

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



July 2020

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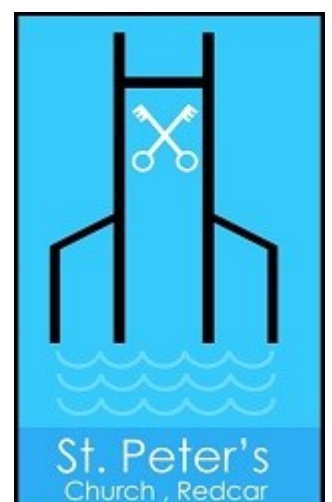
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FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

Hello everyone,

It is lovely to have this opportunity to share with you the latest news from St. Peter's. Firstly, a **BIG THANK YOU** to

you all for ensuring Rachel's Retirement was such a wonderful surprise for her and Bruce on 28th June. Look inside for lots of pictures of the morning and a letter from Rachel.

If you know of anyone **without** the technology to see this digital magazine format please do assure them that once we are back on a more normal footing and able to gather and socialise as a group of people at church they will be able to catch up and see everything that has been posted.

An **IMPORTANT UPDATE** is that following the Government's recent change of Policy with regards to church based worship and with Guidance from the Bishops' Recovery Group of the Church of England we are able to prepare for a return to **Public Worship** with safety guidance in place relating to Covid-19 restrictions. As many of you will know, we will not be allowed to sing—but we may listen to music. It will be a bit different to begin with but it will be so good to worship together and share in a Eucharist service along with our priests.

FULL DETAILS OF WORSHIP SERVICES PLANNED FOR JULY AND AUGUST MAY BE FOUND ON PAGES 6 and 7.

APPREHENSION, EXCITEMENT, TREPIDATION, ELATION, ANXIETY and JOYFULNESS are just a few of the emotions running round in my head as I write, but it is with THANKFULNESS in my heart that I am able to share this GOOD NEWS!

Anne

Vicar's Letter



Writing the vicar's letter for a church magazine can be quite challenging because it is not just addressing the church congregation, because the readership is much wider than that. The subject matter therefore cannot simply be 'in house'

stuff but of a much broader content that will hopefully interest and inform the reader. This month's letter is even more challenging, but for a different reason. It is my last as vicar of St Peters Church Redcar, due to my retirement on 30th June. Usually when leaving a position, it is to take up a new post with all the expectations that brings, but to retire, well, this feels quite different.

I am naturally reflecting on my eight years at St Peters, but I am also looking back over my working life since leaving school aged sixteen. I took ten years out when the children were young, simply doing intermittent supply work, but otherwise have been employed for fifty-one years, and that is a long time. And when many of my friends were beginning to drop their working weeks to four days, I answered a call from God to serve his church as an ordained minister.

Since beginning theological training, twenty-two years ago, I can honestly say I have never regretted one day of what has come my way. God has fulfilled his promise to me in so many ways

'Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.'

Isaiah 41:10.

Of course there have been difficult days, on occasions, it must be said, difficult people, and there have been days when I have been so tired, I haven't known how to stand up. But oh, there have been such wonderful days which far outweigh any negatives.

And to all of you, whether regular worshippers, or those who like to stay in touch with St Peter's by magazine or are simply dipping in, thank you. Thank you being a part of those wonderful days and for allowing me to be a part of St Peter's. Vicars come and go but the congregation and parish remain and are the church in this place. The lockdown, due to Coronavirus, has proved that the church is not a building, but is a group made up of faithful loving people, who although they want to meet together in a place set aside for worship and prayer, exist outside of it. And that church is, all of you, held together under God's banner of love. And you will continue to be that church into the future.

My time amongst you as vicar has come to an end, but we know that the love of our heavenly Father never ends, and in that love we trust.

"The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace."

Rachel



Bruce and I would like to say a very sincere thank you to everyone who made my last Sunday so very special. Yes, we were observing social distancing as required, but I had the most wonderful day from sharing in our pre-recorded patronal festival service for St Peter followed by a coffee morning via zoom which was just fabulous. The only slight sadness was inevitably not all our friends could access the technology, but you are not forgotten just because you could not be seen online. Can I also say thank you for the incredibly generous gifts received on Sunday along with the many cards and gifts that have been delivered to the vicarage? You are all very kind.

Rachel and Bruce

WORSHIP AT ST. PETER'S

Hello Everyone!

We hope you are enjoying the further relaxation in restrictions and that those who have visited St. Peter's for Private Prayer over the past few weeks have been comforted.

After prayerful consideration of how to move forwards, we have decided we will NOT be

returning to our regular pattern of worship straight away but during July and August we will be having a mix of services available, which will include the online Sunday morning worship #10@10 at 10.00am via Facebook, and Sunday Evening Night Prayer (Compline) at 8.00pm via Zoom, alongside transitioning back into the church building.

To assist this change, as of next week (beginning Monday 13th July 2020) private prayer will no longer be available in order to make a return to services possible, taking into account the practicalities of cleaning.

However, we are pleased to let you know that from **Wednesday 15th July** our **weekly Holy Communion Service will resume at 9.30am** with continued and additional safety measures in place, e.g. we will have to keep a register of attendees to comply with the NHS "Track and Trace" system.



So our table of Sunday Services for July and August looks like this:

Sunday 12th July	Online #10@10 at 10.00am on Facebook with Revds Rachel and Bruce	Night Prayer 8.00pm on Zoom (email for meeting details)
Sunday 19th July	Online #10@10 at 10.00am on Facebook with the Leadership Team	Night Prayer 8.00pm on Zoom (email for meeting details)
Sunday 26th July	Online #10@10 at 10.00am on Facebook with Revds Rachel and Bruce	Night Prayer 8.00pm on Zoom (email for meeting details)

SUNDAY [SAID] EUCHARIST in church at 10.00am

2nd August	Presiding	Revd. Canon Rachel Harrison
9th August	Presiding	Revd. Canon Rachel Harrison
16th August	Presiding	Revd. Tina Burgess
23rd August	Presiding	Revd. Tina Burgess
30th August	Presiding	Revd. Tina Burgess

There may still be more revised guidance to come or we may sadly have to go back to more restrictions depending on Covid-19 but we would like to thank you for your patience and appreciation for all we have to do in order to reopen our building for the community we serve. We hope this is Good News for you all but please feel assured there is no pressure for your return until you feel it is the right thing to do for YOU! We look forward to seeing you soon.

God bless,

from the Churchwardens Anne and Michael
and Assistant Curate Tina Burgess

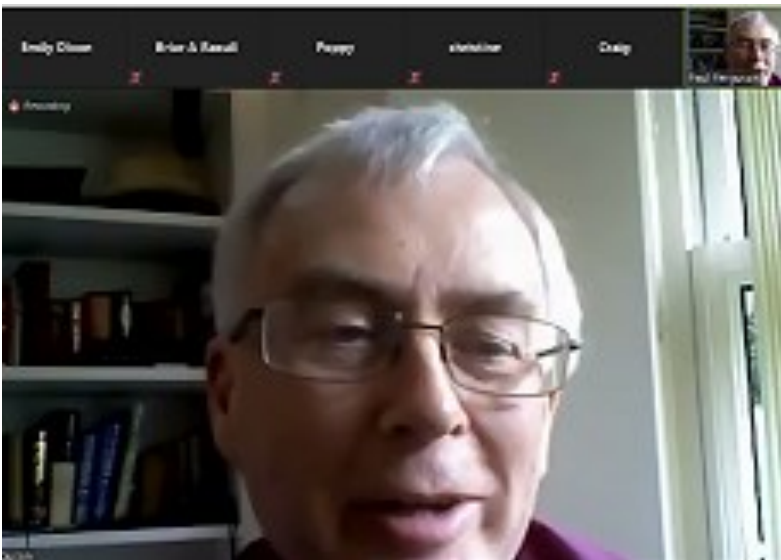
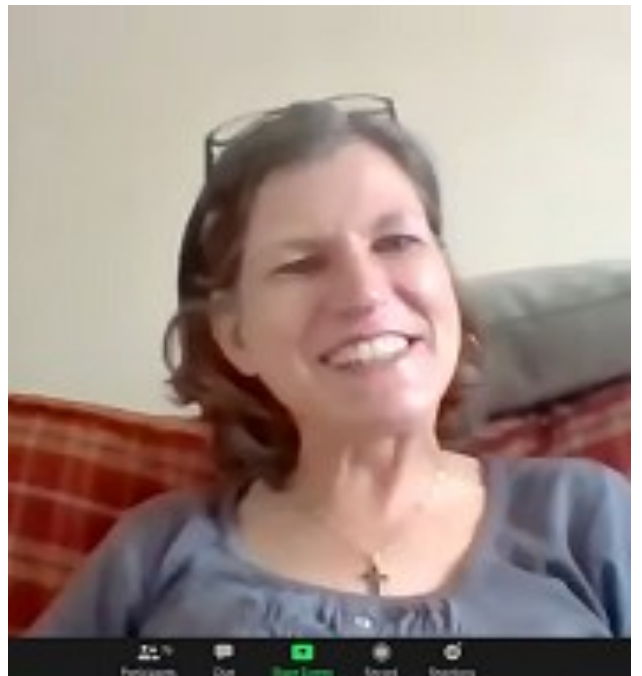
9th July 2020

RACHEL and BRUCE'S ZOOM COFFEE MORNING!

On Sunday, 28th June, after her final service on Facebook, we said farewell to Revd Rachel and Bruce at a surprise Zoom coffee morning. It took an amazing amount of organising but it was so worth it, with nearly 100 parishioners and friends of Rachel and Bruce attending (and family—Rachel and Bruce's daughter Esther logged in from Australia!)

Members of EMUs organised the delivery of a Thank You Banner, afternoon tea, a bouquet of flowers, a large card from the Parish, a wonderful photo book of memories and a cheque from all their friends at St. Peter's and beyond. Sally Hopper (nee Fox) videoed the gift giving and ensured social distancing was in play at all times. There were many tributes to Rachel, including from St Peter's current team and Revd Tina, then also Bishop Paul, Archdeacon Alison, Area Dean David and St Peter's 'graduates' Revd Nicky Penn-Allison, Revd Claire Todd and Revd Julie Smith and Claire Soderman. The following pages contain just some of the Zoom photos, I hope you can spot yourself and I apologise to anyone left out. Many thanks to everyone who helped with organising the meeting, especially Anne Hagen and Claire Soderman, and to Michael Williams for bringing it all to a close with a hearty three cheers for Rachel and Bruce.







LOCKDOWN ACTIVITY

Several of St Peter's congregation got their sewing machines and knitting needles out to make scrubs for NHS workers and knit lovely pairs of pink hearts for families hit by Covid-19. Barbara Fitzpatrick, who has made a children's banner for when we go back to church, also made these lovely dolls for NHS Nurses and our St Peter's members Trudy, Gemma and Andrea were thrilled to receive them.





CURATE'S CORNER

Lockdown Learning...

We've been in lockdown since the 23rd March. Did any of us ever think we would still be there at this point in the year? I wonder what your experience of lockdown has been? I wonder how it has impacted and changed your life? I wonder if your usual routines have changed completely, or not very much? I wonder whether you have loved it...or loathed it? I've heard and read a lot of comment about the lockdown experience and I've had to be careful not to let much of it load unrealistic expectations on myself of how I 'should' be being able to handle the experience. I say, 'myself', because of course, Lockdown has felt different for each of us and has impacted us all in very different ways.

One of the things which I kept hearing though, was that this was a time to cherish – a time to let all the usual demands and enjoyments of our lives fall away and to utilise this gift of time to draw closer to God...to be strengthened in God. While this is a wonderful and laudable encouragement, it has not been as easy as it sounds.

Amidst the reality of the crisis, I had forgotten that drawing closer to God requires a willingness to let God inhabit more of my space – internally and externally. Giving God more time, meant giving him more of me; more listening instead of talking, more being still instead of being distracted, more honesty instead of pretending. And seeking God always involves the putting down or letting go of the emotional 'baggage' we carry around with us, through our daily journey. The things which lay just underneath the surface in us which we know we should really pray about but often ignore.

Taking time with God and admitting to what we are feeling and thinking always brings the relief of knowing that he has heard us...and that Jesus shoulders our burdens for us. This kind of honesty with ourselves, and with God in prayer is the pathway to knowing His deep peace and acceptance within. Only then, when we are resting in his love, do we have the emotional resources to face what's going on around us.

What have we been carrying around in our emotional suitcases through this lockdown journey? Fear? Anxiety? Anger? Frustration? Disappointment? Sadness? Loss? Grief? Helplessness?

Jesus says, 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.'" Matthew 11: 28-29

My prayer is that as we give more of ourselves to him, we will find so much more of himself given to us in return and that we will continue through these trying times, not with fear or uncertainty but strengthened and encouraged with the knowledge of his love and presence with us, each day.

Every Blessing

Rev Tina



**A Warm, though Distanced,
Welcome for the New
Archdeacon of Cleveland**

The new Archdeacon of Cleveland, Revd Amanda Bloor, was formally collated into her new role in a private spatially distanced ceremony outside the home of the Bishop of Whitby on the 15th June 2020.

Normally the collation would take place during a public service of thanksgiving and dedication at a church within the



Archdeaconry of Cleveland (the Church of England in South Teesside, the North York Moors, and the Vales of Mowbray and Pickering), but this is impossible due to measures taken in response to the Coronavirus outbreak.

Previously Vicar of Bembridge on the Isle of Wight, Amanda was appointed to the role of Archdeacon of Cleveland in March, in succession to the Venerable Sam Rushton who has moved to the post of Archdeacon of York. The Archdeacon of Cleveland works closely with the Bishop of Whitby in overseeing the outreach, mission and worship of approximately 150 parishes, and undertakes a great deal of administrative and legal work to support them in their work and mission.

During her collation ceremony, the new Archdeacon swore oaths of obedience to The Queen and the Archbishop of York, and received a legal Deed of Collation within sight and earshot of the Bishop of Whitby, the Rt Revd Paul Ferguson; each collected formal documents from the other in a procedure approved by the legal officers of the Diocese of York.

This is believed to be the first time the Church of England has managed such an event in this way. Shortly after the ceremony the new Archdeacon returned home and joined a meeting of church leaders by online video link.

Amanda Bloor said, “I’ve been so looking forward to getting to work, and to begin learning about the people and places of Cleveland and Middlesbrough. It’s been a very long three months and at times it’s been hard to believe we would overcome all the obstacles and actually get here at all – but God is good, and thanks to Bishop Paul and those working with him, we have found a way.”

Bishop Paul Ferguson said, “Welcoming Amanda has been a wonderfully happy and prayerful moment, and a great relief that she can join us and get to work in supporting the extraordinary work being done during the COVID-19 outbreak by all our churches in their communities, and of course looking to the future when the current restrictions are lifted. This was a strange way to greet Amanda and Mark, but I thank God they are finally here and look forward to their presence among us in the coming years.”

Taken from the Diocese of York website: <https://dioceseofyork.org.uk/>



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Branch news:

If you recall we were all given a Smartie tube to collect 20ps as a fundraiser after our AGM. A few of our ladies did hand them back (filled !) before lockdown and since we opened for private prayer at church a few more have found their way to our Treasurer, Anne. If you still have your Smartie tube(s) at home Anne is now able to receive them and get the money to the Bank.

Thank you

ST PETER'S 100 CLUB FINAL DRAW FOR 2019/20

1st Place	Claire Todd	£40
2nd Place	Claire Soderman	£10



Claire Soderman writes...

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice

(Phil.1:18b)- Term 3

When I last wrote of my training at Cranmer Hall, I was preparing to return for Term 2. So much has happened in our lives and world since then so here I am having just completed the first year of training at the end of a virtual Term 3.

University life closed in quickly ahead of the nationwide lockdown and I found myself in online lectures, Zoom meetings, virtual morning prayer, YouTube worship and with a dissertation and several essays to complete. After Easter, term returned for 6 weeks, which have concluded this week with a Leavers' service for those heading to curacy in some form and a virtual summer party.

During this time, I have sought to appreciate with thankfulness the blessings whilst recognising the ups and downs it has brought me personally.

Thankful that I am living in a place of beauty, able to rest in the presence of our creator God, sharing in the sounds of birdsong and searching for a glimpse of the otters and kingfisher on my Durham river walks.

Thankful for the blessings of family and friends, for time to write real letters, send cards and chat on the phone, knowing that whatever form communication has taken, it has connected me to those who know and care about me.

Thankful for online worship. A mixed blessing some say and not accessible to all but for me it has proved a genuine way of worshipping, of connecting with the churches I belong to and participating in powerful words, prayer and music which lift the soul and remind us that we are the body of Christ in the world. Our college focus this term has been a series on Paul's letter to the Philippians, written from his own imprisonment yet urging all to rejoice in the Lord always...even when it is hard.

This perhaps paints a rose-tinted view of lockdown and Term 3; yet, whilst there is so much sorrow, grief, loss, uncertainty and trouble in our beleaguered nation and world, I have held fast to God, who is my strength and refuge, the God in whom I put my trust. There have been many days or moments of days where I have had to work hard to see the blessings, where it has taken effort, time in prayer and the wise words of others to help me love the Lord with all my strength, but deep down I have known it is well with my soul even if on the surface I have felt turbulence. God is working in our midst. I have seen it in the love shown to one another across St Peter's family, across local communities and here at Cranmer. I have felt truly touched by the power of prayer across Zoom or FaceTime and drawn closer to God in my own times of personal prayer.

I pray that as we continue through this most challenging of times, with immense uncertainty surrounding us and times where we long to see each other in person, we may put our trust in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and rejoice.

Claire x





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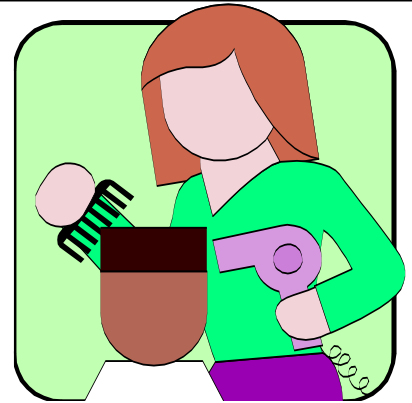
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NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS OF REDCAR CEMETERY

The Friends of Redcar cemetery had to stop all the work and the activities of the group when the outbreak of Covid 19 occurred and Lockdown was announced. We have not been able to hold any walks, talks, meetings, fundraising stalls or work in the cemetery.

In that time we have lost two valued members of the group, Lee who was a very pleasant and helpful young man and a member of the gardening group. He worked at Tesco as well as finding time to help us.

Gina Craggs who was our President, and 100 years old and had been a member of the group since 2006. She was a lovely lady who was so cheerful and kind and saw the good in everyone. We will miss them both.

This time we have been given has helped us have a break from the work and worry of providing a continuous service to the community. Many more people are now taking a walk in the cemetery as it is a comparatively quiet area without meeting too many people. We have noticed that our newsletters are being taken up as a very different group of people are visiting now. Please look out for red poppies planted on a soldier's grave from WW1 in the old section and the rose walk near the pedestrian gate in the middle section of the cemetery. There are many more areas of planting reflecting the Friend's work over the years. Hope everyone stays safe and well.

Dot Ahmed and Friends



EAST REDCAR RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Chairman Ken Bibby writes:

We've not had a ERRA meeting since February and I missed that as I suffered a major heart attack a few days prior and was in hospital over the following weeks. In a way I was fortunate as I'd only just returned from Cuba a few days before - otherwise , with the lockdown coming into force, I'd have still been there! My wife and I are in the very highest risk group and so have been confined to barracks for 3 months. We are able to shop online and have very good neighbours who keep asking if there's anything we need.

Because of the pandemic, Coastal View has not been printed in that time but is still available in digital form at :-

<http://www.coastalviewandmoornews.co.uk/> and so I've been kept busy writing my "Wayfarer's Travels" and "The Reader" reviews for them.



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A Prayer for All Those Affected by Coronavirus

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

Consolation

Jesus said “because I live, ye shall live also”

Not dead-oh no, but borne beyond the shadows into the full clear light;
For ever done with mist and cloud and tempest, where all is calm and bright.

Not even sleeping-called to glad awakening in heaven’s cloudless day;
Not still and moveless-stepped from earth’s rough places to walk the King’s
highway.

Not silent-just passed out of earthly hearing to sing heaven’s sweet new song;

Not lonely-dearly loved and dearly loving amid the white robbed throng.

But not forgetful– keeping fond remembrance of dear ones left awhile;
and looking gladly to the bright reunion with hand clasp and with smile.

Oh no not dead, but past all fear of dying, And with all suffering o’er;

Say not that I am dead, when Jesus calls me to live for evermore.

By Ernest Luff, 1982

Poem contributed by Dot Ahmed

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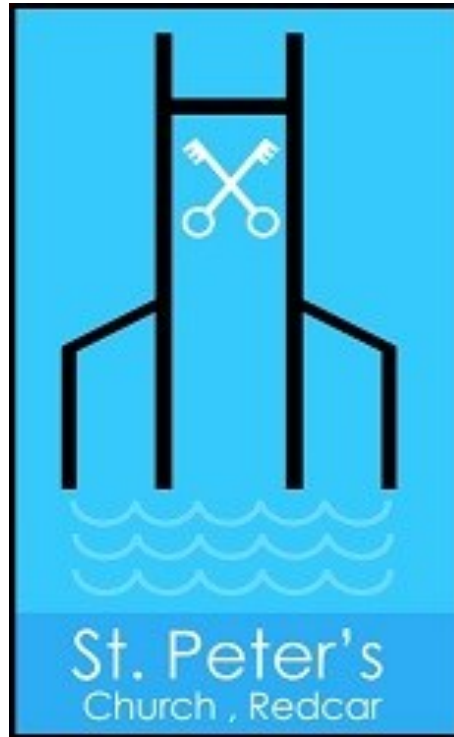
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