelled to Lourdes across land on coach, boat and train – a long journey, taking almost 24 hours. My first medical duty was being asked to see a young pregnant Portuguese woman with a suspected deep vein thrombosis (it wasn't!) on the ferry across the Channel. The nurses and several volunteers were rallying, helping to translate with their mobile phones. I knew then I wouldn't have to worry during the pilgrimage as I would always have a great team around me.

The hospital ward in Lourdes is very well equipped, with spacious rooms and good facilities. It is somewhat similar to a normal UK hospital ward, with nurses and care staff carrying out regular rounds and standard duties. The



Read how **Will MacManus** found his time in Lourdes this year and from where he drew his inspiration.



most unwell of the travelling pilgrims, the 'VIPs', stayed on the hospital ward for the week. As doctors, we assessed the VIPs on a regular basis, as well as seeing any other pilgrims on request in our assessment room – much like a GP consultation room. This brought us a wide range of 'patients', from pregnant women and babies, to elderly priests! The team of doctors provided a wide range of background skills, from experienced GPs to consultants in paediatrics and palliative medicine.

The doctors all supported each other during the week. We shared all duties during the day, and then there was a timetable for being 'on duty' overnight where one of us would attend to unwell pilgrims on request from the nursing team. Even overnight, I never once felt isolated or unsupported.

Despite these responsibilities, there was still plenty of time to really get in to the spirit of Lourdes as well. We were able to attend services and Masses and visit the sights in and around Lourdes itself.

I went into medicine as a career hoping to care for sick people and work with inspiring teams of healthcare professionals. Nowhere in my experience so far have I seen this to be more evident than in Lourdes. I really felt part of the care team – and the teenage volunteers, right up to the senior medical staff, were all part of it. Everyone had an essential role to play and everyone was so willing to do it. The experience really restored my faith in human kindness and commitment, and the piety and faith of the sick pilgrims was a true inspiration. I expect I will now be a regular.



Jude Raper went to Lourdes for the first time this year. She volunteered to help as a doctor and found she became so much more there.

If I was forced to sum the whole thing up in one word, it would be 'welcome'. From the very start of the journey, as we waited and waited and waited for the plane to depart, I already felt the overwhelming sense of welcome and belonging. The people I met and the conversations we had, even when first meeting in Manchester Airport, were typical examples of the whole trip; I knew I was part of an amazing family, I felt embraced and I knew I was meant to be there. The experiences that people shared with me in Lourdes have stayed with me and helped me to grow.

If you are wondering whether to join our team as a volunteer doctor or nurse, you need not have any anxieties. It is such a lovely team and so much fun. You have time to assess and look after the VIPs; the hub of our ward in the Accueil was surely the tea and coffee trolley! Surrounded by chairs, with a constant supply of sustenance, here was where the real care took place, the spiritual care from each to all, hearing

people's stories, and having the time to really listen. The volunteers at Lourdes impressed me so much, especially the young people who were so attentive, so well mannered, so well organised and without whom the VIPs could not have experienced everything they did in such comfort and such loving care. Many of our volunteers will find their vocations in Lourdes and we will see them return in years to come, I suspect.

In Lourdes, I was not merely a doctor, I was a pilgrim. I truly came to understand what it means to be part of a pilgrim people. For me personally, I came at a time when, though enjoying my profession as much as ever, the increasing and inevitable politics were leaving me wondering whether I could achieve what I want to achieve for my patients and their families in the current climate. I had not realised how much I needed that trip to Lourdes. I remain astonished by the homilies and the catechesis, the conversations I had with new friends, how much Our Lord spoke personally to me during those interactions. Lourdes was vital to my

personal journey and I left certain that I am created to do what I do – it is my vocation, and I can achieve my best with His support.

My most valuable experience was my highly privileged opportunity to visit the grotto at night, when the sanctuary was all locked up. I was on call overnight in the Accueil, so we were able to visit the grotto in the peaceful, quiet time. We sat in front of the grotto and its cone of candles, surrounded by the floodlit architecture of the sanctuary; we had the precious time to pray, to read, to listen and to reflect.

At the very start of the journey, in the luxury of Manchester Airport's departure lounge, someone said to me that you do not decide to go to Lourdes, but you are invited, and that you are given what you need in Lourdes. How very true that is. Thank you so much to those who took so much care and attention to organise the whole pilgrimage. Thank you for welcoming me, an ex-pat from the Birmingham diocese, into such a wonderful family of lifelong friends! A la prochaine!



Don't **miss out** on Lourdes!

A newcomer to the Lourdes' experience, **Liam Devlin** reflects on his time there with the diocesan pilgrimage this summer.

This summer was the first time I went to Lourdes. I almost didn't go and that would have been a huge mistake. St Peter's Youth, a group of about 30 teenagers and young adults, travelled overland from Our Lady's.

A big part of the volunteering at Lourdes is to accompany the VIPs around the Domain but, to be honest, they're so nice and pleasant to be with that you don't even think of it as work. They appreciate the work the volunteers do so much, but the impression they make on us is equally big and you always look forward to meeting the next VIP and seeing what stories they'll share. I'm also very skilled at manoeuvring a wheelchair now as well!

All the services at Lourdes are incredible – peaceful yet powerful. Looking at everyone around you joined in prayer is really empowering, especially as someone still discovering their faith. It is amazing to be a part of and my personal

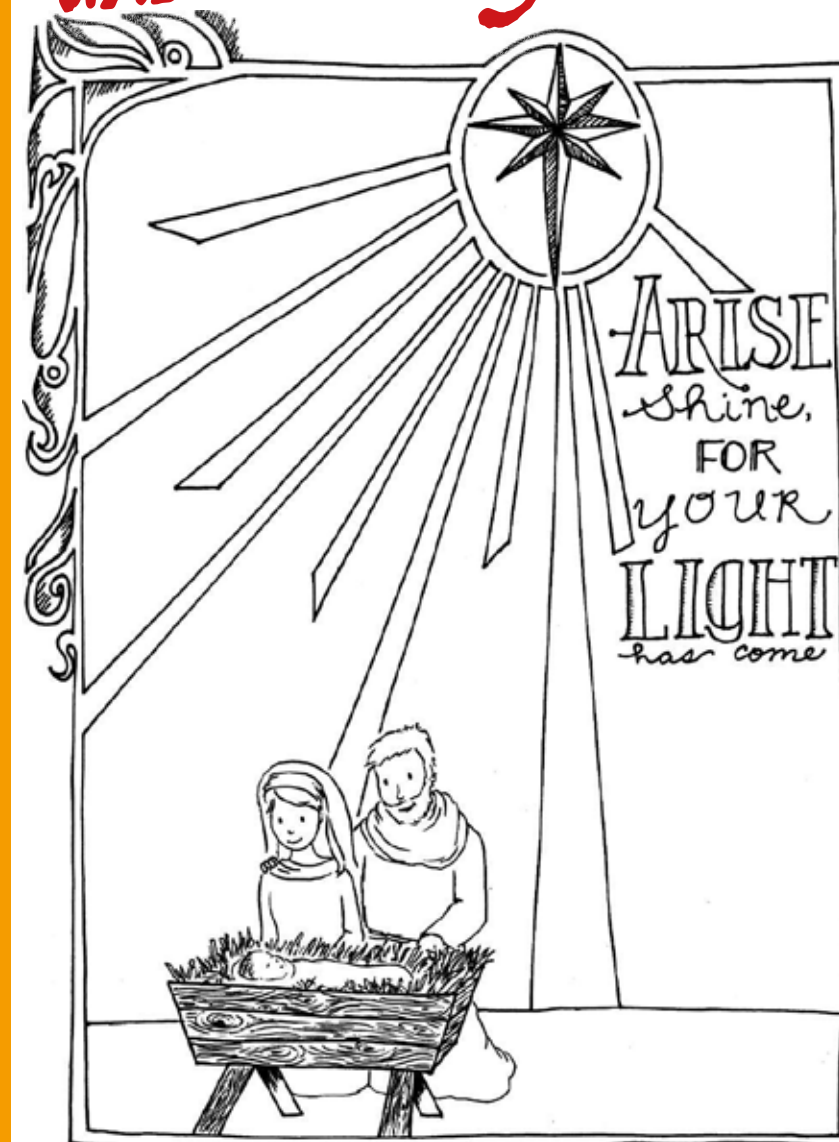
favourite was the torchlight procession as all the candles added to the beauty of the service. Throughout the whole of the Domain, there is a very calm atmosphere and it is incredible to experience.

The other wonderful part is the friends you make. I wasn't expecting our group to become a tight-knit family within days and it isn't an exaggeration to say that Lourdes completely changes your relationships with people. It creates an incredibly open and friendly feeling and it's amazing who you get to know even across other groups in the diocese.

Before I went, several people told me that Lourdes is definitely something you have to experience for yourself. I've tried to describe it, but I would agree it is not something to miss out on.

If YOU get the chance to go to Lourdes, don't hesitate!

Colour in this Nativity scene



Word search

Can you find these Christmas words?

BETHLEHEM	JOSEPH	SHEEP	CARD
STAR	ANGEL	CHRISTMAS	TURKEY
KING	GOLD	PRESENT	SNOW
JESUS	FRANKINCENSE	CRACKER	CAROLS
MARY	MYRRH	TREE	DONKEY

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

SPOT THE 5 DIFFERENCES!



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

Colette 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 Beckitt:

admin@stpetershazलगrove.org.uk

Welcomers

Anne-Marie Bailey: 0161 456 2213

ambailey@cheerful.com

Creating social activity

Parish newsletter

Monica Beckitt

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

tony.martin@ntlworld.com

Walking group

Tony Martin: 0161 483 7720

tony.martin@ntlworld.com

Exploring faith

Alpha

Rachel McKay: 0161 487 1659

mckay7897@hotmail.com

Baptism programme

Anne-Marie Galogly

Karen Haines - justasec55@hotmail.com

Confirmation programme

Julie Williams

juliewilliams10@gmail.com

First sacraments preparation

Teresa Thiele: 07778 848709

terrythiele@hotmail.co.uk

Marriage preparation

Fr Peter

RCIA

Tony Martin: 0161 483 7720

tony.martin@ntlworld.com

Vocations

Fr Peter

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

Sharing faith

CaFE

Rachel McKay: 0161 487 1659

mckay7897@hotmail.com

Centering prayer

Mike O'Malley: 0161 483 8296

michaeldomalley@sky.com

Churches Together activities

Cath Smith: 0161 612 3592

swazimum@hotmail.com

Guided prayer

Mike O'Malley: 0161 483 8296

michaeldomalley@sky.com

Holy hour and prayer ministry

Laura Small: 01625 876 752

lauramsmall@hotmail.com

Lending library

Ann Bonner: 0161 456 6152

anntbar46@yahoo.com

LPA liaison

Julie Williams: 0161 285 0244

juliewilliams10@gmail.com

Mother's prayers

Teresa Thiele: 07778 848709

terrythiele@hotmail.co.uk

Praise and worship

Rachel McKay: 0161 487 1659

mckay7897@hotmail.com

Rosary groups: adult and children

Laura Small: 01625 876 752

lauramsmall@hotmail.com

Scripture group

Mike O'Malley: 0161 483 8296

michaeldomalley@sky.com

Supporting Families and Youth

Bereavement support

Helen Lyons: 07854 928072

Childrens' liturgy

Janice Ormerod: 0161 449 5840

Explorers

Joe O'Brien: 07976 423 203

joe_obrien@ntlworld.com

Little fishes

Anne Wroe: 07763 387001

anne.wroe@sky.com

Marriage and family life group

David Small: 01625 876 752

SPY group

David Small: 01625 876 752

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@stpeterhazलगrove.org.uk

Justice and peace

Carmel O'Malley: 0161 483 8296

LAMBS

Jackie Mackay: 0161 483 6348

Kath Coll: 0161 456 0881

kathcoll@btinternet.com

Lenten lunches

Helen Lyons: 07854 928072

Jackie Mackay: 0161 483 6348

Kath Coll: 0161 456 0881

Lourdes group

Mary Conway-Kelly: 07809 748805

Luncheon club

Margaret Hulme: 07775 162694

Missio

Fiona Preece: 0161 456 4319

Refugees store

Carmel O'Malley: 0161 483 8296

Schools chaplaincy

St Peter's

Fr P Sharrocks: 0161 483 2431

0161 483 3476

St Simon's

Fr P Sharrocks: 0161 483 9696

0161 483 3476

St James' High School - Via School

0161 482 6900

office@stjamesche.org.uk

Harrytown High School - Via School

0161 430 5277

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Aquinas 6th form college

Duncan Whelan: 0161 483 3237

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SVP: adult and youth

Lorraine Parker: 0161 456 5629

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