

SHINE





Every Sunday at 9.30am
in St Peter's parish centre

TOAST and
refreshments
at 9.30am

All families are welcome.
Each week we 'unpack' the
Gospel of the day through
worship, music, fun and games.

Children and parents enjoy together:

Terry's Teaser,
Kieran the puppet,
lots of games, drama,
music, crafts and other activities
to help us understand the Gospel.
Find out more on page 20.

You are all very welcome.



FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

The last issue of Shine reported on how we had celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Little did we know that we would be mourning her passing so soon after those celebrations. Her death and the accession of the new King dominated the headlines all over the world. It was a special time in the history of our country.

Another death to note, of course, was that of Fr Michael Cupit, the retired parish priest of St Philip's. His contribution to the life of that parish was immense, not to mention the series of talks he used to give at the Evron Centre.

Next year will see the 100th anniversary of the appointment of the first resident priest in St Peter's and thus the foundation of the parish. I am sure that we will find suitable ways of celebrating this milestone in the life of the parish.

In the meantime, life goes on with the rounds of baptisms, First Communion and funerals continuing unabated. It was also good to be able to welcome our family from the Sudan who have come and taken up residence in Hazel Grove. We hope they settle in despite the weather!

As always I wish to record my thanks to all who have contributed to this issue of Shine and to those who have been responsible for editing it and putting it together. I look forward to seeing you all at one of our Christmas celebrations.

Fr Peter

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

Contents

4-5

In memory of the Queen
St Peter's choirs
Alpha and Tony
Community Sponsorship Project
Farewells and welcomes

6-7

Mini Vinnies at St Philip's
St Peter's Helpers
LAMBS update
Advent Retreat Day
Bereavement group



8-9

Holy Land pilgrimage

10-11

Insights from Lavinia and Susan
Poetry from Gerry

12-14

Alison and Andy in London

15-16

The night the Queen died
Footsteps

17

Meet Pak's family



18-19

Ciara at the UN

20-21

TOAST - unbuttered!

22-23

Flower arrangers

24

Centering prayer

25-26

Our Walking group
Janet goes walking

27

Joe's thoughts on prayer

28-29

Mike, the model parishioner!

30-31

Mary's Corner

32-33

Book Club review

34

Knitters and crocheters

35

Who's who in St Peter's

Where we are . . .

St Peter's Church and presbytery

16 Green Lane, Hazel Grove,
Stockport SK7 4EA

Tel 0161 483 3476

St Philip's Church

Half Moon Lane, Offerton,
Stockport SK2 5LB

Email: admin@stpetershazeltgrove.org.uk

Fr Peter: petersharrocks@stpetershazeltgrove.org.uk

Our joint website is www.stpeterscatholic.church

Shining a light on our parish communities

In memory of the Queen



It's going to be a busy year

As Fr Peter mentioned in his intro on page 3, 2023 marks the centenary of the formation of our parish. We wouldn't want to miss the opportunity to mark this milestone for St Peter's, so the Parish Pastoral Team have started to plan a number of events for all age groups.

Would you like to help with the planning? Initially it would involve coming to the next meeting of the PPT which will be at 7pm on Monday 9 January. If you feel inspired, please send an Email to admin@stpetershazelgrove.org.uk.

St Peter's choirs

Our adult and junior choirs currently have fewer members than usual but refuse to be daunted! We simply adapt some of the repertoire for use at Sunday Masses and call upon 'friends' to help with big occasions.

One such occasion was the Platinum Jubilee concert for her late Majesty the Queen back in June. Together with a small but excellent band and recorder group, we presented a programme of music with royal and British connections, which was much enjoyed by a very appreciative audience. Special thanks to St Peter's Helpers who willingly took on much of the organisation including setting up chairs and tables on the lawn and serving the interval wine. (Watch this space for another concert for the coronation of King Charles next year!)

More recently the choirs have taken part in the Hazel Grove Musical Festival which had been postponed from the usual time of year because of Covid fears. The junior choir came second to an excellent choir which was larger and had a considerably higher average age. The adult choir sang very well in the Choral Recital class and came third out of five choirs – an excellent result. Well done!

We are currently preparing for a busy Christmas programme of events whilst continuing with our regular work providing music for Sunday Masses.

New members would be warmly welcomed; the adult choir would particularly welcome some more male voices. The junior choir currently has nine members, aged between 7 and 16, and would love for more to join them. (Unusually, there isn't a single child from St Peter's school in the choir at present – could yours be the first?) Do come and sing with us and enjoy our musical fun.

St Peter's Community Sponsorship Project

On 28 September, after three years of fund-raising and planning, Faisal, Samya, Mohamad and Moaz finally arrived in the UK. Parents Faisal and Samya originate from Darfur in Sudan but had spent eight years and one month living in Indonesia as refugees.

They have settled very well and have started to find their way around – visiting local shops but also making their own way to Levenshulme to buy traditional African/Sudanese food and Halal meat.

The boys love their bedroom with the racing car bed and all their toys – it has been both a privilege and a delight to watch them take such pleasure in the smallest of things. Most fascinating, is the speed at which they are picking up English – you only have to say something once and they can repeat it, albeit with an American accent!

Faisal and Samya have started their English lessons and now that the family are more established and settled into a routine, the big focus for the Project Team is on ensuring Faisal and Samya learn English so that they can secure employment. Initially, we will be helping them to find unpaid, voluntary work while they study for work-based qualifications.

Again, a massive thank you for your financial support and the donations you have given – really through your generosity, we have been able to give the family a very warm welcome and everything they need to settle and get themselves established.

Tony Power's reaction to Alpha

As someone new to the Alpha course, I was curious about what help it would be in my everyday life.

Well, I can tell you that the changes have been profound, to say the least.

While praying the 'Our Father' and saying, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us," it came into my mind to forgive those who I held a grudge against. When I thought about it, a great weight lifted from me! Nursing a grudge does more harm to your soul than we know. I just wanted to share this.



Farewells and welcomes

Since our last issue, the following people known in our community have gone to their rest:

Queen Elizabeth II

Fr Michael Cupit

Margaret Newcombe

Margaret Mary 'Anna' Higginbotham

Norah Murphy

Michael James Leonard

Rosalie (Ros) O'Neill

Robert Maurice Langham

Stephen Joseph Burke

Margaret Bradbury

Honora Hague

Harry Walker

Carmel Derryhouse

Patricia Dorrian

Patrick Sweeney

Carole Anderson

Vito Angrisani

Roy Mahon

Almut Livesey

Dorothy Moroney

... and we have welcomed 23 people into the church through baptism.

Shining a light on our parish communities



Update from St Philip's Mini Vinnies

On Friday 7 October, we were excited to welcome into our school the Area Co-ordinator of the Mini Vinnies, Janet Lawrence to celebrate our Commissioning Ceremony. It was such a special time for us to share with our St Philip's family. Here are a few of our thoughts from the day.

"I felt proud because I have been chosen to make a difference"
Edward

"I felt happy because I am looking forward to working with others such as the elderly" Isla

We have had a busy start to our work: selling poppies to mark Remembrance Day, meeting with Fran Lawson from the charity Mary's Meals and taking on some small projects with St Peter's Helpers. We look forward to reaching out and helping many people this coming year.

St Peter's Helpers, responding to need in our community

Thanks for the incredible work of all the volunteers involved in

- weekly drop-in English and craft activities support sessions for refugees
- monthly 'cuppa and chat' sessions (all welcome, bring a neighbour or a friend!)
- making friendly phone calls to people who are more isolated or appreciate the chance to chat
- helping to support vulnerable families in our local schools
- and not forgetting our Christmas Elves with their baking, packing and delivering parcels this Christmas! A special thanks to the Mini Vinnies at St Philip's for helping with little goodies this year and to our refugee friends for making table decorations for the Christmas Day lunch at Hazel Grove Methodist church.

This October we were blessed with a beautiful Healing Mass at St Peter's, followed by a light lunch for some of our parishioners. We hope to organise similar events in the forthcoming year, so we always welcome volunteers who can help with refreshments, invitations and lifts. If you would like to help with any of our activities (or have ideas for more that you can help with!) then contact us at stpetershelpers@gmail.com. Take a look at our website:

<https://sites.google.com/view/st-peters-helpers/home>.



LAMBS

We re-opened the LAMBS group in May this year after lockdown and so we are back to the monthly disco and afternoon tea for people of all ages with special needs and their carers.

As you may know, LAMBS (Less Able in Mind or Body) was started over 30 years ago by Canon John Rafferty and run by volunteers from our parish, many of whom have been involved since the beginning. We had a lovely surprise visit in September by Canon John himself, who called in to meet everyone before saying the evening Mass.

Once a month we serve teas and coffees on Sundays after 10'clock Mass to raise funds for the LAMBS – and we have our own DJ now, Thomas Mercer! One Sunday in September, we had a cake sale combined with the teas and coffees and raised £244 for the Macmillan cancer support charity.

We have been visiting similar local groups to get ideas and to try and increase our numbers. We're eager for people to spread the word that anyone with special needs is welcome to come along to our group gatherings. Ring Kath Coll on 07592 755980 for more information.

Advent Retreat Day

People from various parts of the North West came to enjoy this special day. Tune in to hear what you missed on <https://stpeterscatholic.church/gallery/>

Bereavement Group

Since the last issue of Shine the Bereavement Group has continued to increase in numbers and we have been very active.

Before we had a summer break, we had a wonderful trip to Port Sunlight on the Wirral. Before going into the village we enjoyed a lovely meal at the Sunlight Restaurant. We had the whole place to ourselves and the staff were amazing. We then got back on the coach for a short trip to Port Sunlight, where a lovely guide got on the coach and escorted us around the village which was beautiful and so interesting.

We had our summer service in church at the end of July, when Margaret Mercer, as usual, gave a beautiful reflection and we lit candles for those we have lost. We then went into the parish centre for refreshments.

Since starting our programme again in September, we have had more social gatherings which included Bingo and a Chippy night (always a favourite). We have had a Service and Reflection

occasion as well as attending the Holy Souls Mass on 2 November. Advent has been celebrated with a church service and, of course, a party.

If you haven't joined us and you'd like to, no matter when you lost your loved one, just ring Helen on 07854 928 072 or Email the parish office on admin@stpetershazeltgrove.org.uk.



The popular fish and chips night!

An excited group from St Peter's set off from Manchester airport on the start of our week-long pilgrimage to the Holy Land and landed at Tel Aviv where we met up with the rest of our companions. The coach eventually got us to the hotel in Bethlehem in the late evening and a wake-up call was arranged for 6am the following morning. Early get-ups were the order every day and our guide, Saed, got the biggest cheer when one day he told us we could have a lie-in until 6.30am!

Our group was made up of 42 pilgrims from the North West as far as Liverpool, the Midlands and North Wales. Our spiritual lead was Fr David Piskorz, a Polish priest based in Wolverhampton and of course our own Fr Peter and Deacon John. Brother Rafal, a friend of Fr David's also joined us (a lovely gentle man with a huge appetite, who quite literally smiled for the whole week).

Now, if I were to talk about all the sights we saw, all the churches we visited, or celebrated Mass in or had silent moments of prayer in... if I were to recall every precious moment shared, every tear shed, or every picture taken, I would need a separate issue of Shine! So here are just a few of my special moments.

Our first day started in the Nativity Church, the birthplace of Jesus Christ. The queue was long (you have to have patience when visiting these holy places), but being able to say "I've been there, I've prayed there" is such



Some of the group with Fr David on the Sea of Galilee

Walking in the

Let's follow **Brendan Morrison** on his recent pilgrimage to the Holy Land – 7 to 14 November 2022

a wonderful experience. Mass was celebrated in the Basilica of St Jerome, in a small chapel. It was a lovely simple location and I thought it really brought the group together.

On the second day, Mass was celebrated at the Grotto of the

Apostles at Gethsemane. I loved it here. Some of the olive trees are more than 2,000 years old. Did Jesus and the apostles brush by a young sapling? If only they could speak. An original path still leads from the garden to the city. Was Jesus dragged along it after his betrayal?

On day three we walked the Stations of the Cross along the Via Dolorosa before we entered the Church of the Holy Sepulchre where we saw Golgotha, the place of Jesus' crucifixion and the tomb where he laid for three days. Even though it was very busy and again a lot of queuing, I felt at peace here and was able to reflect on the greatest of sacrifices that Jesus made for all people. That evening some of us went to the 'Walled Off' hotel which stands right in front of the separation wall on the Palestinian side. The owner is a friend of Banksy and has the largest privately owned number of his originals. He spoke passionately about the Palestinian



The Western Wall



The tomb where Jesus was laid. Inside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre



Inside the Basilica of the Annunciation



A Banksy original on the Separation Wall just over the road from the hotel

steps of Jesus

view of the situation here but without any malice or hatred. His wish is to live in peace with his neighbours, but as equals in all things. By the way, the hotel is a boutique style with only nine rooms, the most expensive one having the worst view of the wall!

Day four saw us drive to Jericho, the oldest inhabited city in the world, for Mass at the Church of the Good Shepherd and then to view the Mount of Temptation. Here we tried beautiful, fresh dates and some of us tried a drink of freshly crushed pomegranate and orange. Delicious! Then on to the site of the Dead Sea Scrolls. It's so barren there with little grazing for sheep, that it's hard to see how a shepherd could stumble across such a

significant discovery. Before returning to our hotel, we spent some time at the Dead Sea. Some of us when in to float, a surreal moment and you had to keep reminding yourself that you don't have to do anything but relax and enjoy.

The next day we went again to Jericho to see the ancient ruins which date back some 10,000 years, and the sycamore tree (not the original, but possibly the same location) that Zacchaeus, the tax collector climbed to get a better view of Jesus as he passed by. We had Mass by the banks of the River Jordan and then renewed our Baptismal promise. Most of our group got into the water as well although one of them was a bit over



Site of the Dead Sea Scrolls

enthusiastic and slipped, ending up going for the 'full emersion' option! There was a lovely moment when a group of pilgrims on the Jordan side of the river asked Fr David to bless them. He did so with the biggest smile on his face. The armed guards on each side didn't bat an eyelid. We drove to Mount Tabor, the site of the Transfiguration before finishing our day at our new hotel in Tiberias by the side of the Sea of Galilee.

Morning saw us enjoying a scenic boat ride across the Sea of Galilee; we had the Gospel reading of the calming of the waves and some quiet time before being taught and then joining in with some traditional Israeli dancing! Then on to Capernaum where Jesus lived in the house of St Peter, having had to escape from Nazareth. The ruins there are amazing. Mass was celebrated on the Mount of Beatitudes, the scene of Jesus' great Sermon on the Mount.

Our last day took us to the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth and then to Cana for Mass where some of the group renewed their marriage vows during our last Mass together. It was then back to the airport for our flight home. Hmmm, enough said about that the better!

For many of us this was a journey of discovery, a reaffirmation of our faith and a chance to truly walk with Jesus.

I would like to share a few memories of my past 91 years, prompted by the fact that St Peter's church was built in the year I was born, though I understand the parish already existed.

I was born in 1931, the youngest of seven children, on a farm in County Antrim, six miles from the port of Larne and 20 miles from Belfast.

I had an idyllic childhood shared with my brother Charles who was two years older. Farm life was exciting. We would listen for the first cuckoo call each year; we loved the arrival of piglets, lambs, calves and to watch the hen eggs hatch out into lovely, yellow chicks. On coming home from school, we would rush to the field that the cows were in and they would come up to the gate to be stroked and to steal any titbits we might be eating. We roamed the hedgerows to find the different birds' nests, knowing by the different speckled eggs which birds they belonged to. We would pick the wild strawberries, blueberries, blackberries and in the autumn, hazelnuts. My father would often take us out to study the clear night sky pointing to and seeing the constellations and the moon in its various shapes, especially the harvest one. On one particular night, he pointed to the aurora borealis; we were so excited as this was a very rare sighting way back then.

Unfortunately, this idyllic life stopped with the early death of my parents in 1944 when the farm was sold, and our lives changed – for me, for my older sisters, one in the armed service, one in the civil service and two at grammar school and for my brother now at the Christian Brothers College in Belfast. My oldest sister worked as a GP in Oldham and she took me to live with her there.

I remember the journey over to Manchester in a small plane: the windows were blacked out so no lights were visible lest they attract enemy aircraft – Belfast docks were a special target. I arrived at Oldham railway station on a bleak, damp evening, the amber street lights shone down on the wet cobbles and the air was heavy with

Reflections

Lavinia Maguire looks back over her long life and her special link to St Peter's church

smoke from the cotton mills.

I was awakened next morning by a tapping, rattling sound on the windows across the street. I was told this was 'the waking up man' (whose job was to wake up the mill workers). Soon after the response of "Right!" there was a clatter of clogs on the cobbles and the women wrapped their shawls tightly against the cold morning air and made their way to the mills. Later at lunchtime and evening the mill hooter would sound and the women would go to the shops. I can still remember the oily smell from the woollen shawls and again, the clatter of clogs. Queuing was part of shopping and the ration books (which all families had, due to food shortages) allowed you only meagre portions of butter, cheese, eggs, bacon, sausages, meat, sugar, tea, sweets, and things for each person in the household. Bananas, oranges and other fresh fruit were seldom on offer and people rushed to the shops to snap them up, so they were soon gone.

Ships bringing food by sea were very often torpedoed as Russian sailors were very experienced in scuttling ships. Coupons were also given to each person to buy clothes, furniture, bedding etc – only so many of each as the war effort was our main concern. 'Blackout' was strictly adhered to: windows were not allowed to have the slightest light showing in case it could be seen from an enemy plane. Bombing on Manchester was very heavy with all the local industries making parts for aeroplanes, ammunitions, war clothing and material for the parachutes (many a bride-to-be made her dress from parachute material). The radio was very popular and for all the people working round the clock on shifts 'Workers' Playtime' was a very enjoyable programme, with

comedians, swing bands and news of the war.

On Christmas Eve the sirens went off – the warning that enemy planes were approaching, so we hurried down to the cellar. A V2, which was a long range ballistic missile (in fact the forerunner of the world's first space rocket), flew right over our house. The droning noise stopped, but it did carry on a short distance and demolished a whole street. The German pilots, if flying on a moonlit night, would use the moon shining on the ship canal to guide them to the docks.

Having now left grammar school, I went into banking and in 1952 married Terry. He had served in the Royal Air Force as had my sister Win and sister Rose in the Wrens. We were happily married for 57 years and had six children, seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Later on in our retirement we moved to Poynton and then to Hazel Grove where we were nearer to better public services. We enjoyed visiting many countries we had always wanted to see.

We were so happy to join the parish of St Peter's and to my surprise, learnt that St Peter's church was built in 1931. I feel I have completed a circle. We were so warmly received. With having such a good bus and train service, Terry and I explored and had many good outings and loved the countryside close by.

Sadly, Terry died after a few years here but I will never forget the visits from Fr Peter and the SVP and the care and warmth I received from many parishioners who included me in so many events and showed so much care.

I am so lucky St Peter's church was built in the year that I was born.

The Good Samaritan

Susan Craig explains what significance going to the Holy Land held for her

My grandfather, George Knox was born in 1895. He fought in the First World War, in the Holy Land, mainly on the battle route from Cairo to Jerusalem.

When he was in Cairo he contracted dysentery, eventually collapsing, and was posted as a deserter as no-one knew where he was. He was found, by chance, by a Muslim family, who took him in and cared for him until he was well enough to be moved to an Army field hospital, where he eventually recovered. He never knew the names of the Muslims who saved his life.

Because he survived, he went on to adopt my father in 1938. And because of that, eventually I was born. So, indirectly, I owe my life to Islam. Directly, I owe my life to the compassion of those unknown helpers.

As an aside, my grandfather was still in the Holy Land when the Armistice was called. It was incredibly special to me to have been in the Holy Land on a pilgrimage tour in November this year.

(See pages 8-9 for full details of the pilgrimage.)

Ukraine at 100 days

Gerry Clarke shares some of his recent poetry.

"When the time is right, I, the Lord, will make it happen"

Isaiah 60:22

*The rising sun peeks through sandbags.
Five am: the whine of air-raid sirens.
Somewhere in Ukraine shells falling
Pressing up close everywhere, and lethal:
Bombs and missiles and Z-marked tanks
On February 24 the war began, full-scale.*

*Rising from a sweat-soaked pillow
Ending darkest dark hours –
A comedian turned President
Face-in-pain, seeking the tears of citizens,
Some more open graves
Needing more fresh flowers*

*Only early April snowdrops unbowed
Everywhere, standing firm in freezing months
Alerting a new presence with a voice of steel
For the bereaved, the despairing, the brave
Explaining war to the free world
The way Ukraine experiences are.*

*Living symbol of the state's fate
Reaching to hold the world's attention
Asking whether the nation lives or dies?
Rows of flags, multiplied, unfurled
Blue as cornflowers in the summer meadow
Yellow as cowslips in spring open ground.*

*The evening sun cast long shadows
Night is back, the President's phone is buzzing...
"Where is God in this unjust war?"
In many mysterious and unexpected ways...
Long-time warning words crushed by a sound
Like the blowing of a violent wind.*

A prayer for peace in Ukraine

Almighty Father,
You are the Lord of history.
We place in your hands the distress of our times.
The war in Ukraine fills us with anxiety and fear.
We call out to you:
Welcome those who have died.
Comfort those left behind.
Be with refugees and those driven from their homes.
Heal the wounds of those injured in body and soul.
Be close to every person taking up the cause of those who suffer.
Do not allow war cries and threats to triumph,
But truth.
Send discernment and prudence,
Balanced with courage,
To work for peace
Even when everything appears hopeless.
Lord, send your Holy Spirit over the earth,
The Spirit who defeats division,
The Spirit who overcomes war,
The Spirit who conquers hearts.
Give to our earth the peace which only you can give.
You are the Lord of time and eternity.
Holy Mary, Mother of Peace, pray for us and for the whole world.
Through Christ Our Lord. Amen

The funeral of HM The Queen

Alison McGarr shares her and husband Andy's experiences in London



Floral and other tributes for our late Queen

In 1977, the Queen visited Stockport as part of her Silver Jubilee celebrations and I remember being taken to Hazel Grove station to see her. All I remember is that she wore a peach dress and a peach hat. But it did stay with me and when I realised that in June 2022 there would be the celebration of the Queen's 70th Jubilee, and probably her last, I booked us a hotel in Earl's Court and got ready to be in the crowd on the telly. As an aside, four return train fares to London proved to be really expensive, so it was cheaper to drive and download the app which enables you to park on someone's driveway – for a small fee!

But what did we learn from the Jubilee experience?

Firstly, you have to get to the Mall very early because entry points are closed and if you are too late, you won't get in. We arrived half-way along the Mall



at 7.30am on the Thursday to see the Trooping of the Colour ceremony – it was already 6 or 7 people deep.

Secondly, when the royal family processes past, it is over in seconds. Also being so short, I hardly saw a thing. I just about managed to catch

a glimpse of Princess Anne and Prince William on their way back to Buckingham Palace. Our daughters Madeleine and Georgina took it in turns to get on Andy's shoulders and they saw a lot more.

I comforted myself with the idea that at least the girls had seen the future King and I hoped we might see the Queen on the balcony – but I wasn't prepared for the Queen Victoria Memorial, which completely obscures the view of Buckingham Palace from the Mall! There was a screen, so we did see the family come out on to the balcony and we were happy to be part of that amazing crowd.

Surprisingly, the real highlight of the day was seeing the 15 Typhoon fighter jets, which flew overhead in the formation of the number 70. The flypast was really moving and brought a tear to my eye – it was a very fitting way to acknowledge 70 years of dedicated service.



The historic flypast for the Queen's 70th Jubilee

Fast forward now

Fast forward now from June to 8 September this year when we learnt that the Queen had died. Having been to London for the Jubilee it just seemed to make sense that we would find a way to be there for the funeral. Again, a hotel and car parking proved to be significantly cheaper than return train fares. Just Andy and I went down this time. We arrived on the Sunday, 18 September, and made our way to lay flowers in Green Park. Nothing could have prepared us for the number of people on the Mall, slowly queuing past St James's Palace where King Charles III had recently been proclaimed monarch, then onto Piccadilly past the Ritz Hotel and into the park. The atmosphere was sombre and reflective as people snaked their

way past thousands upon thousands of flowers – a remarkable sight and a remarkable tribute.

After laying our flowers, we decided to go down to Parliament Square to find a pitch where we might stand to get the best view of the funeral procession the following day. People had already claimed their spots and had been camping out for one or two days – but everyone was in good spirits and we were happy to while away a couple of hours watching foreign dignitaries in blacked out vehicles being rushed into Westminster Hall.

The highlight of this part was seeing the 'tank' with Joe and Jill Biden – on their way out they drove towards St James's Park and, as they slowed down to turn a corner, Joe Biden waved at Andy and me...

I know – we couldn't believe it either; it's not very often the leader of the free world waves right at you!

One little titbit of information we gleaned was that one of the vehicles in the Biden entourage, which is transported over from the States, is actually an operating theatre and a mobile hearse!

After seeing Joe and Jill, Andy and I decided to celebrate with a rather nice pint in a pub called the Two Chairmen and as everyone (even the southerners!) seemed so friendly, we got chatting to a very nice family from Essex.

They asked us what time we planned on getting to Whitehall the following day as they were planning on getting up at 4.30am to arrive by 5.30am!!



Screenshot from the TV showing Alison and Andy - and a few others!



The Queen's coffin journeys to her final resting place

Andy and I had not planned on such an early start, but the fear of missing out kicked in and we duly set our alarm for 4.30am. No tubes were running and half of central London was blocked off, so we set off at 5am to walk for an hour to get to Whitehall – after 5 minutes I decided that if a black cab came by, I was flagging it down. Sure enough, as if by magic one appeared. The closest we could get to by car was Victoria Station but that was good enough and we got to Whitehall by 5.30am. It was already packed – but we weren't concerned because, having learnt our lesson from the Jubilee experience, we had brought with us our secret weapon: Andy's 2-foot decorator's bench. We patiently sat at the back, at least eight people deep, confident that when the action started, we would step up on to the bench and see EVERYTHING! And we did...

We had pitched ourselves close to the corner of Whitehall and Westminster, so we had a view of Westminster Hall and we would be able to see when the Queen's coffin left to make its way to Westminster Abbey – and we would also see the procession leave



Part of the Biden entourage

the Abbey to journey up to Wellington Arch. As we waited, we suddenly became aware that the BBC had been filming us and we had been on the TV! It's a bit like Where's Wally? But can you spot us?

What followed was a spectacle of truly awe-inspiring proportions. The precision-timing, the majesty of the armed forces, the response of the crowd as we respectfully listened to the ceremony over the speakers and

the spine-tingling moment when we joined with the congregation in the Abbey in singing God Save the King – all combined to ensure that this really was a remarkable experience and one I will never forget.

This is our last picture of Queen Elizabeth II as she journeyed to her final resting place – thank you your Majesty for 70 years of loyal service. A true inspiration to all, may you rest in peace.

The night the Queen died



Such a moving talk from Anthony Delaney

It was 6.30pm on Thursday, 8 September and in the parish centre there was a hive of activity. Tables and chairs were being put in place, tablecloths arranged in an assortment of colours ready to take candles, vases and platefuls of nibbles and biscuits.

The screen, the lectern, the PA system, the lighting were all being sorted and in the kitchen, the water was being boiled, cups and beakers were lining up, milk, sugar, tea, coffee, spoons – all amid the usual friendly banter amongst the helpers in various parts of the building. And then the news broke. Her Majesty the Queen had died in Balmoral. It was the end of an era.

The teams slowed down a little in quiet reflection and everyone set about finishing their tasks in anticipation of another Footsteps event, when we were to hear from Anthony Delaney, from the Ivy Church network in Didsbury.

One or two people rang to ask if the event would still go ahead. It would – in fact, some were already coming through the doors by then. What transpired was a truly memorable night.

Anthony came, apologetic for being a tad late and said he'd been praying on the way here for the right words to share tonight. His prayer was well and truly answered. He spoke from the heart.. "We meet on one of those days that nobody will forget, I think. Throughout our lives we can have those times when something happens and it affects everybody."

He described how he'd comforted his wife before he left home and rang his elderly Mum in Denton to check she was OK before going on to talk about how much the Queen's faith was a light to her, what the monarch meant to him as a serving police officer. He described how the Queen would receive the crown of life in heaven which would be so much more impressive than the magnificent Crown Jewels in the Tower of London and then he focussed on what a difference faith makes to us when we're

faced with difficult times. He spoke with conviction, with experience, describing his journey of faith and his wife's and other family members'; Anthony gently nudged us with such genuine empathy, about how faith comes into its own on a night like this. His was the reassuring voice we needed to hear that night about how our Christian faith will help us in the days to come as we adjust to life without the Queen. He quoted Biblical references and many examples from his own life of when faith has been pivotal, often interspersed with his local humour.

There was so much that Anthony said as he stood before us that gently created a peace and an assurance in the room that our faith is the best gift we have received. And to listen to someone speak so eloquently, so inspiringly and with quiet authority, all off the cuff, was a real gift that we were privileged to witness.

**Why not listen for yourself?
Go to the bottom of the Gallery page on our parish website
<https://stpeterscatholic.church/gallery/>.
Anthony will be back to speak at Footsteps in 2023.**



Footsteps



Another packed parish centre for Footsteps

We have a series of dates for more Footsteps events in 2023 and some familiar and some new faces to welcome.

The familiar: Fathers John Rafferty, Chris Thomas and Eamonn Mulcahy, Mary Hardiman and Anthony Delaney from Ivy Church Network in Didsbury (see page 15 about his last talk here).

We're also delighted to welcome Pauline McDougall who's coming from Birkdale to talk about the Beatitudes, highly recommended by Fr Chris Thomas. And then we're also thrilled that Sr Helen Costigane from London will come. She's a friend of Fr Ned's who invited her to be a keynote speaker at Loreto Grammar School's speech night at the Bridgewater Hall. Some of our parishioners were there and immediately suggested she would be an excellent inspiration.

With Footsteps we aim to engage and inspire people with particular spiritual insights, to stimulate them as we journey in our Christian faith; we invite all our local Christian denominations (Churches Together) as well as surrounding catholic parishes. We regularly have some people coming from about a 30 mile radius.

The presentations are held at 7.30pm and will all be on a Thursday evening this coming year; we create an informal café-style setting and serve light refreshments and nibbles. The talk would typically last about an hour and we would aim to wrap up by 9-9.15pm.

If you're interested to hear the content of some previous talks, there are audio recordings at the bottom of the Gallery page of our parish website:

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

Our dates for 2023

9 February

16 March

27 April

8 June

13 July

7 September

12 October

All events will be on a Thursday evening, starting at 7.30pm. There's no charge, plenty of free parking and good wheelchair access.

For full details send an Email to:

footsteps2020@mail.com

St Peter's parish centre
16 Green Lane, Hazel Grove,
Stockport SK7 4EA



Fr Eamonn prepares to wow us!

Turning over a new leaf

"Every smile, every caring word gives us the motivation to be positive about our new way of life."



We are a family of five: I'm Pak, a photographer, my wife Ivy, our two children Crius who's 7 and Coeus who's 10 – and our eldest, a 12 year old four-legged boy called Siu Pak! We came from Hong Kong 18 months ago and have settled here in Hazel Grove. We are really thankful to have met so many lovely people and for our experiences in settling in here.

Ivy and I had both grown up in Hong Kong so saying goodbye to our parents and friends wasn't easy for us. But we knew we wanted to build a better living environment for our children and to create a bright future for us, so we made the journey. With the end of democracy and freedom in Hong Kong, it was hard for us to stay. In Hong Kong, there is now no choice for yourself. You must follow everything that the government tells you.

Even the history of Hong Kong has been changed for a new generation. In the Christian school, they do not say anymore that the family of God is our family; it is now China who is the main 'person' to follow. I worked as a photographer for a newspaper that was shut down by the government.

My boss, James, a Christian has been in jail for over a year without trial;

Meet a new family in the parish, who have joined us from Hong Kong.
We caught up with Dad, Pak after Sunday morning's TOAST liturgy recently.

the editor and director are in jail as well. We have written letters of encouragement to them.

We are now trying to adapt to our new lives; we video call our families each week. We're working hard in our new careers, developing social lives and integrating in the community. I now work as a warehouse operator and my wife is a classroom assistant at St Peter's school.

We researched where to come in the UK before leaving Hong Kong. Looking for a place that wasn't a city centre and was close to the countryside, we decided on the Stockport area. My hobby is that I like taking photos! And as a family we love hiking and going for long walks with our dog. The lifestyle is very different here. Life here is more relaxing. In Hong Kong all the people are always working so hard. The cold weather here has been challenging but the kids love the snow. We don't have snow in Hong Kong. Christmas is a big holiday for us too – it's also Coeus'

birthday on 24 December, so he really loves Christmastime!

We are, all four of us, so grateful that we had such an impressive start in the community here. We met some very friendly neighbours, the boys go to St Peter's school which is full of love and joy, and we have had the opportunity to meet so many people in St Peter's church. Every smile, every caring word gives us the motivation to be positive about our new way of life.

In the future, we will continue to give thanks to our gracious God. We would like to spread our love to everyone who comes to start their new journey. We will happily share a new chapter with others who join the community here as we believe that sharing with love is what God wants us to do and it is truly inside us. As a family we have learned in our lives what St Paul said to the Corinthians "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has gone, the new has come!" (2 Cor 5:17)



Ciara's work for the United Nations

If you had asked me six months ago what being a diplomat involved, there is only one thing I'd have been able to share: diplomats get to skip the queue at passport control. Although this was the only certainty I had about what working with the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations would be, I can assure you, it was not my only motivation for applying (although it did help).

Parishioner **Ciara Hogan** shares her experience with the UN – and Pope Francis!

As I have come to learn, the Holy See – which refers to the supreme authority of the Church, that is the Pope as Bishop of Rome – has well established diplomatic relationships with almost every country in the world. In 1964, the Holy See received Observer State status at the United

Nations, a position that allows it to engage with the work of the UN and to communicate the Church's experience of humanity to assist the UN in its realisation of peace, justice, human dignity and humanitarian co-operation and assistance. As only one of two permanent Observer States



Ciara's officially there!



Team members of the Holy See at the UN



Ciara shows the papal flag

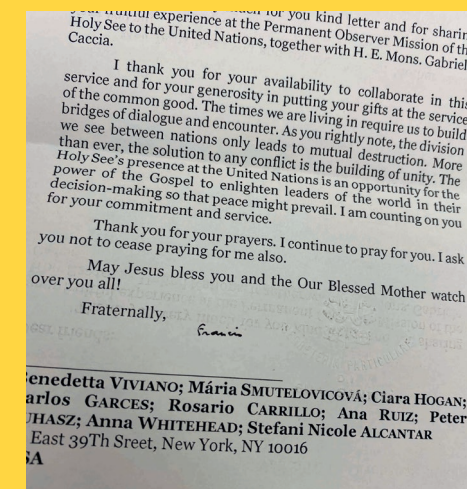


"New York will never beat Stockport!"

(the other being Palestine) the Holy See cannot vote or stand in elections at the UN as full Member States can. Unlike Palestine, however, the position of Observer is a choice enjoyed by the Holy See. Remaining as such allows for the Holy See to maintain absolute neutrality on specific political issues.

The work of the Holy See at the UN falls into two broad areas: the first, peace and security and the second, human rights and development. In these areas, the Holy See works to advance freedom of religion and respect for the sanctity of all human life and thus all aspects of authentic human development including marriage and family, solidarity with the poor and suffering, ending violence against women and girls, poverty eradication and adequate employment.

My time as an Intern with the Holy See has been an immense privilege. Serving on the Human Rights and Development team, I have been tasked with attending a broad range of committees and meetings, gaining in the process a deep understanding of the way the UN works and of development issues. Crucially, I have had a crash course in Catholic Social Teaching and a real insight into why the Church teaches what it does. It has become clear to me the value of the Holy See's presence at the highest multilateral level, often being the



Signed letter from Pope Francis

only voice for the most vulnerable in society.

A highlight of my time here was the opening of the UN General Assembly's 77th Session, also known as 'High Level Week'. The week is one of the most intense in the UN calendar as world leaders from all 193 Member and Observer States descend on the UN Plaza. The week is on such a scale that even New York City locals know to avoid the area completely, with roads and tunnels shut. Each country sends a representative, usually their Head of State or Government, to deliver a speech to the UN General Assembly. Understandably, the war in Ukraine loomed large in many statements this year, as well as issues related to Covid-19, climate change and poverty.

I was lucky enough to be in the Assembly when President Joe Biden gave his speech. It was almost an out-of-body experience to be in the same room as the sitting US President and a memory I won't quickly forget.

The Holy See's representative at High Level Week was Secretary of State, Cardinal Pietro Parolin. His presence gave other interns and me the opportunity to send with him a letter to Pope Francis, sharing with the Holy Father some of our work at the Mission. Amazingly, the Pope wrote a letter back! He thanked us for putting our gifts at the service of the common good and told us "I am counting on you for your commitment and service". A letter signed by the Pope himself is possibly the best souvenir I could ever come home with.

The three months I have spent here have been a whirlwind. Alongside learning so much at the UN, I have relished the opportunity to live in one of the greatest cities in the world. It will never beat Stockport, but it does offer so much life and opportunity. I've enjoyed my time here so much, in fact, that I'll be coming back again in the new year. I'm looking forward to returning to New York with a better understanding of what diplomacy actually is and I will, of course, enjoy again skipping all the queues at passport control!

TOAST

Time on a Sunday together

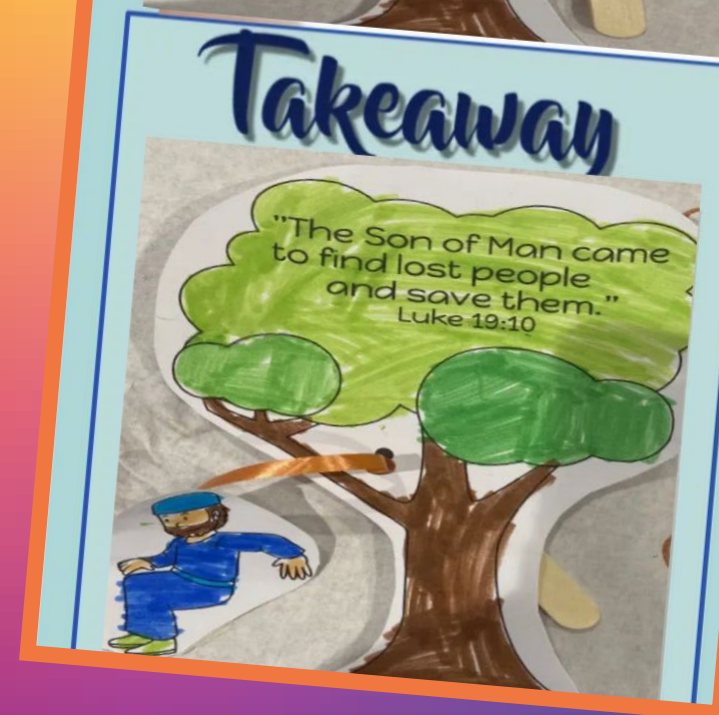
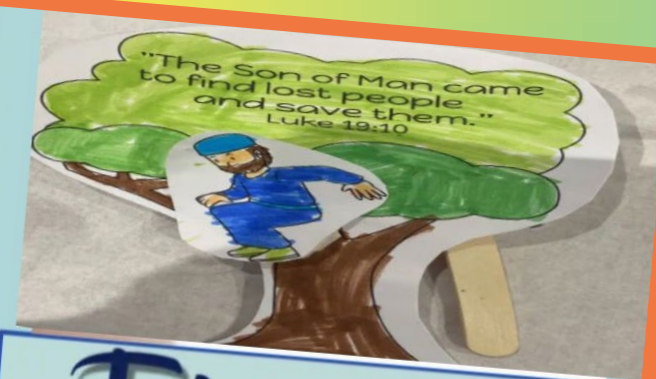
TOAST enables us to unpack the Gospel in a new way. We are able to break down the message so that it is child friendly and resonates with the families who attend.

Our recent 'Takeaway' activities have included decorating money boxes with God as our most treasured possession, creating key rings to highlight how our faith helps us, 'prayer pots' to help focus our prayer time at home and crowns to celebrate Christ the King.



"We have two very lively little boys and we have always felt very welcome at TOAST. Everyone can find their own space and access the readings, music and activities in their own way. Our children love coming to TOAST; their friendships with the other children is so lovely to see. The activities are so cleverly thought out and so well prepared everyone enjoys getting stuck in and creating something often to take away. This means that the gospel has real meaning for everyone and the children are learning through play and through music."

Emma Hopton and family



Heavenly Humble Pie

1. 100mls of putting others first
2. 1 tbsp of caring for your friends
3. 2 large helpings of listening to others
4. 3 sprigs of saying thank you
5. 2 teaspoons of celebrating other people's achievements
6. 350g of being grateful for the little things in life
7. 1 splash of saying when you are wrong
8. 2 sprinkles of knowing you don't have all the answers and sometimes need help

Stir all of your ingredients together and cook in oven until pie is golden



St Peter's flower arrangers

St Peter's flower arrangers work hard to ensure there are always flowers on display in church and, in particular, for major events like Easter and Christmas.

Easter 2022



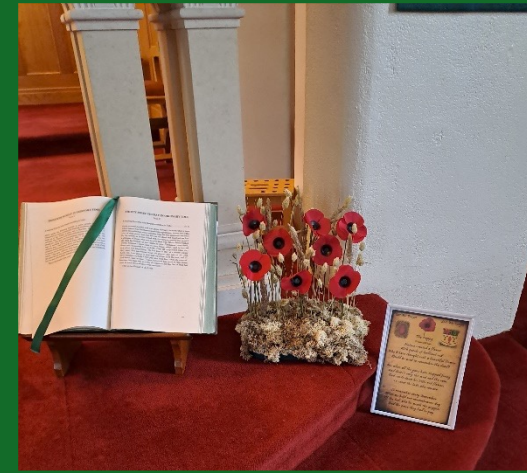
Every Easter all our flower arrangers get together to arrange the commemorative lilies.

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Historically, this feast has been long associated with the blessing of fruits, herbs and flowers. So, to mark the occasion with a special tribute to Our Lady, we crowned her with a fragrant mix of lavender, rosemary and pure white roses. To symbolise Our Lady's assumption into heaven, she stood amidst a cloud of gypsophila and delicate garden blooms.

Lest we forget



It is always an honour to arrange the church flowers in remembrance of our fallen servicemen and women.

Christmas 2020



Christmas is always a wonderful occasion for our teams. We all get together to arrange the flowers and each year the side altar is used for a themed display. Last year we chose the hymn, "Hark the herald angels sing" as our theme. The previous year, 2020, we opted for "Silent Night", which inspired us to depict the truce in the Great War.

This year we took pride in arranging a special tribute to HM Queen Elizabeth II. We used the same flowers that were in the Queen's funeral wreath on her journey from Scotland and known to be some of her favourites: pine and heather (from Stockport, not Balmoral!!) freesias, white roses, chrysanthemums, pittosporum and asters. We aimed to uplift everyone's spirits during the time of national mourning.



We are always pleased to welcome new members. No professional experience is necessary just a willingness to help. Each flower arranger brings their own creativity and we have all learned by taking part and supporting each other. If you feel you would like to be involved, please contact Colette Christie on 07714 470 854.

One parishioner wrote in specially to say: *We were all so very much impressed with the precision, the attention to detail and the artistry of all the funeral arrangements for the Queen in London in September.*

Those same attributes could easily be applied to our beautiful altar at St Peter's and the creativity and sensitivity of our flower arrangers.

Colette and her team matched the style and colour scheme of the flowers on the Queen's coffin during her lying in state at

Westminster Hall and transformed our own church so impressively. They made us feel very close to London with their special, poignant touches.

Floral displays on the altar; a stunning centrepiece at the foot of the altar with willow formed to make a crown; a small table at the side of the altar with a book of remembrance for people to sign. In all, they created such a sense of respect, empathy and togetherness with the Royal family. It was most moving.

*There is nothing so much like God
in all the universe as **silence***

Centering *Prayer*

Do you no longer look forward to your prayer time? Are you finding prayer rather a chore? If the answer is “yes” to either or both of these questions then perhaps God is nudging you to try something different, to move into a quieter, deeper intimacy with him.

This quieter prayer is referred to as contemplative prayer and there is a rich vein in our Catholic tradition that is not often aired. For example, we have

- The Jesus Prayer with its links to the Desert Fathers and the Orthodox Churches. This consists of the repetition of the phrase “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.” The phrase is repeated over and over either with the lips, in the mind, or matched with the breath.
- Christian meditation as taught by John Main. He suggests we take the word ‘Maranatha’ (Come Lord Jesus). The practice would be the same as for The Jesus Prayer.
- Centering Prayer, as developed by the Trappist monks and brought to our attention by Thomas Keating. It’s very akin to the John Main method. You choose a prayer word, eg Abba, Jesus, Mary, joy, etc. The difference is that you do not have to go on repeating the word. You use it as your anchor. When you notice the mind wandering you return to it.
- The Rosary, which is a repetitive form of prayer, can lead into contemplation.

Michael O’Malley looks at this different way of praying. Perhaps it will appeal to you.

- Any silent prayer where a word or phrase is repeated.

All have one aim in common: to open us to receive the gift of contemplative prayer by leading the prayer into a place of quiet, silence and receptivity; resting in God in faith.

Even for those who have been faithful to prayer for many years there may come a time when prayer becomes dry and rather a chore. The relish previously found seems to be no longer there. This feeling of apathy might indicate that God is leading that person to a quieter form of prayer – prayer of silent presence. Meister Eckhart said “there is nothing more like God than silence.” There is much support for this kind of prayer in Scripture. Here are just two of many examples:

- “Be still and know that I am God” (Psalm 62)
- The beautiful scene in Luke’s gospel where Mary rests in silence at the feet of Jesus (Luke 10:38-42)

The practice of Centering Prayer is one way of easing us into this silent communion with the mystery we call God – the God beyond. There is no place where God is not. As St Paul wrote, “In him we live and move and have our being.”

This practice of prayer requires commitment, discipline and perseverance. It does not depend on

how I feel or whether I am deriving any consolation from my prayer. I simply turn up and get on with it! The rest is God’s concern. God is always present. The pray-er is more acted upon than acting. If you feel drawn to this kind of prayer, Centering Prayer provides a very positive and proven framework.

Thomas Keating writes:

“Centering Prayer is a method designed to facilitate the development of contemplative prayer by preparing our faculties to co-operate with this gift. It is an attempt to present the teaching of an earlier time (eg The Cloud of Unknowing) in an updated form and to put a certain order and clarity into it. It is not meant to replace other kinds of prayer; it simply puts other kinds of prayer into a new and fuller perspective. During the time of prayer, we consent to God’s presence and action within. At other times our attention moves outward to discover God’s presence everywhere.”
(Thomas Keating, ‘Open Mind, Open Heart’)

If you think this way of praying might appeal to you, why not join us on Tuesday mornings at 11.15am in St Peter’s parish centre. We are a small group and have been meeting now for ten years or more. You would be very welcome.



We got soaked on 23 October!



Out and about with *St Peter’s Walking Group*

In January 2022 we all agreed that we should re-start the monthly group walks after the 18 month break for COVID. Our last walk had been in the week before lockdown in March 2020.

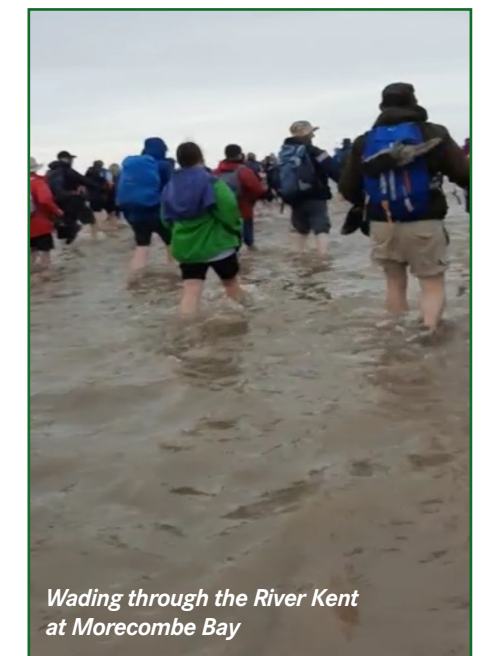
We chose to walk from the Boar’s Head in Higher Poynton back along Middlewood Way to the former Jacksons’ Brickworks Local Nature Reserve and then along the canal to the marina in Adlington and back along Middlewood Way to the Boar’s Head pub for lunch. We have normally been

very lucky with the weather but we had an unbelievably wet day – there was possibly more water on the canal banks than in the canal! Since then, we have been blessed with reasonably fine days until our last walk on 23 October.

Since January we have walked up Werneth Low from Compstall, which had been the walk in March 2020, along from Brabyns Park to Strines and back. We’ve done three walks from the Fiveways to Poynton and up Princes Incline and one alongside the A555 and across to Bramhall High School

to return along Ladybrook to Poynton Pool.

In the summer, 35 of us hired a coach to go to Arnside and walked with the Queen’s Guide across Morecambe Bay. We had a wet start (from the heavens not the sea) and then fortunately a dry walk – except of course for the challenge of wading knee-deep across the River Kent there. However, we fell foul of the elements on our last walk. Obviously we are not saying the right prayers or maybe St Swithin is not listening to us!



Wading through the River Kent at Morecombe Bay

All the beauty / see

Janet Dunn, from St Philip's parish invites us on a walk

During the first lockdown I took full advantage of the chance to go out for a walk. I found myself revisiting the Goyt Valley – a favourite haunt of mine when I was growing up. Since then, I've spent many a wonderful hour exploring. After a few times of retracing my steps of the past and seeing it all with adult eyes, I was inspired to write this poem.

The woods near my home is where I like to walk.

To the tree tops I raise my eyes.

The wind makes the leaves look like dancing butterflies.

I go down to the river.

The sound of the water soothes my soul
as along its banks I stroll.

The smell of the damp earth beneath my feet,
the pungent aroma of wild garlic in my nose they meet.

Whatever the season I walk in the wood.

In Spring I see the trees come into bud.

In Summer heat I'm cool in the shade.

Crisp leaves of Autumn a crunching sound made.

It looks like Narnia when in Winter it snows.

Beneath the cold next Spring's seeds doze.

Conkers, acorns, whirly sycamore seeds lie all around,
the promise of more trees to grow and abound.

A cute squirrel I espy.

For a while it gazes at me

Then scampers off up a nearby tree.

Sometimes I cross the river to the other side.

Horses in the field remind me of when I used to ride.

A sweet Shetland pony, the colour of a ginger nut.

Another larger horse as black as soot.

Joggers pass by, looking sweaty and tired.

Most of them for sound are wired.

Dog walkers, cyclists too, all pass my way.

We're all taking time out in our busy day.

God's creation is all around.

The wonders of nature in vision and sound.

It lifts my spirit just to see

The beauty God's given to you and me.

*Joe O'Brien offers
her thoughts on her
prayer life.*



Saying sorry

“Sorry’ is the hardest word”... the words of a song. But if I value and love someone, it is something I need to be willing to say. It shows that I value that relationship and I’m sad when I have done something which may have caused upset or hurt. I try not to upset my friends and loved ones – why would I choose to do that? But I am human. I say things in the wrong way, have a grumpy day (I do that a lot), and sometimes just don’t think. I put my own thoughts and feelings first. You may be the same – I’m sure a lot of you are better.

I am not trying to be perfect; I realised the futility of that some time ago, although it was hard to let go of. If I ever got below 90% in an assignment, I would be devastated and look for ways I had ‘failed’. I would be miserable in the course until I had proved myself better in the next one. So I got a First in my degree, but I gave myself a tough time doing it.

“Sorry” is something I need to remember to say in my prayer life when I am spending time with my God and reflecting on how my relationship is going with him. It is not always easy but I try to keep it simple and honest. Scripture helps me with how to do this.

2 Corinthians 13:5 tells me to test and evaluate myself to see whether I am living my life as a committed believer in God. Am I being true to what I believe? If not, is there anything I need to look at, apologise for and reflect on, to do my best to improve or avoid the behaviour to have a better relationship with God?

Matthew 7:21 tells me that not everyone who calls Jesus ‘Lord’ will enter the kingdom of heaven. I need to do his will. I try to do his will by looking

at my life and trying to be a better person, living my life as Jesus taught me how to. Instead of just going on my own path, I need to turn my feet to be on God’s path, (Psalm 119:59). It is a much more fulfilling route if I manage to stay on it.

In Job 13:23, Job is lamenting all of his sins and sorrows and praying to God that he would help him to recognise and understand his sin. This was a big prayer for Job and it is for me. Do I want to know the answer? What will I have to do about it when I have heard?

So then I start to look at the the ways I have turned off the Lord’s path. What is it that I have done? I am examining my life since the last time I prayed so that I can talk about it with God, say “Sorry” and learn the way back (Lamentations 3:40).

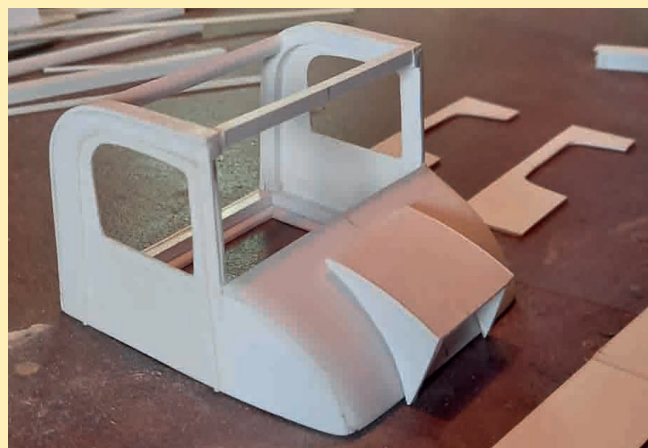
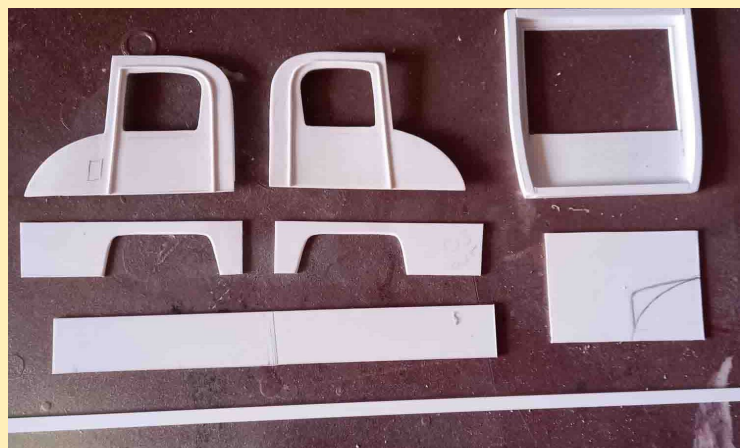
This gives me a direction, a route, a plan. I can look at myself, look at where I can be more like Jesus to stay on his path, understand where I need to change, say sorry and find my way back. This can be made into a gently structured prayer time by praying the Ignatian prayer, the Examen. This prayer is traditionally prayed before bedtime but I use it at different times as and when I have the space. It helps me to reflect on my day and look at whether I am putting God first in what I am doing.

I want to be very clear though, that I don’t do this to make sure I get more than 90%; it is not an exam to be passed by doing more, or to make me feel inadequate or a bad person. It is not about sin really. It is to help me to focus on walking the path with God. What is currently bringing me joy (consolation) and what is bringing me sadness (desolation)? Where could I grow spiritually? How could I know

God better? What is he trying to say to me? And then what should I say sorry for and ask God to help me to work on for the rest of my day?

My prayer time is like this: I sit somewhere quiet and still and then rest. I look at myself as I am, with acceptance and love, knowing I am fearfully and wonderfully made by God (Psalm 139:14). I look at my day with gratitude. Where have I felt joy and comfort? Energy and light? I hold this, think of the experience and try to think how it felt with my different senses. I enjoy it again. Then I look at my day with curiosity at where I have felt any tension, suffering or discomfort. What drained my energy? What needs forgiveness? I gently revisit how that felt also, with my senses, without judgement. And I sit in the silence then with all of it. Simply holding it in God’s presence. I let my God enfold me and both my moments of consolation and of desolation. And I sit still with it. And then I trust in the rest of the day and tomorrow with my God. He knows. He hears me. He loves me. He knows I am sorry. I know that he will help me to walk his path.

I don’t get bound up in rules and lists and trying to be perfect. I never did get 100% for an assignment and it really didn’t matter. The important thing was that I kept going and finished the degree. And so, I feel it is with my relationship with God. I will never be perfect. It is not about what I do to earn my place in the kingdom, because I can’t. Jesus did that for me. For me, it is about having a relationship with my loving, forgiving and understanding God. He is there in the silence and stillness, waiting for me. I want to follow his path because that is where the light is. That is where I can leave the desolation behind. I have said my “sorry” and now I can continue my day.



The best thing about scratch building is you can build anything you want, any size, and any configuration. You also know all the parts are going to be there and they're going to fit. I choose to make everything, I don't use parts from other kits, so there is an element of detail on extremely small items that is very hard to replicate. The only exception are the road wheels. I have these 3D printed by a friend of mine, Paul Parkes who lives in Birmingham.

This season's project is a Ford Thames Trader artic of British Railways. They didn't have many so they're a rare breed. Ford introduced the Trader in 1957. Apart from the futuristic cab, it was a straightforward design, well thought out, very well built (like most Ford commercials) but hardly ground breaking. Originally with a four or six cylinder engine, petrol or diesel, the payloads ranged from 30 cwt to 7 tons. A Mark II version was introduced in 1962, which differed very little from the Mark I, the main outward difference being the front grille. The futuristic cab with all its curves was a challenge to make from scratch, as you can imagine.

My interest in railway road vehicles started from a very early age. My Grandfather was a railway man for 51 years, starting on the Great Western Railway in 1922 at the age of 14, moving from horse and lorries to motor vehicles before the Second World War. He worked for most of that time at Liverpool Road goods station in Manchester, which is now the Science and Industry Museum.

The Ford Thames Trader

Mike Farrell described by some as a 'model parishioner'(!) shares the details of his latest creation



Mike with his granddaughter Heidi

When I came on the scene, I was his only grandchild. We lived very close, our house was only ten minutes' walk away, so we were pretty much inseparable. From being very young he took me on his rounds with him at every opportunity and I did many thousands of miles in some very iconic vehicles. It could never happen today of course but it was a very different world back in the 1950s and 60s. Most of the drivers knew me and I had a lot of honorary uncles, most of whom I remember to this day. Sandy Coleman was the uncle of the famous Eddie Coleman who played for Manchester United and was sadly

killed in the Munich air crash. Another was Billy McMahon who always gave me a sixpenny bit called a tanner in those pre-decimal days. Herbert Oats was the first driver to receive the brand new Scammell Townsman. I can remember it looked like Stingray and had a strong smell of fibreglass. How lucky was I; very happy days indeed.

Getting back to the model, making bumpers, mud guards and fuel tanks is all basic stuff for the modellers of the world so I'll skip those bits and pieces. The cab however is another thing. I dare say, other modellers might have different methods, but I rely on imagination, patience and a hair dryer. I don't have a large workshop just a bench with two small vices. I have all the usual small files, drills, tweezers etc that modellers have, but my operation is a modest affair.

When I first started scratch building I made basic coach-built cabs that in reality were made of timber frames and flat aluminium panels. Pressed steel cabs like the Briggs cab found on the Ford Thames are a different proposition and require different techniques, hence the hair dryer. For the Trader, I built the cab in two sections, an upper and lower. The upper was of course the most problematic. I tried to get as much

shape as I could in the base plate by putting a curve in from the rear towards the front. The sides of the cab then had a natural shape to follow. I then put strengthening on the inside joints of the roof and cab sides. This solves two problems: firstly, it gives a good surface area to glue, and secondly it allows me to sculpt the edges of the cab into a nice curve without worrying too much about sanding through the plastic edges.

The upper cab side viewed from the side includes the bonnet panel, which I also strengthened. The bonnet itself is built the same way so I can sculpt the curves. To get the double curve in the roof I used the hair dryer to warm the plastic, then gently applied upward pressure with my thumbs from the inside. You have to be extremely careful and patient whilst doing this as it's very easy to ruin the roof.

It's a judgement call on how far to go but once you have the desired effect you can relax a little. The bonnet is made the same way. The biggest problem with the bonnet is getting the curve exact. It has to match the curve in the front scuttle panel. Here again, patience is required with lots of very fine filing. I decided early on to make and fit a small engine. The engine is for effect only as the engine compartment is quite small. When viewed with the bonnet open, the result is very pleasing to the eye. It's a really nice touch and was well worth the effort.

The bottom of the cab is easy. Just



a box section with two wells for the front wheels constructed in the same manner as the top half. It's connected with four brass pins so the two halves can be easily separated. I think the photos explain it all.

The chassis is straightforward and made from extruded plastic. The chassis members are bonded to the underside of the lower cab baseplate, with all the various accessories such as spare wheel carrier, fuel tank and vacuum system bonded with superglue. I used brass tube for the vacuum tank and pump, brass wire of various gauges for the pipework and plaited steel wire for the wiring looms. I make the plaited wire by putting two ends of a long piece of wire into the chuck of my hand drill. I then place a nail in my vice and put the loop end of the wire around it. All you need to do then is spin the hand drill and it twists the wire perfectly giving a really nice effect.

The most intricate part was the Scammell automatic coupling. Luckily I've made one before on my Karrier Bantam so the design work was

already done. I used the same method and scaled it down to 1:30 scale.

Something I've managed to do this time is make my own springs. Again, simple enough, it just took me a while to realise how easy they are to make: I wind silver wire around a spigot. Different gauge wire around different size spigots equals different size springs.

After removing all the vacuum systems and various other removable bits and pieces, I sprayed the chassis gloss black. The vacuum system was painted gloss grey for contrast with the brass connecting rods polished and given a coat of Clearcoat.

The bottom of the cab is gloss black whilst the top is Railfreight yellow with light grey seats and door trim. Once the decals were applied the whole model was given a coat of Clearcoat. The end result was quite eye catching and I was very pleased with the outcome.

After building the tractor unit, the box van trailer seemed a bit of an anti-climax. A basic construction with very few problems. I used exactly the same method of construction, which took me a week to complete. Again, the colour is Railfreight yellow with Clearcoat applied over the decals.

The model was quite complicated to make. From doing the initial drawings to final completion took ten months. While quite challenging it was also very rewarding. I love these old railway vehicles; they represent a bygone era of railway freight and a lot of happy memories. They may be long gone, but they are not forgotten.



Mary's corner

Mary Hardiman, speaker and author, invites us to reflect on the nativity scene of a crib.

With a child as our guide

When my son was very small, I used to bring him to Mass every day between Christmas and New Year. And each time we entered the church he would head straight for the crib and stay there throughout the whole service, totally engrossed in the nativity scene and captivated by the figures it contained. I never once insisted that he came back to the bench to sit with me; why would I when he was sitting quietly and not wriggling around as he normally did?

On one occasion a lady approached me with these words which I'll never forget; she said, "you know Mary, we could all learn a lot from your little boy." And I think she was right, because when we contemplate the beauty and simplicity of the stable at Bethlehem as my son did, we see the topsy-turvy nature of God's love, the poverty, the vulnerability, the humility and the loveliness of it.

So, for this piece, I'm going to do something slightly different than normal. Rather than take a gospel passage, I would like to explore the scene with you. Maybe you have a crib at home that you could look at, or maybe you could just simply place yourself in the picture. Whatever you choose to do, I pray that God will be there and reveal to you his enormous love.

Let's look first at Joseph. Who was this man? We know so very little about him: he was a carpenter, described as an upright man and he was betrothed to Mary.

What is it like to be in love? Maybe you have had that experience or know someone who is in love. We know that engaged couples can be utterly besotted with one another, they can't wait to be together and spend hours planning for the wedding and for their futures.

Then Joseph found out that his beloved Mary was expecting a baby that was not his. I cannot imagine his devastation. We tend to minimise the suffering of our saints because they're saints. We are inclined to think that it wouldn't have hurt that much because these were holy people so they would somehow have escaped that emotional turmoil. To do that makes a mockery of anybody's suffering, because every one of these bible characters was human. Not one of them was immune to anguish, torment, pain and misery. But after Joseph was visited and reassured by the angel, he obeys the command not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife, no matter how that may have played out in their lives. Not one word of Joseph's is recorded in the gospels. So what can we learn from this silent man, the first to lay eyes on the New Born King? I believe that Joseph is a beautiful example of trust, of believing that God really does know what he is doing, even when it seems outrageous and impossible.

Dear Joseph, thank you for your fidelity to God's plan for our salvation. When we doubt the wisdom of the Almighty, help us to know that all will be well in the Lord.

And now let's look at Mary.

Mary was the first disciple, called to be the Mother of God. Like Joseph, she too was visited by an angel and invited to believe the impossible. Prior to this visit, Mary was simply an obscure

teenager, insignificant, lowly and bottom of the social pecking order, a young woman with no rights. She couldn't vote or work, she was probably uneducated and fairly unimportant in the eyes of society. But not in the eyes of God.

For me, Mary represents all those in our culture whom many believe to be insignificant; those to whom we pay no heed; those whose actions go unnoticed; those who are without a voice; the poor, those who will never be in the limelight. We are surrounded by these people; we may even feel like one ourselves. If you do feel like that, remember that God chose Mary to bring Christ into the world and he's choosing you too, giving you a unique task that he gives to nobody else.



Mary stayed faithful to God's promise, no matter how preposterous it may have seemed. She is the perfect example of discipleship, surrendering everything to God, trusting that he knows best.

Dear Mary, thank you for your fidelity to our heavenly father. Help us to know that we too are significant, chosen and loved.

Let's now turn our attention to the shepherds.

We know from Luke's gospel that these were the first to hear the good news of Christ's birth. Luke's is a gospel of inclusion and at that time, shepherds would have found themselves on the margins of society. Their work handling sick or dead animals would have made them ritually unclean and unable to enter any place of worship. They were poor and uneducated, leading something of a nomadic existence. And yet, I think that shepherds understand nature and the beauty and majesty of the world. They know they aren't in control. They are used to subjugating themselves to a power greater than theirs and have an innate understanding of

their own smallness and insignificance. Already more than half way to finding God, wouldn't you agree?

It is to them that the angel comes with good news. And what do the shepherds do? They leave everything to go and look for Christ. Where do they find him? Not in wealth and opulence but in poverty, vulnerability and simplicity.

We thank God for the gift of the shepherds and ask that we, like them, look for Christ among the poor and needy of our society.

Let us now switch our focus to the Wise Men. We do not know how many of them there were but we know that they travelled from the East, following the star to find the infant King of the Jews. We tend to assume there were three

because of the three gifts; however, Matthew's gospel does not specify the exact number.

Having heard about Jesus, they wanted to know Jesus.

Is there a message for us? How willing are we to journey into the heart of our New Born King? When I think of the star that guided them there, I think of the stars in my own life, those people who have guided and still guide me towards Christ and I thank God for their wisdom and faith.

We know too that these men brought with them gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Gold for a King, an acknowledgement of who Jesus is, a ruler whose sovereignty is not of this world because Christ's kingdom is not one of greed and power, but one of justice, peace and love.

Frankincense, incense associated with worship, indicating that one day every knee shall bow and every tongue confess Jesus Christ as Lord to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2: 10-11).

Myrrh, a perfume used to anoint the dead, a symbol of Christ's death and victory over the grave.

We read too, that after their encounter with King Herod, they were warned in a dream not to return to him, but went home a different way. Having encountered the face of Christ, nothing can ever be the same again. Once we meet Jesus and offer the gift of our lives to him, we too have the opportunity to follow a different path in the way we think and feel about ourselves and others. Knowing Jesus helps us to know how loved and forgiven we are and it can give us the strength to reach out to a world that hungers for that same love and forgiveness. We thank God for the gift of the Wise Men and ask for the courage to follow the star that leads us to a deeper communion with our New Born King.

And last but by no means least, we have Jesus, Son of God and Son of Mary. Not for him the trappings of wealth and opulence but born in a stable at Bethlehem and placed in a lowly manger among the cattle. What does this mean? Why this? I think that God wanted to show us that he is completely at home in mess and dirt, that no matter who you are or where you live, you are important to him. Not only that, but he wanted to show us that he will meet our every need; God is enough and always will be.

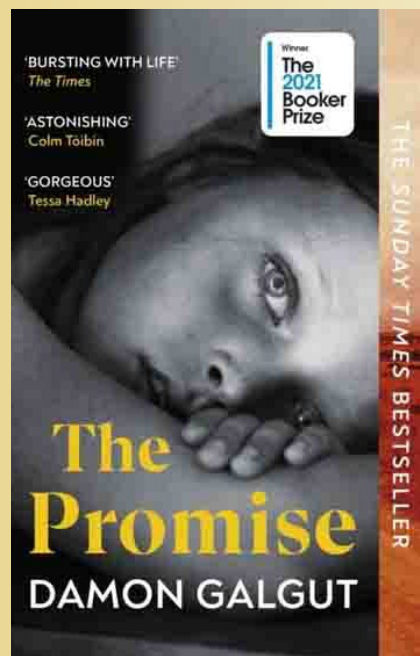
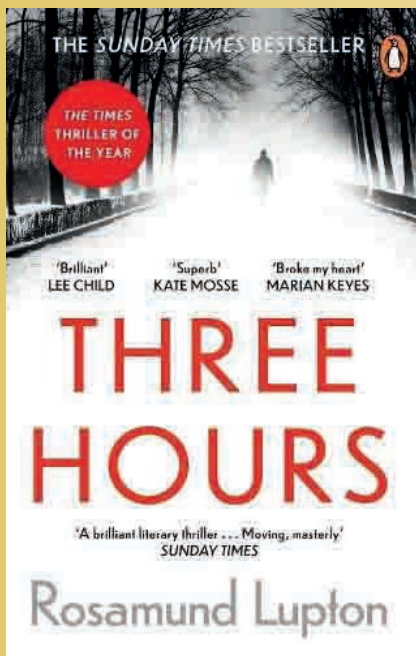
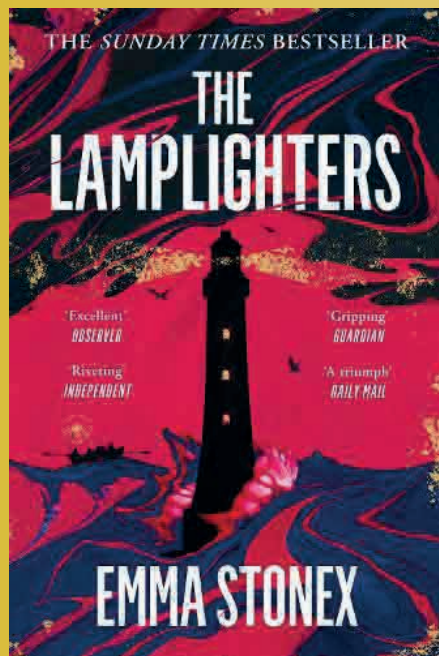
Thank you, God for the gift of your son Jesus, who came to show us just how loved and precious we are to you.

You know don't you, that Christmas is not just for one day? The gift of Christmas is a way of life, a way of being and of interacting all year round. The stable at Bethlehem is one of the many examples of God's infinite love and concern for his creation. And it is there, in the poverty, humility, simplicity and loveliness of that scene that we are invited to know in the depths of our hearts what really matters. The only thing we need in our lives is Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Love came down that first Christmas Day and continues to come down each time we recognise the Lord in one another. The angels that carried the message of God's plan to Mary, to Joseph and to the shepherds continue to carry the message to all who look and long for the healing power of Jesus Christ in their lives. The star that guided the Wise Men to the stable at Bethlehem continues to shine in the darkness of our lives, offering hope, salvation, redemption, healing and freedom.

And so I ask you to join me in thanking God for all the many gifts he gives to each of us, not just at Christmas but in every moment of every day. Let us give thanks together for the stars of our lives who have guided, encouraged and supported us through our journey of faith. Let's thank God for the perfect example of discipleship given to us through Mary, Joseph, the shepherds and the Wise Men who believed the impossible and played their part in his perfect plan of salvation.

And above all, let us thank God for the gift of his son Jesus whose birth, life, death and resurrection have set us free to live as children of the Most High.

Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to all people. Happy Christmas!



Since the last issue of Shine, we have read some great books that have once again enabled us to travel in time and visit far-flung places. Interestingly, we have gravitated to quite a few books which are either autobiographical or fiction inspired by an actual historical event.

The Lamplighters by Emma Stonex takes its inspiration from the Eilean Mor lighthouse mystery on the Flannan Isles in the Outer Hebrides in 1900 where lighthouse keepers disappeared. In this book three lighthouse keepers vanish in 1972 from Maiden Rock Lighthouse, 15 miles off the coast of Cornwall. Twenty years later, a journalist starts digging into the past and secrets that have been buried for 20 years are brought to light.

This Is Going To Hurt – Secret Diaries Of A Junior Doctor by Adam Kay

Written through the lens of his diary notes whilst working as a junior doctor, this autobiographical account is both hilariously funny and desperately sad in equal measure – in Adam’s words,

‘97-hour weeks. Life and death decisions.

A constant tsunami of bodily fluids.

The hospital parking meter earns more than you...

Welcome to the life of a Junior Doctor.’

Remarkable Creatures by Tracey Chevalier is a fictionalised account of two historical figures. Mary Anning, who

St Peter’s Book Club

Alison McGarr reviews the Book Club’s year.

was poor and uneducated, but she had a talent for finding prehistoric bones in the cliffs around her home in Lyme Regis and her friend, Elizabeth Philpot, who was a spinster with a much higher rank in society and a better education. Together they help each other to succeed in the male-dominated world of palaeontology.

Songbirds by Christy Lefteri is based on the real-life disappearance of domestic workers in Cyprus. Nisha is an immigrant worker who disappears and nobody seems to care – until her boss, a Cypriot, with the cultural capital to pursue an investigation, goes on a journey into the hidden world of cheap migrant labour.

A great book that reveals the real cost of migration for a better life.

The Fair Botanists by Sara Sheridan is set in Georgian Edinburgh and is another story inspired by historical events, which in this case is the relocation of the Royal Botanic Garden in the run-up to the visit of King George IV in the summer of 1822. This is a

story of two women with an interest in botany who are empowered, at a time when women were not expected to succeed.

A Tale for the Time Being by Ruth Ozeki is the semi-autobiographical tale of Ruth, a woman writer in a remote coastal village in British Columbia, who starts reading the journals of a Japanese girl, Nao, that wash up on the shore in a waterproof box. Nao writes about her life in Tokyo, her resilience in the face of extreme bullying at school, her concerns for her unemployed and depressed father, and her love for her great-grandmother who is a nun at a Zen monastery. But this story is more than the story of a teenage girl – it’s about time and it’s about human beings as time beings:

“I am a time being. Do you know what a time being is? Well, if you give me a moment, I will tell you. A time being is someone who lives in time, and that means you, and me, and every one of us who is, or was, or ever will be.”

The Promise by Damon Galgut is the Winner of the Booker Prize 2021, yet it is a book that very few of us warmed to. The plot is centred on the lives of a

dysfunctional white-Afrikaans family living in South Africa as the Apartheid regime crumbled around them. The characters, like the Apartheid system, are difficult to like, but it is a cleverly written book for those who like to study literature and the narrative voice.

The Hidden Life of Trees by Peter Wohlleben came as a highly recommended book about trees. Peter Wohlleben is a forester; he manages a forest in Germany and he has amazing insights into the life of trees and tree society. However, many of us in the group struggled to enjoy this book – maybe because the book is a translation, but we found that once we got past the second or third chapter, it became quite dry.

“Oh! What a tangled web we weave, when first we practice to deceive...” springs

which could potentially endanger the lives of hundreds of millions of people.

Three Hours by Rosamund Lupton is about a school in Somerset which is under siege. There are masked gunmen in the school and children are barricaded into classrooms. The emergency services and the police try to negotiate with the gunmen in a fast-paced thriller which takes place over just three hours.

The Secret History by Donna Tartt is narrated by the newest addition to a group of unconventional misfits, who study with an elitist Classics professor at a New England university. Within this bubble of eccentricity, they create their own rules and their own morality. They commit a murder and the book describes the cover-up and the impact this has on the group and on them as individuals.

The Herd by Emily Edwards is on the surface a story that asks if a parent’s choice on whether to vaccinate their child is valid – if that is, when they choose not to, they risk harming others who don’t have that same choice.

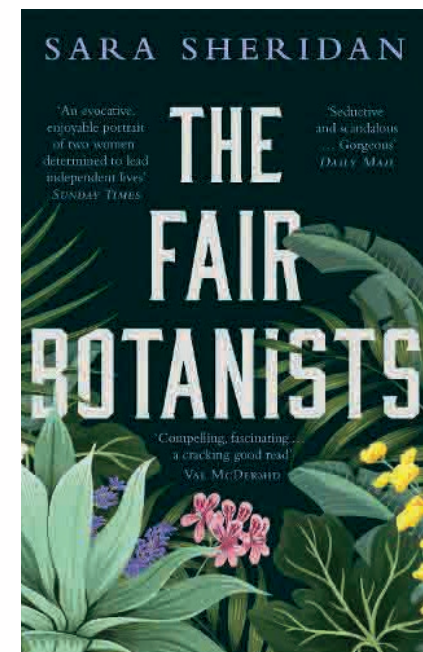
Beneath the surface this is a story of grief and the tricks our minds play to help cope with the harsh realities of life.

The Truths and Triumphs of Grace Atherton by Anstey Harris is a story about Grace who owns an instrument repair shop and is embroiled in a long-distance affair with a married man. A chance act of extreme bravery on the Paris underground sets in motion the unravelling of her well-constructed life with very interesting consequences.

to mind about the fiction we have read recently. The novels have focused on some big themes: apartheid, a deadly virus, a school siege, controversy over vaccinations, adultery, controlling cantankerous behaviour, but at the root of each plot seems to be the art of deception and the inevitable evil that ensues.

A Slow Burning Fire by Paula Hawkins is about a young man in his twenties who is found stabbed to death on the houseboat where he had been living. There are numerous characters seen leaving the crime scene and various reasons are put forward as to why the crime may have been committed. This is a great whodunnit from the author of ‘The Girl on the Train’.

The Fire Maker by Peter May is set in China where a visiting forensic pathologist, Dr Margaret Campbell is asked to perform an autopsy on the body of a man who has burnt himself to death. During the autopsy, Dr Campbell discovers that the man did not commit suicide but was murdered. The investigation into the death of the burn victim starts to uncover a conspiracy



Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Strout is a book made from a collage of stories, linked by one very difficult middle-aged woman. Olive really should be someone we dislike – but as each chapter sees Olive interface with a different character or set of circumstances, we begin to see the complexity of what it means to be a human person. In Olive, we see ourselves at our best and worst.

Thank you to those who have recommended a book for us to read. We are always on the lookout for a good book, so if you receive any good Christmas books and would like to recommend a book or an author, please contact Alison McGarr on 07792 107152 or by Email on ajmcgarr68@outlook.com.

We are also going to try a new way of running the book club and, while we will continue to read and recommend books each month, we will no longer meet so regularly. Instead, we are going to meet every three months and go out for dinner. We will then be able to discuss the books we have read over a glass of wine (or a soft drink if you prefer) and a nice meal! If you would like to join us, our next get-together will be sometime in March – please look out for notifications of the time and place in the parish newsletter.

Thank you, Knitters and Crocheters

Ann Munnelly updates us on how the wonderful craftwork from our parishes continues to be so welcome – from Stockport to Rwanda.

Over the last two years there has been a great response to appeals for knitted goods for various charities.

We have sent over 500 baby hats to Rwanda – another two bags went off there just recently. The simple intervention of giving each newborn a little hat to wear is saving babies from dying of hypothermia. People from the UK go out on a regular basis to work in the hospital in Rwanda and are always happy to take hats with them. They want you to know that the Mums are delighted with them.

Early Essentials is a Stockport-based charity which has also benefited from your skills with the needles. This charity supplies the basics for new babies whose Mum, for various reasons, can't afford to buy them. The cardigans, hats, booties and baby blankets are delivered to hubs all over Stockport. The midwives and health visitors then distribute them along with Moses baskets and other



essentials that the mother needs. It is always lovely for them to receive something new and made with love.

Due to your generosity and hard work, again we have delivered a good number of lap blankets to Age UK. Some have been crocheted and some made up of knitted squares. Thank you particularly to anyone who has helped to sew the squares together.



That is definitely a labour of love. The blankets are distributed by Age UK to anyone in need of a little extra warmth.

Thank you so much ladies (as yet, I'm not aware of any Tom Daleys in the parish!) for all your beautiful handiwork. All these projects are ongoing and I am always happy to deliver your donations.

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
Church
Tony Martin: 0161 483 7720
tony.martin@ntlworld.com

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

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

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

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

Piety stall
Parish office
admin@stpetershazलगrove.org.uk
0161 483 3476

Readers
Parish office
admin@stpetershazलगrove.org.uk
0161 483 3476

Welcomers/stewarding
Parish office
admin@stpetershazलगrove.org.uk
0161 483 3476

Creating social activity

Book club
Alison McGarr: 07792 107152
ajmcgarr68@outlook.com

Men's group
John McKay:
07715 362403

Parish newsletter
Parish office
admin@stpetershazलगrove.org.uk
0161 483 3476

Parish noticeboards
juliewilliams10@gmail.com

Parish website
Anne-Marie Bailey: ambailey@cheerful.com

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

Tea and Coffees, after Mass
Rachel McKay: 0161 487 1659
mckay7897@hotmail.com

Theatre group
Tony Martin: 0161 483 7720
tony.martin@ntlworld.com

Walking group
Tony Martin: 0161 483 7720
tony.martin@ntlworld.com

Exploring faith

Alpha
Rachel McKay: 0161 487 1659
mckay7897@hotmail.com

Baptism programme
Anne-Marie Gallogly
Karen Haines - justasec55@hotmail.com

Confirmation programme
Fr Peter
petersharrocks@stpetershazलगrove.org.uk

First sacraments preparation
Teresa Thiele: 07778 848709
terrythiele@hotmail.co.uk

Marriage preparation
Fr Peter

RCIA - Enquirers group
Tony Martin 0161 483 7720
tony.martin@ntlworld.com

Vocations
Fr Peter

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

Sharing faith

Centering prayer
Mike O'Malley: 0161 483 8296
michaeldomalley@sky.com

Churches Together activities
Maureen/Phil Horton: 0161 483 1590
pjhorton@virginmedia.com

Footsteps
Anne-Marie Bailey: 0161 456 2213
footsteps2020@mail.com

Guided prayer
Mike O'Malley: 0161 483 8296
michaeldomalley@sky.com

Holy hour and prayer ministry
Laura Small: 01625 876 752
laurasmall@hotmail.com

LPA liaison
Julie Williams: 0161 285 0244
juliewilliams10@gmail.com

Mothers' prayers
Teresa Thiele: 07778 848709
terrythiele@hotmail.co.uk

Praise and worship
Laura Small: 01625 876 752
laurasmall@hotmail.com

Rosary groups: adult and children
Laura Small: 01625 876 752
laurasmall@hotmail.com

Scripture group
Mike O'Malley: 0161 483 8296
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

Little fishes
Anne Wroe: 07763 387001
anne.wroe@sky.com

Marriage and family life group
David Small: 01625 876 752

SPY (St Peter's Youth) 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@stpetershazलगrove.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

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

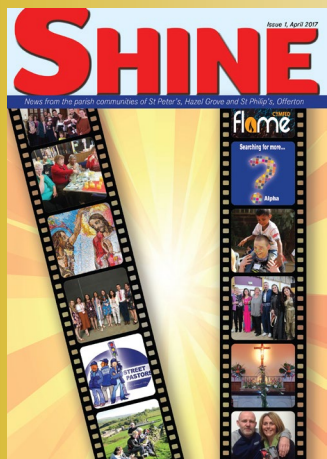
St James' High School - Via School
0161 482 6900, office@stjamesche.org.uk

Harrytown High School - Via School
0161 430 5277
office@harrytown.stockport.sch.uk

Aquinas 6th form college
0161 483 3237
Chaplain
Carmel.Scanlon@aquinas.ac.uk

St Peter's Helpers
stpetershelpers@gmail.com
0161 483 3476

St Peter's Refugee Project
Alison McGarr: 07792 107152
ajmcgarr68@outlook.com



Issue 1, April 2017



Issue 2, July 17



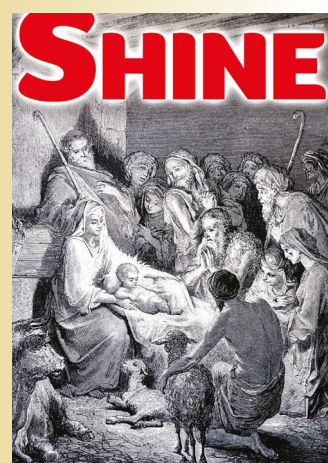
Issue 3, December 2017



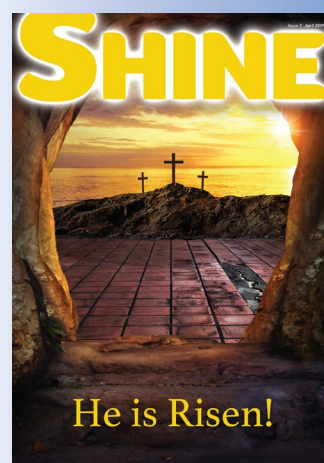
Issue 4, April 2018



Issue 5, September 2018



Issue 6, December 2018



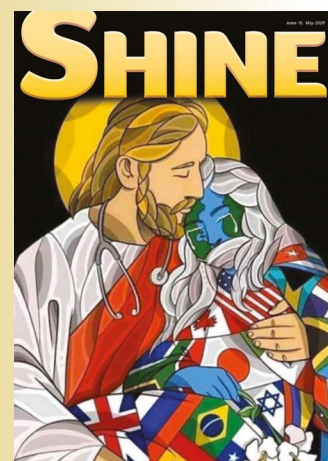
Issue 7, April 2019



Issue 8, September 2019



Issue 9, December 2019



Issue 10, May 2020



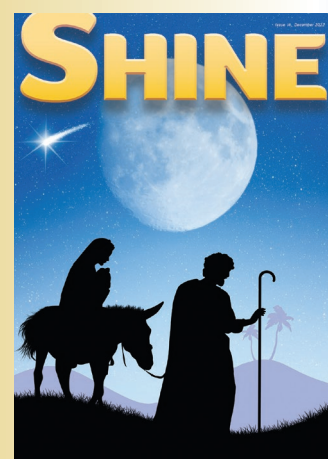
Issue 11, December 2020



Issue 12, June 2021



Issue 13, July 2022



Issue 14, December 2022

You can catch up on any previous issues of Shine on our website:
www.stpeterscatholic.church.

They're currently at the bottom of the home page.