

SHINE



Don't miss this!

It's early to be thinking about Advent of course, but you might like to make a note of this date

Saturday 1 December

This will be our popular Advent Retreat Day in the parish centre at St Peter's. A time to step back from hustle and bustle and have an opportunity to sit back and consider the very wonderful happenings at Christmas.

We are delighted to have Mary Hardiman lead us through the day and reflect on what it meant for the two key women in the Gospel story: Mary and Elizabeth.

In her own special and thought provoking way, she will take us through the stories of the Annunciation and the Visitation, so that we can journey with these two women through Advent.

The outline programme for the Advent Retreat Day looks like this:

9.30am	We'll start with welcome and some songs of praise
10.15am	Mary's first talk <i>Then there'll be some valuable quiet time in church.</i>
12 noon	Mass
12.45pm	Time to eat our packed lunch back in the parish centre
1.45pm	Mary will give her second talk
2.30pm	Informal group discussions and maybe some personal prayer ministry
4pm	We bid farewell, relaxed, inspired and ready for the joys and blessings of Advent.

There will be reminders in the parish newsletters nearer the time, but do make a note in your diary now to keep the day clear.



FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

It is amazing how quickly the request to write a few words of introduction to a new issue of Shine Magazine comes round but here we are again. I was just looking at the number of baptisms and funerals we have celebrated in our churches but there have been no weddings!! We have two at the beginning of September and one more at the end of December and there is one booked for next year so far! Christian marriage and family life should be the foundation of our parish community.

We have had lots of First Communions and 30 or more youngsters were confirmed here in July but we have not seen most of them since. As I said in my homily on the feast of St John the Baptist at the end of June, "What will become of our parish?" It would seem that we cannot go on like this and we will have to look at the way we celebrate the sacraments and the commitment of families to the life of the Church.

The beginning of September sees our National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress being held in Liverpool with delegates from all over the country. At the end of August, Pope Francis was in Ireland at the World Meeting of Families. These 'jamborees' mean nothing unless they have a lasting effect in the lives of our parishes and the living faith of our people.

Our Pastoral Team are looking at ways of revitalising the life of our parish and I hope that everyone who considers themselves to be a catholic will join in whatever initiatives we take. We can start with prayer during the time of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on the first Fridays of the month from 6-8pm as well as each Saturday morning before the midday Mass from 11am.

The gift of the Mass and Holy Communion is the great gift of Christ to us his Church, so let us cherish the gift and use it as it was intended, to nurture our faith and give us food for the journey.

Fr Peter

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

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Where we are . . .

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Shining a light on our parish communities

Pilgrimage planned to Rome

You may recall reading in issue 3 of Shine last December, the Golden Days in Rome, when St Philip's Offerton and Holy Spirit, Marple parishes headed to the eternal city to celebrate their joint golden jubilees.

It was so successful and enjoyable that they've decided to return for another pilgrimage next March, 2019.

Plans are now in place for a seven day trip from 18 to 24 March to savour the delights of Rome and Orvieto, based at the 4 star rated Cicerone hotel.

Peter Smith is organising the holiday again and full details are available from him. Email him at plsmithksg@aol.com or ring him on 0161 427 4494. This may well be a case of 'book early to avoid disappointment!' We'll look forward to hearing all about it next year.



Diamond wedding celebration



Sheila and Alan Appleby celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary recently. The happy couple were delighted with the parish's response to their achievement and wrote "We would both like to thank everyone for their good wishes on our diamond wedding anniversary, especially those who helped on Sunday morning. A big thank you also to those who sent cards and flowers. God bless."

Morning prayer

God of the universe,
thank you for the gift of this new day.

Let me receive it graciously
and with gratitude.

When I am tempted to
complain and grumble,
teach me to be aware that
I am being ungrateful.

Let me be mindful that
it is in the events of
this day, whether they be
to my satisfaction or not,
that I encounter you.

Help me to receive the day
and its unfolding
without judgement, rancour
or ingratitude,
but to seek and see your
boundless generosity and love
in all the events, good or bad
of this day.

Amen.

Offered by Michael O'Malley

The importance of punctuation

An English professor wrote the words "A woman without her man is nothing" on the whiteboard then asked his students to punctuate it correctly.

All the males wrote: A woman, without her man, is nothing.

The females wrote: A woman: without her, man is nothing.

Farewells and welcomes

Since our last issue in April, the following parishioners have gone to their rest:

Joan Mulcahy

Geoffrey Alker

Mary Costagliola

Elizabeth (Lily) O'Reilly

Michael Anthony Lawler

Joyce Devereux

Roy William Griffiths

Marjorie Brady

Gloria Flynn

John Edwards

Doris Doherty

Peter Sharkey

Barbara Noon

Antionietta Perrotta

May they rest in peace.

One interesting feature of the funerals held from St Peter's this summer was our first funeral led by a lay person at the end of July. Several of our parishioners have received training in order to preside at funerals when a priest is not available and you can read about the experience on page 12.

We have welcomed a number into the church through baptism:

Savannah Dempsey

Charlotte Jenner

Freddie Grundy

Mia Maddocks

Felicity Ball

Hettie Ball

Sukey Wiatr

Owen Turner

Samuel Almond

Riley Paton

Edie Ross

Nuala Boyle

Conor Crowley

Viktor Kasprzak

Elizabeth Owen

Arthur Owen

Sophie Warwick

Matthew McBrien

Rudy Morrison

Keegan McManus

Tecyana Justino

Elisio Justino

Mia Holtom

Terri-leigh Longshaw

Some parishioners from St Peter's travelled to Ireland to see **Pope Francis** at the end of August. Here are their thoughts as they share their experience.



Seeing the Pope in Ireland

Lyz Donegan writes

With joyful anticipation we left Co Down very early on a wet and windy Sunday morning, heading to Phoenix Park, Dublin for the final Mass of the World Meeting of Families, to be celebrated by Pope Francis. Arriving at the park the excitement of the thousands of pilgrims, who had travelled from across the world, was palpable. Cheers of joy and hope welcomed Pope Francis as he greeted the pilgrims from his 'popemobile' vehicle. The Pope's address and homily were heartfelt and humble, citing the early Irish saints who he said achieved great things through a humble and liberating trust in the Holy Spirit... truly a challenge to us all. Despite the intermittent rain and sore feet the whole day was a wonderful celebration of faith. For me, the most uplifting moment was waiting to receive holy communion surrounded by so many thousands of pilgrims of all ages and nationalities. It felt like a real communion of faith.



Helen Lyons writes

After an early start we walked and queued for miles to get to Phoenix Park in the wind and rain, but it didn't seem to matter to anyone. Once there we enjoyed a great atmosphere with the pre-Mass entertainment. By 3 o'clock when Pope Francis arrived, the rain had stopped and as he toured around in his 'popemobile' there was great excitement. Then, as Mass started, the whole crowd became silent, we listened to his words of apology, asking us to forgive and assuring that justice would prevail with the help of God. The Mass was lovely and very uplifting. In his homily Pope Francis asked that we become "a source of encouragement for others" and that we bear fruit from the sacrificial love of Jesus. But he also acknowledged that it is not easy and asked that we all go to our homes from the World Meeting of Families and bear that fruit in the modern world. For me, seeing Pope Francis and listening to his words of encouragement was a life goal and a day I will never forget.



John McKay writes

When my Dad went to Ireland in 1979 for the visit of Pope John Paul II, I remember watching it all on TV with great interest, never thinking for a moment that I would go to the next one 39 years later!

Pope Francis came for the triennial World Meeting of Families; Pope Francis didn't duck the issue over the church abuse scandals and asked for forgiveness in a penitential rite, written especially for the closing Mass in Phoenix Park. The grey and overcast weather seemed to have heard about the problems and decided to turn up to make everyone realise that this is a big deal. I believe Pope Francis showed great courage in acknowledging the difficulties faced by the church. He had also met with eight victims of abuse perpetrated by the church. One of the people who had been abused, himself a priest, explained that Pope Francis had listened to all eight people for 90 minutes simply as persons together with only one interpreter present. Although very disillusioned at first, the priest was extremely glad at the outcome of the discussion and was convinced about the Pope's resolution that there should be definite and permanent change.

The mood lifted once Pope Francis entered the park. As I listened to the liturgy, I was encouraged by the 'could-have-been-written-for-the-day' gospel. When Jesus was losing support and seemed to think the apostles might leave him too, they responded by asking: "Where would we go? You have the message of eternal life." Surely this is our



question too? Where would we go if not to follow Jesus despite all the abuses within the institution? Perhaps this is the very time to follow Jesus even more faithfully so that the institution of our church might be reformed and that we support Pope Francis with our love and prayers.

The witness of Pope Francis is phenomenal – he is 81 – an age my Dad never lived to see – an age reflected in mild frailty. In spite of the enormity of leading the world's billion Catholics, he seems to manage to do it with wisdom and gentleness that must surely be coming from somewhere else.

In spite of the negatives, the visit was really inspiring. It was also an opportunity to renew contact with relatives. The 'pre-match' entertainment featured such diverse performers as the Rend Collective and the perennial Daniel O'Donnell.

The future has its challenges but in Pope Francis we have a determined and faithful Shepherd.



Rachel McKay writes

We ended up with John's cousin in a group from Holy Rosary parish, Greystones, just outside Dublin. Leaving their house at 6.50 am for a Mass that started at 3 pm and stepping out into the grey misty gloom and pouring rain, we realised it wasn't going to be a day for the faint-hearted! A coach journey followed by a 4 km walk to the park had caused a few to drop out even before the bad weather began. I started to think I must be slightly crazy to be doing this! You'd expect a town like Greystones to be pretty dormant at that time on a Saturday morning but as we turned a corner, there were lots of other people joining us from the side roads – families, individuals, people in wheelchairs, all ages, taxis zipping up and down, cars pipping their horns outside houses to speed the inhabitants out – all heading down to the four coaches at the church; a great atmosphere that lasted all day.

Everyone in the crowd was so delighted to see Pope Francis and be in his presence. The reason for Pope Francis' visit was to celebrate family life. At the penitential rite he asked for forgiveness for the pain that had been caused to people by members of the church. In his homily Pope Francis reminded us that the vocation of the family was "being love in the heart of the church". He explained how we need "the Holy Spirit to breathe new life into our world, into our hearts, into our families, into our homes and parishes". He said that it is "the witness of the Christian family that has the power to break down barriers ... to reconcile the world to God and make us what we were meant to be – a single human family, living together in justice, holiness and peace". These words were a huge encouragement. Despite the blustery wind and intermittent showers and not getting to see Pope Francis at close quarters (he turned down a different path away from us!), in the midst of such a large crowd there was a real sense of peace. It felt like getting a glimpse of what it must have been like to be in the presence of Jesus. Even the 4 km walk back to the coaches and then the gridlock for two hours as we waited to inch out of the carpark in no way dampened our enthusiasm and I was so delighted to have been part of this day. I took with me the words of Archbishop Martin of Dublin who prayed for a new spring for the church in Ireland, and we pray for that here too in our hearts and homes and families.



Chester *Mystery Plays*

Julie Williams joined the parish outing to nearby Chester and reports back!

On Saturday 7 July a coach full of parishioners and friends went for a day out in Chester. Some went with tickets for the Chester Mystery Plays whilst others enjoyed sightseeing, shopping and visiting the Chester Military Museum which houses the archive of the Cheshire Regiment.

In 2013, many of the same group had been on a similar trip organised from St Peter's and constituted some of the 11,000 people who watched the Mystery Plays that year. That previous experience was so greatly enjoyed that we decided it was too good an opportunity to miss again. But why wait so long you may ask?

The reason is that the full-scale plays to which Chester cathedral plays host are only performed every five years. The event is a collaboration involving hundreds of people from the Chester community. This year there were 250 performers on stage including 126 children and 150 volunteers behind the scenes.



Replete after enjoying a packed lunch, some of the group relax in the sunshine.



Fr Jonathan and his team of volunteers

The Acting Dean of Chester, the Reverend Jane Brooke, outlined the plays' history as follows: "During the Middle Ages all of the church's worship was conducted in Latin, including readings from the Bible. Very few people apart from priests knew the Bible story because they were ignorant of Latin. So the Bible Story was a 'mystery'. That's why Mystery Plays started in several English towns including Chester, Coventry and York, with the object of presenting the Bible Story in a dramatic form which the people could understand. The original text of the Chester Cycle of Mystery Plays, consisting of 24 mini plays, survives and presents selected stories from both the Old and New Testaments. The Chester Plays stopped after the Reformation in the 16th century but were revived in 1951 and are performed every five years at the cathedral. Each time the plays are performed with a different director".

This year's director was Deborah McAndrew, a British playwright and actor, who came to fame playing Angie Freeman in Coronation Street in the 1990s. She treated us to her version of the following plays.

Part 1:

The Fall Of Lucifer, The Creation Of The World, Noah And His Ship, The Nativity, The Shepherds, King Herod, The Three Kings.

Part 2:

The Temptation And Woman Taken Into Adultery, The Raising Of Lazarus, The Coming Of Christ To Jerusalem, The Last Supper, The Scourging Of Christ, The Crucifixion, The Resurrection, The Ascension, AntiChrist, The Last Judgement.

Each play was presented in great style by actors, singers and musicians, supported by superb costumes, props, lighting and special effects and culminating in a fantastically atmospheric spectacle within the historic, lofty setting of the cathedral.

Following the play, the coach delivered us to St Columba's parish centre in Chester, where we were welcomed by a former priest of St Peter's, Fr Jonathan Brandon, and a team of lovely ladies from his present parish who had volunteered to make and serve us with a delicious afternoon tea. Their delightful hospitality was much appreciated by us all on such a hot summer's day and the generous portions of food and drink left no one hungry on the homeward journey.

We all agreed it was a great day out and offered many thanks to all those involved in organising it. Perhaps we can do it again in five years' time!



Tucking into a tasty tea in St Columba's stylish parish centre.



On the evening of Thursday 28 June, the vigil of the feast of St Peter and St Paul, Bishop Mark came to St Peter's church to confirm 32 young people from the parishes of St Peter, St Philip, St Vincent and St Ambrose, who had completed our LPA Confirmation preparation programme.

Concelebrating the Mass with the Bishop were Fr Peter, Fr Geoff O'Grady and Fr Nick Kern. The group was also joined by a young person from Christchurch parish in Heald Green and two adult candidates from Sacred Heart and St Peter's parish, Wythenshawe.

Our group had commenced the LPA programme in September 2017 and since then, they had participated in sessions each month. They also attended special Masses of Enrolment and Election

Confirmation celebration

The highlight of the LPA preparation programme

and other services, to which all their families were invited, including a Lenten Reflection, a Reconciliation service and a Mass with commentary by Fr Peter.

On the night, the Confirmation candidates, accompanied by their chosen sponsor, were presented to the Bishop, whilst their families gathered around them in front of the sanctuary to witness them being 'sealed with the Holy Spirit'.

We congratulate them all and hope that they will continue on their faith journey and be true followers of Christ throughout their lives.

Many thanks to all of the prayer sponsors in each of our LPA parishes who have supported the candidates in prayer throughout the year. We are also very grateful to the dedicated team of group leaders who have assisted the catechists in delivering the programme.

Answering an unexpected phone call

*It had been a fairly normal day for **Rachel McKay** – until she noticed a missed call from Fr Peter!*

A family's loved one had died and they had fairly specific wishes about the date for the funeral that they wanted to take place at the crematorium. This came a couple of days before Fr Peter was due to travel to Lourdes, so he had spoken to the family about the option of the funeral being led by a lay funeral minister. After discussion amongst the family, rather than delay the funeral until a priest was available, the family chose this option. Hence the phone call to me.

We had been partly 'prepared' for this day since March, having attended the funeral ministers' training given by the Liverpool diocesan lay ministry team as well as going to local training days in the Local Pastoral Area (LPA). We'd been waiting for the next step: a visit to the crematorium to see how everything functioned. The training had been really well delivered and received but I have to admit that, despite seeing the need for such a ministry, I'd decided that it would probably be some time before it actually happened. So, as Fr Peter was explaining the situation that day, I think my whole system went into something of a state of shock.

Anyhow, less than an hour later I was on my way down to the crematorium with Fr Peter. It all seemed a bit surreal. Bill, a very reassuring man who works there, explained all the different buttons and timings, the music and generally what happens. Fr Peter went over which service to use and its general outline. In response to the fact that my eyes were popping out of my head, he kept saying, "It'll be all right".

Things soon took shape. Mary Tanner, one of the other parishioners who had undertaken the training, was free and together we went to meet the family the next day. It was a great opportunity to get alongside them and see where things were up to – and we both felt it was a privilege to be with them in these most personal moments. In a short space of time we shared in both their tears and laughter about their loved one. We were able to chat with them about what they wanted for the service: the readings, music and hymns and we spoke on the phone to one of the other family members who wanted to be involved too. Mary put together some prayers and prepared the readings. We spoke about the eulogy and a specific reading they wanted to include and

generally caught up with where they were up to. The family wanted some help to communicate a few things with the people doing their order of service booklets and to clarify a few bits with their undertaker. Fr Peter was around to chat things through – we had 40 years of experience to tap into there! We went back a few days later to see the family and check if they were happy with the arrangements.

If you think that I'd take this all in my stride you would be way wrong. The reflection? What to say? "Many rooms in my Father's house?" I must admit my pulse rate certainly went up a few notches that week! I had so many bits of paper with half-written thoughts that it just didn't seem to come together and I think that it wasn't until I went to bed feeling totally defeated by it, thinking that I can't do this, that things actually turned a corner. The next day I think the penny dropped! Actually there are no magic words here to take away the pain. There's nothing that can be said that can make this OK for people – it's about being there with the bereaved and journeying through it with them and trusting. That took a bit of 'stepping out of the boat' and trusting that everything wasn't just going to sink.

Thursday came, surreal as it was; everyone at the crematorium was very supportive. There was a feeling of great peace about the whole time. The sister of the person who had died came over to us at the end; she'd taken quite a part in the service and said she'd done a fair bit of work for Nottingham diocese.

They'd had the Liverpool team over to do the training for funeral ministry too but as yet they hadn't quite taken the step of putting things into practice. She said she'd give them some positive feedback on her return and say how well things had gone. The wife of the deceased asked if we'd call and have a cup of tea with her some time. This whole experience has helped us to understand more fully how much is involved in preparing for a funeral, both the practical demands and the emotional side of being alongside a family at such a difficult time for them.

I think this step, that I never thought would happen, is an emerging ministry that will further enhance all the good work that goes on in our area in journeying with and comforting the bereaved. It is also a great privilege to be part of.

Mary Tanner adds her own introduction to the Lay Funeral Ministry

Funerals – probably a subject that most of us don't think about until we absolutely have to. But before you stop reading and turn the page, could we just put this one question to you: with the decreasing number of priests in our diocese, how upsetting would you find it if, in the early days of bereavement, you found that there was nobody available to help you plan or even conduct a funeral for your loved one? This might seem like a hypothetical situation, but, just recently, Fr Peter was asked to provide a funeral at Stockport Crematorium at a time when he and a large number of priests from the area would be in Lourdes on the diocesan pilgrimage. Fortunately, rather than have to involve clergy from further afield, he was able to call on members of his newly formed lay funeral ministry team to assist. By visiting the widow of the deceased and talking to family members and the undertaker, the content of a funeral service was agreed and then conducted by our lay ministers.

So, what is a lay funeral minister? Somebody who, having completed an appropriate training course, assists the priest in carrying out whatever aspects of a funeral for which help is needed. This could be with the planning, liaising with the deceased's family and undertaker, deciding on appropriate readings, prayers and hymns and agreeing which family members are happy to read, speak, sing etc. Or it could involve conducting the funeral service itself (excluding of course a Requiem Mass) either in church or at a crematorium, and/or carrying out the committal ceremony either at the graveside or crematorium. It is only through working with a bereaved family that you realise how much there is to do, in order to provide a fitting ceremony, which in the past our priests have carried out single-handedly.

This whole idea of lay funeral ministers may be something new to you, but our area is certainly not the first to introduce it. In particular, the Archdiocese of Liverpool has been expanding their number of lay ministers and has been generous in supporting others and ourselves in setting up their own teams and in sharing their experiences.

In particular, we want to make clear that the presence of lay funeral ministers does NOT take away the option of a Requiem Mass for anyone. Our aim is always to assist the priest and the bereaved, and if appropriate, offer ceremonies in the place of the priest, but with the priest's blessing. If you have any further queries, do speak to Fr Peter and/or any member of the lay funeral ministry team.



Our Great Parish Get Together

On Saturday 23 June between 12noon and 3pm, expertly organised by St Peter's Justice and Peace group, we celebrated our Parish Feast Day on 29 June. Lots of people gathered on the lawn in front of the presbytery and enjoyed wall to wall sunshine.

We had a summer garden party, with a delicious

barbecue, light refreshments, children's face painting and music. All the proceeds from the day (£750) were divided equally between the Lourdes group and Yakubu Gadzama's charity in Nigeria 'Education Must Continue Initiative'.

It was indeed a time to celebrate and enjoy our wonderful parish community.





Our 2018 celebration at Pentecost

Carmel and Michael O'Malley share their joy at the multi-lingual celebration at St Peter's that day

Pentecost, the special day that marks the descent of the Holy Spirit on the twelve apostles after Jesus' ascension into heaven, is also the day we celebrate the official birthday of the church – and what a birthday celebration we had at St Peter's on 20 May this year! It was a marvellous day of joy, creativity and praying in different tongues! All Masses on the day had a foreign language input including Spanish, German, Italian, French and Russian at 8.30am. The 6pm Mass was recorded and is on the website and you can read about it below. However, since we, the writers of this article, attended the 10am Mass the emphasis is going to lie there.

The week before, we had all been asked to try and wear something red on the feast day. Red is the colour of Pentecost, signifying action, fire, joy, charity, spiritual awakening (not quite the same as a passion for 'the beautiful game', so a certain team's shirt was deemed unacceptable). Despite the ban there was a wonderful response from our congregation and walking into 10 o'clock Mass that Sunday, people entered into

an atmosphere of colour and warmth, friendship and vibrant life. Dotted among the multitude of reds of every shade were a number of parishioners in national dress adding bright splashes of colour to our forty shades of red. The presence of the Holy Spirit was palpable!

At the entrance to the church we were each given a label with our name on it to attach to our clothes. This was pure inspiration. People all round us with faces we had, it seemed, always known – whom we had stood with to hear the Gospel, sat with to hear the sermon and knelt with to worship at the consecration, but shamefully never known by name – suddenly took on real identities. "Oh, so you are called We often wondered what your names were." It was a magnificent community builder from the buzz that was going on around the church before Mass. "We should wear name tags every week" was overheard from a nearby seat.

Mass started with a rousing Pentecost hymn led by our senior choir. Fr Peter explained the significance of the day we were celebrating before he started Holy Mass. Our first reading which came

from the Acts of the Apostles gave the account of the descent of the Spirit in the form of flames and the apostles leaving the upper room and surging out into the streets of Jerusalem to preach the teachings of Jesus in the fifteen (listed) different languages needed in the cosmopolitan community of the time. At our Mass this reading was delivered in Polish and our second reading from St Paul, bearing his appeal, "Since the Spirit is our life let us be directed by the Spirit" was read in Arabic.

Linguists in the parish view Pentecost as their special day. Imagine what it feels like when you can talk as fluently in another tongue as in your own native tongue without the slightest hesitation. (There are bound to be some among us able to say "I can!" but you are in the gifted minority.) Those who have studied languages in depth and use them professionally strive for this level of accuracy to become fluent and the joy when it happens is just fantastic (we are told!).

We can all imagine those people at Pentecost when they realised they were understood by others in their own native

tongue. It must have been astounding. Our reading tells us that the Spirit-gifted new communication skills of the apostles left their audience "bewildered, amazed, astonished".

The people at our Mass shared something of that astonishment when it came to the bidding prayers.

The first person to come forward for the bidding prayers was Chinar, in her beautiful national dress. Although a practising Muslim, Chinar has a great attachment to our parish since we ran our refugee project a couple of years ago and she came and volunteered to help us with the language barriers. She has remained a friend to the parish

those that followed, they invoked "Come Holy Spirit" and we, the congregation responded with great fervour and vigour, "and kindle in us the fire of your love".

There followed a wonderful variety of people from our parish family who also came forward to offer their prayers in their own native tongues. Gerry spoke his prayer in Gaelic, Sindu in Malayalam. Jean Baptiste prayed in French and Augusta in Igbo.

Steph offered up an Arabic prayer followed by Esther whose native tongue was Nyangia. This gathering of such diverse people on the sanctuary in shared prayer was a wonderful example of the 'all-embracing' nature of our

together in adoration was a most moving experience, somehow made more powerful by the shared prayer that had preceded it. We were one in the Spirit, diverse as we are.

A final high point of our Pentecostal celebration was when those name tags came into their own. At the sign of peace we were asked to include the person's name in our greeting as we were able to read it off their lapel. What a difference that made! All around people were truly acknowledging their neighbours, cementing our community and obviously thoroughly enjoying it. It took a little longer than the usual exchange, but as a gesture it was so much more meaningful and worthwhile.

Our celebration ended with another rousing Pentecostal hymn and we all left the church on a high, glowing with the spirit and ready for the tea and cakes that were awaiting us in the parish centre. The creative people who worked behind the scenes to make our Pentecost 2018 an inspirational celebration deserve our gratitude and thanks.

ever since. When she was asked if she be willing to pray with us at Pentecost she was both delighted and honoured. She shared her prayer in the Kurdish tongue. At the end of the prayer, and all

Catholic church and of Jesus' message that the Kingdom of God is for all peoples. As we moved on to the central part of our celebration, the consecration, the unity of the community joined



Peter Whittam takes up the story for the 6pm Mass

WOW!! Our Pentecost Sunday Masses were expressions of the spirit and feeling of our parish and must have surprised – and pleased the Holy Spirit on this birthday of the church.

I attended the 6pm Mass and was blown away with the liturgy and the way it was presented. The people who did the readings, the psalms and the bidding prayers in their mother tongue were outstanding – and some dressed in their national costumes.

We heard Slovakian, Margi, Welsh, Italian, Polish and Malayalam. The choir made their contribution and got the congregation singing in good voice.

We were able to follow the readings from the service sheets so there was no problem in understanding what scripture was telling us. I feel I must congratulate James Allen for his superb singing of the psalm and Alleluia; he has a lovely voice.

It was simply marvellous to think of the universality of the church hearing the word of God in so many different languages. What a wonderful birthday present to the church.

How to view our recordings

If you'd like to see the recordings of these Masses, or other services that have been recorded, go to our website: www.stpeterscatholic.church and head for the Webcam section. Select 'Recordings' and on that page select 'View church profile'. This will give you

the list of recordings to choose from and this option enables you to fast forward or fast rewind during the playing. For example, in the 10am Mass of 20 May, the first reading (in Polish) starts at 11:35 minutes in from the beginning.

We *present...*

Over the last few months we have held a couple of evening presentations in St Peter's parish centre which have each attracted over 80 people.



On 17 May, Fr Eamonn Mulcahy talked about being disciples of the Lord. Fr Eamonn is a Spiritan or Holy Ghost Father, originally from Manchester, who has been ordained since 1980. He has extensive missionary experience, he's worked with young adults, taught theology and given many retreats. All this experience was very evident as he captivated the audience gathered that night in the parish centre. He lead us with insight, humour and great conviction to a deeper appreciation of what it means to be a baptised Christian in the modern world.



Three weeks later, we had the privilege of listening to Mary Hardiman present "Speak through the earthquake". Readers of Shine will know of Mary's Corner, a regular feature we're delighted to have in the magazine – see pages 22 and 23 in this issue as she considers the time when Jesus heals a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment. On the evening of 7 June Mary shared her thoughts on her favourite passage from the Bible and provided such insight and inspiration that many people afterwards took advantage of the quiet room we set aside to reflect on and consider what they had heard. A gifted writer and speaker, Mary is a person-centred counsellor and Head of Wellbeing at a pupil health referral unit in Salford for teenagers with mental health problems. She draws on her many skills as a former high school teacher as she includes some of her work and life experiences.

The success and popularity of these occasions prompted the thought that maybe we should do this on a regular basis. We welcomed people from other parishes and denominations and many seemed to be supportive of this idea.

And so we can now officially launch
Footsteps

Footsteps is series of talks and presentations by invited speakers who can help us as we journey in our Christian faith. We're going to follow the format we had for these last two presentations. It will be an informal, café-style setting in the parish centre. Light refreshments and nibbles will be served, along with a good sprinkling of humour.

For the next six months we will have the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of these special people:

Tuesday 4 September at 8pm

Mary Hardiman reflects on the workers in the vineyard: "Don't give up on me"

Thursday 25 October at 7.30pm

Fr Eamonn Mulcahy: "Jesus and joy: the surprise of the Gospel"

Thursday 22 November at 7.30pm

Fr Pat Deegan: "Let's consider what divine wisdom teaches us through two people's miracles in the New Testament"

Tuesday 29 January 2019 at 8pm

Fr Eamonn Mulcahy: "The challenge of Pope Francis: becoming missionary disciples in a missionary parish for a missionary church"

Tuesday 5 March 2019 at 8pm

James Gallogly considers, as we approach Lent: "Time to reflect"

A note about our other speakers

Fr Pat Deegan is the Spiritual Director for the Northern Catholic Conference and is parish priest at Our Lady's & St Alphonsus in Moss Side, Manchester. Fr Pat holds a Master's degree in counselling from the Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio. He has run many retreat days and inspired people with his spiritual insight and approach.

James Gallogly has been in St Peter's parish here for 25 years. A former headteacher and education professional, James now works as a Chaplain at HM Prison Manchester and will share some of his current work experience and lead us in how we can approach the season of Lent. James will speak on Shrove Tuesday, so please make sure you have your pancakes before you come!

On a practical note

We have tried to offer both Tuesday and Thursday evenings – in case on one particular night you already have a regular commitment. With our parish centre available to many local groups and organisations, it means that we can't always access the centre to get set up in

time for a 7.30pm start. So you need to be aware that on Tuesdays we start at 8pm and when it's on a Thursday, we start at 7.30pm. Don't worry if you get mixed up and come early on a Tuesday – you could always help with the refreshments or the table decorations!

We hope to have a leaflet printed every few months for the Footsteps programme and there will be announcements in our parish newsletter. Footsteps is for everyone of all denominations, parishes, dioceses and walks of life! All are welcome to what we plan to be an informal, friendly occasion to listen, chat, reflect and drink in whatever spiritual and actual refreshment is on offer each night. There's no charge. Tell your friends, bring a friend, make a new friend – just come and follow our Footsteps.

Keep your eye on our parish newsletter which is always available on our website in the NEWS section. Go to www.stpeterscatholic.church for up to date information. We hope to see you soon.



Shining a light on the *parish* role in supporting Caritas

Rachel Hughes is the Caritas Volunteer Co-ordinator for Shrewsbury diocese and is eager to share her reaction to the response from St Peter's parish

Caritas means 'loving service' and we at Caritas Diocese of Shrewsbury are very grateful for the support, prayers and loving service which has been offered to us by St Peter's parish as part of the 'Our Mission Together' initiative and for your continued support. Over the past 18 months, this support has helped us to continue the work of the former Catholic Children's Society and to extend our portfolio to include inter-generational work, young people at the risk of becoming homeless, accessible community hubs and work with those seeking refuge and asylum.

We have Caritas groups running at our St Aidan's Centre in Wythenshawe, promoting men's wellbeing and supporting refugees and asylum seekers. The centre also supports a wide range of community activities including OAP groups, toddler groups and a food bank and community café.

St Peter's is providing so much support to us, including parishioners very generously donating a pram and other baby essentials for one of our asylum seeker families in Wythenshawe. (This work is being driven by Alison Morris, the Caritas Ambassador for St Peter's parish and you can read her own article on the next page.) We are at the pilot stage of a new Parish Caritas Ambassadors Scheme and St Peter's is our first parish with an ambassador.

Parish Caritas Ambassadors will be the link between their parishes and Caritas, keeping their fellow parishioners informed about Caritas news, making appeals on our behalf and feeding back to Caritas about local needs and local resources that are being used to meet those needs. This two-way communication will help us to join the dots of the support structures available in the diocese so that we can more effectively offer support and signpost to services. We

will also facilitate networking events so that Parish Ambassadors can meet each other to exchange information and offer each other support, encouragement and prayers.

An exciting and busy time is ahead of us at the end of August as we move into our new Head Office and Community Space in Seacombe. There is a need for us to recruit a whole new team of volunteers to help us to fulfil the potential of these new facilities and realise the Caritas Vision that children, families and communities are empowered to experience a fullness of life. We hope to recruit volunteers for roles such as family support, gardening, supporting staff at our Drop-Ins where people will be able to come to the centre for advice, a listening ear, a chance to meet others and reduce their isolation, supporting refugees and parenting programmes. We also hope to recruit a Caritas Ambassador in each of the parishes local to Seacombe, to enable us to

make links with prospective volunteers who want to work with us to support local projects.

In June we launched a Caritas Ambassadors Scheme in our diocesan secondary schools. We launched the scheme at the Mini DASH event, following the school's Mass in June and we are hoping to be able to report on some great impact from our schools in the future. School Caritas Ambassadors promote and develop social action projects within their school, parish and local community, raise awareness of Catholic social teaching in their schools and demonstrate faith in action within their community. As well as the immediate benefits these pupils bring to their communities, they also help to develop a pool of future adult volunteers in our parishes. Cath Duffy (School's Chaplaincy Co-ordinator) has commented that bringing Caritas Ambassadors into our schools "really gives the feeling that we are truly operating as a diocesan family".

Thank you for taking the time to read about us and for all the practical support and prayers that you offer us. Yours, in loving service, Rachel.

Your generous donation

Alison Morris is the Caritas Parish Ambassador for St Peter's

Last weekend (mid August) I met up with a mother and her 3 month old little boy, who had recently arrived from Nigeria. I was dropping off a donation of a pram, clothes and some nappies. This was in response to an appeal for used items which we may not have seen fit for anything else.

Never have I seen someone as grateful as this mother. It was like all her birthdays and Christmases had come at once. She herself was unable to reach the centre as the cost of a bus ticket would have used up over half of her weekly budget, so I went to her. All families receive just £5 per person per day to cover essentials for living such as food, clothes and travel. As you can imagine with any family this is extremely difficult to manage. Families must wait until Home Office papers have cleared until any work, training or additional income can be accessed; in some cases, this can take up to five years.

At the end of August, I'm going along to meet some of the families at the St Aidan's centre. The centre hosts numerous support groups including a men's group on a Thursday and a family group on a Tuesday. The purpose of the family group is to allow some well needed play time for toddlers whilst the adults can have a coffee and a chat. During this session volunteers provide essential support, signposting for help with any issues, assisting with filling in forms and clarifying any correspondence the families may have received.

I've been invited to attend the women's group where each week a woman teaches the group how to make a dish from her heritage. This meal is then shared all together, providing a wonderful opportunity for learning and cultural exchange.

When I recently met up with the centre leader, I asked if there was anything else which could be sourced to help. She informed me that they are desperately seeking a small freezer for a family. So, if anyone is aware of an old freezer going spare it would certainly be gratefully received. Thanks to people's generous donations the centre is tremendously fortunate to be able to provide previously owned toys for babies and children. However, they can sometimes struggle to assist with more basic day to day baby items. So, if you happen to come across any cheap offers on baby essentials, please keep the Centre in mind.

I will keep you updated in future issues of Shine but if you have any questions or can help in any way, please don't hesitate to contact me on 07758 839134.



Mary's corner

Time now just to sit quietly and read this reflection on a Gospel story by Mary Hardiman.

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, "Ephphatha", that is, "Be opened". And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered him to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. "He has done all things well," they said, "he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak".

Mark 7:31-37

If you look at a map of Palestine during Jesus' ministry, you will see that to get from Tyre to the Decapolis region you would simply head south east. Sidon, however, is north of Tyre and the Decapolis region is non-Jewish territory. Mark does not make it clear where this healing took place but it would seem that Jesus has made a considerable detour in order to heal this man. The more I read of the gospels, the more I see that Jesus always has his own agenda, that he frequently bucks the trend of social norms, that his timing is perfect and that he knows exactly what he is about.

If I were going from Tyre to the Sea of Galilee, I'd want the most direct route. But Jesus has an appointment with the deaf and dumb man, an appointment that was pencilled into God's diary at the beginning of time. With Jesus, there is no such thing as a 'chance encounter', no such thing as 'coincidence' or 'fate'. Nothing is 'written in the stars'. It's written on God's calendar, planned with love and compassion before the world ever began and delegated to his precious son, Jesus, the wounded healer.

Who brought this man to Christ? Who are the anonymous 'they'? We don't know. It could have been his family, his friends, his neighbours or members of his community. Did the man come willingly? I know some people who are ill but don't want to get well, because if they did, they fear that

Jesus heals a deaf man

nobody would call in or that they would have to work when they have lost confidence in their ability to hold down a job. Sometimes, people who are disabled see it as a part of themselves; their identity becomes tied up with the infirmity. It's also possible that this man had visited other physicians without success and had lost hope in recovery.

Who do you bring to Jesus?

Do you allow others to bring you to God by asking for their prayers?

How confident are you in His power to heal and transform?

Do you approach Jesus willingly and with trust?

Is there something you would like to say to Jesus here and now?

We know that people with a hearing impediment often feel cut off from society. It's difficult to follow a conversation when you can't hear it, particularly if there is any background noise. We criticise these people for having the TV turned up or for pretending they have heard the question we asked and giving a wrong answer. I had a speech impediment until I was 12 and I can remember being teased mercilessly for it. I still am from time to time.

Do we exclude the hard of hearing from our social interactions?

Do we make fun of those who are not as perfect as we are?

Is there something you would like to say to Jesus here and now?

We read that Jesus took this man to one side. Why did Jesus do this? I believe there are two reasons:

1) *Jesus recognised how hard it would have been for this man to be in a crowd when he is used to social isolation. This shows empathy at a very deep level.*



2) *I also believe that Jesus wanted to emphasise to this man how special he was to God. That is a huge message especially when you are on the margins of society.*

There is something here for me too about the power of silent prayer. Father Chris Thomas once said that words are the curse of prayer. Imagine this man, looking at the beautiful face of Jesus, unable to hear his words and unable to communicate any words of his own. What does that matter to Our Blessed Lord? The man had no need to tell Jesus anything because Jesus already knew.

Do you make time to be alone with Jesus?

Do you know how special you are to him?

Can you come before God in silence, knowing that He will take care of all your needs?

Is there something Jesus wants to say to you here and now?

Jesus heals this man with his touch. In those days anyone with a disability was seen as a sinner, shunned by the community and left on the margins of society. I imagine that this man, isolated from his peers by his impediment, would have longed for the touch of another. And Jesus knew this. The way Jesus heals this man is incredibly intimate, almost shocking. Not many of us would allow a stranger to touch us in this way. But what really blows me away is that the man did permit Jesus not only to put his fingers into his ears but to touch his tongue with his own spittle. Even Jesus' spittle has the power to heal and transform! How awe-inspiring is that? I wonder, though, why Jesus chose to use this method. I believe there are two reasons:

1) *With God nothing is wasted.*

2) *By putting his fingers into the man's ears and by touching the man's tongue with his spittle, Jesus is sharing His words with this man in a deeply symbolic way. The first words the man heard would have been the words of Jesus; the first words he would have spoken would have been the words of Jesus. Jesus is empowering this man to be his disciple. How sublime is that?*

Do you believe that God can use every part of you? Jesus longs for spiritual intimacy with you. Do you believe that?

Do you hear Jesus in others? Do you speak the words of Christ?

Is there something Jesus wants to say to you here and now?

Jesus looked up to heaven, recognising that all authority had been given to him by his father and said, 'Ephphatha', 'Be opened'. Wow! I love the minimalism of Christ. We complicate it, he keeps it simple.

Jesus then orders them to tell nobody about it. Here is our servant king, refusing to engage in religious power politics, urging the crowd to silence in case false popular support was aroused, never needing a majority, turning our world upside down. I love it!

Their admiration was unbounded. "He has done all things well," they said, "he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak".

Do we recognise when it's time to speak and when it's time to listen?

Is your admiration for Christ unbounded?

Is there something you would like to say to Jesus here and now?

Is there something Jesus wants to say to you here and now?

Gentle Jesus,

Thank you for the gift of your touch. We ask you to touch our ears, that we may hear your words; we ask you to touch our tongues, that we may speak your words of love and compassion. And we ask you to touch our hearts, that we may be inspired to follow you, today and always. Amen.



From novice to leader

Philip Kok Shun reflects on how his role has changed over the many years he has been going to Lourdes

After having been to Lourdes for several years now, one might've thought that answering the frequent questions of "What do you enjoy most about Lourdes?" and "Why do you keep going back?" have become somewhat of a muscle memory for the tongue. But in actual fact, my answers change year after year, as do my encounters of that special place too. From a 16 year-old first timer to now one of the oldest, most experienced members of the Lourdes group, my appreciations for the pilgrimage and what I get from it are in some ways vastly different, but in other ways exactly the same.

For many of our younger members of the group, the week away in Lourdes is usually one of the first times they have been away without parents or family members. This excitement – together with the anticipation of the week ahead and the eagerness to make new friends and experience current ones in a new environment – fuels the energetic atmosphere in the group.

Singing, dancing, laughter and even races down the train carriage pass the 23 hours on the journey from Our Lady and the Apostles Church all the way to Lourdes train station.

For the older ones (who know just how tiring the week will be!) the journey is usually a much calmer affair: reading, catching up with friends – and stocking up on that all-important sleep!

This year, as a team leader, the train journey was a great opportunity for

me to meet with other groups that I would be working with in Lourdes and to finish some last minute planning for their work during the week.

So unfortunately, there was no 'racing down the train carriage without touching the floor' for me! Whilst in Lourdes, the work I've been involved

with has changed over the years. Beginning as a 16 year-old first timer, my main duty was to accompany one of the many VIPs (Very Important Pilgrims) each day, taking them to Mass or other services, or even just around the numerous religious shops or for a drink. In the years after, I got to experience other duties such as giving out water and service sheets, carrying the diocesan banner in procession, doing night shifts in the hospital or any other form of helping out on the ward: cleaning bedrooms, serving meals, giving personal care, providing evening entertainment etc.

For the past three years, I have taken

on the position of a team leader, which is more of a logistical role as opposed to a 'hands-on' volunteer: often being the middleman between the groups and the pilgrimage senior leadership, helping with any volunteer's issues or queries and ensuring the right number of people are in the right place at the right time! Unfortunately, the position does not see as much VIP interaction that my roles in earlier years did.

Over the years however, whilst visiting Lourdes with the diocese, my outlook on the pilgrimage has shifted more towards helping others enjoy the week – particularly new volunteers. And it is fulfilling to know that, even though

I am not directly involved with them, my work as a team leader helps VIPs and volunteers get the most out of the week, both physically and spiritually. Within our own Lourdes group as well, I have felt the move towards becoming one of the older, more responsible members – looking out for the younger ones, helping them enjoy and maximise their experience, and most importantly making sure they feel the same need that I do to return the next year!

Yet, despite these changing experiences, one thing that has remained each year is the feeling of peace and sanctity within the

My experience of Lourdes 2018

Liam Devlin shares his thoughts on his involvement as a youth volunteer with the diocesan pilgrimage

Lourdes is a very unique and beautiful place, something that pictures cannot justify and definitely something you have to experience for yourself. The pilgrimage atmosphere for our St Peter's group is very welcoming and inclusive, and this is something that is reflected across the whole diocese.

The other noticeable quality of Lourdes is the air of calmness, which is particularly present during

the torchlight procession. This is often a highlight of the pilgrimage as several dioceses process through the domain together and it's incredible to witness.

The volunteering can be challenging at times, but if you're prepared to work hard, then it can be incredibly rewarding. You directly see the positive impact your actions have on your fellow pilgrims who are very appreciative of the help. This year,

30 teenagers and young adults with St Peter's parish travelled overland to Lourdes and had a great week where we grew really close as a group. There is definitely something special about Lourdes in the way that it brings people together, despite differences in age, through both the volunteering and social aspects. A group trip to the nearby lake posed a new set of challenges, but ultimately we came away as a stronger group having learnt more about each other's strengths and weaknesses.

Lourdes is very hard to leave, and even harder not to return to.



Domain, and the unity between the thousands of other pilgrims there sharing the same faith. For many, the week in Lourdes is an uplifting time to reconnect with their faith, and it can give them the strength to keep their faith even after returning home.

A lot of people say that it is easy to be a Catholic in Lourdes; the trick is to remain so for the other 51 weeks of the year. So even though my

responsibilities in volunteering have changed significantly since my first pilgrimage in 2012, something that has stayed constant is the feeling of faith, hope and belonging that accompanies the privilege of serving others with a spirit of love, respect, humility and joy in such a holy place as Lourdes.

On behalf of all members of the St Peter's Lourdes group, I would like

to take this opportunity to thank every one of you for your unfailing support and charity that we receive throughout year to give us the chance to experience Lourdes over and over again – in both new and exciting ways, but also in the enduring spiritual encounters that such a place brings.

As always, in the peace and quiet of the Grotto, we reflect on, and pray for all of your intentions.

From the other side

Tom Mercer tells us what it was like for him to be a pilgrim in Lourdes this year

For as long as I can remember, I have always looked forward to going to Lourdes each year. In fact, I learned to walk in Lourdes at thirteen months but, being John Mercer's grandson, I have to admit, it was in a bar! From the age of six, I longed to be a helper and by eleven years old, I was allowed to tag along with some of the more mature helpers.

As you may tell, being able to help the VIPs (the sick pilgrims) was always important to me. However, this year demanded something else of me. As I was unable to walk without support, it meant I couldn't push or pull the VIPs around. This year it would take all my energy to get myself to the services. I was terribly disappointed not to be able to help the sick but I was able to give out the hymn books and join in the hospital entertainment.

Because I wasn't always rushing off to different duties, it meant I had more time to talk to the sick. I learned how they were constantly happy and grateful for any help they were given and that quite a few of them had a wicked sense of humour. To help me get to the services, my grandparents hired a mobility scooter for me – LIT! (Thanks, Peter). This meant I would wait with the VIPs to go into services. I hadn't realised before just how much time they spent waiting around and yet how cheerful and patient they always were.

I was also able to see the volunteers 'from the other side' and found that here was another group that was always cheerful and considerate. The VIPs enjoyed talking and laughing with their helpers, who really did their best to make sure the pilgrimage was special for them. Those being helped never saw how tired they were or how, sometimes, they had to leave part of their meal unfinished so that they could get to their duties on time.

Nobody can ever tell you what Lourdes is really like; you have to experience it for yourself. This year I got an idea of how the attitude and outlook of all the pilgrims helped each one of us to experience the blessings waiting for us in Lourdes.



SPY return to primary school

At the end of the school term, many members of St Peter's Youth (SPY) returned to the very school that they had started their education at. SPY members were invited into St Peter's Primary School to provide 'mini SPY sessions' to Years 5 and 6 and to help lead the music in the assembly at the end of the day.

Years 5 and 6 experienced a session of games, reflection on scripture, sharing of thoughts or fears of moving on to a new year/new school (the

central theme to the session) and learning songs for the assembly.

Many of the SPY members themselves had just finished GCSEs and 'A' Levels, so they were able to share their own thoughts about moving on to a new school, college or university.

Such was the success of the visit from SPY and the enthusiasm of those in Years 5 and 6 that we were asked to make this an annual event. Yeah!

Here are some of the reactions to the SPY visit from Year 6 at St Peter's school:

"I found it fun, interesting and somewhere you can talk about your worries" – Ellie

"It was amazingly entertaining and it put a smile on everyone's face" – Kate

"I thought it was really inspiring – they made us work as a team. They made me want to join" – Drew

"I liked learning the song and talking about my worries" – Daisy

"Relaxing and enjoyable – brings us together" – Thomas

St Peter's Youth (SPY) meet in the meeting room of St Peter's parish centre, usually on the second Sunday of the month. All young people who attend secondary school and sixth form/college are welcome to come along at 7.15 to 9pm. SPY sessions aim to help our young members in developing their faith through games, practical activities, interactive discussions and the use of modern worship songs – and all with great fun.

SPY draws members from many different schools, colleges and parishes across Greater Manchester and has become a vibrant friendship group. You might remember Libby Morris's article in issue 4 of Shine where she as a member of SPY was most enthusiastic about the youth group and explained how much it has helped her. Check it out on our parish website (page 11) if you'd like to see the full item – and the fun photos.

The busy SPY calendar

Many of our members have joined the Ascent Discipleship Programme run by the Cor et Lumens Christi Community, involving regular fellowship

meetings (via Skype) with likeminded young people across the country and associated retreats in the Lake District. Many members attend the very popular youth camps like Life Teen at Alton Castle, Fanning the Flame in the New Forest and David's Tent in West Sussex. Then there are more local events in the SPY calendar like Celebrate North West and Big Church Day Out in the Macclesfield area.

In the past year, SPY went to the Embrace Youth Conference in Liverpool cathedral and saw the inspiring Christian band Rend Collective at the Manchester Academy. In March next year, our bi-annual trip to Flame at Wembley Arena is being planned. Our last (fantastic) trip to Flame in 2017 was reported on in Issue 1 of Shine, also available on the parish website!

The first meeting of the school year is on Sunday 9 September in the parish centre. Come along at 7.15pm and if you'd like any further information, give David Small a ring on 01625 876752.



Bishop Mark Davies dedicated 2018 as the 'Year of the Eucharist' in a pastoral letter read out in parishes of the diocese of Shrewsbury on the first Sunday of Advent.

Our school has carried out many events to celebrate. Our Mini-Vinnies planned and led an assembly dedicated to the year of the Eucharist. In class the children reflected on how special the Eucharist is to us.

The diocese launched an art competition which was opened up to all primary and high schools. We entered a piece of art created by two Year 6 children and their work was selected to be on display for the End of Year Academic masses.

This is what the children reflected upon.

The word '**Eucharist**' means 'thanksgiving'. Everyone who has been baptised is welcome to participate in this very important act of worship that we call the **Mass**. We may know other names for the Eucharist too, such as Holy Communion or the Blessed Sacrament.

The Eucharist is a **mystery** which means that it's difficult to explain just using words. This is why symbols and signs will be an important part of our journey.

Our hearts as well as our minds will be needed to appreciate how sacred and special this service of worship is.

The Year of the Eucharist

Mrs J Clarke, Deputy Headteacher of St Simon's Catholic Primary School reminds us of the importance of this special year and explains what the schoolchildren have learnt and have been involved in



Children who received Holy Communion for the first time in May 2018

What happens at the Eucharist?

As we prepare to share in the Eucharist, we recognise that there have been times when we have upset our friends, family and others by unkind things that we may have said and done, or, perhaps kind things that we have not done.

When people are very hurt, they sometimes say they are heartbroken. God is heartbroken when we hurt others or damage his world. In the Eucharist service, or the Mass, there is a time near the beginning when we can say sorry to God. This part of the service is called the penitential act. After we have said sorry to God and received his forgiveness and peace, the Mass continues.

At the Eucharist, the priest invites members of the congregation to come forward to the altar to receive the body and blood of Christ. We drink the precious blood from the chalice – and we all take a sip. The fact that we share the cup symbolises unity and togetherness of all the members of the church family.

Later on, the priest invites the church family to share God's peace with one another. He says, "The peace of the Lord be with you always" and we say, "And with your spirit." Then he says "Let us offer each other a sign of peace" so we turn to each other, shake hands and say the words "Peace be with you." Each time the Eucharist is celebrated, the priest repeats some

of the very words that were spoken at the final meal that Jesus had with his disciples the night before he died. This meal is known as the Last Supper.

At the Eucharist, we celebrate the triumph of life over death and light over darkness. We rejoice that Jesus is alive and pray for the help of God's Spirit as we are sent out to live every day to his praise and glory. The word 'Mass' means 'sent'. When we have received Jesus in the Eucharist, we are strengthened to go out and tell others the Good News about God's love for us and to make a difference in the world. We become what we receive, so at the end of Mass we are sent out to be Christ for others.

Our visit to the Holy Land in 1967

Carmel and Peter Dwerryhouse travelled to the Holy Land in 1967 for two weeks. Here Carmel shares her account of the first two days after they had arrived in Jerusalem. They really were intrepid travellers over fifty years ago. Carmel's diary will be serialised in future issues of Shine.

DAY 1 19 March 1967, Palm Sunday in Jerusalem

Breakfast at 7am then leave at 8am to walk to the **Dominican Church of St Stephen**, the École Biblique, centre of biblical studies. The church is on the site of the martyrdom of St Stephen. We had a small oratory where Fr Graystones said Mass facing us. Afterwards we went through Herod's gate into the old city and climbed up and around to the **Chapel of the Flagellation** in the house of the Friars Minor. The actual place of Pilate's Judgement Hall is in the building opposite, now used as a Muslim school. Visits are possible on Fridays when the school is closed. The First Station of the Cross is in the Chapel of the Flagellation. The Second Station, at the other end of the cloister, is the **Lithostrotos**, where one can see the actual Roman pavement of the soldiers, where Jesus was crowned with thorns. We left this chapel and went along the street to the place of the Third Station. The Fourth Station is a little further on. The Fifth Station is in a little chapel.

Round the corner at the beginning of the street, **Via Dolorosa**, is the Sixth Station. From here, the street, quite narrow and arched over, begins to rise in a series of shallow steps. Numerous

small shops are on each side, selling wood carvings, clothes and souvenirs. Half way up is the Seventh Station.

At each Station we knelt and said the usual prayers. The noise increased at the top and we could hardly hear ourselves say the prayers at the Eighth Station, which is a busy crossroads where the street from the Damascus Gate crosses the top of the Via Dolorosa. We turned left through the jostling crowds and the various food shops, many of which seemed to be dark, like caves, within which cooking and butchering seemed to be done.

(We glimpsed a live lamb or two!) We then went up some steps and round, along a lane, to the Ninth Station over the Chapel of St Helena. This is on the roof of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and through a gateway we saw the small stone house of the Ethiopians, who used to have the chapel until 1838.

Two of the Coptic monks from the Convent of St Anthony were standing by in their black habits and black hats. We descended again to the bazaar and a little further on turned right into a quieter street that led into the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**. This was

badly damaged in the recent Israeli-Arab fighting and is shored up with scaffolding.

Immediately inside the door was a curving flight of very steep steps leading to the top of **Mount Calvary**. Here were the Tenth Station on our right and the Eleventh Station in front of us. The Twelfth Station is in the centre and underneath is the hole in the rock where the cross was placed. Beside it is the shrine of Stabat Mater, the Thirteenth Station. The Twelfth is very ornate and full of lamps of different colours as is the tradition of the Orthodox Church.

We came down the steps again and round to the place underneath the dome, which is the **Holy Sepulchre**. Inside the shrine is a tiny porch which contains part of the Rolling Stone that closed the entrance to the tomb and beyond is the small place of the tomb itself. One has to stoop very low, under a low arch, almost a tunnel, to get into the tomb. There is a marble slab at the side which covers the original place of burial. Only three or four people at a time found room to kneel here. After we had all had our turn, we were photographed as a group, holding lighted candles.

On our way out of the church we passed the Stone of Unction, which is traditionally the place where Jesus' body was laid for anointing. We returned to the hotel via the Damascus Gate.

Straight after lunch we set off by car for the **Mount of Olives** where we waited in sunshine and a very cold wind while thousands of people assembled at the Church of Bethphage for the Procession of Palms. This was led by acolytes and scouts and cubs with about 20 flags, then endless groups of schoolgirls, nuns and women, boys' groups and schools, seminarians and students, religious of several orders and finally a group of clergy with the Patriarch of Jerusalem. We followed next, with the general faithful, most of whom carried palm branches, some up to four feet long. The route followed Jesus' triumphal entry into the city, up over the Mount of Olives, down across the valley and into the city. At this point there was general confusion and we gathered our own group with difficulty and returned to the hotel by a less busy, but still crowded route. The whole thing took us two to three hours.

The most noticeable thing about the city is the loud noise of car horns, which toot at every possible suggestion of an obstacle. Traffic is not heavy by our standards, and moves gently but the cars are the large American type and the streets are often narrow. Before dinner, Peter and I had a walk round nearby and revisited St Stephen's Church, where there are some fragments of 5th century mosaic. We also walked past a large YMCA and visited **St George's Cathedral**, which was very clean and peaceful.



Preparing for the Palm Sunday procession



Peter's mount and driver



Church of the Holy Sepulchre

DAY 2 20 March 1967, Monday in Holy Week

After breakfast we left at 8.30 for Bethlehem by the new road, full of hairpin bends and undulations. On the way we stopped at an inconspicuous hole in the rock at the side of the road, which was the remains of Herod's aqueduct bringing water to Jerusalem. We arrived in the centre of **Bethlehem**, in front of the Church of the Nativity, which has a very low door, built to prevent the church being desecrated by the Turks riding their horses inside. We bent low to enter then looked around at the vast interior, with a high wooden roof supported by forty four columns painted by the Crusaders. A few feet under the floor are preserved the mosaics of the original church, built by St Helena and rebuilt by Justinian. The high altar is very ornate and is under the care of the Armenians.

On either side, steps lead down to the cave underneath where one can see the site of the **Nativity**. This is marked by a star set in the ground under a little altar and we knelt down and kissed the place where Jesus was born. We could not see the shrine over the place of the manger, as a French group was hearing Mass there, so we went through the church of St Catharine next door and down into the chapel of St Joseph, where we heard Mass. This is in one of a group of caves.

One is dedicated to the Holy Innocents and further in is the cave where St Jerome lived and translated the Scriptures. There is quite a bit of modern sculpture and inscription here.

After Mass we drove to **Hebron** to see the famous **Mosque**, built over the tombs of Abraham, (father of the Arab people), Sarah, Isaac, Jacob and Leah. It had been a Christian church, but the mosque had been there before Crusader times. We went inside after leaving our shoes near the door and were glad of the carpets on the stone floor. These were all given as gifts by various Muslims. There are several large rooms and in the inner ones are the monuments to the Patriarchs. There is also a little locked entrance to the actual tomb. We also saw a beautiful, sunny, secluded courtyard where there was a tap for drinking water and a brass bowl attached to a chain. After we left the mosque we drove a mile or two as far as the **Oak of Mamre**, the reputed site of the promise to Abraham of a son. When we returned to Bethlehem, we looked across from the road to the **Shepherds' Fields** and to the mound of Herodium. After a pleasant visit to a shop where we were offered tea and coffee, we drove back to Jerusalem.

In the afternoon we went to **Bethany** and saw the modern church dedicated to Martha, Mary and Lazarus. Nearby is the actual tomb of Lazarus, at the foot of a winding flight of irregular steps. There was a further short flight leading to a kind of underground room, which is the actual burial place, with shelves set in the wall for the bodies of the dead. This used to be covered with a flat stone. The outer chamber is for visitors to the tomb. Beside the church is also a mosque.

We drove on down the road to **Jericho**, a road that descends between walls of rock in places. We passed groups of black tents and donkeys grazing, also several mixed flocks of sheep and goats with their shepherds. Half way we stopped at the remains of the **Good Samaritan's Inn**. This was a few buildings set round a courtyard in which was a well. When we reached the Jordan Valley, quite flat and well-watered, in which there are several refugee camps and vocational schools, we went through a small town and on to the site of **old Jericho**. Here there have been excavations on the city mound and we were able to look down on the ancient watch tower, built circa 7000 BC. We quickly looked round the excavations and saw in the background the

Mount of Temptations where Jesus was tempted. There is a Greek monastery built into the side of the rock and caves are visible also. Down below us in the valley, we saw the miraculous spring of Elisha. It has given sweet water ever since and provides water for the whole neighbourhood. We saw women coming to fill the large cans which they carry on their heads. All around is sub-tropical vegetation, palms, bananas etc.

Next we drove back to the west a little and then down to the **River Jordan** to a possible site of Jesus' Baptism. The river here is very narrow, but very fast flowing and full of eddies and currents which stir up the mud, so that it is a dirty grey colour. On either bank are trees; a boat ferries people across. We saw a family cross to the other side where the land looks yellow and desert-like. On the western side, the road down from Jerusalem passes between very curiously shaped hills as it nears the valley floor and nearer the river there is much alluvial deposit. We continued to **Qumran**, travelling along the shores of the **Dead Sea**. Qumran is not used any more but one can see the remains of the village. The Essenes lived here from 100 BC to 200 AD when they were overpowered by the Romans, but not before hollowing caves out of the rock nearby and hiding their library of manuscripts in stone jars therein. These were accidentally discovered by a shepherd in 1947. By now for us it was quite late and the sun was sinking behind the wilderness of Judea, leaving us in shadow as we gazed across the sea at the heights of Moab, beautifully pink in the light of the setting sun. There was just time to drive back to the Lido at the north end of the sea, where we bathed. The water was warm, but the surface was cool and the minerals began to sting after a while. But after a fresh-water shower we felt very refreshed, ready for the drive back to Jerusalem.



The Holy Land



'Christmas' Bells at the Church



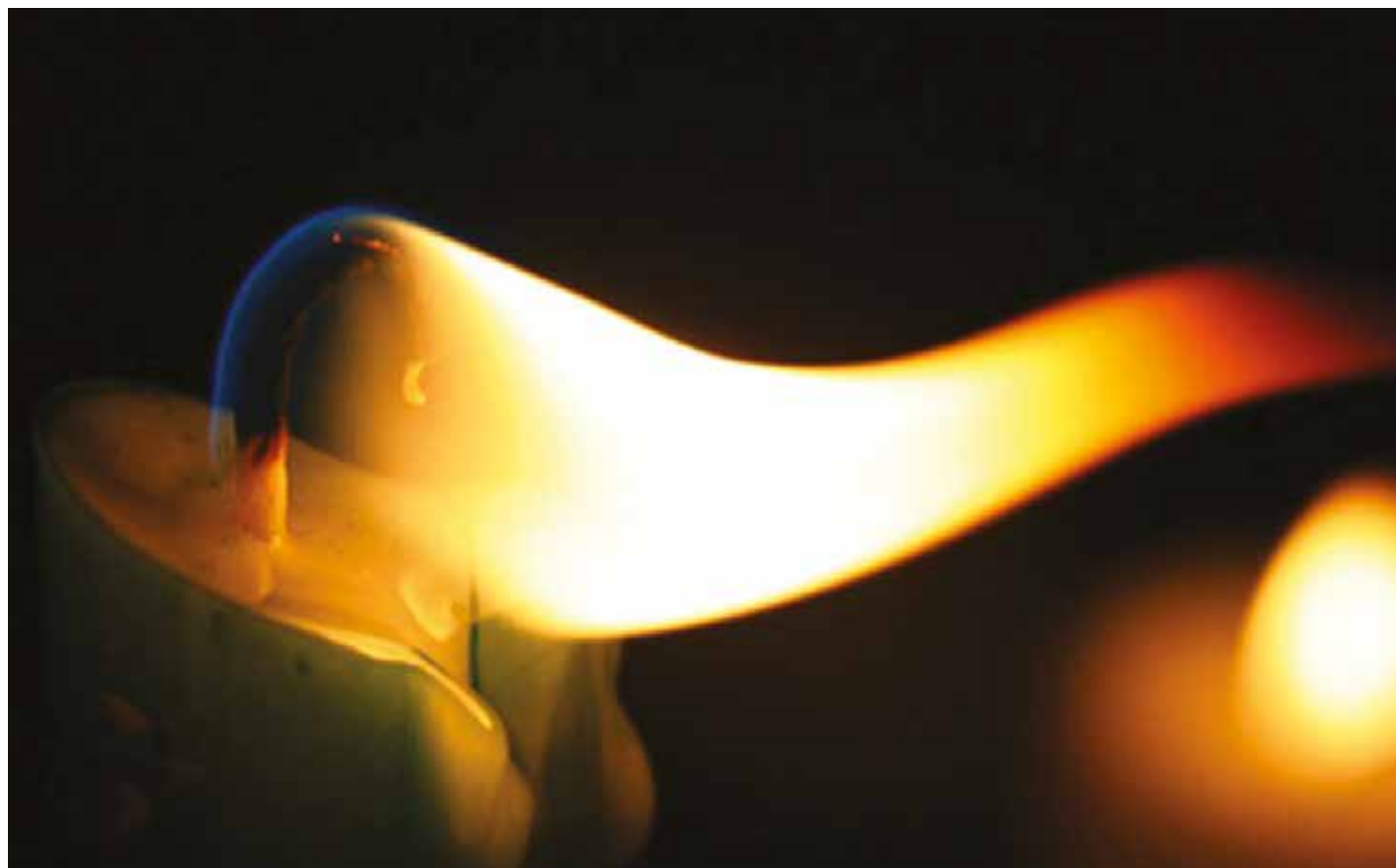
Entrance to the Church of the Nativity



The 'Star' in the Church of the Nativity



Monastery of the Temptation, Jericho



Fanning *the flame*

On 20 August I went to the “Fanning the Flame” summer camp in Hampshire with a group of young people from our parish.

We camped for four nights and stayed in groups or ‘streams’. During the time with my stream we read some passages from the Acts of the Apostles and told one another which words or phrases stood out the most for us.

The whole summer camp was based on “Ablaze in the truth” and throughout our time there we learned more about when Saul became Paul. As well as learning more about Paul’s life we also had the opportunity to go to different workshops and on the Tuesday I created a mirror which I decorated with pieces of scripture. I loved doing this as it allowed me to use my imagination and talk to other people in the workshop.

On the Thursday I went to the Chat and Chill workshop with Sister Yassan and during this we asked Sister different questions and played games. I really

Libby Morris from St Peter’s shares her very recent experience at a youth camp

enjoyed this as I learnt quite a lot as people asked questions that I hadn’t really thought of to ask and it was interesting.

On the final night there was a God Concert which consisted of people showing their talents that God had given them. There was a variety of drama, singing, dancing and playing

instruments and I found it really nice that people could show their talents to use. I loved it as it was really fun as we sang along.

Attending this camp has helped me to meet new people and I feel that I have not only strengthened my faith but also understand it more than I did before – and I can’t wait for next year.



Libby with some of her new friends she met at the camp



St Vincent
de Paul Society
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

The SVP: *who are we?*

The St Vincent De Paul Society is a national registered charity with the objective of relieving poverty, both material and emotional in England and Wales. Most parishes tend to have an SVP group or ‘conference’ and here at St Peter’s we have a fantastic SVP conference, arguably one of the most active in the diocese. But what exactly do we do?

Essentially, the SVP states that “our aim is to tackle poverty in all its forms through the provision of practical assistance to those in need”. The person to person involvement of its voluntary members is engaged in befriending and addressing specific needs in the local community.

The concept of need runs deeper than financial issues or lack of food. Many of the people we visit are simply in need of a friendly face to talk to. Our aim is to seek those who are suffering or deprived, many of whom won’t come to ask for help. In some circumstances we offer additional support in the way of furniture or donations. A high number of those we visit are simply lonely, due to the loss of a loved one or maybe the relocation of family, for example. Spending time with people is our greatest gift.

Our members at St Peter’s go above and beyond the call of duty, making friendships with those we visit, almost becoming part of the family sometimes. We visit them at home, in care homes and hospitals, along with taking them shopping or for walks. All our work is inspired by the message of the gospels and motivated by our faith.

Charlotte Clarke is the Secretary of St Peter’s SVP and explains a little of what they’re involved in

Each year we organise around six events where we invite members of the parish to come and have a meal with new friends. Twice a year we will have a Mass for the housebound, for those who may not be able to attend church as often as they like. We ‘put the wheels in motion’ to provide transport where required for this special Mass, which always includes an individual blessing and anointing. This is followed by a light lunch in the parish centre and some lively conversation. Our Christmas party is by far our most popular event of the year. We host around 100 guests in December for a Christmas dinner, party games, carolling and a raffle. Our members even don a Santa hat!

The support we obtain from the parish, both financially and practically, is invaluable. Whether you give a donation for our events or volunteer your time to drive or help in any way, we wouldn’t be where we are today without this support and for it we are very grateful.

If you’d like any more information or feel you might consider joining our SVP, please contact Lorraine Parker, President. Email her at lorraineandbobparker@gmail.com.

We meet on the first Monday of every month at 7.30pm in the meeting room of the parish centre. You would be most welcome; we love to see new faces and help them be involved with those in need.



Tables set and ready for our guests at Christmas

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 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

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 Gallogly

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

Mothers' 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

Margaret King: 0161 483 4584

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

office@harrytown.stockport.sch.uk

Aquinas 6th form college

Duncan Whelan: 0161 483 3237

duncan@acquinas.ac.uk

SVP: adult and youth

Lorraine Parker: 0161 456 5629

lorraineandbobparker@gmail.com