News and Views from St Peter's Church and

The Parish of Redcar



January 2023

PARISH CONTACTS			
VICAR	Rev Andy Greiff	07522 445569	
CHURCHWARDENS	Mrs Chris Harvey	01642 479189	
	Mrs Daphne Wood	07779 600418 01642 479672	
READER	Mr Chris Bowers	07715 324098	
READER and COMMUNITY MINISTER Mr Steve Graham			
PCC SECRETARY	Mrs Suzanne Graham	07761 497981	
TREASURER	Mr Ian Westcough	07306 431994	
SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE	Mrs Carole Seymour	07766 409176	
VERGER	Mrs Sue Steele	01642 473706 07807 069795	
SUNDAY CHILDREN	Mrs J. Fox	01642 478336	
ORGANIST	Mr J.F. Jowsey	01642 461121	
MOTHERS' UNION	Mrs Anne Hagen	01642 479755 07804 047354	
PARISH MAGAZINE e-mail daphne_wood@hc	Mrs D. Wood otmail.com	01642 479672 07715 324098	
LADIES' WEDNESDAY GROUP Mrs D. Falconer 01642 484396			
OFFICE LIQUE. the showed is somewhat we say C 00 and sound 7 00 and so Thomseless			

OFFICE HOUR—the church is open between 6.00pm and 7.00pm on Thursday evenings to discuss baptisms or weddings. For funerals, please contact your funeral director.

CHURCH EMAIL ADDRESS stpeterschurchredcar@gmail.com

CHURCH WEBSITE www.stpeterschurchredcar.co.uk

FACEBOOK PAGE https://www.facebook.com/stpeterschurchredcar

WORSHIP AT ST. PETER'S

Sundays 10.00am Holy Communion

Second Sunday of month All Age Worship—a family friendly

Service with Holy Communion

The children's area in the church always has appropriate resources

and activities available for all services

Sundays 5.00pm fortnightly Peter's Net - a relaxed service of worship, praise,

bible study and prayer

Sundays 7.00pm fortnightly (alternates with Peter's Net)

Night Prayer (Compline) on Zoom

Zoom meeting ID: 930 2516 0828

Password: 1234

Wednesdays 9.30am Holy Communion

Last Wednesday of month Mothers' Union Corporate Communion

Wednesdays 6.30pm Reflections—an opportunity to reflect on the big

questions of modern life in a safe, comfortable and friendly space

Thursdays 10.00am Pram Service—a short service for babies and

toddlers and their parents, grandparents and carers (school term-time)

Monday morning prayers and reflections are posted on St Peter's Facebook page

https://www.facebook.com/stpeterschurchredcar







Every year brings new events, changes, joys and pains both in the wider world and in our own personal lives. 2022 was no exception. It was a year when prime ministers came and went, we lost our dear Queen Elizabeth II, the cost of living crisis emerged and Russia invaded Ukraine. For you personally 2022 might have been a great year or a year that you'd like to forget, a year that you remember with joy or a year of pain and difficulty.

As we set out on 2023 we don't know what it will bring BUT one thing we can hold onto is that whatever happens in 2023 God is with us, Emmanuel is forever and not just for Christmas. Ultimately God is in charge, his plans will enfold in this world. That's not to say that if and when we are going through any sort of suffering we can blithely comfort ourselves or one another by claiming 'it's all ok because it's all God's plan'. God forbid. But God *will* ultimately bring peace on this world and in our own lives, he will wipe away each tear, death will be no more. In the mean time he walks with us through suffering and encourages us not to lose hope.

2 Corinthians 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

Philippians 4:6 Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done.

Talking about prayer...

Always at this time of year I start thinking about which direction our church is going in. A lot of our focus this year will probably be on fund raising, but that can be fun as we dream up different ways to socialise and involve Redcar in our church.

I want to look at evangelism, pastoral work, Sunday worship, community, building projects, occasional offices, school work, fringe groups and seasonal events.

But first and foremost, underpinning all this we need to be a *community of prayer*! So expect some new, and old prayer initiatives at St Peter's in 2023.

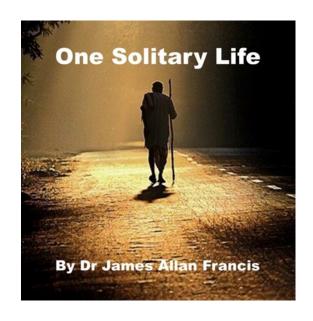
God Bless Rev Andy

PS On Zetland FM Radio over Christmas, and in our Carol Service, I used a poem called 'One solitary Life', which is attributed to James Allen Francis. I've been asked if I can put it in the mag, so here it is on the next page. May you have a blessed and happy 2023.

Andy



SATURDAY 28th JANUARY 10.00am—12noon BROUGHT TO YOU BY MEMBERS OF THE PCC



He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman.

He grew up in still another village where he worked as a jobbing builder cum carpenter until he was 30

He became an itinerant preacher for three years.

He never wrote a book

He never held an office

He never had a family or owned a house

He didn't go to college

He never travelled more than 200 miles from where he was born

He did none of the things you associate with greatness

He had no credentials but himself

He was only 33 when he was 'cancelled' and public opinion went against him

His friends ran away

He was the victim of a show trial

He was executed with criminals

While he was dying, soldiers gambled for his clothing, his only earthly possession When he died he was put into a borrowed grave.

2000 years have come and gone and still today,

he is the most well known figure of the human race.

All the armies that ever marched

All the parliaments that ever sat

All the monarchs that ever reigned

Put together

Have not affected Life on earth

As much as this

one solitary life.

Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh for the Infant Jesus



Epiphany is also known as 'Twelfth Night', or the last night of the Christmas festival. According to the song, it is also the day when that over-enthusiastic 'true love' of yours dumps no less than 78 presents on your doorstep, among them a dozen leaping lords of the realm and a final partridge – to go with the 11 you have already been given.

In many parts of the world, 6th January is celebrated as Christmas Day. As we Western Christians are packing away our tree, the Greek Orthodox world and Catholic Spain are giving presents and celebrating the wise men, or magi. For what better time to give presents to each other, than on the day the wise men presented gold, frankincense and myrrh to the infant Jesus?

What do we make of these presents? Gold is for kingship, proclaiming a royal child. Frankincense carries a feeling of worship about it: it was used in the temple worship and indicated access to the presence of God. Frankincense is thus for worship and incarnation.

The third gift, myrrh, finds its place at Calvary. After the crucifixion, Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea prepared Jesus' body for burial, using myrrh as an embalming fluid. Thus, when the wise men visit the baby Jesus, the shadow of the cross already falls across the crib. But myrrh is also symbolic of love, so you could say that the third gift is about adoration as well as death. And Christ's death on the cross is for love of the Church, His bride.

As for the magi, they were not Jewish grandees, but foreign Gentiles. And so it was clear, from as early as the manger in Bethlehem, that Jesus was not just the Messiah for the Jews, but the Saviour of the whole world.

LECTIONARY JANUARY 2023

Sunday 1st January

Second Sunday of Christmas	or	The Naming of Jesus
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Isaiah 63.7-9 Numbers 6.22-end

Psalm 148 Psalm 8

Hebrews 2.10-end Galatians 4.4-7

Matthew 2.13-end Luke 2.15-21

Sunday 8th January

Baptism of Christ or Epiphany

Isaiah 42.1-9 Isaiah 60.1-6

Psalm 29 Psalm 72.10-15
Acts 10.34-43 Ephesians 3.1-12

Matthew 3.13-end Matthew 2.1-12

Sunday 15th January 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Isaiah 49.1-7

Psalm 40.1-12

1 Corinthians 1.1-9

John 1.29-42

Sunday 22nd January 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

Isaiah 9.1-4

Psalm 27.1-11

1 Corinthians 1.10-18

Matthew 4.12-23

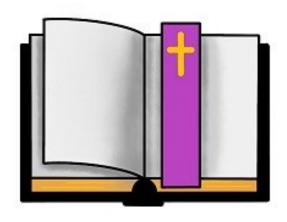
Saturday 29th January 4th Sunday of Epiphany

1 Kings 17.8-16

Psalm 36.5-10

1 Corinthians 1.18-end

John 2.1-11



FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

In Loving Memory

Funeral services held during December:

20th December Freda Field

21st December Lillian Dann (at Teesside Crematorium)

30th December Doreen Burniston

We pray for their family and friends

ST PETER'S 100 CLUB



The result of the December 2022 draw was:

No. 94 Sally Hopper £40

No. 72 Rev Andy Greiff £10



READER'S RAMBLING

Here we are again, standing, or more likely sitting as we read this, but at the very edge of the future.

A New Year, which is strange to write about as I am still in the Old Year.

Which made me think of NEW and OLD.

The Romans had a god of New beginnings called

Janus, a two faced god. And I am not being cheeky there, the guy had two faces. One looking backwards and the other forwards. Sometimes shown with an Old Face and a Young Face.

Janus was also the god of doorways and arches, passing from one space to another. So it's no surprise that Janus gives us the name of the month Janu-ary. So here we are, new month and a new year.

Is there a New Us!

Possibly a waistline change? For some. I mean it was Christmas after all. Oh and possibly a slimmer bank account?

But is that it? Is that all that the Wonder of Christmas, the Birth Of Christ, has brought us.

The other day (in December) I was waiting in the car for Lorraine, my wife. She was finishing off the Christmas shopping, which I had helped with manfully. But eventually gave up. (Steve, I feel you brother, Magazine article December 2022)

I was sitting in the car in the car park reading my Gideon New Testament, which I keep in the car for just such occasions.

It is the copy I was given at school. It is the copy that sat on my book shelf all the way through my teens and into my twenties. And it is the copy I started to read. It moved to my overalls breast pocket at work and now lives in the car.

What suddenly hit me was the fact that I was reading my Old New Testament. I have read this little book for years and yet it hasn't become old, but it is if you see my point.

I have owned it for years but it is New Life.

Reading the book of the Acts of the Apostles, and the story of Saul who became Paul, we celebrate his conversion on 25th January. You may know the story but if not here it is in a nut shell.

Saul was a devout Jew, a Pharisee. What he saw in the followers of the WAY—the Christians—was against what he believed; so he started to round them up and get them imprisoned. He also voted for the death penalty for these people, men and women.

He went off to Damascus to chase down more Christians with a letter of authority from the Jewish High Priest in his pocket.

But Jesus met him on the road and spoke with him.

Saul the persecutor of the followers of Jesus had a complete about face and became a follower and preacher for Jesus. Giving his life to this work. Saul became Paul to mark this change.

He actually died for the truth of what he believed.

We have had Christmas, again, but it never gets Old, brand New every time.

The Old brand New!

And here we are in January, and a question you will be asked is 'what did you get for Christmas.'

And what did we get?

It was offered to all of us, it was offered to each one of us.

Jesus!

The baby Jesus.

What came to mind was the expression, 'left holding the baby.'

Well yes we have, each one of us. A baby to care for and to watch as it grows and learns to laugh and love. To care for people and planet, because one is nothing without the other.

And the baby grows, and teaches us, and is left holding us.

Hello to the Old New You!

THERE IS NEW LIFE IN YOU

Outstanding.

(PS. soon be Christmas)

God Bless, Chris



Hi EVERYONE!

I hope you will join us on



Tuesday, 3rd January at 2.00pm

If you are able, please bring a small plate of food to share and we will start the year with some fun and frivolity!

Over the past year, I have tried to enthuse and involve readers of our Parish magazine (members and non- members) by sharing our programme and recounting some of our activities. Covid took its toll on us in the early months of last year (as with many charitable organisations and groups) but we have soldiered on. Hopefully, we will be able to sustain our membership and even encourage others to join us.

To support the Mothers Union the membership is being asked to give £35 each and if we can manage another £5 each towards the upkeep of our diocesan Away From It All (AFIA) caravan holiday project (details of how to pay are at the bottom of the article) or by organising a fundraiser then the Diocese of York will be able to continue offering supported holiday breaks to less fortunate families in need! At the Christmas Fair, the MU Stall took over £120 for the church. Well done and a big thank you for all your contributions; especially to EMU Julie for helping me with setting up the stall on Friday and to Margery Walker and another of our EMUs Tracey, for their selling prowess on the Saturday. A super result, as was the support for the Christingle service, the Journey of the Posada and the Christmas eve Nativity. Thank you to Rev Andy for his support and prayers throughout the year.

From the national webpage https://www.mothersunion.org I have tried to share a piece about our work in communities in Britain and Ireland and overseas in 2022. As a charity all this brilliant work needs to be resourced! Why not visit the website to read articles about what MU has achieved nationally and worldwide?

"We have explored and reflected on white privilege and racism, looked at how we can tackle gender-based violence, and modern-day slavery. We are leading discussions, action, and partnerships on domestic abuse in our churches and communities. On the website you can listen to a radio interview Bev Jullien did on the International Day of the Girl Child about our partnership with Women's Aid on UCB1. We continue to deliver projects and programmes overseas that help women and children combat injustice, gender-based violence and poverty. At home, supporting prisoners and their families is an important part of our community outreach work. As is providing support packages to women's refuges and hospitals. We have lovingly welcomed refugees into our homes and communities, extending our love and compassion to strangers in need. Mothers' Union is a truly global organisation, with over 4 million members we actively help 750,000 people every year. Our network of branches take root all over the world, in diverse cultures and communities. We are excited that a new programme of work, developed together, is ready to go in 2023." As the article also said, What a year! Moving through a once in a lifetime pandemic into a cost-of-living crisis, a war in Europe, a female uprising in Iran, a rise in gender-based violence and domestic abuse what we do know is that Mothers' Union has never been needed more.

Wishing You All good health, a modicum of wealth and lots of happiness during this New Year, God Bless, Anne x

MOTHERS' UNION MEMBERSHIP 2023 - £35.00 due by the end of January 2023 (plus £5 per member for AFIA if possible). Please pay by cheque payable to Redcar Parish Mothers' Union or by direct bank transfer (bacs).

Account name: Redcar Parish Mothers' Union, Sort Code: 05-07-02,

Account No.: 14233439. Please put MU SUBs and NAME on cheque or bacs transaction. Thank you to everyone who has paid already.



Visit the Church of England website to learn more about Follow The Star—The Great Invitation, the current Christmas campaign. You can sign up for the Christmas Reflections, which cover the 12 Days of Christmas from 24th December until 6th January, by email, or download the free app at www.churchofengland.org

EAST REDCAR RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

The next meeting will be at 7.00pm on Thursday, 2nd February in the upstairs meeting room of St. Peter's Church and will finish by 8.30pm. The guest speaker is yet to be confirmed. There will be a report from Redcar local police officers, a round up of what's currently happening in Redcar's parks and public spaces — Zetland park, Green Lane, Holyhead park, Borough Road park, Redcar Cemetery, the Lily Park and the Paddling Pool— then Any Other Business to raise specific concerns or items of interest not covered by the agenda. Why not come along and see for yourself? Just turn up on the night, give me a ring on 01642 482132 or e-mail: bib_ken@ntlworld.com for further information. Ken Bibby, Chairman

SANDRA AND JIM VEITCH RETIRE FROM THE FOODBANK



Redcar Area Foodbank Manager, Helen
Hedges, paid a surprise visit on Thursday
29th December to present Sandra and Jim
Veitch with a bouquet of flowers and some
chocolates to thank them for their 10 years
service to St Peter's Foodbank.

Earlier, members of our Foodbank team made their own presentation to say thanks and goodbye to Sandra and Jim. Hope you've got plenty of vases, Sandra!

On behalf of all of our St Peter's family, a big thank you to Sandra and Jim for their ten years' service to the Foodbank and best wishes for the future—get those holidays booked!



Ladies' Wednesday Group

Our Christmas Dinner on December 7th was most enjoyable; 32 Members were present at the Cleveland Golf Club. This closed 2022 on a lovely festive note.

January 4th 2023 will see us celebrating once more when we have our New Year's Party, before we start our Spring programme of Speakers, which is currently being organised by Marie.

Prayer for the End of the Year

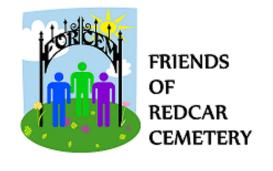
Looking forward looking back
So much to think about
But thank you Lord for being there
Through all the pain and doubt
Like children we have had to learn
New ways to Love and Care
To count our blessings every day
Find other ways to share
Please help us Lord to look ahead
Let all our hopes renew
As we go forward to next Year
Please keep us close to you



A New Year Prayer



Lord as this New Year dawns
Bless all I do and say
Give me strength so I can face
Each trial that comes my way
Help me share a smile
Reach out a helping hand
Show others in some small way
That I care and understand
Help me be your Ears and Eyes
Mouth and Hands and Feet
So I can share your Love dear Lord
With everyone I meet



The Friends would like to thank everyone for their support with our Christmas activities, especially Father Derek and Chris Bowers for the help with the Carol Service.

We did not have as many people there as we normally do; we think the World Cup final won out. The Mayor Stuart Smith attended

the service: it was his 8th Carol Service this year! Thanks to the Bowling Club for the use of the room for the refreshments.



We lost four of our most supportive members last year, we miss them very much. This year we hope to regroup and work effectively for the benefit of the cemetery.

We are planning the Peter Rabbit Garden and hope to see the results early in the year, with the formation of the garden in the new section. Thanks to everyone for their input; it has been a lot of work, but we think it will be worth the wait.

A very big thanks to Soo for knitting 50 Christmas cake covers with a large tin of sweets as a base. She had found an outlet to sell these creations donating the money to us.

Our AGM will be held on Wednesday 25th of January between 2.00pm and 4.00pm in the Zetland rooms of St Peter's Church. You would be very welcome to join us at this open meeting.

Dot Ahmed

Statistics....

Statistics show we're getting stronger.

Fifty years ago you needed an estate car to hold £50 worth of Christmas presents. Twenty years ago, it took two people to carry £20 worth of groceries -- now a five-year-old can do it.



Oops!....

A father had given his daughter a young puppy for Christmas. Next day, he found her in the kitchen, looking sadly at a puddle in the centre of the floor. "Look Dad," she said, "My pup runneth over!"

New Year Resolutions for Cats

- My human will never let me eat their pet hamster, and I must be at peace with that
- I will not use the bathtub to store live mice for late-night snacks
- I will not play 'Thundering Wildebeest Stampeding Across the Plains of the Serengeti' over any humans asleep in bed at night
- When it rains, it will be raining on all sides of the house; it is not necessary to check every door
- I will not play 'dead cat on the stairs' while people are trying to bring in groceries or laundry, or else one of these days, it will really come true
- When my human is typing at the computer, their forearms are not a hammock
- TV screens do not exist to backlight my lovely tail
- I will not perch on my human's chest in the middle of the night and stare until they wake up

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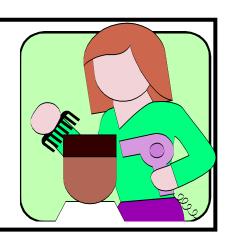
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You can remember a loved one, celebrate a baptism, a wedding or perhaps an anniversary.

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