



TOAST is back on Sunday 18 January 2026



Time on a Sunday together

Sundays at 9.30am, St Peter's Parish Centre

TOAST and
refreshments
at 9.30am

**All families are welcome.
We will unpack the Gospel
of the day through music,
prayer, fun and games.**

What's at TOAST:
Music
Live interactive Gospel
Quiz and fun activities
Terry's Teaser

You are all very welcome.

**For more information about TOAST contact
Teresa Thiele on 07778 848709**



Hello all,

What a lovely welcome I've received since coming to our two parishes in October. Thank you to everyone for making me feel so quickly at home here. It's great to be back, albeit it's about 30 years since my last role at St Peter's as a newly ordained priest (1993 to 1995).

I'm slowly getting to grips with things here in the two parishes, the three primary schools, the hospital and all aspects of parish life. Being part of such a vibrant faith community here is a real privilege and I hope that we can together continue to flourish as we build the kingdom of God.

And now we're approaching the joys of Christmas, so I wish each one of you every grace and blessing of the Christ child.

Fr Philip

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

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Who's who in St Peter's

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Fr Philip Atkinson and Deacon John McKay

Our joint website is www.stpeterscatholic.church

Shining a light on our parish communities



Success for St Peter's choirs

Our choirs, under the direction of Eileen Rigg and with accompanist Christopher Ellis, have enjoyed considerable success in recent local events.

The junior choir were guests in a charity concert given by the Ladybrook Singers at the Methodist Church in October. The programme consisted mainly of songs from musicals and our choir performed songs from Oliver, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang and The Jungle Book, and gave a particularly beautiful and moving rendition of Castle on a Cloud from Les Miserables.

Three weeks later both choirs took part in Hazel Grove Musical Festival. The junior choir had no opposition in their class, unfortunately - no one to thrash, as one of them cheerfully put it! - but nevertheless they sang beautifully, all ten of them singing confidently in three parts, and retained the trophy!

In the afternoon the adult choir, pictured above, competed in the Choral Recital class and won, beating four other choirs! We were all thrilled to bits! It was a tremendous achievement. Well done to all.

Moira's father's memories of Christmas 1943

We were informed that we would be 'holding the line' over Christmas so we had our Christmas dinner the week before.

On Christmas Eve we took over from the Yorkshire and Lancashire Regiment. They told us all was quiet so we hoped it would stay that way. At 11pm the enemy fired parachute flares over our lines; we were all expecting an attack, but nothing happened. We noticed that as parachute flares flooded down they had sheets of cardboard attached and a letter which read "Greetings, British Tommies. We invite you to a carol concert."

We were very alarmed, expecting an attack but still nothing happened. Then at 11.45pm the enemy all lit candles in the trenches and at midnight started singing carols. Much to our surprise we realised that we knew them: Silent Night, O Come All Ye Faithful, Good King Wenceslas. There was one we did not know, O Christmas Tree. We stayed in our trenches as we put out the candles and all was quiet.

I have spent Christmas in many places but that is one Christmas I will always remember.

Celebrate with us!



The popular Teas and Coffees each Sunday morning in the parish centre is 'the happening place'! We always try to celebrate recent birthdays and on one Sunday in October we had four birthdays to celebrate, including Deacon John's 60th.

The four of them, shown here, worked out that they had 196 years between them! Congratulations to Deacon John, Edward, Mary and Monica.

Farewells and welcomes

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

Kevin Egan	Michael Andrew Burke
Michael Higgins	Bernard Pye
Kathleen Canning	Edith Dove
Paul Kilbey	Margaret Little
Patrick McDermott	John Dolan
Veronica Mary Higginbotham	Elizabeth Baynes

and the following have been baptised:

Matilda Susan Farnell	Finley Hector Higgins
Caoimhe Maria Webb	Ava Harriet Higgins
Tylan Myles Findley	Jacob James Brooks
Edward Parker Whiteside	Harris Francis Gibson
Fritjof Mats Persoon	Noah Tobias Brook
Margot Rose Allcock	Mabel Grace Masiak Sharif
Oona Jeanne O'Brien	Sophie Isobel Rowland
Asher Edward Millward	



Social, supportive and inclusive

St Peter's Bereavement Group continues to flourish and we have shared many inspirational, informative, spiritual and happy occasions.

We meet on the second Tuesday of the month either in the afternoon or evening. It's usually a spiritual or wellbeing session, always followed by refreshments and a good chat.

On the fourth Friday of the month we meet for a social event, again in an afternoon or evening. We enjoy a chippy night, poetry, film nights, music, quizzes and bingo plus other activities. We recently all went for a Cream Tea at the Plaza, on the 192, which was a lovely afternoon out. In the new year we will be going to the Jolly Sailor for a delicious lunch.

You are very welcome to join us no matter how recently or in the past you have lost a loved one. For more information, call Helen on 07854 928 072 or Email admin@stpetershazलगrove.org.uk.

We are a very inclusive group and if you need help coming to join us or help on a trip out, there is always someone willing to help.



Then in November it was Rachel McKay's turn to blow out some candles. Helen, the baker extraordinaire, produced another masterpiece.



Let's meet Fr Philip

So how and when was Day 1?

I arrived on the Friday, 10 October and concelebrated the midday Mass with Fr Peter at the end of which he simply said, "It's all yours now!" The following day, a Healing Mass had been planned several weeks prior for midday and two other priests had been invited to concelebrate and assist with the anointing of people in the congregation: Canon John Rafferty and Fr Tony Myers. That was almost surreal because of course I was last on the altar at St Peter's in 1995 when Fr John was the parish priest and I was a newly ordained curate! It was lovely, in fact and quite special.

And are you settling in OK?

Well, yes and no. Someone said that when you find you're not having to think twice about everything, you'll know you're more settled; I think there's a lot to that. I have to say I've been made to feel very welcome in both parishes and the schools. There's always a lot to learn when you come to work in any new parish – or parishes! I've been writing lots of notes to myself and hoping I can remember names correctly. Change

*We caught up recently with our new parish priest, **Fr Philip Atkinson** and managed to get a chance to find out a little of his background.*

is always a challenge but I think that it's good to be out of your comfort zone sometimes. You just have to bear with me as I get to grips with everything.

It must be very familiar to you if you were here before?

It is and it isn't. Lots of things are familiar and I remember many parishioners from those days. But it was 30 years ago, so lots of things are unfamiliar now and that's what you have to crack! It'll take some time. I'd say it's actually both different and familiar. And then of course after Christmas we're getting an additional (transitory) Deacon, Kevin Hogan who will be ordained a priest in the summer. Kevin may well be with us for about six months, working with Deacon John and myself, so that will be unfamiliar territory all round!

Can you share some of your early life?

I was born in Hyde, so not far away from here. I have a sister Ann who is three years younger than me. She's married to Eddie and they have a son Ryan and three grandchildren. My parents, June and Derek both died in their mid 80s in 2020 within about six weeks of each other.

I went to St Paul's Primary School in Hyde then All Saints (now Catholic College) in Dukinfield. I enjoyed my school days, especially history and RE! I was really keen on athletics, particularly sprinting.

After leaving school I did some office work for a couple of years alongside part-time studying for A Levels in history and geography. I really couldn't decide what I wanted to do – I kept having problems committing,

even to a promotion at work and in my early twenties I was persuaded to respond to the thoughts I'd been having for some years and I talked to my parish priest, Fr John Woods about the priesthood. He encouraged me to apply to Ushaw College in Durham where I was accepted. I was there for six years, including three at Durham University studying for a BA in history and theology. I enjoyed my time there and was finally ordained a priest in my home parish of St Paul's, Hyde by Bishop Joseph Gray – a joyous occasion that I remember so well (Fr John Rafferty was there!). Then I was told that my first parish appointment would be St Peter's, Hazel Grove. That was 1993.

What do you remember about your first parish?

My parish priest was Fr John Rafferty and the other assistant priest was Fr John Thompson who was moved to Macclesfield the following year, replaced by Fr Peter Wright. I had replaced Fr Ned Wall. It was all a great learning experience – and very enjoyable. Two years later I went to Latchford, Warrington and was replaced by Fr Philip McGovern.

Which other parishes have you worked at?

My parish priest in Warrington was Fr Peter Robertson, who was at St Vincent's, Bramhall for a while. I was there for five very happy years until 1995. My last curacy involved two years at St Alban's, Macclesfield with Fr Peter Burke, who is still there. I left there in 2002 to go to

Cambridge, St Edmund's college, to study for an M Phil in history and philosophy and some theology. There was a chance that afterwards I'd be going back to Ushaw to teach, however in the interim a new Rector was appointed there and that plan altered. Bishop Brian Noble, who had sanctioned my time at Cambridge, had initially said my studies would be "done for the diocese", regardless of the outcome. So, instead of continuing in the academic world, I came back to parish life in 2004, this time as a parish priest of St Saviour's in Great Sutton, near Ellesmere Port. Over the next six years I learned to become a parish priest. Then Bishop Brian invited me to move to St Anne's in Rock Ferry after the Oblates (OMIs) had moved from that area after 148 years. I worked there for four lovely years from 2010-2014. Bishop Mark surprised me with a request to take over from Fr Bernard Foreshaw in Stalybridge who needed to be based on the Wirral nearer his then elderly parents. By coincidence, it also meant I was nearer my parents and could help my sister and family look after them in their last years. I broke all my records by being 11 years in St Peter's and St Raphael's in Stalybridge!

I've enjoyed all my placements, to be honest. They've all taught me so much.

What was your reaction to coming to St Peter's and St Philips?

It was a Monday morning and I'd just come back from a school governors' meeting when I was told



that Canon Michael Gannon had rung and wanted to talk with me. We arranged I'd go that afternoon and as I set off driving from Hyde to Woodley, I was wondering what might have happened to necessitate the meeting – hoping there hadn't been any complaint I was unaware of. Then as I drove from Woodley to Romiley, for some reason I started to think about Fr Peter Sharrocks and his pending retirement. As the Canon started to get down to the main reason for the meeting, I somehow just knew what he was going to say: "The bishop would like you to go to Hazel Grove and Offerton parishes" – it actually came as no surprise in that split second; it was quite surreal! It does seem like it was the right time for me to move and here I am.

Of course, the news had been shared among the diocesan clergy in the week preceding Fr Peter's 50th jubilee celebrations on 19 July this year, so some of the priests who came were quietly teasing me about coming to eye the place up!

Do you have changes in mind?

My time is spent listening to people, finding out how things work, who does what. It's not a time for snap decisions – with one exception! An early project I felt was to organise the rota at the hospital for chaplaincy cover because Fr Peter seemed to do just about everything there – day and night, apart from his day off on Wednesdays. I've made it a little more structured and shared the load with other local priests who are happy to help. I feel that's the right decision all round. In other things, often the 'wait and see' approach works better and I intend just to settle in first and observe, admire and reflect how things are in the two parishes and the three schools, as well as the hospital. We'll have another change to accommodate in the new year when Deacon Kevin Hogan joins us. For now, I think it's wise to 'let the parish be the parish' as I continue to learn the ropes in our great community.



Day 2's helpers for the Healing Mass.



The children at TOAST were eager to offer their welcome.



Our gardens, in the rural area of Quezon Province and in Manila have such amazing and verdant plant life.



Memories and news from the Philippines

Sr Anne Brittain NDS is a Sister of Our Lady of Sion whose community welcomed Deacon John and Jonathan when they went to the Holy Land in 2024 – see Issue 16 pages 6-9. She is pictured second on the left.

Founded in France in the mid 1800s from Europe, our Sisters spread out geographically in response to the educational and social needs of the times.

Theodore Ratisbonne, our founder and his younger brother, Alphonse were open to diversity and the Spirit that builds unity. It was this same Spirit that led towards a foundation in the Philippines.

We wanted to further our relationships with the people of Asia, to encounter and learn from them; most specifically we desired to live out the three-fold commitment of our Constitution “to the Church, the Jewish people and a world of justice, peace and love.”

I learnt the national language of Tagalog and, while struggling to express deeper concepts, I managed to communicate reasonably well in the day-to-day. My main focus over the years was with small community groups, initially young people, following up after the Manila World Youth Day of 1995. Many of these young people are now married with their own children! Women in the village where we live formed a small livelihood co-operative making paper, handicrafts and soap. For many years the income helped the families and the social/spiritual activities helped to build community. After some years a few women asked to join the congregation. Then a formation programme was planned

which gradually introduced newer members to the story, spirituality and internationality of the group they were joining.

The Filipina people are resilient and courageous. Most of the pictures we see on our televisions are of typhoons, floods, landslides, earthquakes and other calamities. This country of scattered islands bordering the mighty Pacific Ocean makes it very vulnerable to such disasters.

The climate changes that are being experienced globally are especially severe in island communities like the Philippines. Rising sea levels, loss of eco defenses, urban development that blocks water channels are

just a few of the complex factors affecting the land of the Philippines. Lack of transparency in government leadership is countered by the prophetic figure of Cardinal Ambrose David. Church leaders give much hope to the people.

In fact, we usually do not see the other side: the side of great generosity, creative responses from within dire circumstances and the capacity to survive with so very little. ‘Hope springs eternal’ they say and this hope I have experienced over the years.

As we continue to live the JUBILEE OF HOPE I thank God for this people, culture and land into which I was privileged to be welcomed.

When I meet Filipinas on the trams, in the hospitals and around North Manchester where I now live, my heart lifts and I sense a deep connection with them. Shared experiences fashion us all and I have many stored in my memory – sparks that communicate life. I thank God for them all.

You can learn more from Sr Anne as she talks about the Notre Dame de Sion community by following this link:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=RtGgdmdbbFEM>



The Bishop, local mayor, a friend and the parish priest celebrate with our community on our 35th anniversary.



Some delicious fruit platters for a light lunch.



The tables set out beautifully for lunch.



Ready to pour? Sadly, it did! Fr Peter's Jubilee Mass and drinks on the lawn.

St Peter's Helpers needs you!

Would you like to join our friendly team of helpers, offering an hour or two of your time, perhaps on an occasional and non-commitment basis? Mostly we need people on weekdays, but we also have weekend events on four occasions in the year (two lunches and two special delivery dates). Take a look at the volunteering opportunities on our website <https://sites.google.com/view/st-peters-helpers/home> or send an Email to stpetershelpers@gmail.com.

A welcome for all

Thank you to the whole team who continue to organise our Cuppa and Chat, Lunch and Chat and Healing Mass and Lunch events and the card making group. Special thanks to Fr Philip, Canon John Rafferty and Fr Tony Myers for celebrating the October Mass with Sacrament of the Sick for so many people on Fr Philip's first weekend at St Peter's. (You'll see them on page 6 of this issue.) It was once again a very special gathering, made possible by so many people, from making and delivering invitations and phone calls, to musicians, to table movers, servers and the magnificent washing up team who overcame adversity through a lack of hot water on this occasion!

Family Prayer Activity Bags

Thanks to very kind donations from parishioners and the parish and sewn with love by one of the team, we are delighted to have twelve activity bags now available at the back of church to lend out to families whilst at church with younger children. We hope they

will be useful during Mass and other occasions such as the Inclusion Mass or weddings or baptisms. The bags (to be used under the supervision of a parent) contain a Mass booklet, prayer or bible storybook and a few items to help children stay engaged within the prayerful atmosphere of church. Thank you to our Gathering of Groups event for suggesting these bags for families.

Chai and Chat

The special work of this group continues with a dedicated core team helping people with English, crafts, social activities and offering a safe welcome.

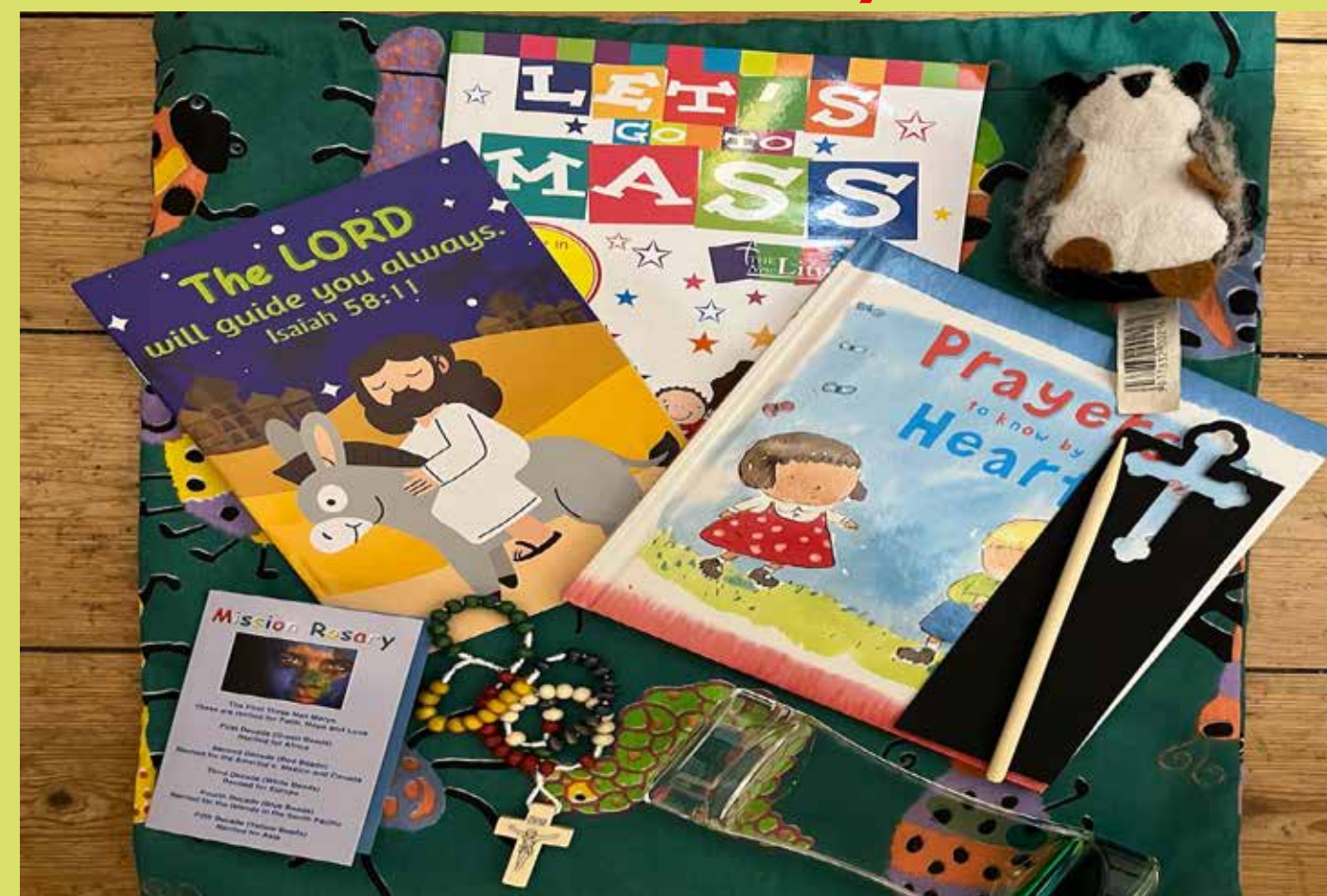
Special Deliveries

Once again, the children of St Peter's, St Simon's and St Philip's primary schools excelled themselves with beautiful handmade cards and gifts for our goody bags. Thank you to our star bakers, makers, packers and deliverers for bringing this ray of light to our special friends at Christmas.

Dates for your diary

You can find our 2026 dates here <https://sites.google.com/view/st-peters-helpers/home>. We look forward to welcoming you to one of our events.

If you know someone who might like to go on our list for invitations or special deliveries, who may want to get out a little more, or who may need a lift to join us, please get in touch: Email us at stpetershelpers@gmail.com or visit our mini website <https://sites.google.com/view/stpeters-helpers/home>



What's inside a Family Prayer Activity Bag.

Tóchar Phádraig – St Patrick's Path

Back in April 2016 the call to escape to the West of Ireland and undertake the Tóchar Phádraig, my first pilgrimage, was so strong that on an impulse I booked a flight from Manchester to Knock for £16.99 return. My planning fervour included paying for a B&B close to the start point called Tranquil Escapes. I then rang Ballintubber Abbey in county Mayo to let them know that I was going to complete the pilgrimage, only to be told that the ground was impassable and that I should call back in May.

This was my first lesson in becoming a pilgrim. Don't give up or listen to sense; follow your heart.

The flight into Knock on the small, twin engine plane was fairly turbulent, but reassuringly my fellow travellers, who consisted mainly of priests and nuns, were deeply absorbed in prayer. I understood why Pope John Paul II used to kiss the tarmac on arrival in Ireland. Tranquil Escapes lived up to its name as the silence was only interrupted by the

Patrick Connolly shares his experience as a pilgrim.

sound of the cattle lowing in the fields. The pace had slowed enough that I had the headspace to consider the rationality of undertaking an unofficial pilgrimage. I decided that the worst that could happen would be that I would have to find a pub and pray that I didn't miss my flight home.

My second lesson in becoming a pilgrim is don't underestimate the Almighty.

I was welcomed into the B&B by the owner who offered that, after freshening up, I should come through to the kitchen and have a cup of tea. She shared that Father Frank Fahey was just finishing his evening meal and that he was a lovely man who would be happy to say hello to a visitor. I suspect that among the readers of 'Shine' there are plenty of people who are

old enough to remember the Bing Crosby film "Going My Way". Fr Frank was the physical embodiment of the actor who played the kind, elderly priest. He had a twinkle in his eye that I will never forget.

He asked me what had brought me to Mayo and I shared that I had hoped to walk the Tóchar. He looked me up and down and stated that no one had tackled it since St Stephen's day in December and that he was doubtful it could be done. He explained that below the vast stretches of bogland there are deep caverns containing underground lakes.

After prolonged periods of heavy rain, the cisterns overflow and temporary lakes replace the bogland. The lakes had only recently receded but the mud would be

treacherous and possibly impassable. I explained I'd be happy to try and would turn back if unsafe. He then set about phoning the individual landowners whose land the Tóchar passes through.

Tóchar Phádraig is known as St Patrick's Path as he followed this route on his way to spending the 40 days and nights of Lent at the summit of Croagh Patrick in 441 AD; it has been walked by the faithful as a pilgrimage route for 1,500 years. It is 22 miles long through fields, across bogland and through remains of ancient forests. Part of the Tóchar is along an ancient chariot road built 3,000 years ago to allow the High Kings and their warriors to travel to Croagh Patrick or, as it was known then, Cruachan Aigle or Eagle Mountain. The mountain had huge spiritual significance to the pagan Celts. There is carbon-dated evidence of human activity on the mountain going back to around 5000 BC. Every year on Reek Sunday 30,000 or more pilgrims climb to the top, some



maintaining the tradition to climb barefoot. The numbers will no doubt cause Fr Peter (Sharrocks) some disbelief as it is over three times the number of people who attend Edgeley Park on match day.

After 20 or more phone calls Father Frank told me "It looks possible, but it will be hard and if you get into difficulty, we'll come to get you."

Later that night at the Abbey, Fr Frank explained the rules of the Tóchar.

Along the way there are reminders of elements of the pilgrimage that distinguish the pilgrim from the tourist. These are quietly challenging. They consist of:

Faith – Light a candle to symbolise your faith at the start of this journey; offer a prayer as you cross each of the way markers.

Penance – No complaining. Instead, say "Thanks be to God".

Community – Include the stranger in your group – no cliques.

Change of Heart – What is the Lord suggesting you must change about yourself?

Celebration – Share your food, your joy, your love and your care.

My third lesson relating to pilgrimage is that once you start one, it never actually stops.



1975 was a good year: Queen's 'Bohemian Rhapsody' was released, the Ford Cortina was the best-selling car and Man Utd won the league (Division 2!). Fr Peter Sharrocks was also ordained into the priesthood at Our Lady and the Apostles church in Shaw Heath.



On a very wet July Saturday a special celebration took place at St Peter's to mark the 50th anniversary of that ordination. Fr Peter presided over his own Jubilee Mass supported on the altar by Deacon John, Fr John Feeney and several other clergy friends he had made throughout his ministry. They were joined in a packed church by his many friends, family and parishioners he had tolerated over half a century at his various parishes!

The Mass finished with a 'eulogy' given by his good friend of 56 years, Fr John Feeney. Fr Peter and Fr John studied for the priesthood together at Ushaw and were ordained alongside each other in 1975. Vincent Kenny, a parishioner of St Peter's, presented Fr Peter with a commemorative gift from the parish at the end of Mass.

Prosecco was then served on the presbytery lawn for those braving the elements, before the party gathered in the parish centre for food, laughter and friendship. A wonderful, fun occasion ensued providing an apt conclusion to the celebration.

We will all have our own personal memories of Fr Peter as our parish priest. He may have baptised us, married us or helped us make our first communion or confession or celebrate confirmation. He may have provided us with support and hope in times of suffering or grieving. Or he simply may have 'just' been our priest! Whatever our own highlights, his good friend Fr John summed it up so aptly - that throughout his ministry Fr Peter just loved being a priest!

Similarly, Fr Peter himself in one of his later homilies reminded us all how much a priest values their parishioners and the inspiration and encouragement they provide. As Fr Peter, in his retirement, remains in our thoughts and prayers, we will no doubt all remain in his.



Celebrating Fr Peter's Golden Jubilee, 19 July 2025

Fr Peter celebrates his Jubilee in Rome

Fr Peter, Fr Pat and Fr Feeney went to Rome to celebrate 50 years of the priesthood. Mass was celebrated at the English College in Rome; Cardinal Roche, Head of the Divine Worship led the Mass with Bishop John Crowley retired bishop of Middlesbrough and Bishop Terry Draine of Middlesbrough along with the rest of the group celebrating 40, 50 and 60 years of priesthood. The day after all the priests had a General Audience with Pope Leo.





Our children's liturgy group is thriving

Helen and Nathan say...

Our two children Ashni and Dinesh have been coming to TOAST since they were babies and look forward to it each week! There's a great sense of community and a variety of activities that keep them involved and engaged.

A big thank you to all the volunteers including Teresa and Terry, the musicians and the makers of the actual toast.

They all make it a very welcoming space for the children to take part in Mass.



Feast of Christ the King

Our TOAST families helped to celebrate the feast day of Christ the King. The Mass was concelebrated with Fr Pat Munroe who was parish priest at St Peter's in the 1990s.

Dan and Gillian say...

We've been coming to TOAST as a family for a few years now and it's been lovely to see all the developments and the way that the children have all come on so much! It's so nice to see how much Joshua takes in from the Sunday mornings in the parish centre and the TOAST Masses. He even likes to pretend to be Deacon John from time to time, complete with a blanket as a vestment and red leather-bound book held aloft above his head.

I (Dan) volunteered to be a Eucharistic Minister for TOAST and I'm so glad I did as it feels like such a privilege to be able to bring Communion across to everyone alongside Deacon John and the altar servers.

If you've got a young family and haven't tried TOAST yet, Gill and I would definitely recommend it. It's such a welcoming and accessible environment.



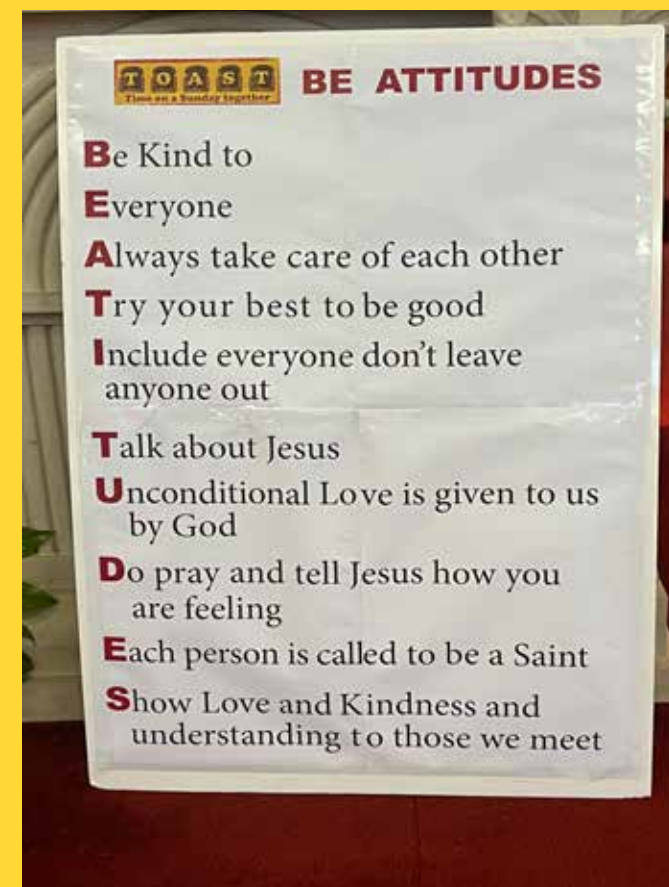
TOAST activity 1st Sunday of Advent Time for Jesus



TOAST tribute to Remembrance Day



TOAST activity on the Gospel of the Beatitudes



Baptism of some of our TOASTIES

Rachael and Tom

Sophie Isobel Rowland was baptised on 2 November and it was a lovely family event. We would like to thank Teresa and Terry for coming and representing TOAST, and thank you also to Deacon John for baptising our second daughter into the St Peter's family.



Ben and Kirstie

A beautiful day celebrating our daughter Mabel's baptism, surrounded by family, friends and love. Grateful for the blessings, smiles and memories we'll cherish forever. May her life be filled with happiness, faith and joy.



Lavinia Maguire has been thinking about the word 'father' and shares those thoughts and memories.

Father

What does the word 'father' mean to me? As a child, my own father was the most important person to me as he taught me how to pronounce the names of things around me and marvel at all the things in the sky, the sea and on the earth.

My parents would chat to the parish priest after Mass and I have a very early memory of Father, the parish priest, swinging me in the air, of his laughter and the shrug of his shoulders. Next came school and our visits by the parish priest who would question us on our Catechism – we all hoped for a good report! School was very important in preparing us for our first Confession and first Holy Communion and the

lovely memory of all gathering around our priest to celebrate those wonderful sacraments. The next stage was preparing us for Confirmation. Again, our priest, Father, was assisting us and then the bishop arrived to administer this sacrament – another memorable event.

Missions were a big parish event and we looked forward to the sermons given by the priests from different orders. A memory of years gone by was of tall missionary Fathers from County Kerry who, with raised voices (no need for microphones!), would sometimes strike fear into us with their words. Life moved on and when I got married, again the priest/ Father made it a very happy occasion.

Children followed and the priests/ Fathers administering the sacraments enriched the happy family life that followed.

Then came occasions in my life of bereavements and the support and helpful comfort of my parish priest/Father are never to be forgotten. From Baptism, throughout my life, there has always been a Father and here in St Peter's it's the same. Father Peter once said that we parishioners are his family and he certainly belongs in ours.

Father. The word is so constant in my life and our Heavenly Father who is always patient and forgiving, fills me with hope and love.

St Peter's is always looking to be more welcoming and to improve access for all people especially those with disabilities and additional needs. Our Disability Inclusion Group is a mix of people with disability and additional needs and those with experience and interest in supporting and reaching out to others. We are hosting a Church Open Day on Saturday 18 April from 2-4pm. This will be an opportunity for anyone who wants to step in to church, especially those with disabilities, additional needs or any other factors that affect them accessing church. It's a chance to become more familiar with the church building; a chance to look round and explore and ask questions; a chance to let us know what would help you to access our church services and activities. All are welcome.

You are also warmly invited to one of our short inclusive Masses, which in 2026 are on the following Sundays at 2.30pm: 8 March, 14 June, 4 October, 6 December.

Disability Inclusion Group



SPY St Peter's Youth

Chris Glennon, one of the leaders in this group, opens the door on what our young people get involved in!

Each month during the school year we invite the youth of the parish to a gathering in the parish centre. Taking place following the 6pm Sunday Mass we share food, fun and friendship and develop our spirituality and learning through prayer and togetherness. Secondary school students from Year 8 are welcomed and supported by a group of leaders. Amy, Karen and our new recruit Rachel prepare the culinary delights enjoyed by us all and Marcella leads the ice-breaker and games including the very popular Kahoot 'mobile-interactive' online quizzes.

We then spend the second half of the sessions with Christine and Tatiana who reflect on the current Gospels and readings and topical events through video, prayer and discussion. The series of gatherings are co-ordinated by Rachel and Deacon John and each year we have an away-day one Saturday in early summer, usually at Savio House in Bollington.

One objective of the annual series is to prepare those candidates who are eligible for the sacrament of Confirmation. This is celebrated each year in July presided over by the Bishop.

As one of the leaders I find the sessions uplifting and inspiring and they're always a positive end to that weekend. I know this view is shared by others too and this group remains consistent with all others in the parish in providing a welcoming, inclusive environment which is very much non-judgemental and which encourages participation.

We are continuing through this winter with the next sessions on **14 December, 11 January and 8 February, 7pm to 8.30pm in the parish centre.** We would be delighted to see you there!



SPY on Tour – a visit to St Pio's, Bradford.



The SPY group share offerings and prayer.

St Philip's Community Festival

On Saturday 11 October, St Philip's Catholic Primary School hosted their first ever Community Festival. Those who attended took part in Bollywood dancing, taekwondo, hockey and much, much more!

Here is what some of their families said:
"We thought it was fantastic, we all really enjoyed it!"

"The community festival was an amazing event. It was a great opportunity to get to know all families of the school community and really share and embrace each other and our cultures. My children came home wanting to share with their grandparents all the exciting things they had learnt and tried such as Bollywood dancing and a range of cuisines."

"The kids loved it and love being part of their school community."

"Beautiful day; everyone was amazing and the kids loved it."



**St Philip's School's
Icon of the Visitation,
which they later
presented at
St Peter's school
on 15 September.**



News from St Simon's



Year 2 led our first Celebration of the Word in October, which is the month traditionally dedicated to the Holy Rosary.

Our Mini Vinnies met together to say the Rosary at lunchtimes. As the youngest members of the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), Mini Vinnies are encouraged to live out their faith through action; praying the Rosary is one of their common activities.

The Mini Vinnie mission is to turn concern into action. Mini Vinnies truly do turn concern into action as we use the simple formula of 'see, think, do' to find people in need and help them.

We have a group of 12 Mini Vinnies from Year 6 who will support teachers in leading some Celebrations of the Word throughout the year.



On Monday 8th September 2025, we were truly blessed to welcome visitors from Our Lady's Catholic Primary School, who presented us with the stunning depiction of The Visitation. This special artwork is making a pilgrimage around our diocese as part of the Church's celebration of the Year of Jubilee.

Together, we gathered in a beautiful Celebration of the Word, reflecting on how hope can guide us throughout this Jubilee Year and in our daily lives.

In the afternoon, our KS2 children created a thoughtful Path of Hope to help all pupils reflect on their own personal pilgrimage as they came to see The Visitation.

It was a truly meaningful day filled with prayer, reflection and joy as we continue our journey as Pilgrims of Hope.



As part of our journey as Pilgrims of Hope, KS2 created our own footprints as a symbol of pilgrimage.



Each footprint carried a hopeful step that we could take in our daily lives, inspired by our reflection on the image of The Visitation.

PILGRIMS

Together, we laid out the footprints to form a Pilgrimage of Hope Path.



This path became a special display for our KS1 and Reception children to walk along and quietly reflect upon, reminding us all that each step we take can bring us closer to God, to one another and to living out hope in our world.

OF HOPE



St Peter's Catholic Primary School



We are Pilgrims of Hope.



We were delighted to receive the Icon of the Visitation from St Philip's on Monday 15th September. We gathered in the morning for a special Celebration of the Word, which was led by the headteacher and children of St Philip's school, who told us all about the very special Icon.



Pupils in Reception used 2D shapes to create flowers for Our Lady, Help of Christians.



Our Year 1 pupils created boats to represent themselves being on a Pilgrimage of Hope.



Each class spent time with the Jubilee Icon, which is based on a stunning depiction of The Visitation, taken from a stained glass window in Shrewsbury Cathedral. Pupils spent time with the icon, participating in prayer, reflection and discussion.



Year 2 pupils shared their hopes for their families and friends.



Year 3 pupils wrote about their hopes for the Year of Jubilee.

Year 4 pupils created their own 'Heart of Hope' artwork.



Year 5 pupils creatively expressed what it means to be a Pilgrim of Hope.



Year 6 pupils created stained glass windows with the theme 'Pilgrims of Hope'.

On Wednesday 17th September, Year 5 and Year 6 Faith Council members took the Jubilee icon to Aquinas College. They participated in a Celebration of the Word in the college chapel, sharing readings and prayers with the sixth-form students.



PRAYER

Praying for forgiveness

One of the truths I have found in my spiritual life is that forgiveness is seldom a single moment. More often it is a process, a journey: sometimes hesitant, sometimes painful, always guided by God's gentle patience. When I come before the Lord asking to be forgiven, I am not simply seeking a clean slate; I am opening my heart to be reshaped by him. And when I ask for the grace to forgive others, I participate in the very heart of Christ's mission of love. I can find this process difficult sometimes, both forgiving myself and forgiving others. As Fr Dermot expressed to us in his homily at the 10am Mass on Sunday 16 November, it can cost nothing less than everything. It is the essence of what it means to be a Christian.

Prayer is where that journey begins.

In prayer I bring my failings, my shortcomings and my regrets into the healing light of God. I often imagine that God will be disappointed, or that my mistakes have somehow pushed me too far away. Yet Scripture reminds me that "if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). God's desire is not to condemn me but to restore me. Like the father of the prodigal son, he is already on the road, running towards me before I even finish speaking. How wondrous is our God?

But forgiveness is not only about acknowledging the past; it is also about releasing oneself, renewed, into the future. Sometimes the hardest part of forgiveness is not believing that God has forgiven me but believing that I am allowed to

Joe O'Brien offers her thoughts on how we can travel towards new beginnings



start again. I can still carry guilt long after God has lifted it. I may replay old words or revisit old choices, worrying that they still have the power to hurt.

Here is where prayer brings the new beginning.

When I sit with God in silence, I begin to hear a different voice: not the accusing voice of my own self-doubt, but the steady assurance that I am made new in the love of Jesus. Prayer strengthens me and makes room in my heart for God to speak the truth that my heart struggles to believe: I am forgiven. I am loved. I can begin again.

The same is true when I pray about forgiving someone else. Forgiveness does not mean forgetting or ignoring what happened. It means allowing God to heal my wound so that resentment does not become my burden. I am not asked to deny my

pain, but to entrust it to God, who can transform it. Through prayer, I am reminded that forgiveness is not a feeling but a decision – one I may need to make many times.

And once forgiveness, given or received, has begun its work, something beautiful follows: renewal. A fresh start. A new chapter of my life to write.

In this season, whatever stage of life you are in, you might take a moment each day to pray simply: "Lord, help me to accept your forgiveness. Help me to forgive where I need to. And help me to walk forward with hope. Amen."

God delights in new beginnings. Every sunrise, every breath, every quiet moment of prayer is an invitation to begin again in his grace. I step into that grace boldly, gratefully and with a heart ready for the newness God longs to give it.

It would be difficult to choose a highlight in Footsteps in 2025... no, it would actually be impossible. We have been blest with so many interesting and inspiring speakers who have shared their thoughts, their experience, their insight – and their humour with us.

It's a real pleasure to see our large parish centre filled to capacity on the nights we gather. We welcome people of all ages from quite a range of locations around the North West, from a wide assortment of backgrounds and denominations. It's a real community that gathers to listen, to learn, to share, to discuss and to pray about a wide range of topics.

This is a real team effort that pulls together to welcome fans of Footsteps on the night – arranging and setting the tables with tablecloths, candles, flowers and nibbles, making the drinks, welcoming all arrivals - and that's before we start. It's always a joy to see at the end of the evening how so many of the people who've come set about helping to clear away everything, wash and tidy up and restore the hall and the kitchen to its original state – and always with a great buzz and enthusiastic chat.

You'll have read in our last issue of Shine earlier this year about the speakers we've enjoyed such as the Bishop of Stockport, Sam Corley, Will Wilson, Fr Eamonn Mulcahy and Mary Hardiman. In early September the whole parish centre burst into song with a very moving rendition of the popular hymn "Do not be afraid". We were led by the composer of that hymn, Gerard Markland who shared with us so movingly the background to writing it.

But don't try to imagine it. You can listen to Gerry's talk and share with us his music, his gifts, his story and his humour. You'll find the recording of his talk – and most of the talks this year – on our parish website by following this link: <https://stpeterscatholic.church/Parish-News-Events/#talks-section>.

October saw the welcome return of Sister Helen Costigane from London who opened our minds and hearts to a modern consideration of Mary.

Footsteps



She suggested that linking Mary, the Mother of Jesus and the idea of 'girl power' might seem like bordering on the absurd. We all have different ideas and images of Mary in our mind and in our prayer life. She set about expanding those horizons by proposing some further ways of viewing Mary in terms of her bravery, compassion and a 'girl with real power'. Why not listen to what she had to say and decide for yourself?

Finally in November we went on a pilgrimage – with nibbles and drinks, from the comfort of the chairs in the parish centre. Sister Alicia Perez came to take us on the famous Camino de Santiago. You might remember reading about Mags Coffey's experience of this pilgrimage in Issue 17 of Shine.

Sr Alicia is involved in the Camino Companions, which is a project of the Sisters Faithful Companions of Jesus in Santiago de Compostela to serve English-speaking pilgrims who arrive

in Santiago after their long Camino journey. This group of Sisters and other volunteers welcome, listen to and accompany pilgrims as they share their unique stories and reflect on their experiences of the Camino. Sr Alicia has spent several summers in this ministry and she spoke so movingly about the pilgrimage, its history, the enormous growth in recent decades and shared the motivations and experiences of pilgrims today. She inspired many to consider pilgrimage in a new light.

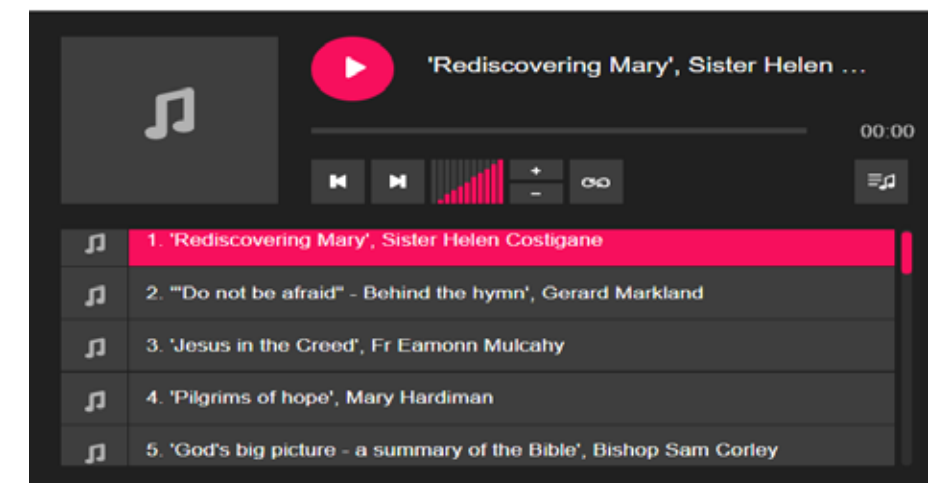
And as for 2026...

Well, that's a case of the usual mix of some new faces and some familiar faces. The programme is coming together nicely with hopefully something for everyone. The dates for your 2026 diary are as follows:

Tuesday 17 February, then all Thursdays: 19 March, 14 May, 18 June, 3 September, 15 October and 12 November

Watch the parish newsletter for details or if you'd like to be on our mailing list, drop us an Email to footsteps2020@mail.com. We hope to see you there.

Some talks from our Footsteps programme



Missio update



The prayer hour was well supported by a number of our Red Box volunteers

As 2025 draws to a close, it's a good opportunity to say thank you to the many Missio volunteers and supporters at St Peter's and St Philip's for another year of solidarity with our global church family. As well as generous financial support, volunteers have given up their time, responding cheerfully to the call for prayer for mission of the Church. This was seen clearly in our World Mission Sunday prayer hour.

The prayer hour, which took place at St Peter's on Sunday 19 October, was led by Deacon John but involved a number of Red Box volunteers. It was based around the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary. After a short introduction, each of the Glorious decades was recited in turn, together with a passage from scripture and some thoughts on their relevance in the world today. This was followed by a period of time for personal reflection and prayer.

Words from the late Pope Francis were also shared, reminding us of the importance of prayer in the call

Claire Colleran from St Peter's is the Missio Education Outreach Officer

we all share to be missionaries of hope: 'Missionaries of hope are men and women of prayer. Let us not forget that prayer is the primary missionary activity and at the same time 'the first strength of hope'... By praying, we keep alive the spark of hope lit by God within us, so that it can become a great fire which enlightens and warms everyone around us, also by those concrete actions and gestures that prayer itself inspires... May all the baptised, as missionary disciples of Christ, make his hope shine forth in every corner of the earth!' Through Missio and the Red Boxes, Christ's hope is

brought to places of poverty and conflict around the world. We share this hope through practical support — financing education, healthcare, feeding programmes — and spiritual care. If you are interested in supporting Missio financially or through volunteering as a Red Box collector, please contact the parish office for further details.



I had been to Lourdes with my aunt and mother more than 20 years ago by coach, ferry and train. Then about ten years ago, I went by plane from Manchester airport. Both occasions were special in their own way. This year I travelled with two friends from the parish by plane from Liverpool, which journey was challenging in its own way, not least because of the early start (5am).

Over the years I have become less abled; my walking is poor like that of my companions. We asked the Pilgrimage office for assistance from but were told that not so many young people would be available as helpers.

Pat, one of my friends suggested we hire motor scooters, which we did. Before we travelled, Pat who herself has a scooter, gave us a trial run on hers. Christine and I had driving lessons in Torkington Park one Friday afternoon as it was a lovely day! There were many passers-by who encouraged us and kept out of our way.

Once we arrived in Lourdes, we picked up our sturdy steeds, then the fun began. We were able to attend the many ceremonies in the demesne accompanied by the wonderful helpers. These young people are so helpful, kind and caring; it is a blessing that so many helped.

Our time in Lourdes was so special not least by the help of our young people and other pilgrims from our own diocese and other dioceses, who would stop and chat or offer help.

Liz Hurst remembers her very special visit to Lourdes

There are no kerbs in Lourdes so our journeys were, in the main, smooth. At the time my beloved sister Frances was dying from cancer so it was great to have time in such a special place to pray for her and think of her; I had a Mass said for her and lit candles.

At end of our pilgrimage I was sorry to say goodbye to my chariot, but it had done its job and helped me participate fully. My sister died the day after I arrived back from Lourdes.



Pat, Christine and Liz motoring around Lourdes.



Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham

Peter Henshaw shares the detail of some special summer days in Norfolk.

From Monday 16 to Thursday 19 June a group of 17 parishioners from St Peter's (Hazel Grove), St Alban's (Macclesfield), St Mary's (Congleton) and St Hugh of Lincoln (Timperley) travelled on a pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham. The group was smaller than in previous years, probably due to there being several other pilgrimages also taking place from the parishes this year. We were led by Fr Pascal from St Alban's.

We travelled by minibus, driven by myself, starting from Hazel Grove then picking up the rest of the group in Macclesfield before the first leg of our journey. At Newark we had a break for lunch and a chance to stretch our legs. Unfortunately, the Anglican parish church in the market place was closed for works so we were unable to visit the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham there.

We completed our journey and arrived full of anticipation in Friday Market Place in the village of Little Walsingham - a very quaint village

that provides an ideal backdrop to the peaceful and reflective nature of a pilgrimage.

We were greeted on arrival by the shrine's accommodation team and after everyone had settled into their rooms, Fr Pascal led us in an arrival Mass in the Church of the Annunciation that adjoins the accommodation. After our evening meal we returned there for evening prayer. Those who still had the energy went to the pub for a pint (or two!) to finish off the day.

We awoke on Tuesday to sunshine and the quiet peace that is the norm in Walsingham. Some of us said morning prayer in the Church of the Annunciation before breakfast. After breakfast we all gathered for a rosary procession from the village to the RC shrine.

The procession followed the pilgrim path there which used to be the Fakenham to Wells railway but has now been repurposed to provide a peaceful path through beautiful countryside, ideal for processions away from traffic.

Before the procession, we decorated the statue of Our Lady with flowers and were joined by other pilgrims who were making individual or family pilgrimages. We set off, saying the rosary, the litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary and singing some of our favourite Marian hymns.

As we approached the shrine, bells were rung to welcome Our Lady and the pilgrims as they entered the shrine's grounds. At the end of the procession, we all gathered for prayers and a group photo. I then visited the Slipper Chapel where I presented to Our Lady the petitions that parishioners from St Peter's and St Alban's had given me.

At the shrine we were joined by Deacon Steve Pomeroy, whom many of you may remember from his time at St Peter's; he now lives in Norfolk. After spending some time at the shrine, we took part in the pilgrim Mass at midday in the Chapel of Reconciliation.

We then returned to the village, visited the Anglican shrine there and

took part in a blessing service at the well. In the evening, we returned to the Church of the Annunciation where Fr Pascal led us in Benediction and a healing service, finishing with evening prayer. For some pilgrims it was then an early night; for others it was another visit to the pub!

On Wednesday we again started the day saying morning prayer in the Church of the Annunciation. After breakfast, some people got the local bus to the seaside at Wells-next-the-Sea, and some of us travelled by minibus to visit the Sisters of the community of Our Lady of Walsingham at their convent. The Sisters welcomed us and treated us to tea or coffee and some delicious home-made cakes they had baked. One of the Sisters then gave us a talk about Walsingham before Fr Pascal led us in Mass. On returning to Walsingham, we did another rosary procession carrying the statue of Our Lady, this time to the Abbey grounds. The Abbey grounds are what remains of the original medieval shrine, the site of which is marked with a wooden



plaque on the lawn. We finished our procession at the plaque with prayers. After our evening meal, we returned to the Church of the Annunciation for Benediction, evening prayer and a candlelit procession to the statue of Our Lady in the gardens at the rear of the accommodation. This was a lovely way to end the day. After this, for some of us, it was a final trip to the pub!

Thursday morning began with more sunshine and morning prayer, again in the Church of the Annunciation. After breakfast,

some pilgrims did a rosary procession to the shrine and some pilgrims, by now a little tired, decided to take the minibus to the RC shrine. Following the midday pilgrim Mass, we all said goodbye to Deacon Steve before boarding the minibus for the journey home.

On our way home, we again had a break in Newark before completing the journey. As we arrived back, first at St Alban's, and then at St Peter's, we all felt spiritually refreshed and thankful for the wonderful time we had and the many friends we had made.

Walking Pilgrimage from Macclesfield to Walsingham

I have been going on pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady, at Walsingham for over fifteen years. For many years I had said that one day I would step out of my front door in Macclesfield and walk to the shrine as a pilgrimage. This year I decided to take the plunge! I also decided that whilst doing this walking pilgrimage I would try to raise money for the shrine by seeking sponsors. Once I had told people what I was intending to do and started planning, there was no going back!

Planning for the pilgrimage first required me to identify a route. I wanted to start each day at a church, then walk to another church at the end of the day. This church would then be the starting church for the next day. In this way I hoped to go from parish to parish, making my way across the country to Walsingham. In selecting the parishes to visit I needed to plot a route that took me to Walsingham whilst ensuring that the distances between the parishes were achievable in a day's walk. This proved easy in the early stages of the pilgrimage going through Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. Finding a route across Lincolnshire and then Norfolk proved more difficult because parishes are far more spread out in these eastern counties. This meant that my route took me on a slightly indirect arc where I dropped down to Peterborough. Also, it was simply not possible to find a parish to visit on the penultimate day as there is no RC parish between Kings Lynn and Walsingham; this is a distance of 30 miles so not achievable in a single day! Altogether, this gave me a route that would take 13 days, with the

Peter Henshaw achieved his ambition –
with a bit of help from his friends and family!



Leaving St Alban's church in Macclesfield with good wishes from Fr Tomasz.

longest day's walk estimated at 20 miles, the average 17 miles.

Having identified a route, I then booked all my accommodation, staying each night in a B&B or hotel. If I was going to have any hope of completing the walking pilgrimage I knew I would need the comforts of a hot bath or shower, a pint or two, a comfy bed and then a good breakfast in the morning to set me up for the next day's walk.

I planned to start each day saying morning prayer and a rosary at a church, saying the Angelus at noon and finally saying the rosary again and evening prayer at the finishing church. I emailed all the parishes I was going to visit to let them know the



Praying with Fr Paul at St Gilbert's church, Bourne.

dates and times when I would be in their parish, to ask if anyone from the parish would like to join me in the prayers and if they wanted to hand any petitions to me to carry with me on the remainder of my pilgrimage.

The planning also required some IT. I setup a Go Fund Me page where people could sponsor me and a blog page so that people could follow my progress. I downloaded the OS maps app onto my phone so I could plan my exact day to day walks.

I also had to acquire the walking clothes and equipment I would need. I carried a 66 litre rucksack and kept the clothes I would carry to an absolute minimum. Even then, I soon realised that with that size of



Meeting Fr Robbie and Deacon Richard at All Saints church, Hassop.

rucksack I wouldn't be able to carry sufficient clothes for two weeks. When I had a practice walk with the rucksack fully packed, I realised it was going to be very heavy! Time to refine the thinking. The first day's walk from Macclesfield to Buxton involved a lot of ascents, so I decided to carry a smaller and lighter rucksack and have a swap over of clothes at the halfway point in Newark, Nottinghamshire. Both these decisions required my kind daughter, Chloe, to drive to meet me in Buxton with my larger rucksack and then to Newark with a change of clothes.

The final aspect of the preparations was to do lots of walking to prepare me for the 13 days!

The first day of the walking pilgrimage soon came around. After some photos outside my house, I walked the short distance to St Alban's church in Macclesfield. I said my prayers, attended Mass and then it was off following lots of good wishes! The first day's walk involved quite a climb from the Cheshire plain up into the hills of the Peak District and St Anne's church in Buxton. In Buxton as planned, my daughter met me with my 66L rucksack.

Over the next two days I continued through the hills of the Peak District visiting the church of All Saints in Hassop and then, leaving the Peak District, I arrived at the Annunciation church in Chesterfield. The next day saw me leave Derbyshire and enter

Nottinghamshire. With the change of county there was a change in the terrain as I left behind the rugged moors and countryside of Derbyshire and encountered gentle rolling hills and farmland in Nottinghamshire.

My travels there took me through Sherwood Forest and I visited the churches of Our Lady Help of Christians, Kirby in Ashfield and Our Lady of Victories in Southwell before arriving at Holy Trinity church in Newark. Newark marked the halfway stage of the pilgrimage where my daughter met me with a change of clothes.

From Newark I headed to Sleaford and the church of Our Lady of Good Counsel. This took me into my third county: Lincolnshire. On the walk to Sleaford the soles of my walking boots started to give out and leak. Fortunately, I was able to purchase a new pair of boots in Sleaford before starting the next day's walk.

I walked through Lincolnshire with its large expanses of flat, arable farmland, visiting St Gilbert's church in Bourne, Our Lady of Lourdes church, Peterborough, and Our Lady and St Charles Borromeo in Wisbech. As I was taking a route that arced southwards through Lincolnshire, I briefly entered Cambridgeshire at Peterborough. These more southerly areas of Lincolnshire provided a variation in the terrain with woods and gentle hills. In Peterborough I attended Sunday Mass. On the walk

from Bourne to Peterborough I also discovered that cows don't like orange! Most people know cows don't like red. Well, they don't like orange either. The rain cover for my rucksack was orange and on this day's walk I was chased across a field by some inquisitive cows. Luckily, even with my 66L rucksack I outran the cows, so all ended well!

Each evening after I had completed that day's walk and said my prayers, I rested up in my accommodation, wrote my blog and planned the detailed route for the next day. I already knew in advance that the walk from Peterborough to Wisbech was going to be the longest walk. I had estimated it at 20 miles.

When I planned the exact route using the OS maps app it turned out to be 23 miles. The day was rainy and the 23 miles were hard going. By the end of this day my legs were feeling pretty done in! At this point I just had three days' walking left. Fortunately, those last three days were all slightly shorter walks at 16, 16 and 10 miles.

From Wisbech I headed to Our Lady of the Annunciation church at Kings Lynn and entered the fifth and final county on my pilgrimage, Norfolk. At the Annunciation Church in Kings Lynn I visited and prayed at the shrine to Our Lady of Walsingham. The final two days saw me walking through the Norfolk countryside, passing through the Sandringham estate on route, first to Great Bircham and



Praying with Kazia at Anne's church, Buxton.

finally onwards to the destination of my pilgrimage, the National Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham. As I arrived at the shrine I was greeted by my daughters, Chloe and Bethany, who had kindly travelled to Walsingham to greet me - and also to give me a lift home. The walking pilgrimage had taken 13 days, was 217 miles and my phone tells me was over half a million steps. After this I wasn't up for the idea of walking home!

During the 13 days of the pilgrimage I did not watch TV, I avoided looking at any news on my phone and essentially removed myself from everyday life. Each day was simple, I got up, had breakfast, said my prayers, walked to the next church saying the Angelus at noon, said my prayers at the finishing church, then rested in the B&B doing my blog and planning the next day's walk, aided by a pint!! Being removed from everyday life for nearly two weeks is a very calming and mindful experience that allows space for personal reflection and prayer. Through this experience you draw closer to God. For me it was this journey that was at the heart of my pilgrimage just as much as the final destination.

Another aspect of my pilgrimage that was very special was all the wonderful people I met. There were the many people who greeted me at the parishes and prayed with me, some even walking the first mile of the next day's walk with me. There

were people who I talked to in the various accommodation who seemed fascinated with my adventure. There were many people whom I met and chatted with as I walked along. Finally, it was lovely to be greeted by my daughters when I finally arrived at Walsingham and to meet Fr Billing before returning home.

Having now achieved my long-term goal of walking from my front door to the shrine at Walsingham, there are many people I need to say thank you to. Thank you to Fr Billing for giving me permission to raise money for the shrine through sponsorship. Thank you to the Walsingham Association for advertising my walking pilgrimage in the summer edition of the WA magazine. Thank you to all the priests, deacons and parishioners from the parishes I visited who greeted me and joined me in prayers. Thank you to everyone who was praying for me. Knowing this helped me along on my pilgrimage. Thank

you to everyone who sponsored me; together we raised £1,700 for Our Lady's shrine. Thank you to my family for supporting me and to my daughters for travelling to Walsingham to greet me and drive me home. And finally, a very big thank you to my daughter Chloe, who drove to Buxton, Newark and then Walsingham to support me, as well as uploading my blog entries for me each evening.

As I write this article it is now a month after I completed the walking pilgrimage and my legs have now recovered! I look back fondly on a memorable experience, remembering all the wonderful people I met and I am thankful for this great blessing. At two of the parishes I visited, the priests asked me, "Do you do this every year? Will you be visiting us next year?" For now, I can say this was a once in a lifetime pilgrimage and I have now achieved my goal so no - there are no plans to walk it again next year!



Greeted by my daughters Chloe and Bethany as I arrived in Walsingham.

David O'Neill looks into the meaning of the word 'synodality' and offers some helpful background.

Journeying together

In the book of Micah, Israel is accused by God of exploiting the poor and forgetting the basic covenant duties of compassion for the weak and honesty with themselves. To assuage their conscience and to appease God, the priests and people try to bribe God with dutiful holocausts, thousands of rams and calves, streams of oil. Micah shakes his head in despair: "You have missed the point. This and only this, God wants of you: that you act justly, that you love truth and integrity and that you walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8). The best interpretation is that God walks humbly in our midst; and we must walk as he walks.

This is the heart of being a synodal church. It's not an event or a meeting; nor is it simply a new means of Church governance. The word synodos means we journey together. The faith is not a set of identitarian beliefs as if 'being Christian' was an achieved state. From the start, Christians were called followers of the way and Jesus was the Way. So synodality (an ugly word, I admit) means we are on a journey, an exodus, an ongoing conversion to 'becoming Christian'. Pope Francis called for conversion, to let go of the old and to embrace a way of being church that meets the needs of our day. Our mission as Church calls out for this change.

Conversion is always a challenge; but the church has never stood still, rooted in an idealised past. The very earliest church was known as the "New Israel". By Acts 15 they had to decide whether converts had to become Jews in order to become Christians. It was hugely difficult for them. Thank God they had the courage to let go and embrace a deeper understanding of their mission. They moved from "New Israel" to 'Qahal - The gathered', then to 'the called and chosen' and then to Church. If the church is to remain true to its mission, its self-understanding will grow. The Church is "pura et semper reformanda", (true and holy but always in need of reform). Over 2,000 years the church is always changing - sometimes in huge strides, but usually incrementally.

True conversion requires discernment of where the Spirit of Holiness beckons us. The 'signs of the times' are God's Word to us in the turmoil of our world. The voice of the Christ speaks to us, often from unusual places in our society and culture; so we have to distinguish the ephemeral spirit of the times from the signs of Christ walking with us. The ephemeral? Fashionable trends, what's 'in/out' in public opinion, populism, political opportunism, commercial advertising and the entertainment industry - this is the voice of this world. We don't float above the world; we 'are in the world, but not of it'. So discernment is at the heart of following the Way and searching for Truth and Life... of synodality.

Of course this is not new! Pope Francis was simply drawing out Vatican II's core teaching on the Church; the Church as the sacrament of salvation; the Church as the people of God. The mission of the Church is not simply proselytism (numbers) but it is searching and finding the heart of Christ in our time and place. It is the ongoing transformation of our world in his image. The Kingdom of God is the uncovering of the true humanity of Christ in our time. The Gospel as a way of living takes on our flesh and blood in our time. It is inculturated - otherwise our teaching becomes simply indoctrination.

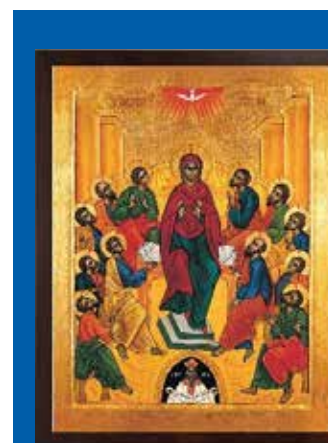
A Christianity that is alienated from, or anti, modern culture is almost

certain to fail. It is ex-cultured and irrelevant to many people's lives. Pope Francis famously pictures Christ knocking at the door... not to get in but to get out and reach people at the peripheries. As Cardinal Bergoglio (2007) he said, "The issue is not that people had left the church, but that the church has left the people."

By Baptism every Christian is called, has a right and a duty to be part of this mission. Part of our journeying together is that we belong in communion together; and together we are all called to participate in being the body of Christ in our world.

So, faith is a journey in search of God in the midst of a changing world. Christ came, not to offer a doctrine but a journey on which we continually learn to transform our humanity, our way of being human and all our relationships - with ourselves, to others, to society, to nature and to God.

Of course, synodality should shape the way we interact and come to decisions in the Church. But it is mistaken to imagine that our decision making mirrors secular democratic process - the majority wins. No. The heart of synodality is that together we listen to the Holy Spirit in each of us and all of us. Listening. Discernment. Decision. Such openness in listening to the Spirit is rooted in prayer, faith and tolerance.



Eastern icons of Pentecost often include Mary. While the tongues of spirit/fire seem to disconcert and confuse the apostles, the still, contemplative centre of most icons is Mary. Often her hands are open in prayer, shaped like a womb. In the first annunciation she listened to the Spirit, received the Word in her womb and gave flesh to the individual Jesus. Here she receives the Spirit and is giving birth to the Collective Jesus that is the Church. Her contemplative openness to the Spirit is the model for our attempts at synodality.



Mary's corner

Mary Hardiman considers the four names given to the Christ child by the Prophet Isaiah and offers her thoughts and ideas on what they might mean to us.

Wonder Counsellor

For this Christmas issue, I would like to break with tradition and use a passage from the Old Testament, rather than the New. This is probably my favourite Christmas reading, written by the Prophet Isaiah which foretells the birth of Jesus the Messiah as well as something about his ministry and character.

The prophecy is addressed to the nations of Zebulon and Naphtali, regions that had been conquered during the Assyrian campaigns, some 700 years BC and where nearly 15,000 Israelites had been taken into exile. For me, it's a message of hope and a timely reminder that exile, deportation, death and sorrow will not have the final say. Isaiah tells us that dominion will be laid on the shoulders of this child. In those days it was common to place a symbol of authority upon the shoulders of one assuming public office. I wonder if Isaiah is talking about the cross, laid on the shoulders of Our Lord. Because in the cross is God's supreme and undefeatable dominion. It represents the power of Christ over sin and death.

Not only that, but Isaiah reveals this child as a royal descendant of David and one who will rule forever. Each time a Davidic heir became king, a coronation hymn was sung in which a 'throne name' was given. This 'throne name' represented something of the person's character. As such the four titles of Wonder Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace would be the throne names of the Infant King of the Jews.

Wonder Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace

Wonder Counsellor

The word counsellor is defined as someone who is trained to listen to people and give them advice about their problems.

Whoever came up with this definition has never experienced counselling! It's so much more than that. But essentially a counsellor listens without judgement. Counsellors establish safety, boundaries and a trusting relationship in which a client can be open and honest. A counsellor touches wounds and facilitates healing and recovery so that the client can move forward in a new way. When you look at the life of Jesus Christ, he does all that and so much more. In the gospels we see him physically and spiritually touch the wounds of blindness, deafness, leprosy, paralysis; we see him touch the wounds of sin, of loneliness and exclusion. We see his inclusive and gentle kindness establish a place of safety and trust, away from the judgemental and punitive criticism of the authorities. He gives his very lifeblood for this light to shine in the darkness, sacrificing his comfort, his physiological needs and his security to make this happen. He goes without food and rest, always on the move so that in him God's dream may be manifest. He takes this love to the darkness of the cross

Isaiah 9:6-7

For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him:

Wonder Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace.

Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity.

From this time onwards and forever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

and then, through the resurrection to light and new life.

Mighty God

When we think of something mighty, I feel there's a tendency to see it as something huge and overwhelming and that God's mightiness comes mostly in nature, a thunderstorm, a mountain, a lake or a valley. But the Holy Spirit of God is always at work, mostly in the tiny and unnoticed details of everyday life – a small, still voice in your head, a smile, a safe journey, a piece of work well done, a phone call from another person.

Jesus was and still is the manifestation of God's might. We see this in the remarkable things he did, the way he brought light to those in darkness, healing and wholeness to many. At the end of John's gospel however, the writer tells us that there were many other signs that were not recorded in his book. I wonder how many of these signs were just small things, a word of peace, a gesture of kindness, a look of love, all building a picture of God's mightiness.

Let's not forget too that God is so kind that he allows us a share in this might, this power, this transformative love when we share his love with one another. Please take a moment to think about that.

Eternal Father

Some of you may have heard of or seen the Christian mime artist, Steve Murray. He once came to the school where I was

working and spoke to the children there. The first thing he told them was that he was going to say one word, and that this word would mean something different to each person in the room. The word was 'father'. Just that – father.

We know that for many, this word will conjure up an image of a good enough father, someone who was or is present, kind, loving and supportive. For others the experience may be totally different; these may think of a man who was at best absent or at worst violent and abusive. And then there is every kind of father in between.

Jesus says that the father and he are one. A loving father is always there; he knows his children and wants what is best for them. A loving father would not want to see his child walk in darkness. Jesus loves you and wants what is best for you. And he will never stop loving you or wanting what is best for you. He will never stop drawing you out of the darkness into his own wonderful light.

For me too this word eternal is so comforting - eternal father. I say this because when we worry about things and feel we're in a mess or someone else is in a mess, then God has the whole of eternity to sort it out! We need not be afraid; God has all the time in the world!

Prince of Peace

A Crown Prince is one who is first in line to the throne. In Luke's gospel at the Annunciation, the Angel tells Mary that her child will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, that the Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David and his reign will have no end.

Jesus, this newborn baby is the one who will inherit the kingdom of God and who will rule over the House of Jacob forever. And yet paradoxically where did Jesus claim this kingship? He claimed it right at the end of his life and ministry, as a prisoner in chains, brought before Pilate in the Praetorium of Jerusalem. He stands by himself, deserted by his followers, utterly vulnerable and alone.

Pilate asks him the million dollar question, 'so you are a king then?' Only in that moment does Jesus, our Prince of Peace, standing unaccompanied with a crown of thorns on his head, claim this prophecy of Isaiah.

'Yes, I am a king; I was born for this. I came into the world for this: to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the

side of truth listen to my voice.' What is the truth? What is this kingdom? For me, it is one that does not close its borders so as to protect the elite and subjugate the poor. It does not exclude others because they don't look right, cook right, eat right, speak right, behave right or act right. It is a kingdom of justice and integrity, of welcome, of inclusion, of kindness, compassion, mercy, forgiveness and of love. It's a kingdom that takes risks, that remains open to the outrageous love of its ruler; it's a kingdom in which every citizen knows that he or she is a treasured child of a loyal and loving father.

The light has come. When Jesus came into the world, he was born in abject poverty; he lived part of his life as a refugee. In his ministry he lived as one who was homeless and one who was part of a travelling community. And at the end, though unjustly accused, he died as a criminal. He did this to align himself with the outcast so that God's dream for the world could be realised; so that each of us would know how loved and precious we are.

And those for whom he gave his life, those who have walked in the darkness of loss, bereavement, suffering, sickness, rejection, misunderstanding and sin can now come out of the darkness with rejoicing and with gladness. That's all of us; we've all walked in darkness and we can all rejoice and be glad.

I don't know about you, but this is the God I choose to love; this is the God I choose to serve.

Let me ask you these questions.

Who is Jesus to you? Who would you like him to be?

Is he your Wonder Counsellor, full of understanding, ready and willing to touch your wounds and to restore you to new life?

Is he Mighty God, the one who reveals his infinite love in the minutiae of your daily life in ways both big and small?

Is he your Eternal Father, the one who never stops loving you no matter how far you stray?

Is he your Prince of Peace, the one who reaches out in love and invites you to share the light of this love with others?

We pray,

Loving Jesus,

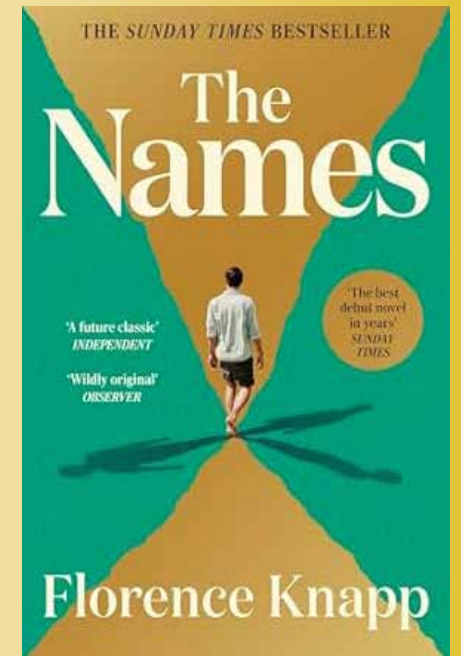
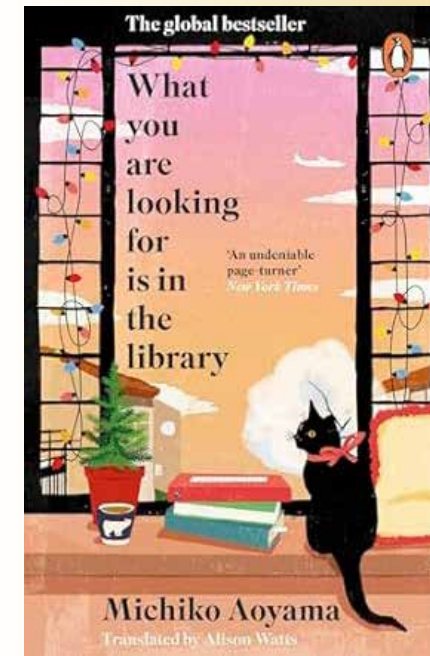
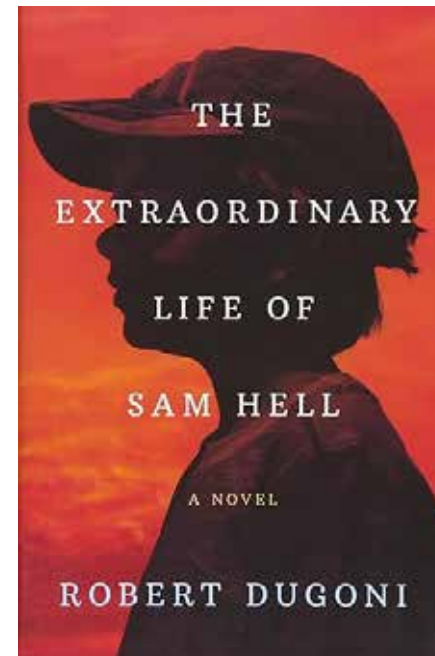
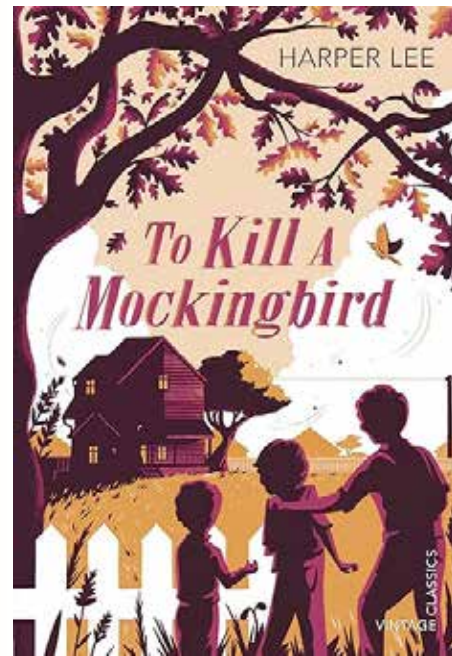
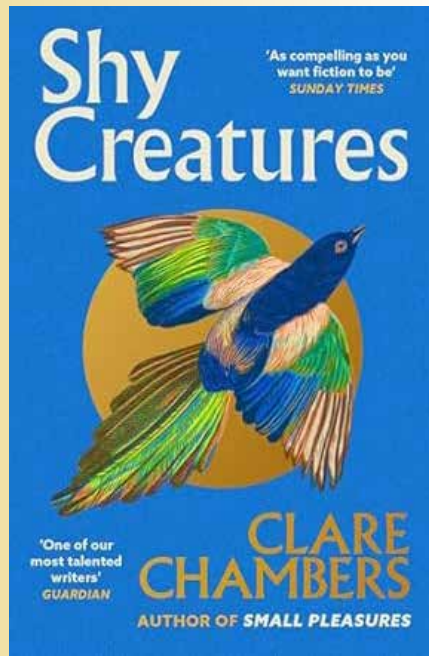
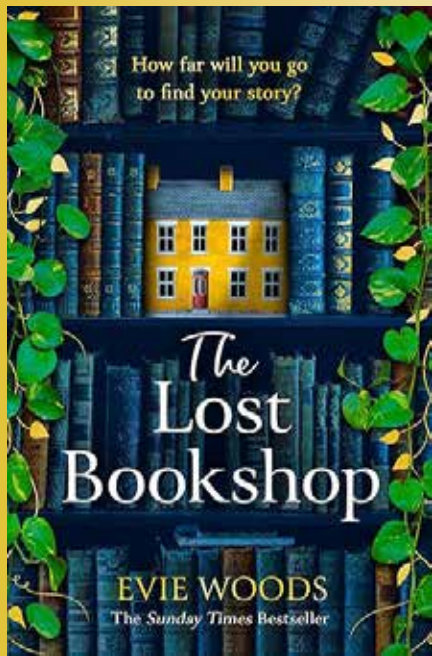
Thank you for being our Wonder Counsellor, our Mighty God, our Eternal Father and our Prince of Peace.

Dream your dream through us, Lord. We place ourselves at your service in complete trust that you will be there to guide and protect us.

This Christmas, may we see you afresh and know you as our Lord and King.

Amen





St Peter's Book Club

Since the summer, our reading group has explored a rich tapestry of books, spanning different genres and styles. Each one has offered more than just a compelling story, they've opened doors to deeper reflection on themes such as community, identity, redemption and the quiet ways grace can appear in everyday life.

'The lost book shop' by Evie Woods is a beautifully layered dual-timeline novel that intertwines the lives of three characters, each drawn to a mysterious bookshop and a rare, possibly mythical manuscript. At its heart, the story is a celebration of the power of stories to connect souls across time and space. Through love, courage and quiet resilience, the characters rediscover themselves and begin to heal from past wounds. The author delicately balances the enchantment of literature with the darker realities of abuse and neglect, reminding us that redemption often begins in the most unexpected places. The novel invites readers to reflect on how storytelling can be a sacred act, one that restores, uplifts and binds us together in hope.

'Shy creatures' by Clare Chambers is a quietly powerful novel set in 1960's England, following the life of Ellie, a young woman shaped by personal loss and the weight of societal expectations. As an art therapist in a psychiatric hospital, Ellie encounters patients whose

Alison McGarr reviews the latest books

suffering is compounded not only by their emotional wounds but also by the rigid and often outdated attitudes of the time. Through its nuanced portrayal of mental health, repression and resilience, the novel explores the tension between confinement and freedom. Each character is bound by trauma, by convention, by silence and yet within these constraints, the possibility of healing and human connection begins to emerge.

'To kill a mockingbird' by Harper Lee is set in the 1930's Deep South and is a classic novel told through the eyes of Scout Finch, a young girl growing up in the small town of Maycomb, Alabama. Her father, Atticus Finch, is a lawyer who defends Tom Robinson, a black man falsely accused of assaulting a white woman. Through

Scout's innocent yet questioning eyes, we witness a community divided by prejudice, fear and injustice, and a father who chooses integrity and compassion over popularity and safety. 'To kill a mockingbird' remains a powerful reminder that true discipleship often demands standing beside the vulnerable, speaking truth in love and refusing to let cynicism drown out compassion.

'The extraordinary life of Sam Hell' by Robert Dugoni tells the story of a boy born with ocular albinism, a rare condition that gives him vivid red eyes and marks him as different from the start, making him the target of cruel teasing and exclusion. Branded "Devil Boy" by classmates, he grows up under the loving guidance of his devout Catholic mother, who insists that his difference is not a curse but part of God's special plan. The story follows Sam through the trials of school, friendship, loss and faith as he wrestles with what it means to believe in a good God in a world that so often feels unjust. Dugoni's novel helps us to understand how suffering can become a doorway to compassion and how faith can mature from simple belief to deep understanding. At its core, this is a story about seeing ourselves and others through God's eyes, not defined by our

differences, but by the love that never lets us go.

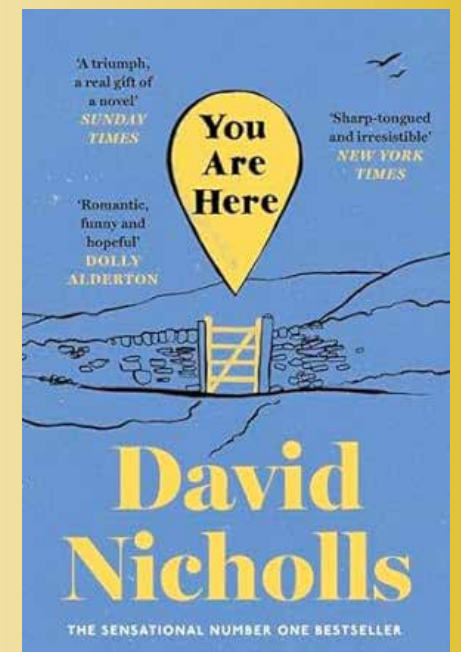
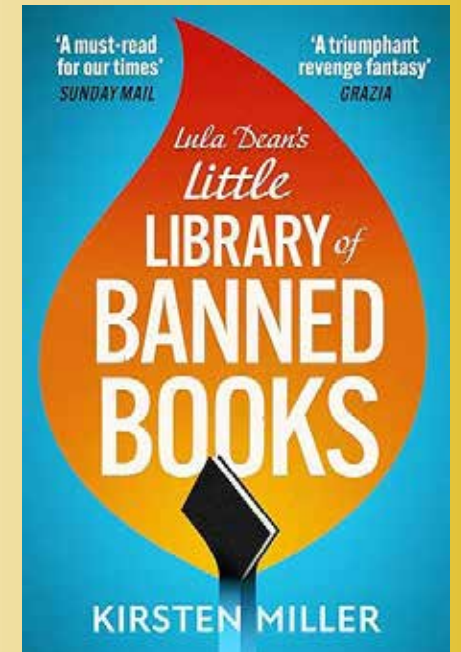
'What you are looking for is in the library' by Michiko Aoyama is a gentle, uplifting novel from Japan that weaves together five short stories, each centered on a visitor to a small community library in Tokyo. The characters, who are all searching for something more in life, include a restless office worker, a young mother returning to the workforce, a recent retiree seeking purpose, a shop assistant who feels unseen and a man unsure of his future. At the heart of each story stands Sayuri Komachi, the kindly, almost mystical librarian who seems to understand her visitors' needs before they voice them. This is a book about finding grace in ordinary places - about how, even when we feel lost or unsure, what we are seeking may already be within reach.

'The names' by Florence Knapp is a deeply moving and imaginative debut that explores how a single decision can shape the course of a life. The novel follows Cora, a young mother whose story unfolds across three alternate realities, each one diverging from the moment she chooses a name for her baby son. These parallel timelines reveal how love, loss and circumstance influence not only who we become, but who we might have been. Woven through the narrative is a powerful exploration of identity, motherhood and the mystery of destiny. Knapp does not shy away from the darker realities of domestic violence, portraying its impact with honesty and compassion. Yet even

in the midst of trauma and regret, the story affirms that grace can reach us, offering healing, hope and the quiet possibility of redemption.

'Lula Dean's Little Library of banned books' by Kirsten Miller is set in a quiet Southern town, where Lula Dean is a woman who prides herself on keeping her community in order. She runs a "Little Library" outside her home, but unlike most, hers is filled only with the books she personally approves of. Everything else is banned. Then, one morning, mysterious new books begin to appear in her library, stories she has tried to suppress and with them come questions, conversations and unexpected changes. This is a warm, witty and insightful book about how stories can change even the most stubborn of hearts.

'You are here' by David Nicholls is a tender and humorous novel about two solitary souls, Marnie, a London-based copy editor, and Michael, a geography teacher from York. They are brought together on a walking trip across the English countryside. Both are recovering from painful divorces and have retreated into lives of quiet isolation. When a mutual friend invites them on a hike along the Coast-to-Coast trail, their reluctant participation leads to an unexpected journey of healing, companionship and rediscovery. Their journey becomes more than a physical trek: it is a pilgrimage of sorts, where nature, vulnerability and human connection gently guide them towards hope and renewal.



A day in the life of...

Terry Thiele

Terry is the man often behind the scenes, working away to make everything easy for us, well presented, legible, accessible – and fun!

Terry Thiele is a graphic designer by profession. His are the artistic brains behind this and every issue of Shine. He creates the content for the screens we have at each one of the Sunday Masses. He and his wife Teresa are the founders of TOAST, our wonderful children's liturgy group and he devises Terry's Teaser – a new one every week for the children.

Often for the funeral services for many of our parishioners it's Terry who has prepared the order of service booklets, creating the design, setting the type, arranging the printing and delivery. Although he's now retired from full time work, his design juices still flow and he offers his talent on a freelance basis to anyone who needs his help. He organised the design and production



of the beautiful plaque that describes the wonderful mosaic of St Peter in our church. If there's anything that needs to be produced, like signs or printed matter, Terry's our man. He draws the line (every pun intended) at producing these signs below, however!!

Signs of the times

A sign in a shoe repair shop:

We will heel you. We will save your sole. We will even dye for you.

a sign on a blinds and curtain van: "Blind man driving."

in a podiatrist's surgery: "Time wounds all heels."

at an optician's: "If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place."

on a plumber's van: "We repair what your husband fixed."

in a non-smoking area: "If we see smoke, we will assume you are on fire and will take appropriate action."

on a maternity room door: "Push. Push. Push."

at a car dealership: "The best way to get back on your feet? Miss a car payment."

outside an exhaust fitter: "No appointment necessary. We hear you coming."

in a vet's waiting room: "Will be back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!"

at the electric company: "We would be delighted if you send in your payment on time. However, if you don't, YOU will be de-lighted."

in a restaurant window: "Don't stand there and be hungry; come on in and get fed up."

in the front of a funeral director's: "Drive carefully. We'll wait."

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

Celebrating liturgy

Altar linen
Pat Carrahar: 07703 351896

Altar servers
Elaine Rhodes: 07973 943238
ellie.r.28@icloud.com

Church cleaners
Margaret King: 0161 483 3476

Eucharistic ministers
Parish office: 0161 483 3476

Flower arrangers
Colette Christie: 07714 470854
colette.christie4982@hotmail.co.uk

Lay-led liturgy
Rachel McKay: 07724 749217
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: 0161 483 3476

Readers
Parish office: 0161 483 3476

Welcomers/stewarding
Parish office: 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: 0161 483 3476

Parish noticeboards
juliewilliams10@ymail.com

Parish website
Chris Rhodes
christopher.d.rhodes@virginmedia.com

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

Tea and Coffees, after Mass
Rachel McKay: 07724 749217
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

Walsingham pilgrimage
Peter Henshaw: 07845 711540
peterhenshaw26@gmail.com

Exploring faith

Alpha and Sycamore programmes
Rachel McKay: 07724 749217
mckay7897@hotmail.com

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

Confirmation programme via SPY
Chris Glennon
glennonchris1970@hotmail.co.uk

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

Marriage preparation
Fr Philip

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

Vocations
Fr Philip

Email address for the parish office is
admin@stpetershazelgrove.org.uk

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

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

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

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

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

Scripture and faith sharing 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
Chris Glennon
glennonchris1970@hotmail.co.uk

Outreaching in the community

Disability Inclusion group
Maura Beesley
inclusionstpeters@gmail.com

Hospital chaplaincy
Chaplaincy Office: 0161 419 5889

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

Via St Peter's
0161 483 3476
admin@stpeterhazelgrove.org.uk

LAMBS disco group
Kath Coll: 07592 755980
Brenda Martin: 0161 483 7720
brenmart46@gmail.com

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

Missio
Fiona Preece: 0161 456 4319

Schools chaplaincy
St Peter's
Fr P Atkinson: 0161 483 2431
0161 483 3476

St Simon's
Fr P Atkinson: 0161 483 9696
0161 483 3476

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

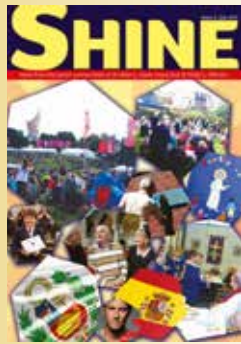
Harrytown High School - Via School
0161 430 5277
office@harrytown.stockport.sch.uk

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

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



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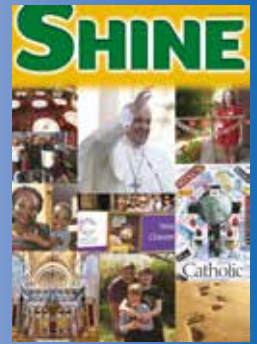
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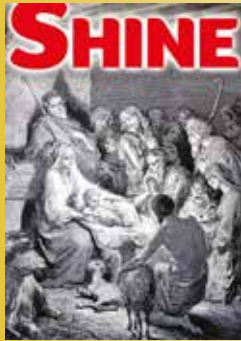
Issue 3, December 2017



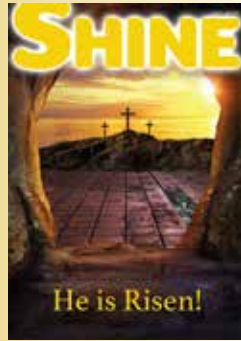
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Issue 5, September 2018



Issue 6, December 2018



Issue 7, April 2019



Issue 8, September 2019



Issue 9, December 2019



Issue 10, May 2020



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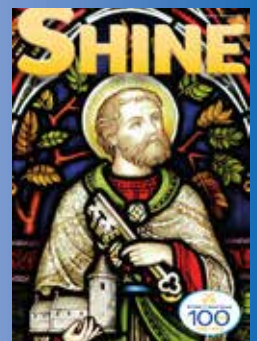
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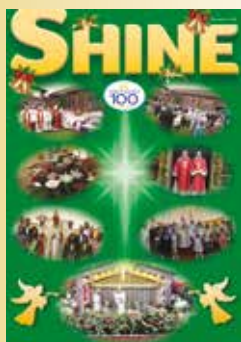
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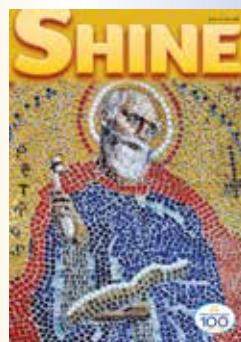
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Issue 17, December 2024



Issue 18, July 2025



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