

News and Views from St Peter's Church and The Parish of Redcar

On entering the house,
★ they saw the child
with Mary his mother
and they knelt down
and paid him homage.
Then, opening
their treasure chests,
they offered him gifts
of gold, frankincense,
and myrrh.

Matthew 2, verse 12

January 2021

PARISH CONTACTS

THE VICAR

In Vacancy (For all parish enquiries please contact the Churchwardens)

ASSISTANT CURATE
(until 17th January)

Reverend Tina Burgess 07909107404
Email: revtinaburgess@gmail.com

CHURCHWARDENS

Mrs Anne Hagen 01642479755
20 Cartmel Road 07804047354

Mr Michael Williams 01642 488994
24 Windsor Road 07813016630

READERS

Chris Bowers
Steve Graham
Sr. Louisa Ann, OHP

VERGER

Mrs Sue Steele 01642473706
2 Dene Grove 07807069795

CHURCH EMAIL ADDRESS stpeterschurchredcar@gmail.com

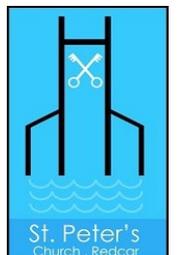
To discuss baptisms or weddings, please call 07818883641
between 6.00pm and 7.00pm on a Thursday evening.

Please note we are required to revisit and maintain all of our COVID PRECAUTIONS. Everyone is required to hand sanitise on arrival at church, to wear their face mask in the correct manner and to maintain a safe social distance (unless with someone in their family bubble) throughout their time in church.

Keep up to date with our activities by visiting our Facebook page -

<https://www.facebook.com/stpeterschurchredcar>

or our Website—www.stpeterschurchredcar.co.uk



FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS



Happy New Year everyone!

What a roller-coaster end

to last year and the start of 2021! I'm sure, like me, you will all have had your highs and low points in life since we last connected through the pages of this magazine



I was quite euphoric about how we had managed to engage our young families to make and send out Christmas cards to those on the mailing list (you too must have enjoyed seeing their smiling pictures in Decembers magazine!) but then I am dismayed only this week to receive a soggy, wet torn envelope in a plastic sleeve which had been posted from a friend in Scotland before Christmas, and also to learn that an important letter sent by me early in December has been lost!! There must be many folks out there who have been so disappointed by similar experiences!

How wonderful was the opportunity to join together for the service of Twilight Carols out in the church garden and it was truly wonderful to have such good support that night and also at the Christmas Eve Nativity service.



However, as we come to the end of the season of Christmas, taking down the trees, the decorations and putting away our crib scenes we are confronted with the bleakness of the weather and the sombre thought of a 'new' lockdown.

I know I have said it before but we will do our best to keep you informed as to what (if any) difference it will make here at St. Peter's.

Because places of worship have managed the protocols so well, we are privileged to still be

open for worship; however, please do not feel pressure, either way. We will endeavour to provide a service of Holy Communion on a Sunday at 10.00am and on a Wednesday at 9.30am and some worship opportunities online.

The hope and joy of Christmas will manifest before us as we give ourselves a pat on the back for a year well-managed; in the sure knowledge of God's help and guidance (and the lovely Rachel).

The sadness that will hit us as we say 'Farewell to Tina' on Sunday, 17th January will be tangible but fear not, as the angels said! We understand that Revd Tina is doing what every good priest is called to do – to go and continue God's work where He leads and we can be proud that we have played our part, as we send her off with our love and prayers. Please join us if you are able.

Finally, as we continue to embrace the challenges facing our church with imminent roof repairs and other important building work necessary, we know and accept there may yet be a time of waiting, as we seek to discern God's will for the future needs of our parish here in Redcar. Please hold the family of St. Peter's in your prayers. Please stay Safe, God Bless, Anne and Michael





Curate's Corner

A Fond Farewell

When I was thinking and praying about what to write for this, my last 'Curate's Corner' for St Peter's Church Magazine, I was reminded of the beautiful banner which hangs in the church. On it is part of a prayer written by St Paul to the Ephesian church:

*"For this reason, I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of His glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being **rooted and grounded in love**, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fulness of God". Ephesians 3:14-19*

When I first came to St Peter's, the banner which says, 'Rooted and Grounded in Love' caught my eye. And I very soon came to observe and experience those words as a reality in the life of St Peter's Church.

Those words of God both proclaim who you are as a church and wrap around you as a continuing blessing and inspiration for your life together in the Spirit. They also challenge you to be all that you can be in Jesus Christ, in the surrounding community where you stand for the Gospel.

I give thanks for you all at St Peter's and for the love and encouragement you have all given to me. And so, as we part company, let us continue to be obedient in our faith in Christ and be prayerful for our Heavenly Father to continue to work His purposes out in us, that others may also observe and experience His love, rooted and grounded and expressed through us, to the glory of His Holy name.

Every Blessing

Tina



WORSHIP AT ST. PETER'S

Lockdown 3 has brought new tougher restrictions with a strong STAY at HOME message. We are still allowed to worship together BUT we must all do our utmost to keep each other safe! We will be revisiting our Risk Assessment and making small adjustments to our practice to reflect the seriousness of the time we are living through. We may yet feel it necessary to close. For the time being our services remain the same. If in any doubt contact the Church Wardens.

Please be assured of a warm welcome and assistance if needed.

Please sanitise your hands, wear a face covering, and observe social distancing.

EVERY SUNDAY at 10.00am SAID EUCHARIST (Holy Communion) in church

EVERY SUNDAY at 8.00pm NIGHT PRAYER (Compline) via Zoom

NB Please note—new meeting details

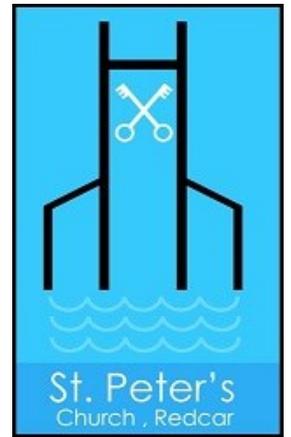
Zoom meeting ID: 945 2843 3351

Password: 1234



EVERY WEDNESDAY at 9.30am SAID EUCHARIST (Holy Communion) in church

Prayers and links to online services are posted on St Peter's Facebook page



LECTIONARY FOR JANUARY

Sunday 3rd January Epiphany

Isaiah 60: 1-6
Psalm 72: 10-15
Ephesians 3: 1-12
Matthew 2: 1-12

Sunday 10th January 1st Sunday of Epiphany

Genesis 1: 1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19: 1-7
Mark 1: 4-11

Sunday 17th January 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

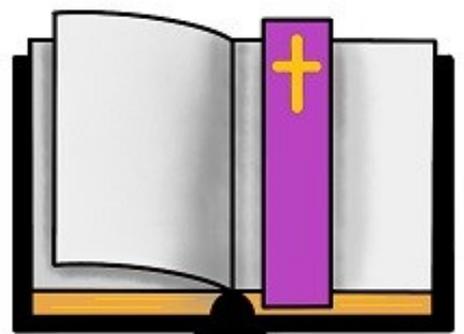
1 Samuel 3: 1-10
Psalm 139
Revelation 5: 1-10
John 1: 43 – 51

Sunday 24th January 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

Genesis 14: 17-20
Psalm 128
Revelation 19: 6-10
John 2: 1-11

Sunday 31st January 4th Sunday of Epiphany The Presentation of Christ (Candlemas)

Malachi 3:1-5
Psalm 24
Hebrews 2: 14 – 18
Luke 2: 22- 40



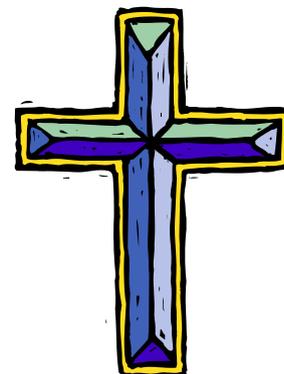
From the Parish Registers

Funerals *We pray for the family and friends of*

8th December 2020 Peter King age 56 years

19th December 2020 Mavis Sexton

22nd December 2020 June Kemp age 86 years



Time to prepare for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: 18th – 25th January

This year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has been prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland. The theme, "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit", is based on John 15:1-17 and expresses Grandchamp Community's vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the Church and the human family.

For 2021, the sisters are inviting churches across the world to enter into their tradition of prayer and silence that is rooted in the ancient traditions of the Church catholic.

Today the community has 50 sisters, spanning different generations, Church traditions, countries and continents. In their diversity the sisters are a living parable of communion.

Each year Christian Aid provides the 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity' with 'Go and Do' action points for each of the daily reflections – linking into the important work of Christian Aid in the relief of poverty and advocacy of justice.

More at: <https://ctbi.org.uk/go-and-do-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2021/>
Taken from The Parish Pump

Happy New Year everyone!

We start the year, I'm sure, with varying degrees of optimism for 2021 but as we persevere with our theme of REBUILDING HOPE and CONFIDENCE be assured that we are not alone. We have God with US ... in our PRAYERS, in our FRIENDS, in the WORLD AROUND us at our WAKING and in our SLEEPING!

HE is our strength and our shield and HE will never abandon us!

We are so loved by our heavenly Father that wherever we are, so will He be.

And so it is that last month we sadly had to say GOODBYE to two of our friends; Edith Smith to pastures new with the family (over Darlington way) and dear Sylvia Raper to His eternal home and safe keeping. We will miss them both dearly.

Realistically, the chances of us meeting together in person as a GROUP before Lady Day, 25th March, is very slim. This is why I am inviting you to join us on Zoom. Our first gathering on the 5th was very informal – 12 managed to join us; it was lovely to see each other and ask how we were, and what the families were up to. Just simple stuff! It seemed as if we were playing charades at one stage when Joyce had difficulty with the audio! As indeed I had.

TOP TIP: if you are going to use headphones and they are plugged into your device then you DEFINITELY need to HAVE THEM on your head covering your ears!!!!

Some had to leave earlier than others but we closed the meeting at 3.00pm having decided to take up the MAKE A JAR OF HAPPINESS this year.

We hope you will all decide to join in – all you need is an empty jar, some scraps of paper (coloured post-its or wrapping paper are pretty) on which to write, once a week, something that has MADE YOU HAPPY. Then next year, we can bring our jars and share some of our happy moments!

For our next meeting: Have you a 'SPECIAL SONG' ? Have a think! Will you share it and tell us why? Don't worry if you haven't a particular one or you don't think you want to speak! We are among friends and you don't have to. Please pass the word and do encourage your friends to join us.

So our next **BRANCH MEETING** is on **TUESDAY 2nd February 2021 at 2.00pm via Zoom**. 'Open' from 1.45pm, Join Meeting I.D: **945 2843 3351** Passcode: **1234**
Please give it a try, put the kettle on and get your daughters (or sons) by your side to help you. We will finish at 3.00pm.

A big THANK YOU to those who have already paid their annual subscription for 2021

As mentioned last month, Subs are to stay **£27 plus £2 towards AFIA**. If you feel you can manage the extra £1 = **£30** that would be great! If by cheque please make payable to REDCAR PARISH MOTHERS UNION.

If you need someone to collect it ring me: 01642 479755 or 07804047354

Please stay safe and do keep in touch with each other (and me!) and the church generally.

God bless

Anne



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The Mood of Christmas by Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with
their flock,

The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart."



ST PETER'S 100 CLUB DRAW FOR DECEMBER 2020

No. 40	Julie Page	£40
No. 17	Shanty (Val and Joy's dog)	£10

**Memories of Revd Tina's
time at St Peter's**







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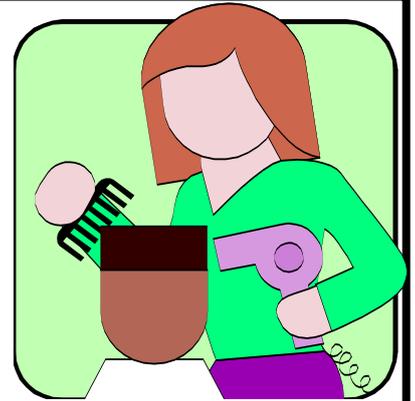
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The Fourth Gift

The fourth gift they had was
Wisdom,
The one they needed for themselves
And the world.

Wisdom
To leave the familiar
In search of a new security
More precious than the gifts they gave.

Wisdom
To discover, in the starlit child,
A significance above
Gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Wisdom
And the eyes of faith
To receive God's showing
Of His Son.

The gifts we read about
Were three,
But the fourth gift they had was
Wisdom.

By Daphne Kitching

Taken from The Parish Pump

NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS OF REDCAR CEMETERY

In December 2020 The Friends of Redcar Cemetery dressed the Christmas tree in the middle section of the cemetery, although this year we could not have the carol service around the tree as too many people would not be able to be safe with social distancing. We left a



message tin and encouraged people to come in their own time and write a message and place it on the tree. Sue, our Deputy Chair, made some Covid health care dolls wearing masks to put on the tree, including a thank you message to all who are caring for our loved ones. We had many comments that it lifted people's spirits, and it was nice to see the lights and messages. We have a crib near the tree which was given to us by Judy, who has passed now, and we are grateful to her family for the gift and we will use it every year. We hope in 2021 we will be back to normal with our carol service and Christmas tea.

We had a lovely surprise when Rachel the Manager of Tesco and Jackie the Community Champion came to the cemetery and brought us all presents. It was a kind thought and we appreciated being remembered.



Mary has carried out a lot of work at the baby memorial where 150 babies are buried in unmarked graves from 1940-1970s. We had erected this memorial in 2007 and people are now able to pay their respects to loved ones lost. A Christmas wreath was laid this year in remembrance of all those buried in this quiet place.

We finished our last working session just before Lockdown 3 started and cleared a lot of dead wood from the old section. Our men had worked hard collecting leaves and spade edging the many paths which makes the cemetery look much tidier. The Pay Back Scheme is working now in the cemetery and is continuing on with the work. Thank you to them they are making a good job of it.

We have lost two volunteers, Janet and Phil Philo, who have moved away from the area to be nearer their family. We are sorry to lose them as they had many talents, but what is more important they were very willing to share them with us and make the group what it is today.

As we go into 2021 things seem still uncertain; however, we are hopeful to continue on with our work. We are keeping in touch on Friends of Redcar Cemetery facebook page for the time being. We are now looking to the future as we have so many dedicated friends who give a lot of time and thought to making a difference to such a special place.

Dot Ahmed



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THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to everyone who supported my fundraising efforts by buying preserves and chutneys.

A total of £40.00 was raised for church funds.

New supplies should be available soon!

Thanks again Daphne Wood



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Prayer for New Year 2021

Dear Father God,

Here we are, nervously wobbling on the brink of this New Year. All our hopes, expectations, plans and possibilities for last year stolen by the relentless pandemic. The landscape of our lives has been shaken and changed, Lord. Nothing is the same. Normality has been redefined. 2020 was a year like no other. How dare we move into the uncertainty of 2021?

Lord, we dare - because of the one, wonderful certainty we do have - that You have been with us through it all. Thank you that You sent Jesus to save us, to offer us that bigger reality of life for all eternity - if we put our trust in Him, Jesus, who never changes.

You promise that You will never leave us or forsake us. We will be able to navigate the challenges lie ahead, if we keep our eyes on Jesus, our compass; if we trust His Holy Spirit to lead us, however strange and unfamiliar the days of 2021 may be. You are with us! You are with us! You are with us!

Thank you, Lord of the years, that You know and love each one of us, and that we are safe in Your hands. We can go forward.

In Jesus' Name,

Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Taken from The Parish Pump

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Response

The mother of a lively youngster was struggling to get him into his pyjamas one night. "Jamie, lift up your arms!" she said. To which the child promptly replied: "We lift them up unto the Lord!"



The Cat

A vicar and his wife were going out for the evening, and carefully set the security lights and put the cat out. But when they opened the door to go to the taxi, the cat slipped back in and disappeared upstairs. Irritated, the vicar followed it.

The wife waited with the taxi driver. Not wanting him to know that they were leaving the parsonage empty, she said: "My husband is just upstairs for a quick word with my mother."

A few minutes later, the husband arrived, breathless. "Sorry I took so long" he said, "but she put up a fight! Stupid old thing was hiding under the bed and I had to poke her with a coat hanger and grab her by the scruff of the neck to get her out."

Signs

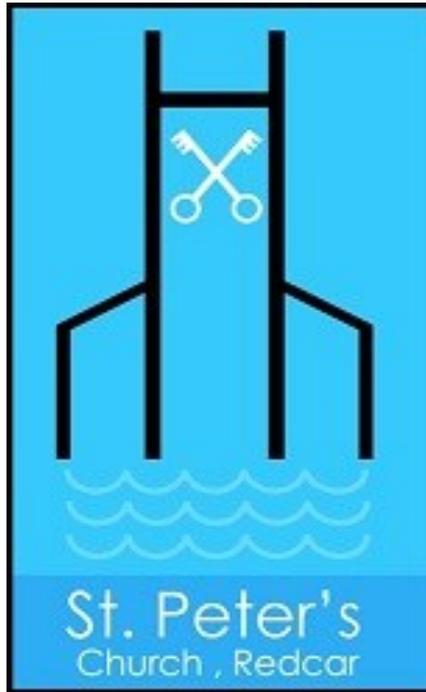
Sign in an old church porch to reassure any visitors:

In this church many are cold, but few are frozen.

Sign on the tomb of an atheist:

Here lies an atheist. All dressed up and sadly no place to go.

Taken from The Parish Pump



With a donation of £25 you can remember a special occasion as well as contribute to the upkeep of St Peter's Church.

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

A certificate will be issued to commemorate the occasion and the name will be recorded.

Please complete the following for the attention of the Churchwardens

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