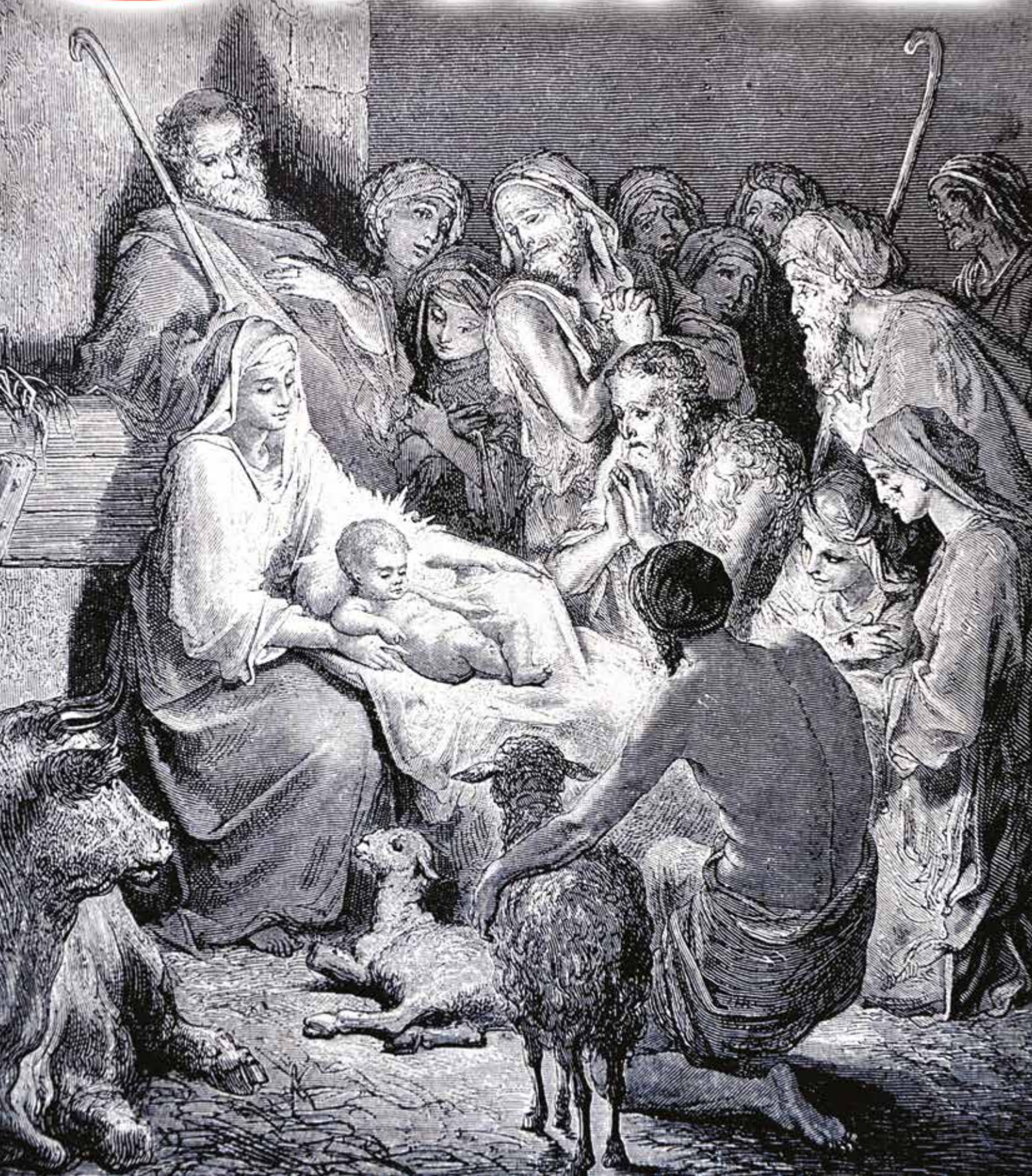
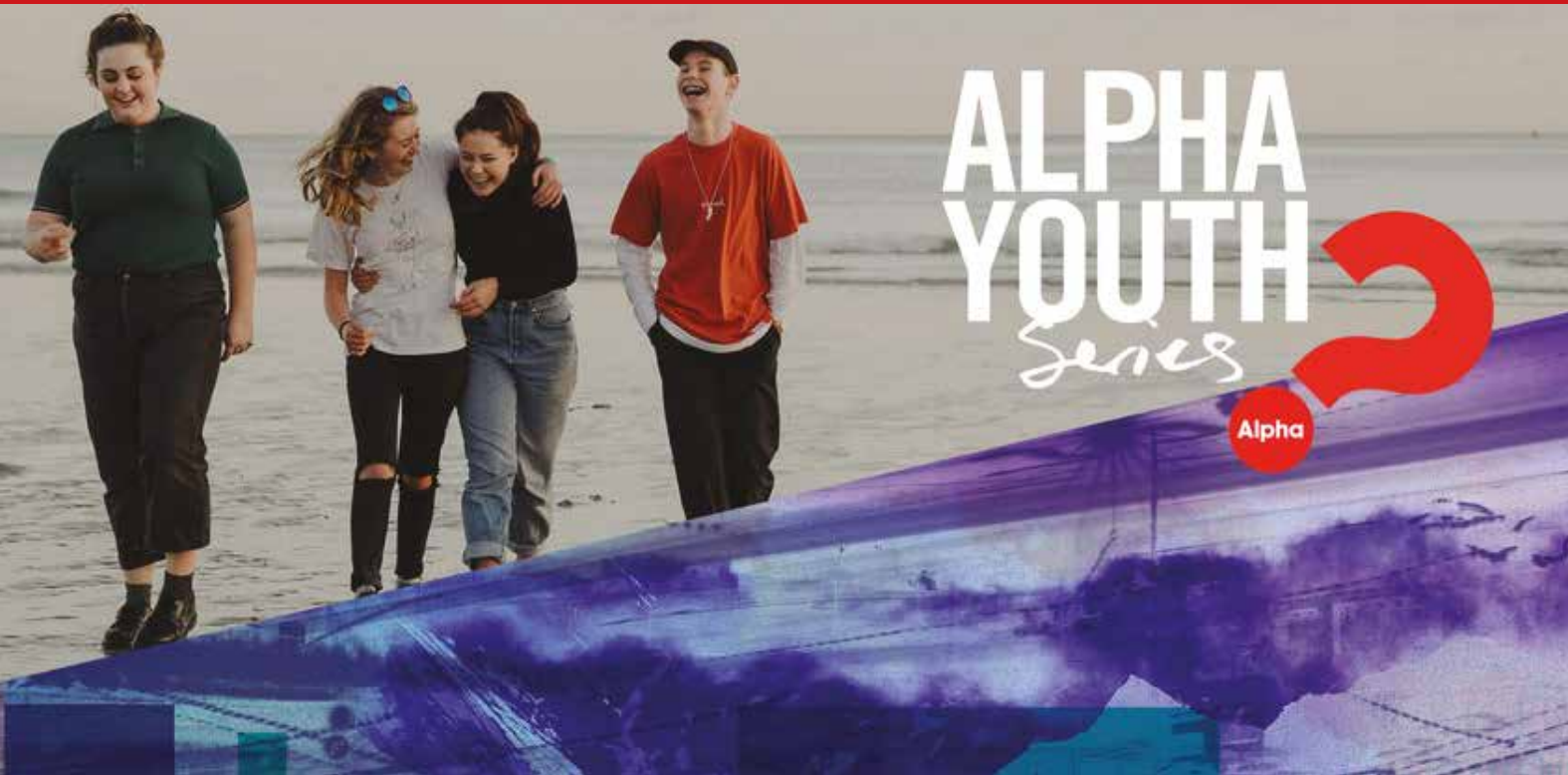


SHINE





TOM SMALL, WHO SPENT 9 MONTHS WITH ALPHA IRELAND IN DUBLIN, WILL BE RUNNING A YOUTH ALPHA COURSE ON SUNDAY EVENINGS IN THE PARISH CENTRE FROM 20TH JANUARY 2019.

THE YOUTH ALPHA COURSE IS A 10 WEEK DYNAMIC COURSE, OFFERING A FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY FOR ANY YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WISH TO EXPLORE/ DEEPEN THEIR FAITH IN A WELCOMING SETTING.

THE COURSE IS BASED AROUND A SET OF ENGAGING VIDEOS EXPLORING QUESTIONS OF LIFE, JESUS AND THE CHRISTIAN FAITH - ALL TARGETED AT THE YOUTH COMMUNITY. LIKE ALL ALPHA COURSES, FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED TO THE ATTENDEES.

IF YOU ATTEND SECONDARY SCHOOL/6TH FORM AND WISH TO JOIN THE COURSE, PLEASE REGISTER YOUR INTEREST BY EMAILING:

thomasrsmall@hotmail.co.uk



FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

Most of you will have received this copy of 'Shine' at Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day and put it to one side when you got home. You are probably reading it some time after Christmas Day during those days when the festivities are over and you haven't 'started up' again. These quieter days give us the opportunity to reflect on the heart of the Christmas story. "She gave birth to a Son, her first born and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, for there was no room for them at the inn" (St Luke). "He shall be called 'Emmanuel' a name which means 'God is with us'" (St Matthew). "The word became flesh and lived among us" (St John). All the gospel writers describe the events in slightly different ways but it all comes down to the simple fact that God loves us so much that he gave his Son to us and for us and invites us to accept him into our lives not just at Christmas but every day.

My thanks to all who have contributed to this edition and have put it together. It shows just how much is going on in our two parishes and what talents there are. Please use your talents for the building of the kingdom.

Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

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 . . .

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

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

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

Shining a light on our parish communities

Time for tea

Dave Pace shines a light on a recent Sunday success which 'took the biscuit' for community effort.

A wonderful parish social occasion took place on Sunday, 18 November in the parish centre after the 10 o'clock Mass. Organised by Roland Gingell and in memory of his late wife Kath, the event formed part of the wider 'Time for Tea' initiative to raise funds for the eminently worthwhile cause of St Ann's Hospice.

Two magnificent cakes formed the prizes for the raffle. One cake, pictured above, had been baked and beautifully decorated in the hospice colours by Kath's niece. The other was a magnificent birthday cake, which had been very generously donated following a birthday party held in the centre the previous day.

The event was fantastically well supported; so many cakes had been donated that space on the tables could barely be found for them all, and it was feared that many might be left unsold. Such fears proved totally groundless,

however, with many parishioners coming along to enjoy a cake – or two, or even three! – with a cup of tea or coffee and then buying more to take home.

So many people worked extremely hard, providing the drinks from the kitchen, decorating the hall and helping on the stall itself, to make the event an enormous success both socially as well as financially. In excess of £650 was raised, which included a generous donation from the sale of Mary's beautiful handmade cards.

The occasion was enjoyed by all, with a wonderful atmosphere and, as ever, the generosity of our parishioners and their friends was overwhelming. Everyone involved deserves an enormous vote of thanks.

To sum up, in Roland's own words, "this parish is just magic!"



Our friend, Irene Anderson

By her friend **Moira Howarth**

Irene came into St Peter's many years ago and brought her many talents to us. She sang with her beautiful voice in our choirs, she joined our prayer and discussion groups and came to our Masses.

She helped all age groups and communities. She made lovely baby clothes, delicious cakes, helped children, supported families and visited the sick and elderly. Everywhere Irene went, she was welcomed and loved. Her kindness, care, support, empathy and love were gifts to us all.

Irene was a Methodist and an Ecumenist; she said she was a 'Cathodist'. She enriched the Christian community in Hazel Grove and beyond. She will be remembered with love and affection by all who met her. Our sympathy is extended to her husband Wallace and her sons, John and Peter.

Rest in peace, our friend Irene.



Why not become an altar server?

"What I like about altar serving is when you first start altar serving you get a lot of help from the older and more experienced altar servers and even Fr Peter helps you out as well when you're not sure. The best part of serving for me is at the offertory when I get to set out the altar and I see the families coming down and I feel like I'm helping God, Jesus and Fr Peter all in different ways. I love the altar server get togethers - we play games, have pizza and get together as a group and it's nice getting to know all the other altar servers." **Charlotte Haines**



After a pilgrimage in early summer to the holy island of Iona in the Inner Hebrides of Scotland, **Gerry Clarke** recounts his feelings in a poem he wrote about the first journey to Iona in 563 by Colmcille – St Columba's name in Irish.

On Iona, 563

Slipping surreptitiously away
From the banks of the Foyle,
Colmcille's eyes red
On close-up shrieking gulls
Scattering his favourite Columba
Changing Colmcille's look
And of the sandalled twelve,
Now pensive faces –
On the pale blue seas.

"Slán go fóil
Agus buíochas le Dra!" *
A gentle hand of Him
On his setting-out back
Guiding his boat full of
Glad pilgrim penitents
Unto unknown currents
White spray flying
To an uninvited Iona.

563: holy, bold Colmcille
Royal blood barely quieted,
No high crosses of Ireland
Nor beautiful Derry
But a fixed vision of all:
A glorious Eden . . .
Land falling on painted pebbles
In the white soft sheen of Iona,
In St Columba's Bay.

* "Farewell for now and God's blessing!"

Farewells and welcomes

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

Albert Waude	Peter Cooke	Ella Rose Heath
Margaret Murphy	Sheila Blakeley	Anne Astley
Margaret Delaney	Patricia Roper	Kenneth Wharton
Barbara Lea	Irene Anderson	Thomas Hazeley
Margaret Hargreaves	Gianni Vita	Kathleen Ryan

May they rest in peace.

We have welcomed a number into the church through baptism:

Joseph Rankine	Leah Marsh
Alfie Morris Foster	Lyla Hulme
Bradley Morris Foster	Matilda Gildine
Evelyn Simmonds	Luca Wright
Drew Clever	Martha Nish
Sydney Whittle Moseley	Orla Dixon
Minnie Rose Whittle Moseley	Layla Whiteley
Tadhg John Pierse	Olivia Handby
Victoria Panek	Elizabeth Handby
Hugo Glennon	Oscar Lee Corbett
Barney Hopton	Ava-Rae O'Brien
Cillian Webb	Andre Fagbenro

SPY raise money for Christmas hampers

SPY (St Peter's Youth) have managed to raise **£450 for Caritas**. This should help to get 9 Christmas hampers for needy families. All part of a social justice activity they were doing as a group.



Our **Justice and Peace** group organised a special event of Kurdish art and music to help people gain an appreciation and enjoyment of their cultural heritage – and it certainly did!



What a performance!



Over 60 people came to the parish centre on the evening of 9 November to be totally wow-ed by an artist and a group of musicians in a remarkable demonstration of visual and musical talent.

Amang Mardoky is a professional artist from Kurdistan who has lived in this country for many years with his wife Chinar and their three children. You may remember seeing Chinar in the last issue of Shine

when she joined in offering bidding prayers at Pentecost in her native Kurdish language. Chinar has a great attachment to our parish since we ran our refugee project a couple of years ago when she helped us with the language barriers.

Amang's passion for art began when he was a young boy of seven and was given some magic pens by his mother for doing well at school that year. He went on to graduate with

a BA in Fine Arts from Manchester Metropolitan University in 2012 and was awarded the Ken Billany prize for his outstanding work. Amang currently works with dementia patients in a nursing home in Stockport.

"I am in love with colours," he enthused. "I use the abstract language to talk about the effects that war had on my life and to show my love of nature and all its beauty." He mainly works with acrylic paints

though also uses other mixed materials.

Having set up the first of four canvases, Amang waited for the group of four musicians from the UK, Iran and Kurdistan to start playing – Arian Sadr (percussion), Christian Van Fields (piano), John Waters (saxophone) and Azad Saz (saz) – and drew his inspiration from the music he heard. The music was mesmerising, so varied, so melodic, so inspirational.

Then he started using a candle flame to mark the empty canvas in a delicate pattern. This was followed by him applying paint to his hands and creating shapes on the canvas in response to the music. As the image grew at the artist's direction and the musicians showed their amazing talent playing a mix of Western and Kurdish music, the audience knew they were experiencing something really special.

In total, Amang created four different art works, to the delight and fascination of the audience. The musicians and the artist were phenomenal. As someone in the audience said, "It was so unusual – a total delight for the senses because you found yourself so transfixed watching the artist paint, then you started looking at and listening to the musicians and were swept away with their talent. It was really fantastic; what a brilliant night."

Let's set the scene first...

By 10am on the morning of Saturday 1 December about 100 people of all ages were in either the parish centre or the Scout Hut ready for our Advent Retreat Day.

32 children aged between 4 and 11 years came for their Advent Adventure – a fun-filled day, which started with them being greeted at the door by Mary and Joseph! Yes, Teresa and Terry Thiele got in

costume and proceeded, with lots of other helpers, to assist Clair Connor, a Youth Worker from Hazel Grove Baptist Church. They guided the youngsters through the day in a range of activities centred around Advent and the birth of Jesus Christ.

Meanwhile in the parish centre about 60 adults gathered to hear Mary Hardiman talk on the theme of Journeys into Heaven.



Such a *special* day

John now takes up the story...

Well, what a day – this was a day of grace for the parish collectively and individually.

There was a lovely spirit of co-operation as the hall was prepared for the day, with many people giving of their talents and time to serve the parish on this special day to prepare for Advent. Not least of these is Mary Hardiman who spent a lot of time preparing two inspirational talks for us on the Annunciation and the Visitation. Mary has a gift for breaking open the Scriptures; she discovered this gift through her own faith journey and she deftly encourages us all to do the same.

Andy McGarr led the music which set the tone for the day. The words that struck me in the opening songs of worship were “when I am surrounded, your love carries me” and “I am a child of God”. Mary’s first talk challenged us to think about God choosing a seemingly

John McKay has quickly penned some of his thoughts about a really special day-long event held just hours before we started the production stage of this issue.

unimportant young girl to bring about his plan for the whole human race. She said that if we feel marginalised, isolated or unimportant, we must remember that God is choosing us too to bring Jesus into the world.

Mary posed a number of simple but searching questions to us, including:

“Do you know that you are precious to God?”

“Do you know that God delights in you?”

“Do you know that God is with you?”

“How wide are you prepared to open the door of your life to God this Advent?”

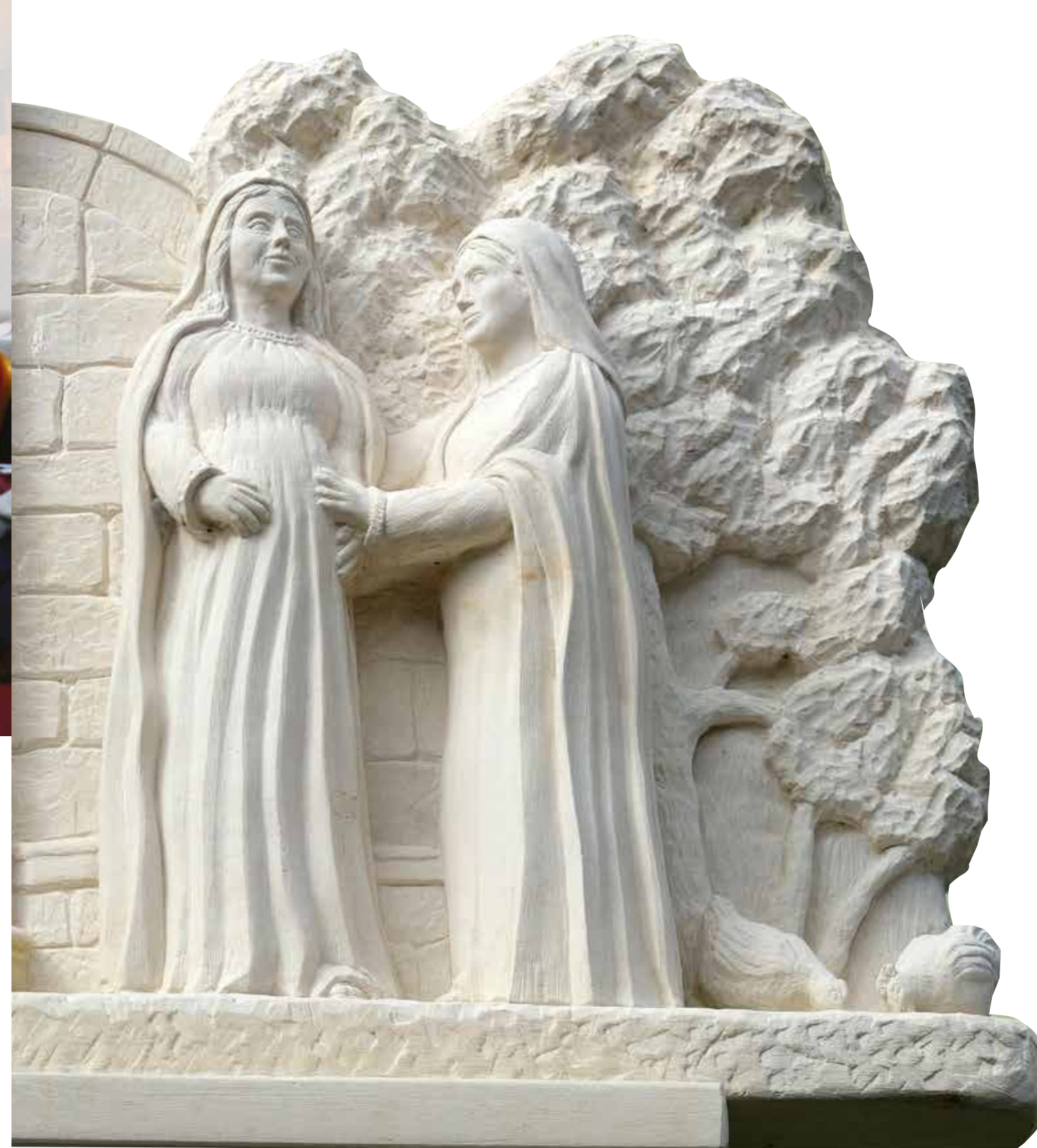
“What are you willing to give to Jesus this Advent?”

“Who is sitting on the throne of your heart?”

“Scripture states ‘Do not be afraid’ 366 times. Do you know someone who is afraid, and if so is there a message you want to give them?”

“Malcolm Muggeridge said the ONLY prayer is ‘Thy will be done’ – Is there something in your (prayer) life you need to simplify?”

“To what extent can you be the servant of the Lord?”



What was so refreshing about the talks was the chance to consider each of these questions in turn, as Mary took us on these two journeys with patience and gentleness, giving us time to consider these big questions. Each question was accompanied by a period of profound silence. After the morning talk we had an opportunity for quiet reflection with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Mass at 12 noon.

After lunch the youngsters came and shared some of their morning’s activity

with the adults. We were captivated by their singing and actions as they performed “Mary’s Boy Child” in their lovely costumes before heading off to make gingerbread houses!

Our afternoon session with Mary was about the Visitation as she led us through Elizabeth’s experience when she welcomed her cousin, Mary. Again, her insight, her thoughts, her questions and her encouragement were particularly moving and extremely powerful.

The day was a great opportunity to stop amidst all the crazy busyness of everyday life and have some space and peace to realign our hearts and minds to what is really at the heart of Christmas. I felt restored by this day which had a tangible sense of joy and peace about it.

If you weren’t able to get to the Day, you’ll find the recording of Mary’s two talks in the Gallery section of our parish website:

<http://stpeterscatholic.church/gallery/>

Advent Adventure



Thanks for such a lovely day today. Both William and Thomas really enjoyed it and marked the day 10 out of 10!

Dexter had loads of fun. Thanks.

Zac had a fantastic day. Thanks.



A massive thank you from us. Felicity and Samuel had a lovely day too!!

Sophia had a great time, thanks Teresa

The boys had a lovely day, thank you.



Noah had a wonderful time this afternoon, hope everyone had a fun time too xx.

What a lovely way to start our Christmas celebrations and the start of Advent!



Charlotte and Sophie really enjoyed it. Thank you so much for all your hard work x.

Hannah and Joshua had a great time, thank you very much to all x.

Jasmine had a great day. Thank you.



Thanks for organising everything! Lee said he enjoyed the day!

Nikola really enjoyed it. Thank you.

Biyan and Ton had a great day... thank you.

Journey to the Manger





Mary aged 16 with her bicycle



Judith on her wedding day, 1975



Doris on her wedding day, 1977

From the Seychelles to Stockport

I was born of Chinese, French/ Seychellois origin in Nairobi, Kenya. Kenya in East Africa was a British colony at the time. The family left Nairobi to settle in Tanga, Tanganyika – now Tanzania – after the merger between Tanganyika and Zanzibar.

My first private school was in St Anthony's Roman Catholic School in Tanga until my father was transferred to Morogoro, a town 115 miles inland from Dar es Salaam. I was tutored privately at home in the absence of educational facilities. Our next move was to Dar es Salaam, the capital city of Tanzania. The name in Arabic means 'Heaven of Peace'.

I studied to GCE 'O' level at the international, multi-cultural St Joseph's Secondary Convent School near the harbour front. Next to the school was St Joseph's cathedral and a three floor residence of Bishop Edgar Maranta. Other priests, brothers and nuns there were from Italy and Switzerland; they doubled up as excellent teachers and had a lot of influence on the educational standard of the school in respect of exam results and discipline. The school catered for students from kindergarten to secondary school culminating in the 'O' level examinations which were set and marked by the University of Cambridge in England.

My favourite subjects were English, geography, hygiene, needlework

Mary Lebon from St Philip's shares her life experiences over the years

and singing. School hours were 8am to noon as afternoon temperatures were in excess of 30 degrees C. Transportation to and from school was either by the family-owned rickshaw or on foot. I acquired a bicycle at the age of 16 – a birthday present from my Dad. The bicycle cost 150 Shillings, equivalent to £7.50. I left school at the age of 16 and got my first office job earning 160 Shillings (£8); I later got an increase to 250 Shillings (£12.50) per month.

The turning event in my life was when I met Egbert Lebon from the Seychelles who was in Dar es Salaam. We got married in St Joseph's cathedral in 1954. We were blest with two lovely daughters, Judith and Doris and they too attended St Joseph's school.

To enhance my education, I studied Pitman's Shorthand (RSA) and achieved 120 words per minute. I also learnt to type on the renowned Imperial typewriter.

In 1966 the family decided to emigrate to the United Kingdom and settled in Stockport. The girls went to St Anne's Roman Catholic school in Heaton Chapel. My further studies in shorthand and typing enabled me to get a position in Stockport Council as a stenographer to the borough librarian.

I worked for the late REG Smith, who later recommended me for the position of Speaker for the Library, a position I held for 25 years.

In 1975 I joined Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council. When a vacancy came up for the NALGO coach holiday organiser, I was asked to take the role. This entailed organising trips to various parts of Europe and organising London theatre weekends under the banner of 'Mary Lebon's Social Group'. This was a great honour for me and I carried it out for eight and a half years. The last trip organised was in 1993 to Paris Euro Disney and included a 93 year old lady and a one year old infant, Leah Pykett from St Philip's parish.

After retirement from the Council, I served on the Retired Employees' Club as a Committee Member and in charge of coach holidays all over the UK for eight years. To add to my profile, I have been an 'Avon Lady' from 1967 to 2017.

The marriage of our daughters were the pivotal moments of our lives. Judith married in 1975 in St Philip's church; the nuptial Mass was conducted by Fr Brendan Hoban, assisted by altar boy Stephen Gallagher, who has now moved back

to Offerton. Two years later in 1977 when Doris married, the ceremony was also officiated by Fr Brendan Hoban. We have always resided in Offerton and saw the consecration of St Philip's church. The church's connection with the Lebon family has a history that includes two weddings, four christenings, three schoolings, two Holy Communion, two Confirmations and a Diamond Wedding.

My wish in life would have been to retire earlier to enable me to serve the parish. However, I did carry out work for the St Vincent De Paul Society for 18 years until it ended a few years ago. I had the pleasure of working with three presidents of the society including Bernard Laing, who was also the vice president of the Stockport and District Council. Bernard lives in Hazel Grove.

Lastly, not forgetting my birth place in Africa, I was recently interviewed on the radio with greetings in Swahili by the BBC African Service.

I would like to extend Christmas greetings in various languages to my friends:

Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year

Joyeux Noël et bonne année (French)

Sang Fun Fai Lock Sang Deen Fai Lock (Chinese)

Salaam Sikukuu ya Christmas na Furaha ya Mwaka Mpya (Swahili)

Word and Communion services

Tony Cordes is one of a growing team of people involved in the preparation and delivery of a service held at least once a week in our two parishes.

"Once again we gather to be the Church of Christ. Christ is with us as He promised, present in this assembly of His people, in the proclamation of God's word and in the communion of His body and blood. As our priest cannot be with us, we are unable to celebrate the Eucharist. Let us reflect on the Word and pray together and then share Christ's body and blood consecrated for us at a previous Eucharist."

These are the words spoken at the start of a Word and Communion service. A significant phrase is "as our priest cannot be with us..." Such services reflect that there are insufficient priests to celebrate all the Masses and liturgies that we have in our church. It is also worth mentioning here that a recent development is the work of lay people trained to conduct funeral services. You may remember Rachel McKay's article in the last issue (5) of Shine as we introduced this in our parish. Word and Communion, lay-led funerals and all our liturgies are celebrations of our community of faith. These services enable us to continue to gather daily.

Word and Communion services were first introduced in our parish about five years ago; they're held at 12 noon Monday to Friday when no Mass is possible. There are currently 22 people regularly involved in their delivery at St Peter's. Additional volunteers are always welcome so

if you have any interest you can get all the information from the co-ordinator, Rachel – see the details on the back cover of Shine under Celebrating liturgy.

Each Word and Communion service typically involves three people,

male or female: a leader, a reader and a Eucharistic minister. The leader is responsible for conducting the service, the reader proclaims the readings and psalm for the day and the Eucharistic minister leads us in the Lord's prayer, the sign of peace and the distribution of Holy Communion. The leader

normally prepares a reflection on the gospel and some bidding prayers; if a particular saint is being celebrated that day, they would give brief details of the saint's life.

We all have unique experiences of life and faith and so the beauty of these

services is in the wide variety of reflections on the Word that are delivered. I find the preparation of the reflection a very rewarding personal experience; it allows me to think deeply about how the Word affects me and how I believe it applies in today's world. Every one of us has something to offer and share with our

friends in faith. Now that we can offer this option it means that every day throughout the year we can celebrate in our church. If you can't get to physically be there, remember you can always tune in to participate online via the webcam page on our website.



Canonisation celebrations

Tony Martin joined a group who witnessed the important and historic ceremony in Rome on 14 October this year.

A small party of priests and lay people from the Shrewsbury diocese journeyed to Rome for the canonisation of two famous contemporary saints and five others who were not so well known in this country. The visit was organised by the Friends of Oscar Romero.

Oscar Romero and Pope Paul VI are both well known, but for different reasons. The other saints canonised on the Sunday were Francesco Spinelli, Vincenzo Romano, Maria Caterina Kasper, Nazaria Ignazia di Santa Teresa di Gesu March Mesa and Nuncio Sulprizio, who was the only lay person.

There were several other events prior to the Canonisation Mass on Sunday, on both the Thursday and Friday. Saturday, being our first full day there, was realistically the first opportunity to take stock and consider which of the organised ceremonies was most practical from an access point of view. We decided to attend Il Suono Della Tua Voce (The sound of your voice) organised by Caritas International, a performance of song, music and poetry by artists and migrant youth from various countries.

There followed a Vigil for Friends of Romero at Santa Maria in Campitelli which meant a quick trip back to the hotel afterwards, to be on the move by 6.30am on the Sunday to St Peter's. We all put our faith in the weather

forecast and Sunday, as every other day during our stay in Rome, was warm and sunny, no anoraks or sweaters required. Having said that, at 7.15am sitting in St Peter's Square it felt autumnal. We managed to get through the security into the square quickly but then had nearly three hours to wait. We were entertained (if that is the right expression) by a succession of pilgrims arriving late and attempting to contact their friends in other parts of the square and then discovering that the only way forward was to reverse and start again. Technology was a great asset.

The ceremony itself was full of Papal pomp but unfortunately from my perspective, even though we were relatively near, the screen nearest us suffered from the sunlight and we could not see a lot of the action. The loud speakers kept us in touch. After the Mass and the Angelus, Pope Francis travelled around the square in the Popemobile.

There were other events later, scattered across the city. We attended a Taize evening on Sunday evening, which was organised by the Brothers of Taize and was for the Friends of Oscar Romero.

There were two special Masses on Monday: one for Saint Paul VI at St Paul's Outside the Walls and the other for St Oscar Romero in the Audience Hall adjoining St Peter's. We were able to reach the Audience Hall

fairly quickly so chose to attend that celebration and, in contrast to the pomp of the papal Mass, a celebration was the correct word. The hall was filled with music from the mainly Salvadoran people interspersed with cheering and cries of support for their new saint (although in San Salvador he had been treated as a saint since the 1980's). The principal celebrant was the Cardinal Chavaz and every bishop from San Salvador, or so it appeared, concelebrated. The whole Mass was one of active participation in more ways than one. It was self evident the joy the people were feeling at the official recognition by the whole church of someone, whom for 38 years so many had believed had been a saint. Pope Francis again came to the Audience Hall after the end of Mass to the delight of all those present.

It meant that Monday afternoon was the first time we were able to stroll around Rome and join the many other pilgrims who constantly throng this magical and holy city.

There were many abiding memories: the pomp of the Canonisation ceremony, the sheer delight at attending the Mass in the Audience Hall and a moving Taize service. On a more humorous note, the sight of a group of nuns sat in front of us in St Peter's Square wearing sun hats on top of their veils and one even had a sun visor on top of her veil.





The former University church now a conference centre



The new Catholic church in Leipzig

An unusual **Catholic church**

Over the years that I have visited Leipzig, for music holidays, there was never a functioning Catholic church. On the main square stood the ruined remains of the one-time University church, blown up by the Nazis. However, when this building was re-constructed it was as a conference centre. The famous Nikolaikirche (St Nicholas), a Lutheran church, offered their hospitality every Saturday evening to the homeless Catholics of the city for a Vigil Mass. I was always surprised to see how many people filled the building by 5.30pm.

It was this Lutheran Church that held the 'Vigil for Peace' prayer services every Monday night from 1982. The German Gestapo made their presence felt outside the church on these occasions and were invited to take part. Maybe some did.

In 1989 the 'Peace prayer' developed into peaceful demonstrations – always peaceful – which spread throughout

Barbara Goodier reflects on her travels to Leipzig in Germany

the German Democratic Republic and eventually brought about the 'peaceful revolution' and end of the GDR.

For some years I saw a strange looking building going up on the ring road. Progress seemed very slow and, from the train, appeared to have no doors or windows. I suspected it was a prison, but it turned out to be the new Catholic church.

In 2017, whilst in Leipzig for the 'Ring Cycle', I found that the Holy Trinity church was up and running.

The door is hidden in the inner courtyard which stretches between the bell tower, café and church. Inside the café door I could see a wooden carved statue of Luther holding the Gospels in one hand and making a welcoming gesture with the other.

It was closed for a month's holiday however. The time was mid-afternoon. Once inside the church I was struck by the size, silence, light and entire lack of any ornamentation. In the windows, high above, the glass was plain, there were simple wooden benches, a plain rectangular altar with candlesticks built in each corner – and an unadorned square cross on the wall above added to the extreme simplicity.

After a few minutes, I thought how happy any of my Quaker friends would have felt in this place! There was nothing to distract.

The space and light began to take over. The silence became a presence. There was no doubt that this was holy ground. It was a sacred place, however unusual and different.



Back of the new Catholic church



The inside of the church

Our visit to the War graves

Helen Lyons and her sister **Colette Christie** share their thoughts and recent experiences during the parish trip to France in November.

For as long as we can remember we have known the story of our paternal Great-grandparents, William and Eleanor Egerton. William went to war in 1914 with the Manchester Regiment; he died on 31 March 1918, aged 36. He is commemorated at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery in Pozières.

Eleanor was left with four children, the eldest of whom was 14 – our Grandad. Eleanor decided to emigrate to America to start a new life but she collapsed at the dockside and later died. She was also 36. Grandad always said she sat by the fire and died of a broken heart, but when we got her death certificate it was due to peritonitis. The children all went to separate relatives but thankfully all kept in touch and we were able to know them all.

Visiting the War Graves was the most thought-provoking experience I have had. The Somme and Flanders Fields were to me names of places where WW1 was fought, but I had never realised the enormity of death and destruction that it caused. Visiting the cemeteries is a very emotional experience which made me feel very proud of and grateful to the brave men who fought for their country.

It was all very interesting to read the facts and figures about WW1 in the visitor centres and amazing to share stories with other members of the group.

Seeing William's name made the story we had been told very real and gave me a huge sense of pride. **Helen**



For me visiting the war graves was an extremely enlightening occasion. We have all read about the conditions in the trenches and the number of men who died serving their country but the visit made real the vastness of destruction of lives – something we all found very hard to take in.

Visiting our Great Grandfather's commemoration on his regimental panel led us both to thinking about the devastating effect it would have had on his family. This led me to think about the effect of the war back home.

When war was declared in August 1914, so many young men joined up with great excitement. Many believed that the war would be over by Christmas 1914 and to them it was going to be an adventure. I cannot begin to imagine how they felt when reality rang true and they experienced the heart-sick fear. Also, with news of what was happening on the frontline, I wonder how did the families back home feel.

I hope that by making the visit to war graves, a determination to live in peace will be encouraged by all who visit.

I'm thankful that 'this little corner of a foreign field' is not forgotten by our generation, nor by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission who keep up these cemeteries so beautifully. **Colette**



'Only those who have lost can tell the pain of parting without a farewell'



Most people when they think of WW1, remember the soldiers in the trenches recalling the ultimate sacrifice those brave young men endured. A sacrifice which is rightfully well documented. As well as designing a tribute to the soldiers I also felt some of the other victims of the conflict deserved to be remembered.

After my visit to the war graves in France I began to reflect on the cost the women had to pay. My Great Grandmother was left a widow with four children and shortly after my Great Grandfather's death, she too died leaving my Grandfather and his siblings orphans. Many fatherless and orphaned children would become the extended victims of war.

When visiting the hospital cemetery at Etaples, my thoughts turned to the nurses serving in the hospitals who undertook exhausting and dangerous work, experiencing the horror of war first-hand. There are some very moving poems written about women during WW1. I chose one titled 'Pluck' for the display in the side altar. I also liked the one called 'War Girls'.

A tribute

Colette Christie, who heads up the talented flower arranger teams at St Peter's, explains her thinking in the preparation of the moving tributes we've appreciated in the church to mark the centenary of the end of World War 1.

While men were fighting on the battlefields, thousands of women were answering the government's cry for help by joining the war effort.

In their droves they signed up to fill the gaps left by those called into service, taking jobs in transport, engineering, mills and factories to keep the country moving.

The roles they undertook were often fraught with danger. The assembly lines where the munition workers kept the front line supplied with ammunition were targets for enemy

bombs and the chemicals used turned their skin yellow, often causing fatal illnesses.

As a result of huge numbers of men joining the army, farming and agriculture risked collapse. The Land Girls saved the country from near starvation, especially when the ships carrying food were blockaded by the enemy.

I noticed some graves where sailors were buried. 44,000 British sailors died in the conflict so I thought a tribute to the Royal Navy and the Merchant Navy was fitting.

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

In September we launched Footsteps – a series of talks and presentations by various people whom we thought would inspire and stimulate us. We weren't disappointed!

Footsteps – up and running

Because we have the opportunity to use our parish centre and to organise events like the Footsteps programme, we thought it would be good to throw open our doors to the people of Stockport – and beyond – and make the best use of our resources.

After printing some leaflets, we left quantities at many of the churches in the Stockport area, sent information for their newsletters and generally put the word out that Footsteps was 'coming to a place near you'.

We began on a Tuesday evening in September with our launch event, praying that some people would want to hear Mary Hardiman talk about the workers in the vineyard. On any occasion like this, you never know what size audience you're going to get, so prayers are an essential part of the preparation.

We arranged small tables, used all the tablecloths we had, lit small candles, put out biscuits, grapes, crisps – plenty to nibble at. The setting, we hoped, looked inviting, cosy, informal, welcoming.

Then there's the seating – how many chairs do you put out? Too few and it looks pessimistic and disappointing to the first arrivals, too many and it looks overly optimistic and potentially disappointing to the later arrivals!

As it turned out people arrived in their droves – and they kept coming. This meant that we were keep having to put out more chairs, make more teas and coffees – what a pleasure it was to do this. We counted 115 people. Footsteps was up and running!!

Readers will know Mary Hardiman from "Mary's Corner", a regular feature in Shine. You'll find that corner in this issue on page 28. Her talk that first night had people spellbound as she shared her thoughts and promptings about Jesus and the workers in the vineyard. "Don't give up on God," she urged us, "He will never give up on you." There was so much discussion after her talk among the many, many people there, that no-one seemed ready to leave.

Gradually some started heading for their cars, then a few more, then we found some of them were coming back in to talk some more.

The main feeling that night was that they had heard something quite

special, it had provoked so much thought – "you just want to hang on to Mary's ideas and inspiration and treasure them," someone said.

We were asking people who weren't from our two parishes of Hazel Grove and Offerton, where they'd come from and the list was incredible: Glossop, Bramhall, Bolton, Cheadle Hulme, Burnage, Marple, Romiley, Timperley.

On the second event the list was further extended with people from Poynton, Macclesfield and New Mills; in total about 100 came to the second event in the series, on 25 October and a similar number arrived for our third event on 22 November, again from far and wide.

October gave us a special presentation by Fr Eamonn Mulcahy, a Spiritan



Nearly every seat is taken



Plenty to discuss



Twins Dominic and Eamonn

Father from Manchester, who has travelled the world in his missionary work, helping people in many continents to think about our relationship with Jesus, the various aspects and challenges of our faith and our modernday interpretation of what it's all about. Wow, he was on form that Thursday night, inspiring us, joking with and nudging us to appreciate the joy there is in the Gospel with Jesus. "Joy is the hallmark of a Christian – or it should be", he said.

Before Fr Eamonn's talk began, we had a bit of a shock when his twin brother, Dominic arrived. The thing is, they aren't just twins, they're identical twins and they share the same great sense of humour so undoubtedly still enjoy seeing people's reactions. From our point of view, if Fr Eamonn hadn't made it, we could at least have a convincing looking substitute!

Again, people wanted to stay after the talk and discuss what they'd heard. There was such a buzz about the room – and a feeling of joy too.

And we've just had our third event, this time with Fr Pat Deegan in November, who surprised us when he casually mentioned he had a twin brother, Martin. Can you see a theme developing here?

Yes, that's what we thought and when this was mentioned in passing to Mary Hardiman, it turns out that – guess what – yes, she has a twin brother, Joseph! She was quick to assure us that they weren't identical twins: "Joe has much bigger feet than I have," she pointed out.

Back to Fr Pat Deegan, who is parish priest at Our Lady's and St Alphonsus in Moss Side as well as Spiritual Director for the Northern Catholic Conference. As he does on the many retreat days he runs, Fr Pat gave us so much to think about. With our gathered throng he reflected on when Jesus cured both Jairus' daughter and Peter's mother in law.

"How many times does Jesus say in the Gospels "Do not be afraid"?", he

asked. And he quickly assured us it was 366 times – one for every day in the year, including a leap year! He also drew on some examples of unwavering faith in his own family, particularly his mother and twin brother, when they had faced significant adversity in their lives but never stopped praising God. He included a useful and memorable suggestion that FAITH means a Fantastic Adventure In Trusting Him. There were various questions for Fr Pat from the audience and then a fair buzz in the room as people started to discuss what they'd heard and their reactions. Another really good night.

If you haven't managed to get to Footsteps yet, think about giving it a try. We have so far attracted a wide age range and from a wide geography. There has certainly been a bit of a wow factor with our speakers. Fr Eamonn is due back on **Tuesday 29 January at 8pm** (or will it be Dominic Mulcahy instead??), offering us his thoughts on the challenge of Pope Francis.

Keep your eye on our parish newsletter for details, or pick up a leaflet at the back of church.

Then on **Tuesday 5 March at 8pm**, we're delighted that James Gallogly from our parish will be sharing his thoughts

and some of his work experience in "Time to reflect". James is a former headteacher and education professional and now works as a Chaplain at HM Prison Manchester. He'll lead us in how we can approach the season of Lent.

That particular day is Shrove Tuesday, so make sure you have your pancakes before you come – our nibbles don't stretch to pancakes, especially not for the numbers we usually cater for! As one of our team said, "We're good, but we're not that good!" And just to answer the question that might well be on your mind – no, James doesn't have a twin brother nor twin sister!

It would be lovely to welcome even more. Spread the word to follow our Footsteps.



Some of the many couples who have attended the course

Could you tell us a bit about your marriage?

We were married 26 years ago at St Peter's by Father Ned Wall. Both of us were members of Handforth Morris, hence we had a 'Morris Wedding', with the team celebrating with us. We offered Father Ned the opportunity to wear clogs with bells on, but he shied away from that! We have lived most of our married life in Hazel Grove and have 3 lovely children; Helena, Jenny and Thomas. We enjoyed celebrating our Silver Wedding at a parish Mass with Father Peter, ably assisted by Father Ned.

How did you get involved in running the Marriage Course?

On Valentine's Day in 2015, St Peter's had a celebration of Marriage & Family Life. This was a blessed day and a great occasion for the parish. A number of us felt compelled to try to do more to promote and support marriage and family life in the parish. We had heard of the Alpha Marriage Course and decided to enrol on one in Bramhall, with

*With the next Alpha Marriage Course starting in January, SHINE catches up with **Laura and David Small**, team members who are preparing to run the course.*



the intention of bringing it to St Peter's. Our friends, Teresa and Terry Thiele also enrolled onto the course and here we are, about to run our fourth Marriage Course.

What was your own experience of doing the Marriage Course?

We found the course very interesting and helpful with the tips that were provided. We had a lot of laughs and some challenging times during the course. The biggest take we got from the course was the importance of Marriage Time, a time where you make a commitment to do something together without any distractions from anyone or anything else. This could be going out for a meal, going to the cinema or pub, or simply going out for a walk together.

So, what's involved in the Marriage Course?

The Marriage Course runs for one evening a week over 7 weeks and on each evening, you start with a candlelit dinner for two. Course attendees will hear personal testimonies from the married couples involved in running the course. These will be followed by interesting DVD talks interspersed with time to discuss things as a couple (there are no group discussions on this course). Each week will cover different aspects of marriage or relationships, touching on external and family influences on our relationships.

And who is the course aimed at?

The course is targeted at couples who want to make the best of the rest of their lives together. The course is not directly targeted at people who are having difficulties in their relationship. However, it is a good opportunity for couples who are keen to work through any problems. It is suitable for those who have been in a relationship together for less than a year or even 40+ years. It is useful for couples at whatever stage in their lives, ie pre-children, with or without children or where children have flown the nest.

What are your experiences from running the course?

When promoting the course, we often get reactions like: it is not for us, my partner would never go, or we don't want to open up old wounds. Yet those

who do come love it. On the first night, you sometimes find one member of the couple is a reluctant attendee, but by the end of that first evening they are invariably relaxed and enthusiastic! On one occasion, the husband of a couple was in Japan, but was determined not to miss out on their evening, so they both did the course via Facetime! It's important to note that it isn't necessary to be a Christian to benefit from attending. Last year we had a Muslim couple taking part who thoroughly enjoyed it. The feedback from couples completing the course has always been positive and many are identifying people they know who would gain from the course. As course leaders, it is rewarding to serve our guests and see the benefits they are getting from the course. It is also a good social occasion for the team hosting the guests.

What kind of feedback have you had from the course?

Here are some of the comments we received from the last course:

I really think the marriage course should be included in wedding vows... "Do you agree to undergo a marriage course?" "Yes I do!"

We were pleasantly surprised by the warmth of the welcome and the attention to detail. The exercises were challenging; the course is just a start in the process of improving our relationship.

Super food.

After 20 years of marriage, with the focus all on the upbringing of our children and creation of a home, we had lost sight of the specialness of each other and we needed to nurture our relationship. The course helped light a new spark of love and commitment.

It would be highly beneficial and highly recommended for all to do the course.

When you are married, you think you are the only couple that have ups and downs. Everyone else appears to have the perfect marriage. Having attended this course, I realised we are doing pretty well and are very normal (well, I am anyway!).

When you are married, you can still feel alone. The marriage course brings you together in every area. It can re-connect you and hold you together.

Time spent together was very constructive. A celebration of marriage in a cynical world.

What about the future?

We believe that the Marriage Course is an invaluable ministry for the parish and it would be great to offer more courses more often. We would need more volunteers to achieve this and we are open to any couples who wish to get involved. We also look forward to the new course DVDs which are being filmed next year.



The next course

Our next course will begin on Thursday 17 January 2019 and takes place in St Peter's parish centre. The course will be run for 7 consecutive Thursday evenings, starting at 7pm. The course is restricted to 10 couples, so to register your interest, simply contact David and Laura Small on 01625 876752 or send an Email to davida.small@hotmail.co.uk

All ready for the couples to arrive



Digging deep

*For the last 20 years or so there has been a **'Scripture Group'** meeting in St Peter's. Here we fling the doors wide open..!*

We began as a group about 1998 after some of us had been to an Alpha course run by Cliff and Mary Metcalfe and Margaret Gresty. We had so enjoyed the opportunity to discuss elements of our faith during the Alpha course, that we didn't want it to end there. So, we started meeting in the parish centre – and we've never stopped.

We have considered, discussed, listened to and looked at all sorts of things – but all with the same objective, to deepen our knowledge and love of our Christian faith. We've enjoyed talks by local speakers, for example, Tony McCabe when he was in our parish. Tony was an RE teacher who also did voluntary work at Strangeways helping people there to discuss faith issues. Tony had made a particular speciality of studying St John's Gospel and his inspiring talks introduced us to so many dimensions of it.

We've listened to pre-recorded talks by international speakers and luminaries like Richard Rohr, a Franciscan friar from America and Denis McBride, a Redemptorist priest from Scotland. We would listen to small sections before discussing the points made, how they might have struck us, what we learnt, what we agreed or disagreed with etc.

In recent months we've been looking at the readings for the following Sunday and discussing the messages and meaning behind them. We always have lively and enriching discussions – we try to avoid any heresies, but recognise we may stray into some along the way! One of our founder members John Henaghan used to be always quick to remind us so encouragingly, "we're all flawed." Currently we tend to wait for Michael O'Malley, another long standing member, to recognise when we're going astray!

Ours is a very informal and friendly group. We're not scholarly or high brow in any way. We're all from different backgrounds, including our own faith backgrounds; we have a mix of denominations represented in the group which always brooks interesting debates.

You may notice during 10am Mass on a Sunday, a few of us nodding to or nudging each other as we hear a particular passage being read and we recall our discussion the previous Wednesday. We can definitely say we cover a lot of ground – who knows where the scriptures will take us, as we put them in the context of our own daily lives as well as in their place in history.

After our summer break this year we have started to look at Pope Francis' recent publication, "Exsultate et Gaudete" (Rejoice and be glad) – in English! One of our members from the Methodist church recommended we look at it, as she had been very inspired by the Pope's content and style of writing. We're really enjoying the discussions it stimulates.

We meet in the Meeting Room of the parish centre every second and fourth Wednesday evening at 7.30pm throughout the year, apart from breaks in the summer and Christmas. In recent years we have tended to use the period of Lent as an opportunity to attend the various services held by our Churches Together in Hazel Grove.

Some time ago, founder member Tom Dorrian planned for us a re-enactment of a Passover meal which was truly wonderful. We miss him greatly since his death in February 2018.

We sit in a circle around a candle; we always start with about five minutes of silence as we settle down from the busyness of the day and put ourselves in the presence of the Lord.

During the meeting there is invariably laughter and inspiration, there's always tea, coffee and biscuits to end with after a short prayer.

Our short name is the Scripture Group – we've considered alternatives like Faith Sharing, Heresy Management, The Joy of the Gospel... Our friendships have deepened over the years and we also have a social life, including meals out or trips to theatre and music events.

We find our meetings enriching, lively and informative – maybe you might too, if you'd like to come along. Our doors are always wide open. If you find it's not for you, you could always go line dancing in the main hall which happens on the same night!!





50 years ago

Alison McGarr has been doing a bit of research into the parish newsletters

1968 was, by any standards, a tumultuous year. Martin Luther King Jnr was shot and killed. Robert F Kennedy was assassinated. Civil rights and anti-Vietnam war demonstrations and student unrest dominated headlines all over the world. There was war and famine in Nigeria where over a million starved to death.

In the UK, Harold Wilson was Prime Minister. A banned civil rights march in Londonderry sparked widespread disorder and rioting – for many, this was the moment that 30 years of violent conflict known as the ‘Troubles’ began. Enoch Powell’s ‘Rivers of Blood’ speech caused controversy and stirred up anti-immigrant tensions that shook the nation.

It was a year of seismic social and political change across the globe and yet, when looking at the parish newsletter dated 15 September 1968, St Peter’s reflects a community rooted in tradition and familiarity.

But what was happening at St Peter’s, Hazel Grove 50 years ago?

One small thing happened in the parish – I was born in June and was baptised Alison Jane Derbyshire on 8 September 1968. Knowing that my baptism would be announced, my Great Uncle Joe and his wife Ann, who were parishioners at St Phillip’s in Offerton, went to Mass at St Peter’s on 15 September to pick up a newsletter. They gave it to my mum and it has been tucked away in the loft ever since.

Looking at the parish newsletter of 1968 is like catching a glimpse of our past as a parish community; it is clear to see that whilst our country has changed immensely over the last 50 years, parish life feels remarkably similar. It is reassuring and comforting

to see that even in the midst of turbulent social change, the parish remained focussed on community and sacramental life. Mass intentions, the announcement of baptisms and prayers for the sick and the dead, money collected, general notices and appeals for unwanted clothing are consolingly familiar.

However, on closer inspection, the changes of the last 50 years become glaringly apparent: on Sunday 15 September there were eight Masses – five at St Peter’s, two at St Philip’s



Alison's mum and dad outside St Peter's

and one in High Lane and there were three Masses a day during the week. On Saturday 21 September 1968, there were THREE weddings – I wonder who they were and if they still belong to our community. I wonder whether the people who were baptised on the same day as me – Michele Jane Mullen, Nicholas Sweeney and Fiona Ann Smyth – still have connections with the parish. I wonder if anyone recognises any other names mentioned in the newsletter, for example Mr and Mrs Patterson who were new to the parish and Jack Kenny and Barbara Hewitt who died all those years ago.

Finally, with a sense of despondency, I begin to wonder what our parish

community will look like in 50 years’ time. Set against a backdrop of child sex-abuse scandals, falling Mass attendance and the reduction in the number of vocations to the priesthood, the outlook seems bleak. Yet, a glance over more recent parish newsletters reminds me that we may only have three Masses on a Sunday, but we still have an incredibly vibrant, active parish. There is a lengthy list of activities and events on offer for all members of our community. One such weekly event, ‘Teas and Coffees’, has proven to be a successful way of building relationships, building community and offering a place where all can belong.

On Sunday 18 November ‘Teas and Coffees’ was heaving: Mary Binnie was selling cards for the SVP; cake was being served in memory of Kath Gingell with the proceeds going to St Ann’s Hospice; first Communion candidates and their parents were being welcomed by Teresa Thiele and the Communion catechists; children were playing and the new faces and the old, were all laughing, talking and catching up. There was a real sense of a lived community.

2018, like 1968, is turning out to be another tumultuous year of seismic political and social change, yet St Peter’s, Hazel Grove, a community that is rooted in tradition and familiarity, might just have what the world needs more than ever before. So, if you have been away from church for a while, but you are looking to be part of a wider Christian family, in the words of Jesus, “come and see” – there is something for everyone, even if you just fancy a coffee at 11am on a Sunday!

Here's to the next 50 years at St Peter's, Hazel Grove!

our salvation he came down from heaven, All bow. Was incarnate of the virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit, and was made man. For our sake, too, under Pontius Pilate, he was crucified, suffered death, and was buried. The third day he rose from the dead, as the scriptures had foretold. He ascended to heaven, where he is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. Together with the Father and the Son he is adored and glorified; he it was who spoke through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church. I profess one baptism for the remission of sins. And I look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The BIDDING PRAYER is now said for which the people remain standing.
The Lord be with you. And also with you.
After the final Petition all join in the HAIL MARY, then pray for a while in silence.

ANTIPHON AT THE OFFERTORY
I waited and waited for the Lord, and he turned to look at me, and listened to my prayer. He has put a new song on my lips; a hymn of praise to our God.

The people sit during the Offertory but stand as the priest says:

Pray brethren, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice from your hands, to the praise and glory of his name, for our good also and for that of all his holy Church.

The priest follows with the Prayer over the Offerings at the end of which the people say Amen.

PREFACE
The Lord be with you. And also with you. Let us lift up our hearts.
We have raised them up to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right and fitting.

When the Priest has read the Preface all say:
Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts. Thy glory fills all heaven and earth. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

The people kneel.

CANON OF THE MASS

The priest now consecrates the bread and wine and they are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ. During the Elevation of the Sacred Host and of the Chalice look up and say, silently: My Lord and my God.

The Canon ends with the priest saying: For ever and ever to which the people add a fervent AMEN.

Let us pray. Mindful of our Saviour's bidding and of the prayer he gave us, we take heart and say:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.

The priest continues with a prayer for peace concluding with:

The peace of the Lord be always with you. The people answer: And also with you.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. (To be said twice).

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, grant us peace. The people kneel.

At the COMMUNION the priest holding a Sacred Host says

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world.

Striking their breasts the people say:

Lord, I am not worthy to receive thee under my roof, but only say the word and my soul will be healed. [3 times.]

The priest says to each communicant:

The Body of Christ.

Before receiving the Host say: Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON
The bread I will give you is my own flesh, given for the life of the world.

The Lord be with you. The people Stand.

And also with you.

The priest says the Post-Communion.

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

The people kneel for the Blessing.

May almighty God bless you, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Mass is ended. Go forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

Stand while the priest leaves the altar.

15th Sunday after Pentecost 15th Sept., 1968

MASS SHEET

Edited by REV. DAVID QUINLAN and REV. JOSEPH O'MAHONY

The people are earnestly urged to join in their parts which are printed in bold type

STAND as the priest enters; KNEEL when he commences the following prayers.

✠ In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

I will go to the altar of God.

The God of my gladness and joy.

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Who made heaven and earth.

The priest says the Confiteor alone and the people answer:

May almighty God have mercy on you, pardon your sins, and bring you to everlasting life. Amen.

The people then say the Confiteor in unison.

I confess to almighty God, to blessed Mary, ever-virgin, to blessed Michael the archangel, to blessed John the Baptist, the holy apostles Peter and Paul, to all the saints, and to you, father, that I have sinned exceedingly in thought, word and deed, through my fault, through my own fault, through my own most grievous fault.

Therefore I beseech the blessed Mary, ever-virgin, blessed Michael the archangel, blessed John the Baptist, the holy apostles Peter and Paul, all the saints, and you, father, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

The priest says: May almighty God have mercy on you, . . . to everlasting life. Amen.

Priest: May the almighty ✠ and merciful Lord . . . and remission of our sins. Amen.

O God, renew thy life in us.

And thy people will rejoice in thee.

Lord, show us thy mercy.

And grant us thy salvation.

Lord, hear my prayer.

And let my cry come to thee.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Stand for the INTROIT

Lord, give me a hearing; listen to me, my God. Save me, thy servant; thou art my only hope. Take pity on me, Lord, for all day long have I cried to thee.

Psalms—Comfort the heart of thy servant, for on thee, Lord, have I set my heart.

Y Glory be to the Father . . . Amen.

Lord, give me a hearing; listen to me, my

God. Save me, thy servant; thou art my only hope. Take pity on me, Lord, for all day long have I cried to thee.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

THE GLORIA

The celebrant begins: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace to men who are God's and friends. We praise thee. We bless thee. We adore thee; we glorify thee; we give thee thanks for thy great glory. Lord God, heavenly King, God the almighty Father, Lord Jesus Christ, only-begotten Son. Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, thou who takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Thou who takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou who art seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For thou alone art the Holy One. Thou alone art the Lord. Thou alone art the most high, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit; in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

At the conclusion of the Collect the people answer Amen, and sit down.

EPISTLE—A reading from . . .

At the conclusion of Epistle the people say: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

How good it is to praise the Lord; to sing in honour of God most high. In the morning to proclaim thy love, and in the night thy faithfulness.

Alleluia, alleluia! The Lord is a mighty God, a king supreme over all the earth. Alleluia!

The people stand for the GOSPEL.

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

A reading from the holy ✠ Gospel according to Saint Luke.

Glory to thee, O Lord.

At the conclusion of the GOSPEL say: Praise to thee, O Christ.

If the HOMILY follows be seated.

Stand for the CREED.

The celebrant begins: I believe in one God, the almighty Father, maker of heaven and earth, maker of all things, visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, born of the Father before time began, God from God; begotten, not made, true God from true God; and through him all things were made. For us men and for

ST. PETER'S

HAZEL GROVE

Sunday, 15 Sept.

1. MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY : St Peter's :

8

Canon Nixon

9

Maria de Cock

10

Jack Kenny

11

Father C. O'Kelly

6 1/2

S. Sullivan

High Lane : 9 1/2

Special Intention

St. Philip's :

9 1/2

Martin Fox

5 1/2

Alfred Davies

8.30.

MONDAY Parishioners

TUESDAY L. Connaughton

WEDNESDAY J.C. Cuniffe

THURSDAY Fund

FRIDAY Fund

SATURDAY F.R. Smith

12.00

Martin Fox

7.30

Vincent Holland

Jack Kenny.

Agnes Cosgrove

Albert Coleman

Dick Smith

Parishioners

2. BAPTISMS

Sunday 4.15

We share the joy of the families whose babies were baptised recently: Michele Jane Mullen; Nicholas Sweeney; Alison Jane Derbyshire and Fiona Anne Smyth.

3. PLANNED GIVING

Planned Giving Promise: £230

Last Week's Giving: St. Peter's

: £

190 - 9 - 4

High Lane

: £

8 - 14 - 8

St. Philip's

: £

24 - 13 - 0.

4. NEW ARRIVALS

We welcome all those who have joined our parish recently: Mr & Mrs Patterson of 23 Ascot Drive, Torkington.

5. THE SICK AND THE DEAD

Please pray for all our sick: Herbert Holberry, Edward Hayward and Mrs Fox.

Pray for Fr Cornelius O'Kelly, parish priest of Alsager, who died last Sunday; also for Jack Kenny and Mrs Barbara Hewitt.

From Uncle Joe & Auntie Ann



Mary's corner

Pull up a chair, if you haven't already, sit down and take it easy. Settle your mind and let Mary Hardiman's thoughts on this Gospel story from St Luke find a place in your heart.

Luke 1: 5-23

Some years ago, we visited the Holy Land and went to the birthplace of John the Baptist. In the courtyard was a long row of headstones and on each was Zechariah's prophecy written in a different language. As a linguist, I enjoyed looking at the various languages and was deeply moved by the experience.

Zechariah strikes me as being a rather argumentative and grumpy man at first glance but let's just see what his story can do for us.

We read that Zechariah and Elizabeth were good priestly, law-abiding people – worthy in the sight of God, and I imagine, in the sight of men. But throughout their marriage, there had always been this blot– the shame of infertility. How I hate the word ‘barren’. Elizabeth was barren. How did they know it was Elizabeth? How had that affected their marriage, had it brought them closer or torn them apart? Did she conceive then miscarry or simply never conceive? I wonder how it felt for each of them as the months and years passed by and they saw their family and friends have children of their own. How must it have felt for their dreams and wishes to dissipate piece by piece? And how was their personal relationship with God?

How does disappointment affect your relationship with God?

I wonder if they ever considered fostering or adoption. Because that's what we say to infertile couples, isn't it? Have you considered fostering or adoption? As if infertility prevents you from considering and exploring other avenues for yourself.

We're told they're both very old. How old is very old? 35, 40, 50? We don't know. You see, again and again in the gospels all these details are missed out, there for us to use our God-given imaginations and fill in the gaps for ourselves. It's no bad thing as it can help us to deepen our empathy towards others, to see things from the point of view of another person.

And so one day, Zechariah, this old, childless, upright, devout, God fearing, priestly man is chosen by lot to go and burn incense. For me there is no such thing as coincidence; he wasn't chosen by lot, he was chosen by God. Let's not kid ourselves. This was a divine appointment, written in God's diary at the beginning of time. Zechariah meets Gabriel. I wonder what had

happened that morning before he went off to the temple. Was something different? Had he had a dream the night before? What did Zechariah think of burning incense? Did it get on his throat or on his chest? Was he complaining before he left the house, saying he was feeling a bit chesty and hoping he wouldn't get picked? Who knows?

I have a picture of Elizabeth giving him his packed lunch before he left the house. I wonder what her plans were for the day. Did she miss her husband when he was out? Or did she enjoy the peace?

Zechariah is chosen to burn incense. So he goes into the inner sanctuary by himself. This was something that he needed to do alone, a unique event, planned only for him – to meet God's messenger all the way from heaven and hear God's promise of new life.

How prepared are you to enter into the silence of God?

At what point of the incense burning ceremony did the angel appear? How long had Zechariah been there? Had he just started? Was he about to leave? Was he in the middle of his prayers? Had his prayers been heartfelt or was he a bit distracted?

How did the angel appear? I like to think of him just turning up quietly and unobtrusively, not in a flash of blinding light but just on a gentle breeze, a tranquil, restful sign of the presence of God. How long had Gabriel been there before Zechariah noticed? Immediately? Seconds? Minutes?

How long does it take you to notice God's presence? Are you aware of it now?

“Don't be afraid,” says the angel. We read that time and again in the bible. God's favourite words I think. How many times do we need to hear and to heed those words? We are His beloved. Satan feeds our fears. God doesn't. He holds us in the palm of His very big hand.

God has heard your prayer, Zechariah. Your wife will bear you a son and you are to name him John. Just like the message the same angel gave to Mary.

But you see what I love about this bit is that God names the child before he's born. He doesn't give him his father's name but a different one. Two reasons:

1. God keeps everything uncomplicated. John is such a simple name.

Zechariah – finding God in the silence

2. God makes all things new. If he had given him his father's name, then it would have been more of the same. John is the bridge between the Old and the New Testament so it's only right and fitting that he has a different name. Therefore, we begin a fresh chapter in the salvation of humanity with a new name, chosen by the Almighty Himself.

The angel then goes on to give Zechariah a whole load of information and a list of instructions about how he is to raise this child. This next bit makes me laugh because Zechariah has not listened to a word. Rewind... “How shall I know if this is so? I am an old man and my wife is also old”. This kind of stuff doesn't happen to me; Abraham and Sarah, maybe, but not me. We make God so small.

Do you believe that God has the power to transform your life?

My heart goes out to Zechariah. What would you have done? Mary didn't understand and she wasn't struck dumb. However this man is steeped in the Jewish faith. He's a priest from a priestly family and his wife is also from a priestly family. So let's be honest, he should have known better. But at that pivotal moment, when the fulcrum of history is just about to turn he says “how shall I know?” I'll tell you what Zechariah. You'll know because before too long your wife might have to start letting her clothes out!

When I read the dialogue between Gabriel and Zechariah it took me 38 seconds. I wonder how long the real dialogue took. How much to-ing and fro-ing went on between the two of them? Zechariah was in there for more than an hour, we know that.

What does that tell us about the patience of God?

What about the crowd waiting outside? I imagine that if it were now, a lot of them would be on their mobiles, texting or updating their profiles on Facebook or Snap Chat, or even playing some futile game.

And so the whole wonder of this amazing story would be lost in the absorption and obsession with meaningless technology.

How perfect is God's timing?

Let's get back to Zechariah. When he comes out he can't speak and he has to make some signs with his hands. How must it have felt to have his speech taken from him? Why did God choose that particular disability to give to Zechariah? Why not make him deaf or blind or crippled? What is it about being dumb?

Being dumb forces you to listen. It also simplifies your exchanges. If you ever watch people signing they often use the same signs to mean different things, breath and Holy Spirit are identical.

Being dumb prevents a person from using too many words.

In Zechariah's silence God spoke. Think about this. The words silent and listen are made up of the same letters. In that silence, Zechariah listened and God spoke. I imagine that the depth of that relationship between God and his priest was something we could never fathom.

How often are we silent before our God?

How often do we allow Him to speak to us in the inner sanctuary of our hearts?

What graces are we missing with our need to fill those silent sacred spaces with meaningless chatter?

What can we ever say to God that He doesn't already know?

What does He want to say to us that we don't already know?

How do we hear that still small voice of calm, the same voice that tells you and me not to be afraid?

When Zechariah did regain his power of speech, the first thing he does is praise God. How much of that had he done before John was born? He too was filled with the Holy Spirit **AND HE SPOKE GOD'S MESSAGE**. There's the fruit of those nine months of silence. Like John, growing in Elizabeth's womb, preparing to go ahead of the Lord, strong and mighty like the prophet Elijah, so too was the seed of God's word growing in the darkness of Zechariah's silence. After John's birth, we hear nothing about him but we know what we need to know about this priestly man. Zechariah's doubt was no longer recognisable as he shouted from the rooftops his praise and worship of the most high God, inviting others along with him when he said,

“Let us praise the Lord, the God of Israel, He has come to the help of his people and has set them free.”

He's no longer afraid – there's no need to be. He's been set free by the power of God. How awe-inspiring is that?

Let me end with this prayer by Edwina Gateley:

Be silent, be still, alone, empty before your God. Say nothing. Ask nothing. Be silent. Be still. Let your God look upon you. That is all. He knows. He understands. He loves you with an enormous love. He only wants to look upon you with his love. Quiet. Still be. Let your God love you.

Amen.

Happy Christmas!

Our visit to the Holy Land in 1967

Carmel and Peter Dwerryhouse travelled to the Holy Land in 1967. Carmel shared her account of the first two days after they had arrived in Jerusalem, in our last issue (5). We take up her diary notes now for the next couple of days. We'll follow their journey during the Triduum in the next issue of Shine.

21 March, Tuesday in Holy Week

This morning, first thing, we heard a salute from a canon, followed at intervals by two more. This was the signal for a Muslim festival today and earlier we had heard the call to prayer from a mosque, only for much longer than usual. The Muslim shops are shut and the people are wearing their best clothes. They all sacrifice a sheep and eat some of it before setting out for their homes, so we set off later this morning to give our drivers an opportunity to join the celebrations.

We went first to the Mount of Olives, to the **Chapel of the Ascension**, a tiny circular building built over the traditional site of the Ascension. A small area of the bare rock is visible and there is a footprint marked in it, said to be that of Jesus. The chapel is enclosed in a circular courtyard, round which are the remains of the Crusaders' church.

Next we went to the **Pater Noster** church, belonging to the Carmelite nuns and near the site where Jesus taught his apostles to pray. The Pater Noster is written round the walls of the entrance to the cloister in many different languages.

We went down into a cave which is the place where Jesus was and a possible site of the Ascension. Then we went to Gethsemane, following the route down from the Mount of Olives past Dominus Flevit and heard Mass in the Church of all Nations. We admired the very old olive trees in the garden outside, some of which are very twisted and have to be supported by stones. Nearby is another Gethsemane chapel, where Jesus left the disciples. In the corner we saw the remains of the olive press and a deep cistern where the pressed oil was stored. A little way away is the **Church of the Tomb of the Virgin**, owned by the Russian Orthodox. We descended a wide flight of steps to a dark interior and were given a lighted candle by the monk in charge. We turned to the right and in a smaller chapel off the main one was the tomb. We went in on one side of the altar, bending under a low doorway and passed by the marble slab covering the possible place of Our Lady's burial. This is in darkness, except for the candle one holds. When we came out, we looked at all the many votive lamps hanging from the roof; some burning oil and some burning candles.

We extinguished our candles and returned them to the monk with an offering, before going out of this dim and dusty church to the bright sunlight outside.

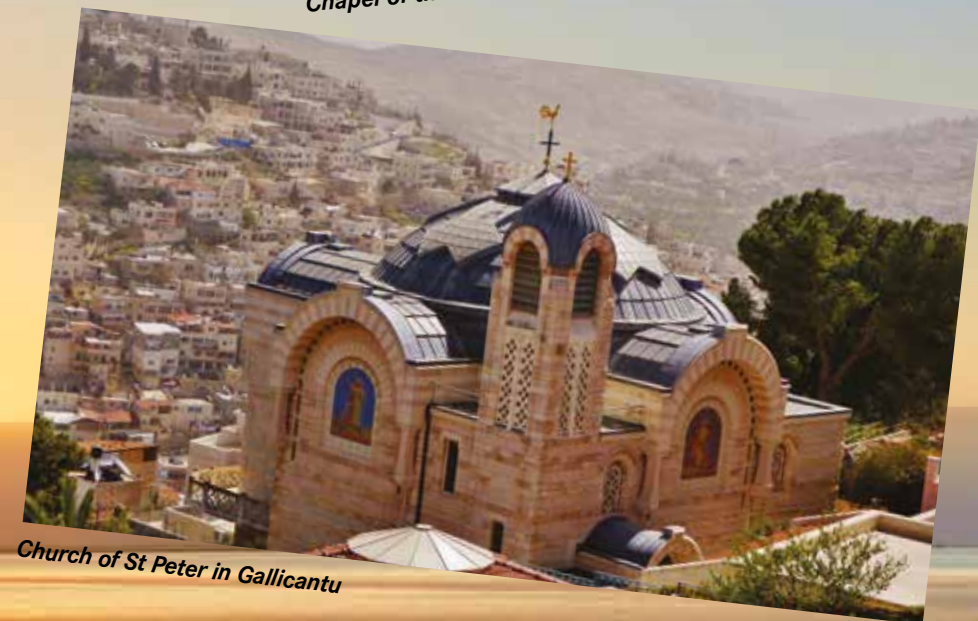
Our last call was to the church of **St Peter in Gallicantu** on the ruins of Caiphas' house. Here we were given an excellent conducted tour by an Assumptionist Father. The church is modern and has symbolic decoration, having the appropriate theme of forgiveness of sinners, as St Peter and St Mary Magdalene were forgiven. From a balcony, we looked down on the excavations. This is the site of **Caiphas' house**. In Jesus' time, this area was within the city and the main street ran round beside where the church is now. There are remains of the house, storage and living rooms visible, and above them, ruins of a Byzantine church which had commemorated the place of Peter's denial. Within the basement of the church are still to be seen the wall and stairway of Caiphas' house which overlooked the courtyard where Peter was warming himself

In the floor is a hole, looking down to an underground prison, where it is possible that Jesus was kept overnight. This is not authenticated, but on the walls are the crosses that the early Christians used to put on all their holy places. We were able to descend to this prison, seeing on the way down another prison with stone benches along the wall, the marks of the rings, to which the prisoner was chained and the place where Jewish prisoners were tied for scourging. The place where Jesus may have been was the 'deep pit' as the psalmist says, a small room deep underground, without light, into which the prisoner was lowered by a rope.

In the afternoon we set off northwards through the **Valley of Ramallah** and the prosperous suburbs of Jerusalem (where we passed the King's house and later the airport, which is not yet big enough for jets) and stopped first at a village, **Bireh (Beenoth)**, about ten miles from the city, "a day's journey", where Mary and Joseph discovered that Jesus was not with them. We continued on our way and eventually stopped by the roadside to look across at **Shiloh**, where the Lord called Samuel. On we went through the mountainous country till we came to a wide plain that marks the boundary between Judea and Samaria. It is very fertile and everywhere was green and cultivated. We descended to the valley and crossed to the other side by a road with many hairpin bends and eventually reached **Nablus**, quite a big town. Here is **Jacob's Well**, now in the care of Orthodox monks, who have half built a church there, set in a pleasant garden with pools and flowers.



Chapel of the Ascension



Church of St Peter in Gallicantu



Jacob's Well

We descended to the crypt to see the well and draw some water from it. This where Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman.

We went on for a few minutes into Nablus and were shown into the **Samaritan Synagogue**, which has three keys, kept by three branches of the family. All are required before the door can be opened. Inside it was quite bare, but a curtain hung across a recess at one end. The Samaritan priest told us a little of the history of the Samaritans, of whom there are now about 400. He mentioned that the priests never cut their hair or shave, and removed his hat (a red fez) to show us how his own hair was plaited and wound round. Then he brought from behind the curtain a brass tube engraved with the picture and symbols of the Temple, in which is kept

the scroll of the Pentateuch. They treat this with great care. The priest kissed the cover front and back before he opened it to show us.

Following this visit we drove further north west and up a secondary road to the ancient ruined city of **Sebaste**. This was founded by Omri in the 8th century BC. Ahab, his son and Jezebel ruled here. There have been various cities built here and excavations are still in progress to show the different layers. The first thing we saw was a large rectangular area with a double row of columns each side. This was a Roman forum from about 200 AD. Further on we came to the amphitheatre, behind which runs the ancient wall. The Greeks in the 4th century BC took stones from this wall and built a tower with them. They also

strengthened and rebuilt the original wall. The palace of Omri was on top of the hill and the sea can be seen from here on a fine day. Herod built a large Roman city here, enclosing the whole hill with a wall and one can see the paved main street and the foundations of shops along it. We walked round the hill on a narrow path a little down from the top and saw a good deal of the excavated ruins.

At last we came to the **Crusaders' Chapel**, dedicated to St John the Baptist. There is a tradition that he was beheaded here and not at Macchaeus... We descended a few steps to a tiny kind of cellar, which has faint markings on the wall left by the Byzantine Christians. This is where the head of St John is supposed to have been found.



The Holy Land



Entrance to Petra

22 March, Wednesday in Holy Week

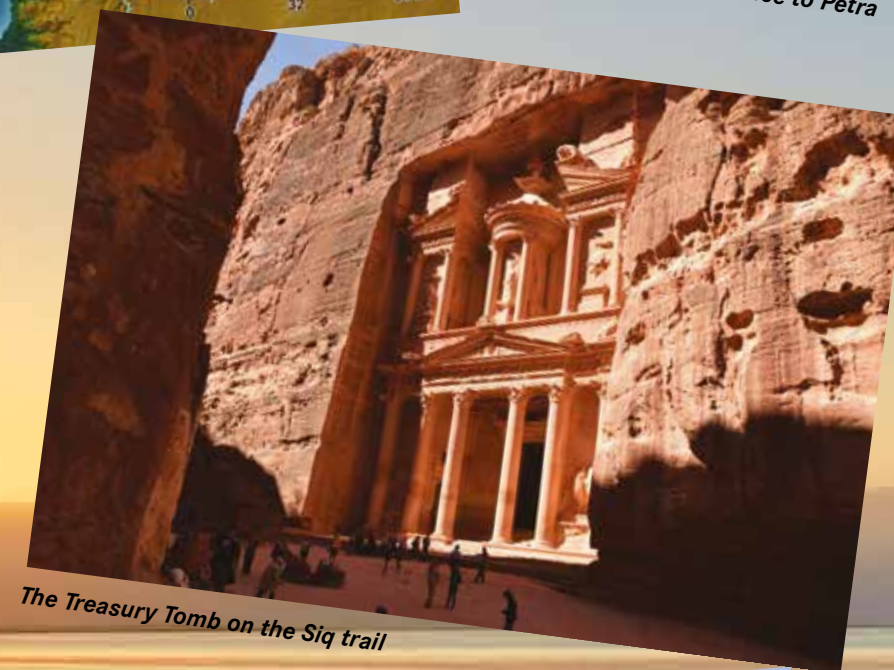
We got up at 4am and were on the road to Petra shortly after 5am. It was just showing signs of light and as we went along, we quickly realised the full daylight had come, although it was very misty again and rather cold. We followed the Jericho road between high rocks for a good deal of the way and then crossed the Jordan valley, which seems so flat in contrast to the hills. Then we went upwards again towards Amman, but a few miles before it we turned right and took the road south. This again branches further on but both lead to Petra. The one on the right winds about and takes eight hours, but the left hand road is straight and the journey can be done in two hours. This road is only about six years old and runs along the ancient **King's Highway**. We stopped at a rest house at **Al Qatrania** for tea or coffee and then carried on. It seemed very cold when we got out of the car and the wind was strong.

Along the road we had seen interesting signs of desert life. There were black tents here and there, not far from the road, as far back as between Jerusalem and Jericho, but we saw others on the east bank of the Jordan and at intervals along the desert highway, where there was water. Camels and donkeys belonging to the Bedouin are let loose to graze and will return home at night of their own accord, but sometimes the camels are hobbled with a short chain between their front legs. There is always a shepherd with the flocks of goats and sheep. All this looked very pleasant in the early morning. We had a second break at **Ma'an**, where we mounted horses for the two mile journey through the Siq, a natural defile in the rock that is quite narrow in places and rises to a great height above our heads. The ground was very stony, like the bed of a stream.

There is a stream that used to flow down in the winter, but it has been diverted by a dam, because of the danger of drowning people.

At the end of the first mile one comes to a great tomb, hewn out of the rock face opposite and known as the **Treasury**, because it was thought to contain treasure. This city of **Petra** was discovered by John Lewis Burckhardt, a Swiss born in 1784, who disguised himself as an Arab in order to travel in the East. It was used from about 500 BC by Arabian nomads who settled here. The Nabateans grew rich and powerful as it was a caravan route. The coloured rocks are soft and crumbling and the settlers built huge chambers and tombs, which were later colonnaded in front by the Romans. Steps are visible in the rock, which they used to reach the top, with the help of ropes. The carving was begun at the top.

A mile beyond the Treasury is the Roman town with its paved street, arches and amphitheatre. There are numerous caves, natural and man-made, in which some very poor Bedouin live. They sell coins etc found in the soil. We climbed up steps and sloping paths for over an hour to reach another huge tomb, but were not happy with the very strong wind blowing up miniature sandstorms every few minutes. The sun was hot but the wind made us feel cold at times. One could spend several days here, exploring the tombs and caves in the soft, coloured rock. It is supposed to be most beautiful at sunrise and sunset. There are several 'high places' around where sacrifices used to be offered, particularly the 'high place' of Aaron, but the others were pagan altars. On the way back, after leaving the Siq and getting in the cars again, we came to the place where Moses struck the rock and water came out. This spring is still flowing strongly and we washed our hands in it and drank from it.



The Treasury Tomb on the Siq trail

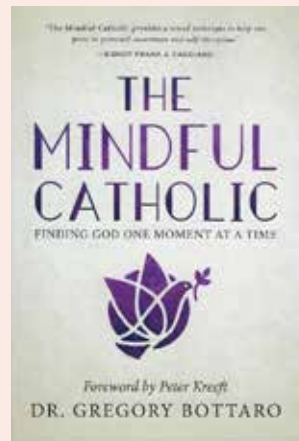


Ruined city of Sebaste



Alison McGarr is an avid reader and she shares her recent experience of reading a particular book. She has also just launched St Peter's Book Club.

The Mindful Catholic by Dr Gregory Bottaro



'Whether we are carrying out routine life behaviours, trying to pray or conversing with others, the way our minds work significantly impacts how well we function. But many times, we may feel like our mind has a mind of its own.'

- **You fall into bed exhausted at the end of the day, craving a good night's sleep, only to have your mind race in a million directions**
- **Prayer is an exercise in futility, full of distractions and wandering thoughts**
- **In the midst of a conversation, you suddenly realize you haven't heard a word the other person has said**
- **You arrive at a destination with no recollection of how you got there.**

These all-too-common occurrences are examples of how our minds can seem to be completely out of our control. We end up merely going through the motions day after day, feeling anxious and preoccupied. But it doesn't have to be that way.'



You have just read the opening spiel on the inside cover of the book and when I read it, it seemed to perfectly reflect my everyday reality. The book itself is based on an eight-week programme of exercises called Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction and the introduction lays an important foundation to introduce the reader to mindfulness. 'Learning how to practise mindfulness in a Catholic context is a way to recognise the dignity God created you with and take care of yourself accordingly.' p19

Repeatedly, Dr Bottaro reminds us that mindfulness, whilst not academically difficult, is not easy. In fact, mindfulness is personally very challenging. I began to understand how difficult being truly present in the moment is, when I attempted the first introductory exercise called the Raisin Exercise. It involved intentionally and mindfully spending time focussing on and appreciating the simple exercise of eating a raisin over a period of 11 minutes. For the first time, I realised how mindlessly I eat, gulping down food and failing to savour the moment, whilst my distracted mind moves on to the next thing. Have a go yourself. You can download for free all the exercises in the book at www.catholicmindfulness.com/audio.

Each chapter of the book focusses on teaching us how to bridge the gap between our Catholic faith and our lived experience. Dr Bottaro exposes us to ways in which our minds prevent us from

being mindfully aware of the present moment. I particularly enjoyed a chapter called 'Telling Ourselves Stories,' which highlighted to me that most of life is experienced, not by how it really is, but how we unconsciously and imperceptibly interpret it. Try this...

John was on the way to the hospital.

He was worried about what people might say.

He never had all the answers the patients wanted from him.

It wasn't the janitor's job to answer their questions.

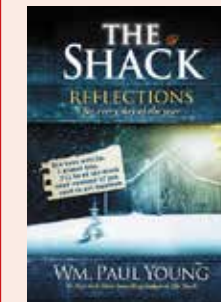
If you are anything like me, as you read the first and second lines you conjured up an image of someone who is sick or visiting someone in hospital. Perhaps by line three, you thought that John is a doctor and it was only when you reached the last line you realised you were reading about the janitor.

Our mind automatically fills the gaps; we interpret the information, not as it is but as we see it. In this seemingly innocuous task, the outcome of our interpreted reality is not important, but actually how we interpret situations in our life can be hugely significant. Dr Bottaro teaches that in practising mindfulness, we create a space between an event and find the time to consciously and mindfully choose to respond to it – thus becoming more fully the person God created us to be.

Dr Bottaro also addresses the concern that mindfulness might not be a truly Catholic practice when he acknowledges that mindfulness is a psychological practice that leads to an individual having a neurological sense of being well and safe. Buddhist mindfulness finds that sense of safety by focussing on the loss of self. Catholic mindfulness is, however, rooted in Jesus' message found in Matthew's Gospel that we are not to be anxious about life, for even the birds and the flowers are cared for. The belief in God's goodness and his love for us means that we truly can live in a non-judgemental awareness of the present moment, trusting that God will care for the troubles of tomorrow.

Dr Gregory Bottaro is the director of the CatholicPsych Institute and spent four years living as a Franciscan Friar, serving the poor in the tradition of St Francis.

The inaugural meeting of the St Peter's Book Club took place in the Member's Lounge of the parish centre on 22 November. After a lively discussion about the types of books we would like to read, we settled on two titles to read over the festive period, and here they are.



The Shack by Wm Paul Young

With 18 million copies sold worldwide, The Shack is an international bestseller that explores life's toughest questions through the gripping story of one man's struggle to find answers to his suffering.

Mack's youngest daughter, Missy, was abducted during a family vacation and evidence that she may have been brutally murdered is found in an abandoned shack deep in the Oregon wilderness. Four years later, still trapped in his great sadness, Mack receives a suspicious note, apparently from God, inviting him back to that shack. Against his better judgement Mack arrives at the shack on a wintry afternoon. What he finds there will change his life forever.

The Shack wrestles with the timeless question, 'Where is God in a world so filled with unspeakable pain?' Mack's experiences when he faces up to his darkest nightmares will astound you, and perhaps transform you as much as it did him.

This is the kind of book you'll want to tell everyone about. Millions have discovered it already – now it's your turn.



The Daughters of Mars by Thomas Keneally

In 1915, two spirited Australian sisters join the war effort as nurses, escaping the confines of their father's dairy farm and carrying a guilty secret with them. Used to tending the sick as they are, nothing could have prepared them for what they confront, first in the Dardanelles, then on the Western Front. Yet they find courage in the face of extreme danger and become the friends they never were before. And eventually they meet the kind of men worth giving up their precious independence for – if only they all survive.

At once epic in scope and extraordinarily intimate, The Daughters of Mars brings the First World War to vivid life from an unusual perspective. Profoundly moving, it pays tribute to the men and women who voluntarily risked their lives for peace.

If you would like to join us, we will be meeting again at 7.30pm in the Members' Lounge of the parish centre on Tuesday, 15 January 2019. All are welcome!

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

Readers

Monica Beckett:

admin@stpetersshazelgrove.org.uk

Welcomers

Anne-Marie Bailey: 0161 456 2213

ambailey@cheerful.com

Creating social activity

Book club

Alison McGarr: 07792 107152

ajmccgarr68@outlook.com

Parish newsletter

Monica Beckett

admin@stpetersshazelgrove.org.uk

Parish noticeboards

Outside - Julie Williams:

juliewilliams10@gmail.com

Inside - Barbara Goodier

Parish trips

Fr Peter

petersharrocks@stpetersshazelgrove.org.uk

Parish website

Anne-Marie Bailey: ambailey@cheerful.com

Special events

Helen Lyons: 07854 928072

helenlyons1957@hotmail.co.uk

Tea and Coffees, 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@stpeterhazelgrove.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

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