

# SHINE





# St Peter's Catholic Church

Green Lane, Hazel Grove

## FAMILY FUN DAY

Sunday 17 July 2022 following  
our family Mass at 10am.



Licensed  
Bar



Bouncy Castle

# Everyone welcome!



Football  
madness



Craft  
Stall



Face  
Painting



### FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

*The last issue of Shine looked back at 90 years of our parish life and told the story of our parish through the eyes of some of the players. It was good to read the memories of some of the priests who have served here and parishioners who have lived amongst us.*

*These past few months as we have emerged from the various lockdowns and restrictions have seemed as if we were almost starting all over again. The ordination, in July last year, of John as a permanent deacon was a great occasion for the parish and he has settled into his ministry and is proving to be a great help in the life of the parish. We also took part in the preparatory work for next year's Synod of Bishops and we look forward to more opportunities to participate in the 'Synodal journey'.*

*More importantly more people have returned to regular attendance at Mass. In their recent statement the Bishops of England and Wales wrote, 'A beautiful hallmark of the Catholic faith is the profound desire to participate in the Holy Mass and share in the Eucharist. We do so with deep gratitude and joy. The Eucharist gives the Church her identity - "The Eucharist makes the Church, and the Church makes the Eucharist." It enables us to worship Almighty God, to support each other on our journey of faith and to be a visible sign of faith in the world. This hallmark is supported and strengthened by the precept that our fundamental Christian duty is to worship God by participating in the celebration of Mass. Attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is the greatest of all privileges, sometimes referred to as "the Sunday Obligation." ..... As the Church needs the witness of the presence of each person, so too each believer needs to journey in faith and worship with their fellow disciples. Nourished by our encounter with the Risen Lord Jesus, fed with His Word and His Body and Blood in Holy Communion and supported by the presence of each other, we receive strength week by week, to serve the Lord and glorify Him with our lives.'*

*I look forward to seeing more and more coming to share in our Sunday celebration of the Eucharist as we look to build on the work of those who have gone before us.*

Fr Peter

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

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Our joint website is [www.stpeterscatholic.church](http://www.stpeterscatholic.church)



# Shining a light on our parish communities



## St Peter's Young Men, Prestatyn 1945

**Fiona Preece** writes to jog some memories.

I have been given a photo by a friend of ours, Brian Neill, who was a parishioner at St Peter's in 1945. The photo is not very good quality but we have tried to enlarge it so you can see more detail.

Brian would love to know if anybody recognises any of the other people on the photo. They were at Summer Camp in

Prestatyn. He recalls four others who were part of the group: Denis Ruane, Geoff Carol, Alan Sangan, Michael Waldron – and Tommy Oran, who was also an altar boy.

Brian can be contacted on 07899 666167. Please do let him know if you remember anyone connected with this parish group.

# LAMBS

**We had our first LAMBS get-together on Sunday 24 April – the first since the start of the pandemic and lockdown and it was lovely to see all our old friends. They all enjoyed getting together after two years.**



LAMBS (Less Able in Mind or Body) meet on the last Sunday of the month between 4pm and 6pm in the parish centre for refreshments and social activities. This group was originally started some 30 years ago during Fr John Rafferty's tenure and is run by volunteers of the parish. It is open

to anyone with a disability along with their carers. If you'd like to know more about our friendly social group, please call Kath Coll on 07592 755980, Jackie McKay on 0161 483 6348, Brenda Martin on 0161 483 7720 or Email brenmart46@gmail.com.

## National Day of Reflection

On 23 March 2022 St Peter's Bereavement Group and other parishioners took part in the National Day of Reflection for all those who had died during the pandemic.

The service was a wonderful occasion as we honoured those who had died, starting with a minute's silence with the rest of the nation. There was a Wall of Reflection displayed on the altar, names were read out and everyone was asked to write a message to their loved one on a tag which was hung on the Easter candle.

After the service we all went into the garden and a rose was planted by Fr Peter, a poem read out and a prayer said. We then went into the parish centre for lunch and a lovely time was had by all. The tags were later laid beneath the rose.



Fr Peter plants the new rose



## Farewells and welcomes

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

Fr David Peters	Edmund Barry
Fr Robin Sutton	Patricia Kenny
Evelyn Blockley	Frances McCartney
Peter Whittam	Kenneth Pryce
Christopher Lees	Patrick Broadhurst
Patricia Holt	James Wheeldon
John Purcell	Josephine Senior
Mary Hicks	John Burgess
Audrey Kenny	Carmel Ellis
Michael Bell	Michael Kane
Michael Hanson	Gerard Gresty
Patricia Dearman	Susan Robinson
Winifred Waring	John Burns
Margaret Bennett	John Begley
Gerard Kenny	Jenny Love
Evelyn Simpson	Eileen Lobley
Theresa Dakin	Aileen Lim
Peter Derryhouse	John Holdaway
Noel Murphy	Ida Thorpe
Dominic Dickin	Mary Hewett
Gerard Newcombe	Martin Lowe
	Frank Green
	Ann Bonner

## Welcome to...

Truc Neill and Edward Warwick baptised at the Easter Vigil and Andy Cordes who was received into Full Communion with the Church at the same time and to 65 little ones who have been baptised since our last issue of Shine.

## A special message from Noah

I would like to thank everyone in St Peter's church and my TOAST family for your amazing support and prayers during my chocolate-free year challenge which I did for Millie's Trust. It has been harder than I ever thought it would be. With your donations I have raised just over £1,200.

On the 22nd April I had my first piece of chocolate – Maltesers. I had forgotten how nice chocolate is. Thank you again.

From Noah, St Simon's year 6 (age 11).





# Shining a light on our parish communities

## Mini Vinnies

An insight into a junior version of the St Vincent de Paul (SVP) group.



Our journey started eight years ago when the first Mini Vinnies group was established in St Simon's school.

So far this year we have:

- had our initiation assembly where we received our badges and certificates
- helped Mrs Crisp with the school assemblies
- led an Advent Prayer Trail for all classes
- prayed for peace in Ukraine and made a prayer card for each class in school
- led our own Mini Vinnies assembly in commemoration of the Year of The Family which is currently running within the Catholic church around the world
- run an Easter garden competition for our families to take part in during Holy Week.



### Why have I joined Mini Vinnies?

**Rosalind:** I have joined MV because I am Catholic and I am able to help Mrs Crisp with assemblies.

I also enjoy doing the Advent trail and Easter trail.

**Molly:** I have joined MV because it looked fun. I enjoy doing assemblies and prayers together.

**Ruby:** I joined MV to help teachers with assemblies and do extra jobs. I enjoy it and it is also fun.

## St Simon's Lent – Stations of the Cross

Year 5 worked together so well visiting the Stations of the Cross around our school hall.

We reflected upon Jesus' journey to the cross, thanking God for His ultimate sacrifice for us.

We finished our reflection by thanking God for the good news of Easter Sunday when Jesus rose again!



## St Peter's Refugee Project

Alison McGarr gets us up to date.

The project began in 2019, when a small group of us went to St Christopher's parish in Romiley. They had, with the support of Caritas, successfully welcomed their first family and were able to give us sound advice. After that meeting, we quickly set up a project team and began the difficult task of raising £9,000, which is the minimum amount required by the Home Office to sponsor a family.

At that time, we thought raising the money was going to be our biggest hurdle – but we had not accounted for our wonderfully generous parish community who helped us smash our target in no time at all. We now have over £23,000 in the bank and a

balcony full of household goods in the parish centre. Thank you to everyone who has helped out – we have really appreciated your support.

COVID did stop us in our tracks for a short time but the affordable housing crisis in our area was the real stumbling block. After spending the summer of 2021 trawling round estate agents, we realised that finding an affordable home to rent in Hazel Grove was nigh on impossible. We started to look further afield and a couple of sympathetic, ethical landlords from within our parish community did come forward with properties – but to no avail. By the autumn, we were starting

to lose hope of finding somewhere.

Then out of nowhere, our prayers were answered when a local lady came forward and offered to help us. We now have a house to rent – right in the centre of Hazel Grove, within walking distance of the church, local shops, local schools and all the amenities a family who are new to the area could need. Our application form has been sent off to Caritas and it will hopefully be with the Home Office soon. Ideally, we would like our family to arrive before the summer holidays so we can sort out schools for September.

Once the family arrive, we will have a team of volunteers to help them get established. One of the key commitments we have agreed to is the provision of ESOL lessons (English to Speakers of Other Languages) – we must provide each adult with eight hours of English lessons every week. If you know of anyone who is ESOL-qualified who can help in this area, please contact Alison McGarr at [ajmcgarr68@outlook.com](mailto:ajmcgarr68@outlook.com).

We are also still asking for donations, as whilst we have what seems like an enormous sum of money, the family are going to be affected by the benefit cap and the cost of living crisis. We anticipate that in the first year, we will be assisting the family financially in quite a few key areas. If you wish to support financially, you may do so by bank transfer to St Peter's Refugee Account, Lloyds Bank – Sort code: 30 15 52 Account number: 59655360.

Once again, thank you for all your help – please do keep this parish project in your prayers.

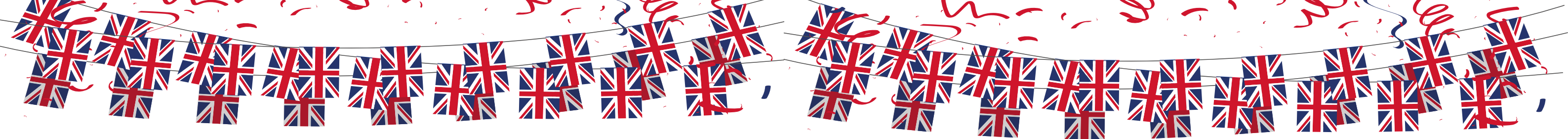
The Refugee Project Team x

### Lucy Evangeline Garratt prays...

Follow me because you are my sheep.  
Over mountains you go and I will find you.  
Love others as I have loved you.  
Look at the paradise God has made for you.  
Observe the paradise and take in how much God loves us.  
We will always follow you Lord!

by Lucy Evangeline Garratt





Pentecost Sunday this year, on 5 June, saw a large group of 100 parishioners and friends gather at 12.30 pm to celebrate a Jubilee Lunch in the parish centre. The hall was decked with bunting, the tables set with white cloths, Union Flag napkins, balloons and some lovely red, white and blue paper rosette centre piece decorations. These rosettes were made by the crafters and children from the Wednesday afternoon Refugee Group. Various parish groups had booked tables including the Scripture Group, the Bereavement Group, the Celtic Corner Group, as well as individual groups of family and friends.

We used local outside caterers, Crossleys, and they did us proud. Soup was followed by a traditional British carvery of roast beef, turkey, vegetables, roast potatoes, Yorkshire pudding, stuffing, gravy and sauces. This was followed by a dessert of apple pie and cream. Vegetarian and other dietary preferences were all suitably catered for as well.

As the weather wasn't great, it was fortunate that we were inside and could watch the Jubilee Pageant in



**Julie Williams**  
*describes a special parish event.*

warmth and comfort from our tables, as a large screen TV had been set up in the hall. We all recognised a few familiar faces among the sports personalities and celebrities on the parading open-top buses representing the different decades of the Queen's long reign.

We concluded the afternoon with a general knowledge quiz spanning the years 1952-2022. The Sharrocks family and team were the winners.

A special thanks must go to Helen Lyons (Parish Secretary) for organising the lunch and to all who came and made it such a special parish community occasion.

# Jubilee Lunch



Pentecost Sunday, the birthday of the Church and what a wonderful, uplifting Mass was celebrated at 10am. The church was full with lots of children and their families, waving red flags – the flames of the Holy Spirit. So many happy smiling faces and Stephanie with her music group and singing made it a very special occasion. Also, Fr Peter spoke kindly about the Queen's 70th Jubilee and her loyalty and commitment over many years.

Well, where do you go from there? The answer is the parish centre for a three course meal! The outside caterers were so pleasant and attentive and the meal that they had cooked and served to us was delicious. Well done the Crossley team from Great Moor. Lots of smiles and conversations took place and a happy social event was enjoyed, so a big thank you to everyone involved both in the wonderful Mass and the celebration lunch. **David Young**

What a treat! After a delicious three course meal, we enjoyed a quiz about the seven decades of her life on the throne and a rendering of the national anthem.

It was a wonderful day - an occasion which was an honour and a privilege to be a part of and much enjoyed by us all. Thanks must go to the marvellous band of parishioners at St Peter's who work so hard, not only that weekend, but all year round to give their time and effort to help others and to make sure no one is forgotten. Special thanks must go to Helen who organised it and also to Julie for an enjoyable quiz. It is impossible to mention everyone but thanks to all who were involved in any way. May God bless you all.

**Pat Knox and Frances Burke**







The first 60 or so people head for the seats around the small tables and when they're almost full, we set out more chairs and keep the drinks and nibbles coming!



These photos were taken at the end of Fr John's talk when Tony Cordes was offering his thanks to Fr John. It was a great evening.



# Footsteps

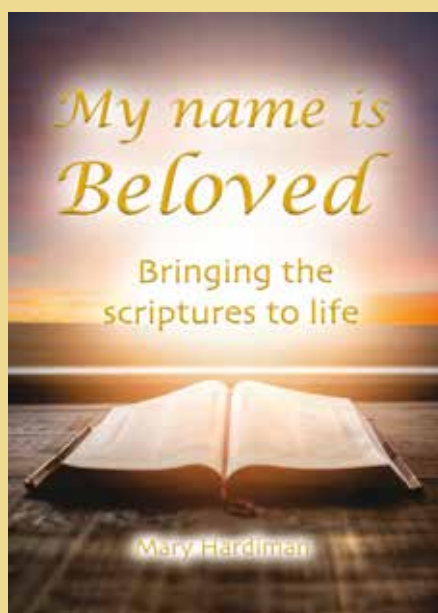
## Footsteps up and running again!



### Our next event

As we go to print, we've also just enjoyed another Footsteps event on 19 May when Mary Hardiman presented her thoughts on "What I want is mercy". Always a captivating and thought provoking speaker, Mary looked at what mercy means and how it reflects the heart of God. She's offered some wonderful examples from the gospels and suggestions on how we can practise mercy. You can listen to her talk on the Gallery page of our website.

Mary is from our own parish of St Peter's and was one of the first presenters at Footsteps. She's a former high school teacher and a person-centred counsellor at a Pupil Health Referral Unit in Salford for teenagers with mental health problems. She has written many articles and is now the author of a wonderful book called "My name is Beloved" in which she brings to life an assortment of gospel stories. (The book is £8.99 and you can pay by cash, cheque or bank transfer.)



What an absolute delight it was to see the parish centre full of expectant faces on the evening of Thursday 3 March 2022.

95, yes, 95 people were there for the return of the Footsteps programme. There was a real buzz as more and more people arrived from umpteen parts of Greater Manchester and Cheshire.

Footsteps is a series of talks given by people who can help us on our Christian journey. It began in 2018 and we have been lucky enough to attract speakers from all walks of life, both lay and clergy from various denominations around the North West. Of course, the lockdown had forced us to abandon the programme in 2020 but, undeterred, we've been continuing to think about how and when we can continue and how we can get the message out when we have our next event.



Canon John Rafferty talked about Lent.

There's obviously a desire for this kind of spiritual stimulation, the opportunity to come to an informal, friendly evening and hear someone's thoughts on a particular aspect of our Christian faith. We seem to regularly welcome scores of people, not just from our own parishioners in Offerton and Hazel Grove, but people of all denominations from various parts around the county. It's a joy, it's a genuine pleasure to see everyone arrive and on that Thursday night in early March, even the wet and windy weather didn't deter people from being there. The parish centre is transformed into a café-style setting, with drinks and interesting nibbles, candles and flowers at each table. We dim the lights during the talk and it all looks very inviting.

### The youngest ever speaker

Sharing his thoughts with us was Canon John Rafferty, who is no stranger to Hazel Grove. We had the privilege at St Peter's to have him as our parish priest from 1988 to 1996 until he was appointed as Spiritual Director at the Venerable English College in Rome, a training ground for priests. Fr John retired from his post as parish priest of St Vincent's in Altrincham about two years ago and now spends his time covering for priests like our own Fr Peter when he is away.

Fr John originally comes from Northwich and is the youngest speaker we've ever had at Footsteps. You see, he has a leap year birthday, so is actually still a teenager, even though it had been his birthday that same week!

So, on the first evening after Ash Wednesday, Fr John talked to a spellbound audience about Lent – which he described as a time of self discovery and catching a hint of God. This isn't the place to go into the detail of his talk because you can hear him for yourself. We were able to make an audio recording on the night and it is available to listen to on our parish website. Simply go to the Gallery page and you'll see the Footsteps talk listed further down the page. Here's a link: [www.stpeterscatholic.church/gallery](http://www.stpeterscatholic.church/gallery).



We've recently amended the Gallery page so that now, when you listen to any of our audio recordings, you can pause, save your place, rewind or fast forward.

### Dates for your diary

Our Footsteps events planned for the rest of 2022 will be on the following dates:

**Tuesday 5 July at 8pm** – note the different day and later start time! We're thrilled that Fr Chris Thomas, director of the Irenaeus Project in Liverpool, will be with us to reflect on the radical nature of God's love for us and then our love as disciples and what that might mean. The author of ten books and a gifted speaker, Fr Chris has been described as "a very gentle man who has a deep relationship with the Lord which he shares in various ways: interesting, humorous, challenging, comforting."

**Thursday 8 September** at 7.30pm with Anthony Delaney who will suggest how we can make a difference to others in "From lost and alone to found and at home".

A former police officer, Anthony has led church leaders around the nation. He is now the Network Leader of Ivy (a network of churches meeting in various places across Manchester including a university, a warehouse, an arts centre and even a church building) and we're delighted he's able to come to Footsteps.

**Thursday 20 October** at 7.30pm with Fr Eamonn Mulcahy, another regular to Footsteps. He's a Spiritan Father, originally from Manchester, who has been ordained since 1980. He has extensive missionary experience, he's worked with young adults, taught theology and given many retreats. Be prepared for his great humour, his inspiration and his insight.

**Do make a note of these dates in your diary - we'd love you to be there!**



# Talking



## Reuben interviews the founders of TOAST (Time On A Sunday Together)

Reuben had the pleasure of interviewing Terry and Teresa, the founders of TOAST, for our very first episode of Talking TOAST. This was at the end of May 2022. And, with the help of some questions from our fellow Toasties, here is some of what Terry and Teresa had to say.

**Q: Lots of people asked “Why was TOAST started?”**

“TOAST started about two years ago, when we first went into lockdown in March 2020 and we had a number of families who we were journeying alongside for preparation for First Holy Communion. We wanted to keep in touch with them, so we thought ‘What could we do?’, and we decided to have virtual teas and coffees.

“We did it on Zoom on a Sunday morning at 11 o’clock. We had initially probably about eight or ten families and then it grew from there. We had a lady who used to do it with us called Clare Connor, and because she did some charity work in Africa, she knew some families from there and they even came on Zoom with us as well – we were international, Reuben! And then Dave and Fran Fitton came on and did the music, so we were doing singing and praising, all sorts, it was great!”

**Q: Dan, Gill and Joshua wanted to know “Who was the mastermind behind TOAST?”**

**Terry:** “Teresa.”

**Teresa:** “Well, actually it was the Holy Spirit. We used to get together and pray, because we didn’t know what was going to happen. We used to pray each week and say ‘Lord what do you want us to do?’ Then, Janice who ran our children’s liturgy before lockdown and attended our Zoom meetings, told us she was going to retire from children’s liturgy and she didn’t have anyone to take over, so after discussions with Fr Peter, it kind of just developed; one little idea came then another little idea, it was quite a big team effort. In the beginning when we were doing our virtual teas and coffees, we didn’t even know how to mute – it would be chaos. There’d be dogs and cats and children and pianos and everything was happening all at once. Just as the weeks grew, little bits came together. Zoom sometimes collapsed and we’d have to reboot the computer, all sorts went on – it wasn’t smooth sailing, Reuben! We had good fun but yes, we were guided.”

**Q: “How long have you been doing TOAST?”**

“We started in March 2020 on Zoom and we’re now in May 2022, so just over two years. We went live in the parish centre in September 2021 when the churches just started to open up again.”

**Q: “Who came up with the name TOAST?”**

“Well, that was when we were on Zoom. At the end of one of the sessions we asked the children ‘Can you come up with a name for what we do on a Sunday?’ There was a girl called Mia and she came up with TOAST. We asked what it stood for and she said ‘Time On A



Sunday Together’. So, Mia came up with the name and then Terry created the logo and, as you can see, it’s toast with butter and the name on the toast.”

**Q: “Did you ever think that you would get this many people at TOAST?”**

“No, never! Honestly, the first time we went live we thought we might have been on our own, but we said we’ll have a nice time anyway. We’ll do some nice worship music and some other things. There were one or two people, like you’d agreed to do Reuben’s Riddles, so we knew you were coming, but we thought it would be a very small group.

“We’ve been amazed at how quickly it’s become a big group. We’ve just finished the session today and there were 90 people there – and it’s half-term! I’d (Teresa) said to the team before we started ‘I think we’ll be quiet today because it’s half-term’, but then the room just kept filling up even more. We’ve been surprised at how big it’s got.”

**Q: “What do you envision for TOAST over the next year?”**

**Terry:** “That’s a good question! We hope it will grow and the good thing is that Fr Peter has asked us to do some TOAST Masses. We did one at Easter, when everyone was waving the flags, we’ve got one at Pentecost and we’ve also got a TOAST Mass in late July for the end of term. So, we’re hoping it gets bigger and bigger. Regarding how many people we can get in the parish centre – I don’t know, we’ll have to cross that bridge when we get to it.”

**Teresa:** “I think the main aim of TOAST is to create a really lovely space where people feel they can step in. Perhaps they may not have been to church for a while, perhaps they’ve been to church regularly. So a nice place where they can step in, get a lovely welcome, where the children enjoy it and most of all they learn how much they’re loved by Jesus.”

**Q: “What has been your favourite moment at TOAST so far?”**

**Terry:** “Well for me, it’s getting 5/5 in Reuben’s Riddles.”

**Teresa:** “I really have a highlight every week. When you look out into the room and you see all the people and all the smiling faces – that’s a lovely highlight. But I think Easter Sunday was particularly special, when we got to go into church and the families all joined and there was such a lively atmosphere – that was a definite highlight.”

**Terry:** “And it was also seeing the people in 10 o’clock Mass, I don’t think they realised just how many people came to TOAST, so I think it was an eye opener for them as well.”

**Q: “What’s your favourite part of TOAST every week?”**

**Teresa:** “I love Prayer Time, Share Time, because I love listening to the children say and share with us the things that they’re grateful for, the things that they’ve had during the week that they’ve enjoyed. And then if they’ve got anybody who’s poorly or they need any help with anything, we all say a prayer for them. So, Prayer Time, Share Time is really special because we get to hear everything that everybody’s been up to all week.”

**Terry:** “For me, even though I like doing Terry’s Teaser and I like trying to catch you out so you get the wrong answers, I love hearing Dave and Fran doing the music and everyone standing up doing the dancing and singing – that’s my favourite part.”

**Q: “Why do we have toast at TOAST?”**

“Well, when Mia came up with the name, we felt that when you think about toast, everybody likes a cup of tea and a piece of toast, and it’s a bit of a comforting thing as well. So, we thought, what a nice welcome for people that perhaps don’t know St Peter’s or didn’t know TOAST before. What a nice way to start, come in, have a nice drink and a piece of toast. That’s why we do toast at TOAST.”

**Q: “What is your favourite type of biscuit?”**

**Teresa:** “I love anything with lemon, so like a lemon drizzly biscuit or any sort of lemon product.”

**Terry:** “It’s probably a chocolate hobnob for me. Chocolate hobnobs are quite nice.”



**Q: “Where did you two meet?”**

**Terry:** “Oh gosh, how long have you got? Well, in fact, on the 26th June this year, we’ll have been married for 40 years! I used to live in Australia a long time ago and I came over here on holiday and I met Teresa.”

**Teresa:** “In Manchester, we were in a discotheque (you won’t know what discotheques are!). We were dancing, Terry came dancing up to me, saying ‘Hello, g’day’. He had quite an Australian accent, it was so cool. He was very cool. He came up to me with his Aussie accent and said ‘Hi, this is great’.”

**Terry:** “I said ‘G’day’ and that was 40 years ago.”

**Q: Sofia asked “What is your favourite colour and why?”**

**Both:** Blue!

**Terry:** “For the greatest team that was ever invented – Manchester City. Teresa wouldn’t have married me if I wasn’t a blue!”

**Reuben:** “Oh, I thought you would have said Everton.”

**Teresa:** “I love blue because my Dad was a mad City supporter and our whole family were City, so I love blue. It was one of the questions I asked him (Terry) – who do you support? If he’d have said United it (getting married) wouldn’t have happened!”

**The last question: “Do you enjoy TOAST?”**

**Teresa:** “I LOVE TOAST! I love everything about it. I love seeing all the people coming in, everybody mixing, all the fun that we have, I love all the beautiful things that we share. I think it’s great to look out at a sea of happy, smiling faces!”

**Terry:** “Yes, it’s absolutely fantastic, it’s great to see new people coming. Most weeks we get new people coming in, and it’s all people that have been told about it outside, so it’s word of mouth – it’s great! And it’s a place of old friends and new friends – so yes, we love it!”

**Reuben:** “Thank you to Terry and Teresa for taking part in our first ever episode of Talking TOAST.”

We hope you’ve enjoyed reading our little insight into TOAST. If you’d like to watch the full recorded interview, please let Terry or Teresa know.



## TOAST: what the parents say...



"Our son Oliver attends St Simon's and by chance, in their weekly newsletter, we saw the poster for TOAST. As parents, we both wanted to be more involved with the school as I was a part of the same parish growing up at St Simon's also, so we decided to go that Sunday.

I honestly didn't know what to expect when we first arrived and, since that first Sunday, I feel that I have been welcomed back into a space full of amazing, generous and like-minded people.

Growing up and leaving school I felt as though my faith had been forgotten and when my adult life started, I forgot about being part of that parish family I had grown up with. For myself as Oliver's Mum, I wanted him to experience the same feeling of belonging in the parish as I did all those years ago and by coming to TOAST, I feel like he has gained that and so much more from how the parish has evolved.

We now as a family look forward to the early Sunday start, getting settled together with our tea and toast and

listening to Teresa and Terry unpack the gospel in a way that engages and speaks to the children for them to understand and learn. Oliver loves to take part in Prayer Time, Share Time each week and it is lovely to hear all the other families' prayers.

Being a part of TOAST has rekindled my faith with the nostalgia of the stories of Jesus, the hymns and prayer, bringing me and my family back into the church, which I am very grateful for!

**Sam, Mum to Oliver aged 5**



Our journey to St Peter's began with a Facebook recommendation for it as a church 'good for children'. Having spent most Masses at the back of other churches trying to keep a boisterous toddler quiet and then the enforced absence due to COVID, we were hopeful to find a welcoming home. It was with surprise that, on entering St Peter's for the first time, there were... no children! Our son soon filled the void of 20 wee ones and that heart-sinking moment arrived when a little hand slipped from your grasp. He danced onto the altar and nearly rugby-tackled the priest just as I had begun feeding a seven week old baby. Here we go again! Firmly attached to 'tenterhooks' until the final song, there came the revelation that the children were actually next door in the parish centre where a children's liturgy was running in parallel!

So, the next week we discovered TOAST. From the 'sorry song' to the tune of "If you're happy and you know it" to the guitar strumming, foot-stomping finale, the liturgy had all ages of children and adults engaged. As well as having superpowers, our son has lots of challenges to overcome. And while on the first few Sundays he was still whizzing around, amazingly he now sits down and engages in the familiar routine of the children's liturgy set to music and in the fun activities which interpret the readings. A few favourite activities have been

diving into a ball pool to retrieve a fish from the Sea of Galilee, learning signs to a Good Friday song and making paper chains to connect everyone together. Francis has also loved taking home Kieran the puppet and making a video to bring the story of the prodigal son to life. This is all accompanied by a warming slice of buttery toast and a hot drink, which is as much a treat for us sleep-starved parents as it is for the kids. The open nature of the children's liturgy has enabled us to meet other parents easily and take much-needed toilet breaks (more important for my husband these days than our son!).

For us, St Peter's and TOAST helped us realise that the Sunday gathering can be so much more than words. It is a spiritual experience that through music, fun and community spirit can feed the soul of everyone – a small baby and a non-verbal disabled child included. And when your six year old is still singing the TOAST theme song on a Monday night and you're recalling a fun fact from Reuben's Riddles over Friday fish 'n' chips, you know that this particular soul food must have been some pretty good, wholesome, extra nutty TOAST.

**Marianne Kennedy Neary, mum of Francis aged 6 and baby Mary.**



"TOAST offers a fantastic opportunity for families to come together to celebrate on a Sunday in a progressive, child-friendly way whilst also respecting the traditional elements of the Mass. Our children look forward to TOAST every week and always ask to go! Particular highlights for us are Terry's Teasers, Share Time, Prayer Time, Reuben's Riddles, the Gospel with Kieran and the wonderful live music. Plus the actual toast from the kitchen is always popular!"

**Nicola and Jonny, parents of Finnian aged 10, Cara aged 8 and Erin aged 5**







Cars loaded with clothing donations



Easter cards and chocolates for parishioners



Easter bags and chicks for refugee children



Children playing



Crafts including patchwork quilting



A big round of applause to all volunteers and co-ordinators who work so hard to share a little joy and hope with people, through little acts of kindness! A special mention to those parishioners who continue to make phone calls and deliver newsletters and to all our bakers, card makers and deliverers for bringing a little cheer to people over Christmas and Easter. Thank you to our primary school children and TOAST (our children's liturgy group, Time On A Sunday Together) for making cards and bookmarks too!

People who receive our little 'goody bags' tell us how much they appreciate your kindness. If you'd like to be part of St Peter's Helpers, perhaps by coming along to a monthly drop-in 'cuppa and chat', by delivering or receiving goody bags from time to time, or if you think you have the right skills to provide friendly phone calls, or a little extra support here and there, then please get in touch.

Do you know someone who might need a little extra support or might want to receive occasional goody bags or phone calls? Ask them if they'd like us to get in touch. You can volunteer or refer people online.

# St Peter's Helpers

*Here's a BIG thank you for a BIG effort that's very much ongoing.*



English classes and support for refugees

## St Peter's Weekly Refugee and Asylum Seeker Sessions

Since October 2021, we have hosted weekly sessions for asylum-seeking families and adults who are housed locally in temporary accommodation. The activities include indoor and outdoor play and sports, crafts and needlework, English sessions at different levels and refreshments. The adults and children who attend come to seek refuge from war, violence and oppression in many countries, which thankfully most of us cannot truly understand. Thank you to everyone in the parish who has supported this work.

Our volunteers and the welcome they provide are our strength. They come from the parish and beyond, including our friends from Culture Bridge who support refugee and asylum-seeking people in Stockport. We also work closely with other churches to provide support whilst people are at their most vulnerable. Thank you also to Stockport County Foundation for sending a coach every week to help with outdoor games! Volunteers are welcome to apply via St Peter's Helpers and will be taken through an application process and checks when we need more helpers.

You can Email us at [stpetershelpers@gmail.com](mailto:stpetershelpers@gmail.com) or check out our website: <https://sites.google.com/view/st-peters-helpers/home>



Christmas shoeboxes full of gifts for individual refugee children





*In his homily, Bishop Mark Davies said: "John and Wilf, you are being called to serve – to serve by the consecration of your lives in the diaconate, a service which will help many to recognise Christ as the servant of all..."*

# The deacon's journey

**I didn't think 24th July 2021 would ever happen but it's a day I will never forget.**

It was in the aftermath of my Dad's death that the thought of the diaconate started bouncing around in my head. When I left school I did do a couple of years at a seminary in Dublin with the Oblates of the Immaculate Heart of Jesus but then had felt drawn in to medicine whilst looking after the old brothers there. I suppose seeing Fr Peter care for us so well during the time of my Dad's funeral – and also the realisation that life is short and that if you're going to do something in this life, you need to get on and do it – reawakened some of the calling that I'd felt leaving school and a desire to serve in the church.

It took me a long time to put this in to words and even longer to mention it to Fr Peter. I remember eventually speaking to him one day in the middle of Teas and Coffees and stumbling out the fact that I thought I might want to be a deacon. Fr Peter was very encouraging and really helped me to think things through. That was in 2014

*Our newly ordained deacon, **John McKay**, gives us an insight into his new life.*

and then began the process...

I eventually started a propaedeutic year in September 2016, which is a year of mutual discerning to see if it feels right for you but, more importantly for the diocese to decide if you're suitable. The four years of formation then began in September 2017, which involved travelling to Oscott College in Birmingham one Saturday every month for the formation days. My wife Rachel was encouraged to come along so we had a shared experience of the ups and downs of the process, including sitting outside Greggs in Kingstanding at 8am on a Saturday morning getting a coffee before going round the corner to Oscott! You can ask Rachel about the experience of me studying and all the essays I had to write! Thank God for the Marriage course!

It was a pleasure to share the journey of nearly five years' formation with

Wilf McSherry and his wife Helen. Wilf is now deacon in Market Drayton and Telford. In all, there were nine deacons ordained in 2021 – five from Birmingham diocese, two from Portsmouth and myself and Wilf from Shrewsbury. It was a good time and we made friends in a way only classmates can. Wilf and I were ordained on the same day. The uncertainty surrounding COVID meant that the ordination took place at St Michael and All Angels church on the Wirral instead of at Shrewsbury cathedral. We were allowed 70 guests each; with Wilf's help I think we managed a few more from Hazel Grove! And it was fantastic that Fr Peter organised a coach to go from the parish.

The actual day was a very special one. I was very conscious of the presence of my family and friends who were surrounding me both in person and



*John thanks Rachel for all her support.*

watching online, but also of my Dad whose death had got me moving on this journey and of my Mum who died in 2019 whilst I was in formation. It was a beautiful, humbling, profound experience entering into something that I'm still getting to understand. And funny too – anyone who was there would remember the 'dressing up competition' which Fr Peter and I won hands down!!

After a gathering and buffet in the hall, Fr Peter's idea of a walk along the prom at Parkgate was perfect for everyone. By then, we could socialise in spite of the restrictions and have a chat and an ice cream in the sunshine – a perfect end to the day!

It was great to have all the girls there: Sarah, Anna, Lucy and Mary and of course Rachel, who was with me every step of the way along the formation journey. As you will know, this journey wouldn't be possible without her and I'm so grateful to her for all she does now and indeed all she did in helping me get to that day of ordination.

I'm also indebted to Fr Peter who is a great teacher and who has helped me keep things in perspective during my formation time – and to keep everything unhurried and calm. Five years passed



*Deacon John (left) with Bishop Mark and Deacon Wilf.*



*John with all his family and the bishop.*

remarkably quickly and it's hard to believe all this has happened.

So, another great learning curve begins and I am steadily working my way through every possible mistake there is to make. I am grateful to you all, my teachers, who always have a word of encouragement, helping me to get used to being a deacon without complication or pressure. I want to say a particular word of thanks to Mike O'Malley for his time, friendship, wisdom and listening ear throughout this time. Cheers Mike! Also, my thanks to the Scripture Group for helping me with ideas for my homilies!

I have loved the first 11 months. I've really enjoyed getting to know some of our young families coming for baptism. There was a significant

backlog from the pandemic, so I've had the chance for lots of learning. I've had the privilege of conducting some funerals now, accompanying families through the challenging time leading up to the service. It was a real joy to sing the Exsultet at the Easter Vigil and I am grateful to Eileen, Chris and the choir for their help and encouragement with the preparations.

My last word goes to you, all the people of St Philip's and St Peter's with grateful thanks for your support and good humour, but even more, for your deep faith and belief in Jesus which is a joy and a privilege to see and be part of; this is what carries me forward with a keen sense of anticipation for what's coming next! Keep me in your prayers – I need them!!





# The Angelus

*Michael O'Malley looks at the history of a familiar prayer and then shares his own endearing boyhood memories.*

**The Angelus is one of our great Catholic prayers which has been with us for centuries. It has its roots in the 11th century monastic custom of reciting three Hail Marys at the evening or Compline bell. The first written documentation of the Angelus stems from the Italian Franciscan friar Sinigardi di Arezzo (who died in 1282).**

The significance of the Angelus as a devotion is to remind us, the faithful, of the many tenets of our faith: the Angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary; Mary's wholehearted "yes" to God's will leading directly to the incarnation and finally Our Lord's passion and resurrection. It is a holy invitation calling us to prayer and meditation.

*"The bells of the Angelus calling to prayer*

*its sweet tones announcing the sacred Ave."*

The times for the praying of the Angelus are signalled by the ringing of a bell at 6am, 12 noon and 6pm. The bells consist of 18 peals in sets of six, with a brief pause between each set.

The Angelus, as we have it today, stems

from the end of the 16th century: three hail Marys, with short verses in between (called versicles), ending with a prayer. It first appeared in modern form in a catechism around 1566 in Venice. Traditionally the Angelus was always recited while kneeling, but Pope Benedict XIV (1740-1758) directed it be recited while standing. He also ordered that the Regina Coeli (Queen of Heaven) be said instead of the Angelus during the Easter Season. Here at St Peter's we enjoyed a beautifully sung version just before daily midday Mass.

With the passage of time the custom developed of dedicating the morning Angelus to the resurrection, the noon Angelus to the passion and the evening Angelus to the incarnation. The faithful stopped whatever they were doing and with the words "The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary" began this simple but beautiful prayer. Heaven and earth meet in communion.

For years, workers in fields, towns and cities took a break from their labours and followed this practice when the Angelus bell sounded. We see this pious practice depicted in art by artists such as Jean-Francois Millets in his famous painting

of two labourers in a field stopping to say the Angelus. Like a heavenly text message, the Angelus pings mankind to interrupt his daily obsessions and turn to thoughts of God, of the Blessed Mother and of eternity. There are even stories that the great dray horses once used to pull the ploughs in the fields would pause automatically and stand quietly at the bell. It's a call from beyond the universe to a higher reality. The Angelus bell recalls this moment when this Reality became flesh. As Pope Benedict XVI wrote on the feast of the Annunciation:

"The Angel's proclamation was addressed to her (Mary); she accepted it, and when she responded from the depths of her heart... at that moment the eternal Word began to exist as a human being in time."

The Angelus bell still rings out across many places in the world three times daily, with the exception of Good Friday and Easter Saturday when it is not said. Sadly, the recitation of the Angelus has been on the wane in the last century or so. It is still rung in some English country churches.

In our own diocese Bishop Mark Davies is working to revive this ancient practice and has asked for it to be recited daily at noon in our Catholic schools across the diocese. This beautiful prayer is very visual in content and would appeal to all ages. It is ideal for imaginative contemplation; it lends itself to gazing, grazing and ruminating on.

# My own memories of the Angelus

For centuries the Angelus has been a feature of Irish religious practice and devotion. As a young pupil at the De La Salle Brothers school we learned the prayer by heart and prayed it daily at noon when the bell called us. I have no memory of ever praying the Angelus at 6am but at noon and 6pm I was wide awake and did respond to the call of the bell. Indeed, it was common practice in those distant days whether in the fields or the town for people to stop what they were doing and engage with the prayer. This was the time when

Ireland was known as the island of saints and scholars. Although life in Ireland has changed dramatically since then and saints might be in short supply, many still hold to the old traditions despite efforts to have the Angelus bell removed from the public broadcasting network for fear of offending certain sensibilities. I have many happy memories of those bygone days and the reverence with which many prayed the Angelus. As I reflect now, three noted characters come to haunt my mind.

*Dick Flanagan passed our house every evening at six o'clock just as the Angelus bell was peeling out across the settling town, the day's work having ended. At the first stroke of the bell his left hand shot up to remove his greasy and sweat-stained cap, releasing a mane of wispy hair which clung to his craggy face like cobwebs in a crevice. Clasp the cap to his chest he made the Sign of the Cross with his right hand*

*and silently recited the Angelus. Dick was a shy man who spoke little but to address his God. In his rough and tattered farmhand clothes and heavy hobnailed boots he was a latter day John the Baptist, his solitary presence reminding us of eternal things. His daily appearance was somehow reassuring, though he had no knowledge of the impact he was having on one young mind.*

*Danny Murray cleaned up the market square after the cattle fair. These monthly events brought great excitement into our little town with its grey existence. Local farmers sold their wares of dairy produce, fruit and vegetables. They also drove in the cattle which would gather in the square. The local shops protected themselves with wooden barriers placed around their windows. The farmers gathered around the cows prodding and poking at them by way of ascertaining their quality. Prices were haggled over but once a bargain had been struck, the jobbers would spit in their palms, shake hands on the deal and head for the nearest public house to seal the deal.*

*Needless to say, the cattle were not fussy about toilet facilities, which meant that by the day's end the market square was a skating rink. Danny Murray's job was to return the square to its pristine condition – no mean task. He would diligently set to his task working throughout the late afternoon into the evening. At the toll of the Angelus bell he would pause in his wellies in a green sea of slurry, remove his hat, sign himself with the Cross and recite the Angelus. His prayers completed, the hat was replaced, the wide brush which had rested on his tummy the while was firmly grasped and he bent to his task of sweeping the slurry towards the drains.*

*The "Billiard" Connelly spent much of his days riding his bicycle around the market square, emitting the odd whoop as he sped along. Rumour had it that he was shell shocked during the war and that this accounted for his rather eccentric behaviour. The truth was never known, though the rumours proliferated.*

*would pause from his ritual on the stroke of the Angelus bell, sign with the Cross and devoutly say his Angelus.*

*Once a week, on market day, he would chalk a bulletin on the Market Hall wall. The content of this bulletin was often obscure and made little sense. Nevertheless, it always attracted attention and was a source of great amusement for the local wits who would gently mock the whooping bard. Whether writing or cycling the "Billiard"*

*This simple trinity of un-haloed saints, often laughed at or gently mocked, lived their obscure lives in communion with the Eternal Mystery close to the gates of heaven. There was nothing comely about them, nor had they much to recommend them, but they were men of faith whose singular presence was a reminder of the Divine in our midst. Despite opposition, the Angelus bell continues to toll across the land, morning, noon and evening. Whether there are ears to hear or not is questionable. But the call to prayer remains. Long may it continue.*



# Ruby wedding celebrations



In September 2020 we celebrated our Ruby Wedding Anniversary. Initially, we were saddened to realise that due to COVID restrictions we would not be able to celebrate with family and friends as originally planned. This, however, led us to reflect on how blessed we have been over our 40 years together and we realised how many of those blessings come from being part of St Peter's parish.

We first attended St Peter's on 14 September 1980 and soon realised we had joined a busy parish. When our three children were born, our family grew and so did our involvement in the parish. At whatever stage our children were, St Peter's had provision for them! Family friendships were formed early on at the Tuesday afternoon toddler group, the parish playgroup, at schools and with Scouts and Guides.

Their journey in faith began with Baptisms, First Communion and Confirmation programmes and continued as they became involved as altar servers,

**Helen and Martin Macdonald** reflect on 40 wonderful years.



readers, eucharistic ministers and in music groups. As teenagers they enjoyed the Monday youth club, later followed by Spyder (St Peter's Young Dynamic Energetic Rabble!) and involvement in the monthly youth Masses in the area and, of course, the Lourdes group.

As for ourselves, we have been richly blessed over the years by the

wonderful friends we have made at St Peter's who have always been there with us, celebrating the good times and supporting us in difficult times. Our faith has been sustained and developed not only by the Sunday Masses, but also by various groups over the years including Journey in Faith, Footsteps, Mothers' Prayers and Alpha – to name but a few. We also enjoyed trips to Normandy, Rome and Arras organised by FatherPeterTours.com! A great way to reflect on our faith and to get to know other parishioners.

Whilst at St Peter's, we have had the privilege of getting to know many priests and curates who have helped us on our journey, but special thanks go to Fr Peter for keeping things going over the last two years. It meant a lot to be able to attend Mass via Church TV and to know we were together with our parish.

So, thank you to all the wonderful people at St Peter's Hazel Grove for all their friendship, support and love over the last 40+ years. We are truly grateful that we are part of such a vibrant parish.



## Unanswered prayer ...

**Joe O'Brien** offers her thoughts on this aspect of our prayer life.

**Prayer, our time spent with our God, can be wonderful, fruitful and ultimately consoling. These are times to be held, remembered and savoured. Food for the soul. But this is not always how it goes. Sometimes our prayers are not answered. This can leave us with at least a question mark or as much as an actual question over whether God heard our prayer or is there to listen to us at all.**

I know I have questioned my faith in the past. I have prayed for the health and life of loved ones, friends and strangers and sometimes they have remained ill, become worse and yes, died. So, what was the point? Did it make any difference at all? Was God 'On Mute' (Pete Greig). Was He busy or did He simply not listen? Where do we go from here? What can I offer you?

Well, prayer has a history of not being answered, and it happened to the most perfect person who ever lived, Jesus. During the long night in the Garden of Gethsemane, as He was on His journey to the cross, Jesus prayed to have His ordeal taken away from Him. But God did not answer His prayer.

It was not easy; Jesus was in emotional pain and suffering so much that He bled (Luke 22:39-44). On the cross, when He prayed to the Father "Why have you forsaken me?", He received silence (Matthew 27:45). So, Jesus understands; He has been there too.

Nowhere is it written that when we pray, God will always say "yes". Much

as a good parent, He may remain silent even though it hurts us as we are asking for much more than sweets or the latest toy.

But why, I don't know. The people who have taught me have shown me that it is OK not to have all of the answers. It is OK not to know. It is OK to feel sad and lost. Because in it all, at the end of it all, there is just us and God. And He loves us. I am holding on to that.

In our prayer, even in the time when we don't feel heard, the God of love is loving us, holding us in the silence and the stillness, in the rage and in the tears. He is there, lovingly looking into our hearts and souls and being with us. He has done this all through our lives. Our love of Him is God's first gift to us, that overwhelming realisation that He is there.

Then over weeks, months, years, He walks with us, as His second gift. And now, this time when we don't have answers, when it doesn't make sense, His third gift. This is the emptiness, the space and the darkness where He can be received into our soul as the God He is, the God of true, outrageous and overpowering love.

And the only thing we need to do is to say "yes". Oh, it's not easy. It takes courage and that often quoted 'leap of faith'. To say "yes" when your heart is broken and you really don't get it any more, is the ultimate sacrifice. And God knows it, and He knows how you feel and He loves you and wants to fill you with that love.

One day, I trust we will understand what the great plan was and we may understand that God's silence was in fact the greatest answer to some of our prayers. This is what I have to offer. I don't have answers. I can only share my experience of the love of God in my life. Trust Him, pray to Him, everything is always possible. And overall, be honest. God knows. He loves you. He can take it.

*"I asked God for strength, that I might achieve.*

*I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey...*

*I asked for health, that I might do great things.*

*I was given infirmity, that I might do better things...*

*I asked for riches, that I might be happy.*

*I was given poverty, that I might be wise...*

*I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men.*

*I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God...*

*I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life.*

*I was given life, that I might enjoy all things...*

*I got nothing I asked for – but everything I had hoped for. Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.*

*I am, among men, most richly blessed."*

**Confederate soldier**





Enjoying a packed lunch after climbing White Nancy.



A bonfire and roasted marshmallows at the end of the day.



One of the many prayer stations set up on the day.

My entire journey through Youth Alpha has allowed me to explore my own faith, talk about faith with other people my age and made me ask and think about questions that pose interesting ideas about what faith really means to me.

The second time I did Youth Alpha I was a young leader and really enjoyed leading a group of young people who offered new and interesting points of view based on their personal faith. Doing Youth Alpha for a second time but as a young leader was very beneficial and made my understanding of faith even deeper. I thoroughly enjoyed both times as it not only helped improve my understanding of faith and beliefs but also allowed me to meet new people who also want to talk about their faith.

### ***The day away at Savio House***

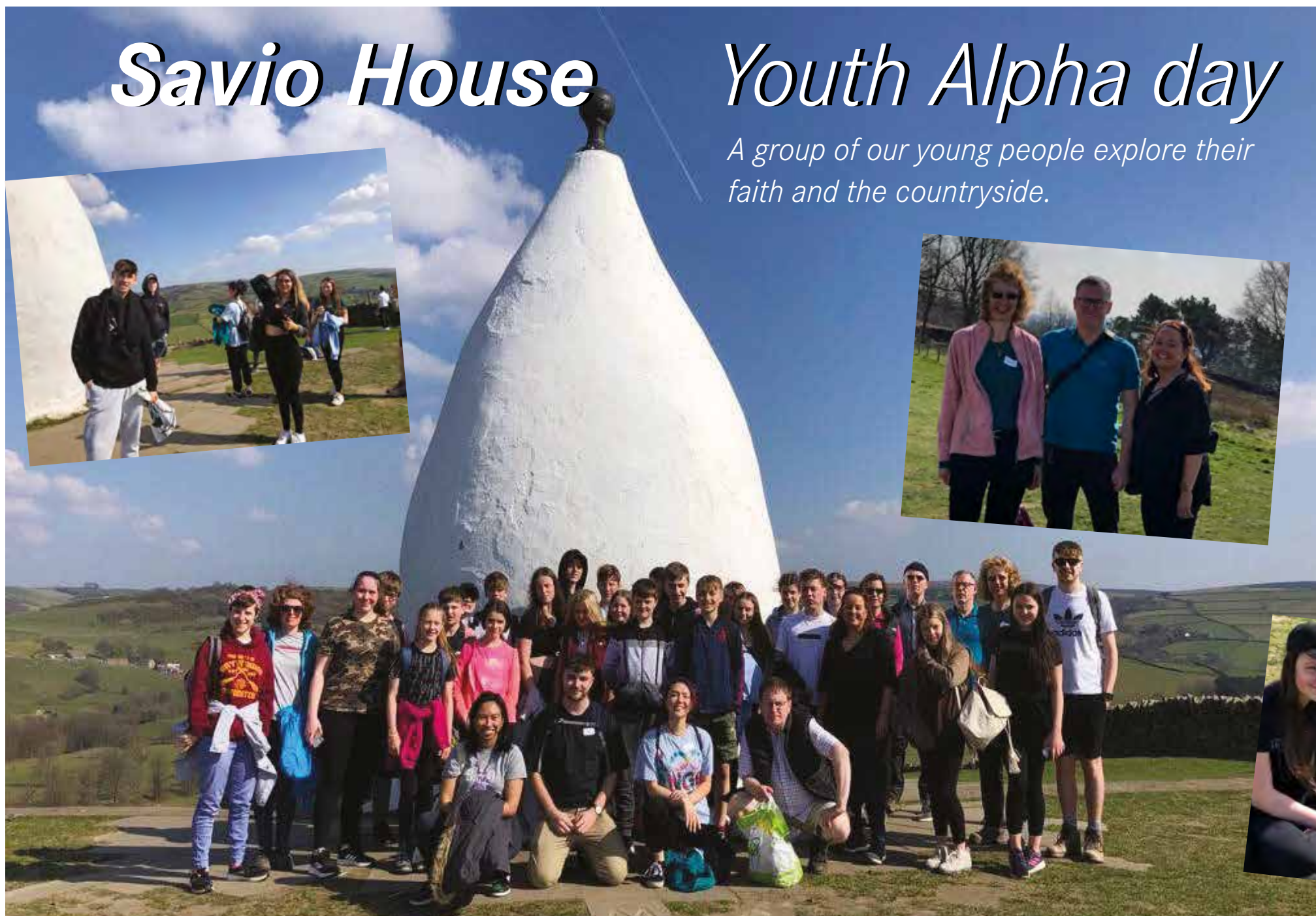
I loved the day away and it was such a fun experience to go somewhere with my friends and explore my faith more deeply. We walked up White Nancy, had lunch, and watched a few Alpha videos. The parts of the day I found most interesting were with the guest speaker who gave a talk about his faith journey and the security and confidence he found through faith despite not always having trust in God. In addition, the prayer stations we did before Mass were peaceful and provided a nice time to reflect and think about what I want from myself and my relationship with God.

**Kate Taylor**

# ***Savio House***

# ***Youth Alpha day***

*A group of our young people explore their faith and the countryside.*



*"The prayer stations were really good and gave us an opportunity to reflect on our faith. The walk to White Nancy and getting to know others more was good too."*

**Matthew Haines**

*"I really enjoyed getting to know people outside of the Youth Alpha sessions and having our packed lunches up at White Nancy."*

**Charlotte Haines**

*"I enjoyed all the different activities we did on the day at Savio House, especially climbing White Nancy! Youth Alpha has helped me learn a bit more about myself, my faith and my beliefs."*

**Beth Taylor**



Friday 19 November 2021 saw the return of the men's curry night for St Peter's parish after a three year hiatus due to COVID. However, at long last after 18 months of planning, and some haggling with the Hazel Grove restaurant Zayaan's, a date and a deal were set. The event drew a lot of interest and nearly 30 people attended. I was expecting there to be only 20 or so out of the 35 who said they would come but, plenty of people from St Peter's and other local parishes with some friends or family got together for a night of Indian food.

The evening started off in the Flying Coach pub where 15 or so gathered for a pre-curry pint or two. The landlord strategically put us in one of the bay windows facing the A6 in order to make it look like pre-COVID times with a busy pub on a Friday night! It was superb to see people gathered once again to enjoy a social curry night; something that I can definitely say has been missed over the past couple of years. Everyone who attended had taken a COVID test earlier to ensure people felt safe and comfortable going to the event.

The fire was lit whilst we were at the pub and it gave a cosy feeling – just a shame it was still relatively warm outside and not a cold winter's night like we had seen in the weeks prior. However, the warmth gave a literal and metaphorical

# Men's Curry Night

*Matthew Cordes shares what around 30 men were doing in Hazel Grove one November evening!*

meaning to the event: literally, how warm the pub was and metaphorically how bringing people back together reignited the warmth in our hearts.

Once we finished in the pub it was time to go over to the main event itself, the curry! More people joined us at the curry house to bring us up to around 30 people. Again, we packed out the curry house. Once seated, we were talked through the menu options included on the £15 per head meal deal. To my dismay the vindaloo wasn't included, though that was to the delight of many of the others!

Many people were pleased with the efficient service and the tasty food. This was the perfect opportunity for people to chat and socialise with friends old and new. As the night progressed it became apparent that it was going to be a very late evening.

To my surprise, Fr Peter was one of the last to leave but, as that old saying goes: you learn something new every day!

I noticed many people opted to have a biryani dish, which meant that you could get both rice and naan bread with your meal. As someone who enjoys curries, I quite quickly became aware of this little 'hack' so to speak. (A biryani dish comes with rice by default so, if you order one, you can get a naan bread as a side dish as well!)

What I learnt from it being my first time organising a men's curry night, was that this is what the parish might need more of. With COVID rules now having relaxed, people might want to enjoy a social night a few more times a year.

Having events that mainly focus on socialising are few and far between, and I believe that it is great sometimes to just step back and enjoy a 'night off'; I'm sure many men might agree!

From the feedback that I have received it is apparent that people enjoyed this and another night like this is certainly 'on the cards' imminently as summer approaches.



Deacons Mike and John enjoy...



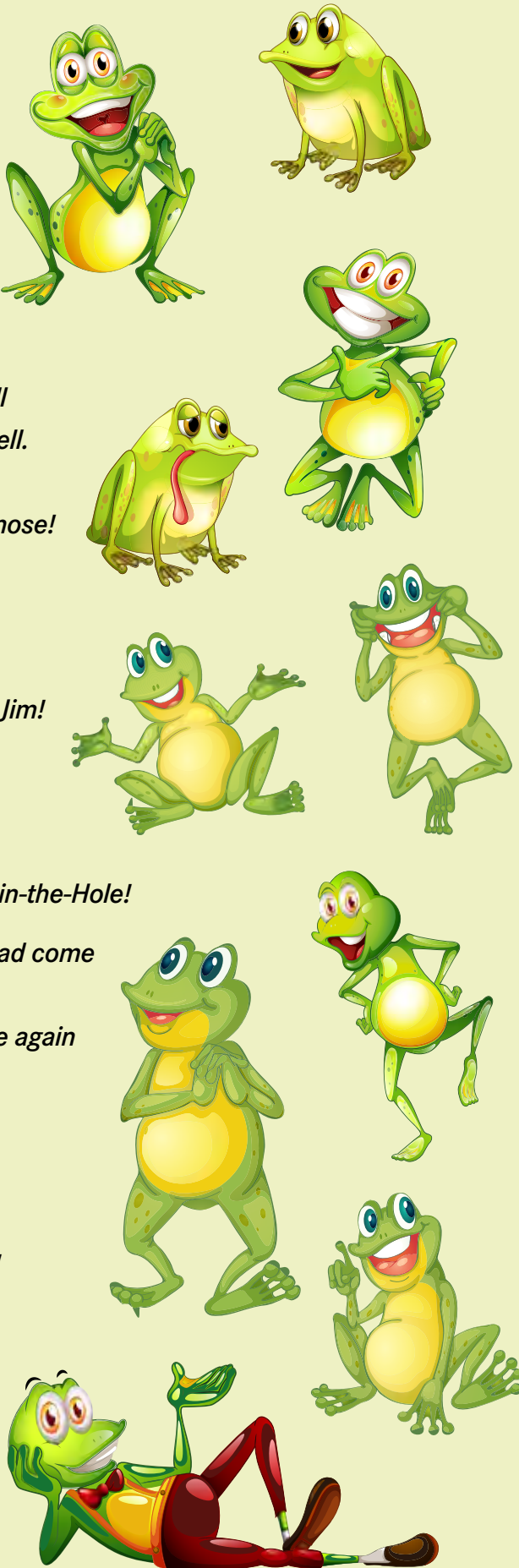
Has Fr Peter blessed the poppadoms?

# Poet's corner

## Sunny Jim

*I have a little froggy friend, I call him Sunny Jim  
He lives here in my pocket cos I'm very fond of him.  
I take him everywhere I go cos he's fun to have around  
I think that maybe he's a prince cos he wears a little crown.  
  
I thought that if he was a prince and a witch had cast her spell  
Then I could turn him back again and he'd make me rich as well.  
So, I puckered up and kissed him, like the fairy tales of old,  
But all I got was a whiff of bad breath and a wart here on my nose!  
  
Well, he's green and brown and slimy with funny little feet  
He has a really silly grin which makes him look quite sweet.  
So, if you ever see a frog, just say hello to him  
And be careful where you put your feet cos it could be Sunny Jim!  
  
One evening whilst in the kitchen, me Mam was cooking tea,  
The way she always used to for Dad and Jim and me.  
I asked what we were having, it smelt like Dover sole  
But she shook her head and answered no. We're having Toad-in-the-Hole!  
  
Well Jim's eyes nearly popped right out; he thought his time had come  
So he packed a little rucksack and headed for the sun.  
But when he thought the coast was clear, he came back home again  
And gave me some maracas that he bought in sunny Spain.  
  
One evening not long after, a knock came at my door  
And when I went to open it, I couldn't believe what I saw!  
A pretty lady Spanish frog, wearing a sheepish grin  
With hundreds of little tadpoles who all looked like Sunny Jim!  
  
Now sadly Jim has left me for that Lily Pad in the sky  
And oftentimes when I think of him a tear comes to my eye.  
But I never have to look far to be reminded of our Jim  
Cos I'm overrun by little frogs, who all look just like him!*

**Brendan Morrison**







# Off the rails

Hi, it's me again. Never ask a modeller to talk about his hobby because they most certainly will. My last article (in Issue 11) prompted some really nice comments from our fine band of parishioners, so it's your own fault for encouraging me to put pen to paper again.

At the time of writing (in April) we seem to have gained control of the dreaded virus and things seem to be almost back to normal. Even so, it's model making season for me. Last year I decided to make a vehicle that not only served in peacetime, but wartime too. It is the Austin series one, more commonly known as the K Series.

It was Austin's first venture into commercial vehicles proper. Based in Longbridge, Birmingham the Austin motorcar company was traditionally a manufacturer of passenger cars and light utility vehicles based on car

**Mike Farrell** invites us again into the world of model making.

chassis. In 1938, just in time for the second World War, Austin introduced a new series of lorries ranging from 30 cwt to 5 tons, plus some heavy-duty tractor units used for tank transporters and such like.

Austin made over 100,000 of these fine vehicles. They were powered by Austin's own 3.5 litre straight six petrol engine, which produced almost 70 brake horsepower. This may seem quite puny by today's standards but coupled with Austin's own 4 speed gearbox, it was a very capable part plant.

Very sturdy and extremely reliable, it could cruise quite easily at 45mph with a 5 ton load. The series one was produced until 1950 with very few changes, the main change being the front radiator grill.

Needless to say, the railway companies used the vehicle in great quantities and my Gramps drove one in the 1950s for British Railways. This means of course that I've done a few miles in one myself as an illegal passenger!

The model I decided to make was the Austin K2 with a dray body. As explained in my last article, the railway companies were compelled to carry anything and everything so these dray vehicles were used to convey beer to rural pubs and milk from outlying farms. From starting with my drawings to the finished model, it took four months.

The British Motor Museum at Gaydon is located close to Warwick, and every year hosts the Gaydon international model truck festival. Modellers from all over Europe attend this prestigious



Red and cream is the Karrier Bantam

event. I was lucky enough to be invited again by the main organiser Ashley Coghill and his brilliant team. The standard of modelling is tremendously high and if anyone doubts the talent in this country, they only need to pop into that wonderful museum and all doubts will instantly disappear. At the end of a brilliant weekend, I was privileged to win three prizes for my models. The Karrier Bantam won 1st and 2nd in its two categories and the Austin K2 won 1st prize in its category.

Displayed here are some pictures of the model and its process. You can also see me passing some modelling skills on to my inquisitive four-year-old grandson, Joseph. I hope you enjoy my little article and hopefully I'll put pen to paper again next time.

Mike and his grandson Joseph







# Mary's corner

*Why not just take a bit of time to sit down and relax. Be still and settle yourself and reflect on what **Mary Hardiman** offers about this lovely gospel passage and how we can relate to the question Jesus poses.*

## John 21:15-19

When they had eaten, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these others do?' He answered, 'Yes, Lord, you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He replied, 'Yes, Lord, you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Look after my sheep.' Then he said to him a third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter was hurt that he asked him a third time, 'Do you love me?'

and said, 'Lord, you know everything; you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep. In all truth I tell you, when you were young you put on your own belt and walked where you liked; but when you grow old you will stretch out your hands, and somebody else will put a belt round you and take you where you would rather not go.' In these words he indicated the kind of death by which Peter would give glory to God. After this he said, 'Follow me.'

**Some years ago, I was working at a mainstream school in Salford and had been feeling for many months that it was time to leave that place and move on. The problem was that I had no idea where I wanted to be. For me, it was a time of deep inner struggle as I grappled to understand what it was that God wanted. One day, I was standing in front of a class of pupils I really loved. They were working in silence and I was reflecting on what a wonderful group of teenagers they were and how blessed I was to teach them. Then out of the blue, this question popped into my head. Mary, do you love me more than these?**

I think it is a question that God asks of each of us at some point in our lives, particularly when we are invited to let go of something or of someone we hold dear. It is a question that demands a response, a question that invites us to trust in a God who loves us unconditionally and who only wants what is best for us.

This account from John's gospel takes place on a beach, after the death and resurrection of the Lord. In order to understand it better, we need to cast our minds back to the numerous gospel passages involving Simon Peter. Peter is one of my favourite saints; he is so relatable. He says and thinks all the things we do; and whilst his heart is truly in the right place, he struggles with basic human impulses.

In spite of the fact that he gets everything so colossally wrong, Peter is still the one God chooses to lead his church. I find that incredibly consoling because it tells us that we can all be used by God.

During the Last Supper, Peter tells Jesus that he would never be the one to betray him. We know the story well: Peter says, 'when all lose faith in you, I will never lose faith'. Jesus answered him, 'I tell you solemnly, this very night, before the cock crows, you will have disowned me three times.' Peter said to him, 'Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.' And all the disciples said the same. (Matthew 26:33-35)

But, as we know, it is during the trial of Jesus that Peter makes his biggest mistake. Such a human response! Look at the contrast.

When the guards come looking for Jesus the Nazarene, Jesus says 'I am'. (John 18:6)

As he warms himself by the fire, a servant girl approaches Peter and says, 'you are one of that man's disciples'. Peter replies, 'I am not'. (John 18:17)

What I find particularly sad about this denial was that Peter was not facing anyone of social or political importance here; he was not standing before Pilate, Annas or Caiaphas. No, the conversation took place between him and a person who, at that time, would have been of no social standing whatsoever, a humble servant girl. What would you have done in Peter's place? It is easy to deny the presence of God in our lives when things look threatening or difficult. It is both human and natural to go with the flow, to pretend that we are something we are not. How many times have I denied the presence of God because I've been scared to talk about my faith?

In this moment Peter represents all of us, because all of us I believe stand alongside him on occasions like this. When we are surrounded by like-minded people, it's far easier to claim the Kingdom of God in our midst; not so straightforward the rest of the time!

What does Jesus do with our fear? What does our loving Lord do when we deny him in the presence of others? I think this passage from John's gospel says it all. He gives us the opportunity to put right what we have put wrong.

Three times Peter denied Jesus; three times, Jesus asks Peter the question, do you love me?

Whilst we have just the one word for 'love', the original Greek is not the same. The first time Jesus asks Peter, 'do you love me?' John has Jesus use the word 'storge', which denotes a love of friends. The second time he uses the Greek word 'philia', signifying a love of family. On the third occasion, Jesus speaks the word 'agape'

## Do you love me more than these?



which is a love that gives everything, a sacrificial and absolute love, one that holds nothing back; agape is the love we see on the cross, the complete emptying of self. There is no greater love than this.

It is in Peter's humility in this passage, in direct contrast to his prideful boast at the Last Supper that real transformation begins to take place. Peter becomes the true follower of Christ, the man that Jesus wants him to be. As Paul says, it is when I am weak that I am strong. In other words, when we put aside our ego and our boastful pride, when we come before Christ in humility and trust and allow him to do the work, the life God wants for us will and does break through.

Having given Simon Peter the opportunity to declare his love for Jesus three times, the Lord then goes on to tell him that his future may not be the one he originally thought it would be. He tells Simon that someone else will put a belt on his waist and take him where he would rather not go. Is that not the story for all of us? Trusting in God, stretching out our hands to the one who loves us will always take us to places we don't think we want to go. Sacrificial love, that agape of which Jesus speaks, demands that we put God in control, that we allow him to work in us and through us. Ask yourself this: do I want God to make the world a beautiful place for me or through me?

If and when we choose the latter, it may well demand a reaction that is counterintuitive, placing us where we may not want to be but trusting that God will be faithful to his promises. It is in this place that we move from storge to philia to agape, from love of a friend to love of family to the sacrificial love of God, journeying ever deeper into the heart of our Heavenly Father.

Jesus speaks of Peter's death giving glory to God. It's not just his ultimate death but the death of self, the death of all that we hold dear, of all that we think is important. It is in this humble surrender that God can truly be at work, making the world a more beautiful place through you and through me.

There is something in the heart and mind of an adult human that somehow feels we should be in charge of our own destinies, that tells us it is our job to get a grip on events and make a path for ourselves, to have a plan and to know what's coming next. And this is the heart of the conundrum. Because Christ is asking us to let go, to relinquish any plans we might have and to be open to his plans. If we have the courage to say yes, our lives truly transform. Letting go is a massive leap of faith and I think we all know this.

When I stood in my classroom all those years ago and felt God ask me, Mary do you love me more than these, what could I say? Surrender is not always easy because we all like to think we are in control. But when we allow God to be God, when we give him the reins, blessings will come and we will find a freedom and a sense of peace that the world cannot give. This has been my experience. Peter has to go through the death of self to gain life. It is a call for all of us to place God at the centre of our lives. Do you love God more than anything else? If not, do you want to love God more than anything else?

Do you need to pray for the grace to let go of something you hold dear? If you don't already do so, maybe you could pray a simple prayer each morning, offering the day to the Lord however it may unfold, asking him to work through you and see what happens.

*We pray,*

*Loving God, I give my life to you – my past, my present and my future. I offer to you all that I hold dear. I place it before you here and now and I pray for the grace to trust that you will keep what needs keeping, take what needs taking, give what needs to be given and transform what needs to be transformed. And I ask this in total trust of your redeeming love. Amen*





*The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek, with themes of poverty and racism in the Appalachian Mountains of Kentucky in the 1930s*



*The Metal Heart by Caroline Lea, set in Orkney during World War 2. Life is brutal for both the prisoners and the island residents but when the Italian prisoners start to build their own church there is a glimmer of hope that something beautiful may come from the loss and destruction of the war.*



In June 2021, we read *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig and we have just finished *The Humans* by the same author. Both books focus on regret but offer an antidote: hope. We begin to understand that while regret is rooted in the past, hope helps us to look to the future.

The theme of hope in adversity has been a recurrent motif in many of the books we have read this year, and this idea of hope which never fades is beautifully articulated in the excerpt from Emily Dickinson's poem **Hope is the thing with feathers** which is quoted by Haig in *The Humans*:

*Hope is the thing with feathers*

*That perches in the soul,*

*And sings the tune without the words,*

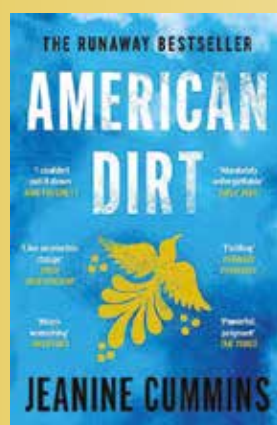
*And never stops at all.*

In *The Midnight Library*, we follow Nora Seed who has many regrets. She is mugged, she loses her job, she is blamed for other people's failures and her cat is run over by a car. She can't take life anymore and attempts suicide. Nora wakes up to discover that she is in the space between life and death known as 'The Midnight Library' and it is where she learns that to live, she must push aside regrets and embrace hope.

*The Humans* is funny, sad and overflowing with wisdom – do not be put off by the sci-fi nature of this book; it is very much a human story. An alien comes

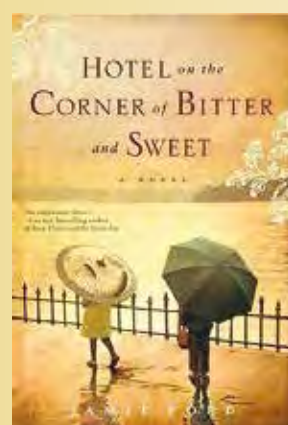
# St Peter's Book Club

*Alison McGarr reviews the Book Club's year.*



to earth to destroy evidence of Professor Andrew Martin who has supposedly solved a major mathematical problem. Martin is killed and the alien takes his place. At first, he looks with contempt at the 'weak' humans. But then he starts to love his wife, his teenage son and the loyalty of the pet dog. *The Humans* offers an honest and mostly optimistic view on humanity, showing that hope for a better life can be found.

Over the year, we chose to read two books which focus on the migrant experience and more specifically, the hope needed to simply survive.



*American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins is a tale about the harrowing journey of migrants from Mexico to the US border, running for their lives, not to find a better life with more opportunity, but running to save their lives. It definitely brought home the suffering of those who attempt to cross borders and what they have already gone through to make it so far.

In *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford, we read about Henry who is American-Chinese and Keiko who is American-Japanese, both of whom are facing the alienation of being outsiders. After the bombing of

Pearl Harbour in 1941 and the declaration of war between the USA and Japan, Japanese immigrants are interned in camps, their personal belongings are stored in the Panama Hotel and their remaining properties and businesses are looted. Henry and Keiko's story is one of endurance and the power of the indomitable human spirit that provides hope, strength and courage to keep going in the face of difficulty and danger.

Thematically, the Club has also read a significant number of wonderful books about the steadfast hope of women who survive the most atrocious injustices.

*The Mercies* by Kiran Millwood Hargrave is set in the remote town of Vardo in Northern Norway which is hit by a storm and all 40 men in the village die while out fishing. Over the winter, the women must fend for themselves to survive in the harsh environment.

But left alone they are perceived to be dangerous and a religious zealot with a history of burning witches is brought in from Scotland to 'save' them. He brings with him his young wife – who was sold off to him by her desperate father. This becomes the story of the wife and

how in desperation and darkness she is able to find love, friendship and the determination to survive.

*The Silence of the Girls* by Pat Barker tells the story of another woman who is left with nothing but the will to endure the unthinkable – Briseis, once a queen, is now the possession of Achilles who has destroyed her city and butchered her family. She cannot physically fight her enemies, so she finds power in her ability to watch and tell the story of the slaves and the concubines. She makes visible the suffering of the silent ones whose stories are never told.

The need to be invisible in order to survive is one of the central themes of *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett. At sixteen, twins Desiree and Stella escape the small, American Deep South town they have grown up in. But when faced with the harsh reality of survival in New Orleans, they are separated by their choices.

Stella chooses to disappear to live the life of a white woman and with it comes opportunity and privilege, whilst Desiree lives as a black woman, stuck in poverty and despair. This story shines a light on

racial injustice in contemporary America and is heart-breaking and heart-warming in equal measure.

Whilst continuing with our theme of strong women fighting to survive, we picked three novels which are fiction rooted in historical fact. *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson picks up on the themes of poverty and racism in the Appalachian Mountains of Kentucky in the 1930s. This is the fictional story of a young woman who is part of the Eleanor Roosevelt's Kentucky Pack Horse Library Project – an actual project that was designed to promote reading and education in the most remote of places.

Cussy Carter's job is dangerous as she must travel across the rough, mountainous terrain to deliver books to the poor and the starving. But the young woman has the added complication of being one of the last, blue-skinned people in Kentucky – she is a carrier of a genetic trait which leads to a blood disorder that causes blue skin.

This is a fascinating story about fear and prejudice, but it is also a tale of hope and love – well worth a read.



**The Metal Heart** by **Caroline Lea** is a beautiful story, part fact and part fiction, set in Orkney during World War 2. The destroyed ships of the German fleet litter the coast as Italian prisoners of war are brought to the island to build the Churchill Barriers which were designed to link the islands together and protect the mainland from attack. Life is brutal for both the prisoners and the island residents but when the Italian prisoners start to build their own church there is a glimmer of hope that something beautiful may come from the loss and destruction of the war. The Italian Chapel on Lamb Holm in the Orkney Islands can still be seen today.

**A Room Made of Leaves** by **Kate Grenville** uses the literary device of recently discovered letters to tell the fictional story of the historical figure, Elizabeth Macarthur, whose husband, John Macarthur, is widely regarded as one of the most significant figures in Australia's history. The story follows Elizabeth, isolated and alone as a child growing up in Cornwall, to living isolated and alone in an unhappy marriage in the wilderness of a New South Wales colony. But she is strong and she shows the tenacity required to survive at the edge of the world in a foreign land. This is a great story if you want to have a glimpse into the brutality of colonisation – for both the colonisers, the convicts and the indigenous population.

The Book Club chose two non-fiction books this year with a strong emphasis on geography. **The Wild Places** by **Robert MacFarlane** is a beautiful tribute to the wild places that can still be found in the UK, but it also offers an historical context to show how the landscape has been shaped by events such as the Clearances in Scotland and the Potato Famine in Ireland.

**Prisoners of Geography** by **Tim Marshall** is a very interesting summary of global geopolitics and the geography that shapes it. Marshall splits the world into regions and explains the important geographical features that influence politics and the development of countries within continents. Understanding the impact of the North European Plain on Russian politics and how this shapes Russia's strategy in Ukraine and the Caucasus, was a very timely read.

On that note, a year would not be



complete without a few good thrillers and a trip to fictional Russia. **Child 44** by **Tom Rob Smith** is set in the Soviet Union of 1953, which is a desperate place entrenched in Stalinist paranoia. The most striking element of the narrative was the disparity between the idealisation of the Communist regime and the harsh reality of life for its inhabitants. Leo is the chief protagonist and as a member of the MGB, the state security, he has spent his whole life doing exactly what he has been told to do. But when a child is found murdered in Moscow, he is propelled into a world where he is both the pursuer and the pursued. Leo's capacity to survive and hope for a better world drives him forward.

**Our House** by **Louise Candlish** is set a little closer to home, but, like *Child 44*, it is a thriller rooted in the discrepancy between the imagined reality of a perfect life and the actual lived experience of Fiona as she arrives home to find the removal van outside her house. A removal van that should not be there because her house has not been sold. A crime has been committed but what is not clear, is who did it and how did it happen?

**The Appeal** by **Janice Hallett** is told through the lens of Email exchanges between the members of the Fairway Players, which is a small theatre group rehearsing for their next production. It is a really interesting way to tell a murder mystery and it offers a fascinating insight into the duplicitous lives of the main characters.

**Greenwich Park** by **Katherine Faulkner** is an intricate thriller that is completely unpredictable. It is the story of one successful family made up of three couples who are linked by friendship and

business. But there is an unusual and unwelcome impostor who seems to be appearing in odd places and at odd times. This is a great read, fast-paced and a mystery until the very last page.

**Mrs England** by **Stacey Halls** follows a Norland Nurse, Ruby May, who takes a placement with a mill-owning family, looking after their four children in a house full of mystery and paranoia. The location for this Gothic tale is West Yorkshire, bordering the atmospheric moors and Hardcastle House, an isolated property where watchful eyes and strange behaviour abound.

Finally, a book that does not seem to fall into any one category - but strong women, hope in adversity and mystery are all strands within the novel, **The Strawberry Thief** by **Joanne Harris**. It is the fourth in the *Chocolat* series (you do not need to have read the other three books to read this one) and it is so beautifully written, it is a must read! The main storyline is about letting go with a mother who must accept that her children are ready to fly the nest, to find hope in their own song. And that brings us back to where we started...

*Hope is the thing with feathers*

*That perches in the soul,*

*And sings the tune without the words,*

*And never stops at all.*

Emily Dickinson

**The Book Club meets on the third Tuesday every month at 7.30pm in the Member's Lounge of the parish centre. Please do come along – we are a friendly group and always looking for new members to help us pick out good books. Also, if you have read a book that you would like to recommend, please email Alison McGarr at [ajmcgarr68@outlook.com](mailto:ajmcgarr68@outlook.com).**

### *St Peter's Book Club Library*

**At the back of church, on the left as you walk in, there is a selection of books that we have read over the last few years. Please feel free to take one and bring it back when you have finished.**

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

### ***Celebrating liturgy***

**Altar linen**  
Christine Slater: 07954 332651

**Altar servers**  
Fr Peter

**Church cleaners**  
Margaret King: 0161 483 4584

**Eucharistic ministers**  
**Housebound**  
Maureen Horton: 0161 483 1590  
[mary.horton@ntlworld.com](mailto:mary.horton@ntlworld.com)  
**Church**  
Tony Martin: 0161 483 7720  
[tony.martin@ntlworld.com](mailto:tony.martin@ntlworld.com)

**Flower arrangers**  
Colette Christie: 0161 427 4982  
[colette.christie4982@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:colette.christie4982@hotmail.co.uk)

**Lay-led liturgy**  
Rachel McKay: 0161 487 1659  
[mckay7897@hotmail.com](mailto:mckay7897@hotmail.com)

**Adult and junior choirs**  
Eileen Rigg: 01625 872948  
[emrigg@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:emrigg@hotmail.co.uk)

**Folk group**  
Steph Leyden: 0161 456 6285  
[stephleyden@icloud.com](mailto:stephleyden@icloud.com)

**Piety stall**  
Parish office  
[admin@stpetershazलगrove.org.uk](mailto:admin@stpetershazलगrove.org.uk)  
0161 483 3476

**Readers**  
Parish office  
[admin@stpetershazलगrove.org.uk](mailto:admin@stpetershazलगrove.org.uk)  
0161 483 3476

**Welcomers/stewarding**  
Parish office  
[admin@stpetershazलगrove.org.uk](mailto:admin@stpetershazलगrove.org.uk)  
0161 483 3476

### ***Creating social activity***

**Book club**  
Alison McGarr: 07792 107152  
[ajmcgarr68@outlook.com](mailto:ajmcgarr68@outlook.com)

**Men's group**  
John McKay:  
07715 362403

**Parish newsletter**  
Parish office  
[admin@stpetershazलगrove.org.uk](mailto:admin@stpetershazलगrove.org.uk)  
0161 483 3476

**Parish noticeboards**  
[juliewilliams10@gmail.com](mailto:juliewilliams10@gmail.com)

**Parish website**  
Anne-Marie Bailey: [ambailey@cheerful.com](mailto:ambailey@cheerful.com)

**Special events**  
Helen Lyons: 07854 928072  
[helenlyons1957@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:helenlyons1957@hotmail.co.uk)

**Tea and Coffees, after Mass**  
Rachel McKay: 0161 487 1659  
[mckay7897@hotmail.com](mailto:mckay7897@hotmail.com)

**Theatre group**  
Tony Martin: 0161 483 7720  
[tony.martin@ntlworld.com](mailto:tony.martin@ntlworld.com)

**Walking group**  
Tony Martin: 0161 483 7720  
[tony.martin@ntlworld.com](mailto:tony.martin@ntlworld.com)

### ***Exploring faith***

**Alpha**  
Rachel McKay: 0161 487 1659  
[mckay7897@hotmail.com](mailto:mckay7897@hotmail.com)

**Baptism programme**  
Anne-Marie Gallogly  
Karen Haines - [justasec55@hotmail.com](mailto:justasec55@hotmail.com)

**Confirmation programme**  
Fr Peter  
[petersharrocks@stpetershazलगrove.org.uk](mailto:petersharrocks@stpetershazलगrove.org.uk)

**First sacraments preparation**  
Teresa Thiele: 07778 848709  
[terrythiele@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:terrythiele@hotmail.co.uk)

**Marriage preparation**  
Fr Peter

**RCIA - Enquirers group**  
Tony Martin 0161 483 7720  
[tony.martin@ntlworld.com](mailto: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***

**Centering prayer**  
Mike O'Malley: 0161 483 8296  
[michaeldomalley@sky.com](mailto:michaeldomalley@sky.com)

**Churches Together activities**  
Maureen/Phil Horton: 0161 483 1590  
[pjhorton@virginmedia.com](mailto:pjhorton@virginmedia.com)

**Footsteps**  
Anne-Marie Bailey: 0161 456 2213  
[ambailey@cheerful.com](mailto:ambailey@cheerful.com)

**Guided prayer**  
Mike O'Malley: 0161 483 8296  
[michaeldomalley@sky.com](mailto:michaeldomalley@sky.com)

**Holy hour and prayer ministry**  
Laura Small: 01625 876 752  
[lauramsmall@hotmail.com](mailto:lauramsmall@hotmail.com)

**Lending library**  
Ann Bonner: 0161 456 6152  
[anntbar46@yahoo.com](mailto:anntbar46@yahoo.com)

**LPA liaison**  
Julie Williams: 0161 285 0244  
[juliewilliams10@gmail.com](mailto:juliewilliams10@gmail.com)

**Mothers' prayers**  
Teresa Thiele: 07778 848709  
[terrythiele@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:terrythiele@hotmail.co.uk)

**Praise and worship**  
Laura Small: 01625 876 752  
[lauramsmall@hotmail.com](mailto:lauramsmall@hotmail.com)

**Rosary groups: adult and children**  
Laura Small: 01625 876 752  
[lauramsmall@hotmail.com](mailto:lauramsmall@hotmail.com)

**Scripture group**  
Mike O'Malley: 0161 483 8296  
[michaeldomalley@sky.com](mailto:michaeldomalley@sky.com)

### ***Supporting families and youth***

**Bereavement support**  
Helen Lyons: 07854 928072

**TOAST (Time On A Sunday Together) Children's liturgy**  
Teresa Thiele: 07778 848709  
[terrythiele@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:terrythiele@hotmail.co.uk)

**Little fishes**  
Anne Wroe: 07763 387001  
[anne.wroe@sky.com](mailto:anne.wroe@sky.com)

**Marriage and family life group**  
David Small: 01625 876 752

**SPY group**  
David Small: 01625 876 752

### ***Outreaching in the community***

**Hospital chaplaincy**  
Chaplaincy Office: 0161 419 5889

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

**Via St Peter's**  
0161 483 3476  
[petersharrocks@stpeterhazलगrove.org.uk](mailto:petersharrocks@stpeterhazलगrove.org.uk)

**Justice and peace**  
Carmel O'Malley: 0161 483 8296

**LAMBS**  
Kath Coll: 07592 755980  
Brenda Martin: 0161 483 7720  
Email: [brenmart46@gmail.com](mailto:brenmart46@gmail.com)

**Lenten lunches**  
Helen Lyons: 07854 928072  
Jackie Mackay: 0161 483 6348

**Missio**  
Margaret King: 0161 483 4584  
Fiona Preece: 0161 456 4319

**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](mailto:office@stjamesche.org.uk)

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Issue 1, April 2017



Issue 2, July 2017



Issue 3, December 2017



Issue 4, April 2018



Issue 5, September 2018



Issue 6, December 2018



Issue 7, April 2019



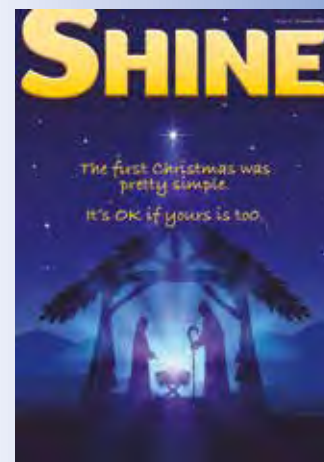
Issue 8, September 2019



Issue 9, December 2019



Issue 10, May 2020



Issue 11, December 2020



Issue 12, June 2021



Issue 13, July 2022

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