

# *Network Magazine*

## *Huddersfield Parish Church and the Methodist Mission*



Pew runners briefing

**Aug/Sep 2017**

**50p**  
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## Prayer for growth

O God who alone brings growth to your Church,  
Send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning,  
wisdom to our actions and power to our witness.  
Help our church to grow in numbers, commitment to you,  
and in service to our local community,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## CONTENTS

	Page
Your contacts .....	3
A Word from the Editor .....	4
Bell Tower News .....	4
Simon Says .....	5
Vocation Poem/Prayer .....	6
End of Life Care Companions .....	7
News from the PCC .....	9
Simon C's Spot .....	10
Huddersfield Town Centre Chaplains.....	11
Sunday 2 July, St Peter's Day .....	14
Next Church Walk .....	14
A Bit of History .....	15
Huddersfield Ceremony of Peace .....	17
St Peter's diary for April/May .....	18/19
Coffee Morning Plus.....	19
Pop-up Shop.....	24
Huddersfield Parish prayer cycle .....	25
Kids' corner .....	27
Puzzle pages.....	28/29
The Archdeacon's Inspection at St Peter's .....	32
HPC SWOT Analysis 2017 .....	33/34
Flower Rota.....	36

## MAGAZINE/WEBSITE CONTRIBUTIONS

All contributions to the church magazine and the website are welcome. The preferred method is by email, however any other means will be just as acceptable:

Email [59chadwick@gmail.com](mailto:59chadwick@gmail.com) or for the website:  
[huddspc@btconnect.com](mailto:huddspc@btconnect.com)

**PLEASE NOTE:** Contributions please before the 15th of the month before to guarantee publishing in the next issue of the magazine.

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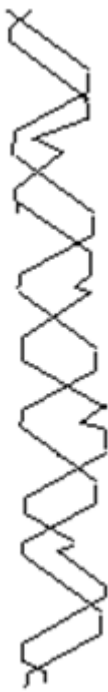
## FROM THE EDITOR

**Magazine publishing costs.** Although we recommend a donation of only 50p for the magazine, this does not cover the cost of the printing. This comes to almost £1 per copy. It would be nice to cover this cost, so give generously, though it is still a voluntary donation and remember any you take to a sick member of church is free. We are also increasing the number we are printing due to the popularity of the magazine (we must be doing something right).

There are a number of interesting articles in this issue so don't miss any. Check the contents list on Page 2.

*Peter Chadwick, Magazine Editor*

### Bell Tower News



As part of the development phase of our next Heritage Lottery Fund, a number of surveys have been conducted on the internal structures of Huddersfield Parish Church's bell tower, including the movement of the structure when the bells are rung. There was concern about a number of wooden beams high in the belfry roof and also investigation into where some seams had been revealed in the ringing chamber ceiling when mortar had been shaken free (this had occurred over many years). Verbally we have been assured that the overall tower is safe and the movement usual in all bell towers. In the near future it is hoped to decorate the ringing chamber and complete remedial work on the ceiling and on the walls where old water ingress damage needs to be repaired.

Ringling is continuing on a Thursday evening at 7.30pm and we have four learners who are progressing. We look forward to ringling on Sunday mornings which may be sometime in the Autumn.

During the recent beer festival five quarter peals were completed successfully and most of our regular practise night team were involved with one or more attempts.

If you would like to learn, come along to see what is involved and have a go. There is not much exertion involved and the skill and thought that goes into bell ringling can be addictive.



## Simon Says

Holidays are always good for me in respect to reading. During a time away I can get through numerous books. This year I hope to get through a couple of Robert Ludnum's books, another fantasy set by Robin Hobb, the prequel to 'Silence of the Lambs' and a particular novel about King Arthur. I suppose I suddenly have the time to read and also the inclination. Reading becomes a habit when you read so regularly.

Over the last weeks I have been re-reading a biography of Trevor Huddleston. He was a curate in Swindon, a member of the community at Mirfield, from the mid-forties a parish priest in Sophiatown in Johannesburg South Africa, an early objective to the apartheid system, then Bishop of Tanzania, Stepney in London, and Archbishop of the province of the Indian Ocean based around Mauritius, the Seychelles and Madagascar.

The highlight of the book for me was that in South Africa in the Forties and Fifties he was remembered for doffing his hat to a black house-maid. This was recalled by her son non-other than Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Huddleston's opposition to apartheid made him an enemy of the South African government and of many within the hierarchy of the Anglican Church. His love of the African people and those whom he served drove and indeed fuelled this man's calling. And why? He himself wrote:

*For the Christian, it is this mystery of identification which finds its expression in the stable of Bethlehem - God almighty and eternal, identifying himself with a man at his most helpless, with man in his utter littleness and poverty. Surely, if the incarnation means anything at all, it must mean the breaking down of barriers not by words but by deeds, by acts, by identification.*

In Trevor Huddleston's formation and work as a priest and bishop, at the centre was 'doing' the faith. For him this meant alongside a robust prayer

life, working alongside others, and for him personally this meant in places of great poverty and strife.

The question that kept popping up into my mind as I read the story of this 'Turbulent Priest' was how do we 'do' our faith? From hearing and digesting the gospel how is it out-worked in our lives? What is our calling? And are we willing to answer that call?

For Trevor Huddleston this meant being sent, with a great deal of uncertainty, to Africa and then recalled under authority from that situation and people he loved. I am not sure I could have been him. Yet reading his biography has given me a lot of food for thought.

### **Vocation Poem/Prayer**

If I knew what God wanted  
    —Would I want the same?  
If I wanted what God wanted  
    —How much would have to change?  
If I saw what God saw, would seeing make me cry?  
If I saw what God saw, Could I still pass on by?  
If I heard what God hears: The prayers of hope and pain,  
The daily thanks and night-time fears, Could I be the same again?  
If Jesus lived just down our street, Would I follow him or not?  
Would I prefer to turn my back And hold on to what I've got?  
    God, help me always to be mindful of the needs of others.  
    But what does that mean?  
    God, help me never to forget that other people have troubles too.  
    Help me to share what I have.  
    Help me not to be selfish.  
    Help me not to be greedy.  
    Left to myself, I tend to fail on all those counts, so I need your help, God.  
        Remind me, when I forget.  
        Forgive me, when I get it wrong.  
        Teach me to be mindful of what you want for me.  
        Ah, I begin to understand.  
        Not my will, but yours, Jesus, my Lord and saviour. Amen

*Simon*

# End of Life Care Companions

**The End of Life Care Companions ('Companions')** scheme is a volunteering opportunity for those wishing to support hospital patients in their last days. Some have no-one to keep them company either because socially they are isolated or may live out of our area. Sometimes families value someone who can sit with a loved one while they have a much-needed break. Ward staff are hard-pressed to meet this function.

Often the patient's consciousness will be quite low and they may seem unresponsive, but it is widely recognised the sense of hearing is the last sense to continue. The Companion will simply sit quietly with them, assure them of their presence, respond gently to any moments of lucidity or contact nursing staff should there be distress or any other apparent need. It is the offering of presence and sharing of humanity which is important here, at a time when people could feel lonely or vulnerable or scared.

The Scheme forms part of the overall plan of the Trust to improve end of life care. We are still in the planning stage: it is hoped referrals will be managed by the Specialist Palliative Care Team and Chaplaincy who will together organise training and support for those interested. Training topics identified are: the role of the Companion, Theory and Good Practice in support of the dying patient, Practicalities, Pastoral and Palliative Care, Clinical Aspects and Looking after Ourselves as Companions. It is likely the training will run over three long mornings/afternoons. A pilot group is to start in September.

The Scheme will run as a pilot on specific wards and then be rolled out to all wards, following an explanation and description of the remit of the service. There will obviously need to be clarity about the nature of the commitment volunteers will give: we are drawing on the experiences of the scheme used in Bradford Hospitals where an agreement is made about the length of time a volunteer will spend with an individual patient. We will also need to examine the (perhaps remote) possibility of Companions continuing to support patients who move out of the hospital to home or hospice.

One further note: although the Chaplaincy is involved in this initiative, in its nature it is not explicitly religious. We are concerned with seeking to



address need in its widest sense, and hope that simply 'being with' and human warmth will communicate itself in a real and deep sense for the wellbeing of individual patients. Should patients raise issues of faith, there are resources (chaplains and chaplaincy volunteers) who can pick this up, should the volunteer not feel able to.

In practical terms, some flexibility about having the time to support a particular patient is important, and in human terms we are looking for people with mature and warm personalities who can accompany people on their final journey.

For further details, please contact George Spencer – details below.

George

*The Revd. George Spencer, Co-ordinating Chaplain,  
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Chaplaincy Office, Huddersfield Royal Infirmary,  
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# NEWS FROM THE PCC

Following the five year inspection of our documentation and procedures in June, the Venerable Anne Dawtry (our Archdeacon) sat in on our PCC meeting (see Pages 32 & 33).

**Building Work.** The architect has started taking people around the church to survey the site to help in the planning and invite tenders for the work.

**Stewardship.** The present communion administrators have been requested to put forward their names for renewal of authorisation. Several more names have now been added to the list for authorisation.

**Finance.** We now have a functional photocopier in the office. Gift aid claimed for May and June was £1,414.41. In addition we have claimed GASD (on cash received) of £430.92. This is all extra income for the church through our gift aid system.

**Beer Festival.** Again the weather was less than kind for this event in St Peter's Gardens. However we still managed to raise over £1,000. We learned a lot from the experience which will certainly be useful if we run it again next year.



**Pew Runners.** Due to the running/walking fund raising events brilliantly organised by Simon our curate, and generous individual donations, together with gift aid claimed, we have managed to raise £5,010 to date which covers the estimated funding for the pew-runners. All we need to decide now is the colour to complement the carpeting which is not yet on the agenda, being part of the back of church project.



# Simon C's Spot

**The Curate interviews Sharron Smythe-Mathen, a recovery coach/mentor with Chart Kirklees (Choices for Health in Addiction Recovery and Treatment).**

Sharron is one of our own congregation who has started up an Alcoholics Anonymous group which is hosted in church on Sundays after the morning service.

**What makes AA so special?** It is the only intervention for alcoholics which really seems to work, it helps people to change, which is not an easy thing. It has a Christian base and can even bring people to Christ, but it works for everyone; for atheists, agnostics, Christians and people with other faiths too.

**How does it achieve this?** The 12 steps are a key part of what makes AA work when other programmes so often fail. For example, the first step is all about acceptance; people need to start by accepting that they are an alcoholic. The second step is a belief that a power greater than ourselves can restore us to sanity. Another example is the eighth step, which makes people list all persons harmed through the addiction by our lying, cheating and whatever. All the steps together help people to reclaim their lives.

**Can you tell me something of your personal journey?** AA worked for me, it was the only thing that did. I was beyond help, even my own doctor wrote me off. Alcohol services wouldn't even touch me. I am now 6 years and 1 month sober.

**What is life like as an alcoholic?** It is impossible to describe. Unless you are one you just couldn't know what it is like, it's a different world.

**Could you say what drove you to alcohol?** I was never comfortable in my own skin. Alcohol gave me the confidence to deal with whatever was going on. It took everything away. It didn't solve problems, but they were blotted out. It numbs the pain.

**What else could the Church do to help your AA group?** Try to talk to people about AA and promote it. It works really well, but people need help to be drawn in.

**Anything else you want to say?** I'm really grateful to Huddersfield Parish Church for hosting these meetings, and paying for our use of the church facilities. Also for all the people who keep donating refreshments, it really helps the atmosphere of the group.

And we are grateful at Huddersfield Parish Church for this group that Sharron is running, helping those who are so often thought of as being beyond help. Do speak with Sharron for more information or simply to encourage her in this great work.

*Simon C*

## **The Huddersfield Town Centre Chaplains**

We visit people working in shops. We basically listen and care. Sometimes we can offer practical advice, but usually we give them our time as we listen to what they want to say, from the mundane to the profound.

We would welcome more people to join our team, so that we can cover more shops. Training can be given. If you are interested, speak to one of us in person, or contact on:



01484 421461 [huddschaplaincy@btconnect.com](mailto:huddschaplaincy@btconnect.com)

*Simon C*

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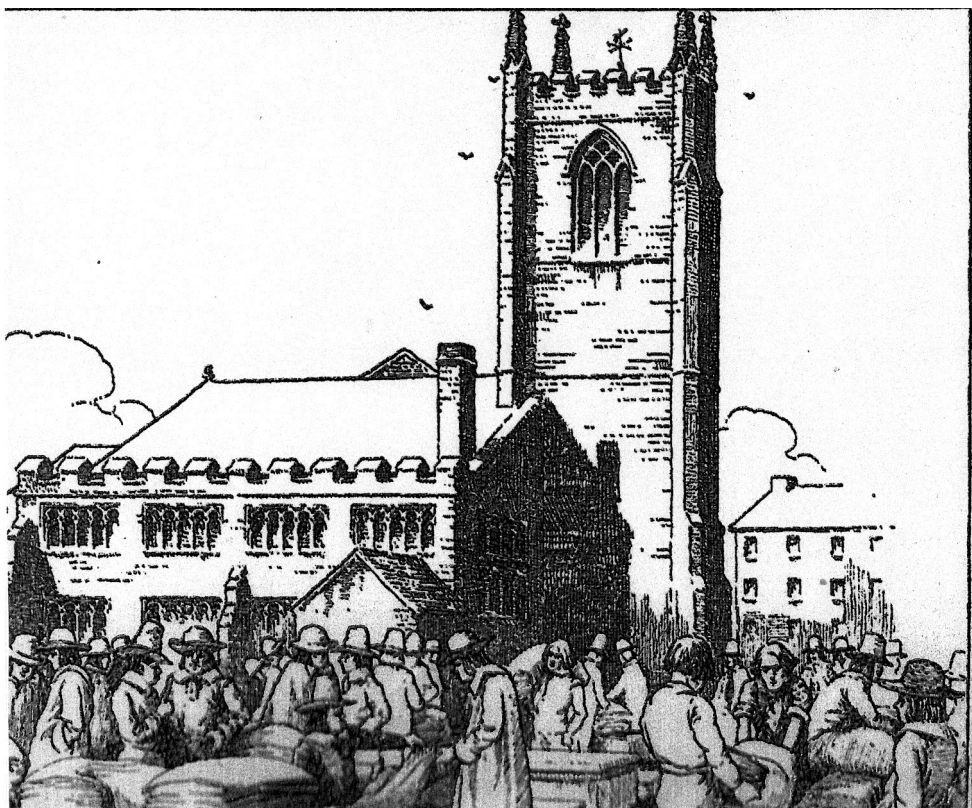
## **Sunday 2nd July, St Peter's Day**

Father John Gribben CR, one of the Mirfield Monks, was our preacher at the 10am service for our Patronal Festival. He then ran in part of the Half Marathon around the Church and gardens to help raise money for our new pew runners. He joined us for a "bring and share" lunch which followed and at which everyone was welcome.

### **Next Church Walk**

The family walk and picnic will be on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 11am. It will be about 4 miles easy walking and then a picnic in a beautiful setting. The specific venue will be decided nearer the time. See Simon C.





## A BIT OF HISTORY

We were given this old sketch of Huddersfield Parish Church by Sue Page. It shows the second church on this site as viewed from the graveyard now known as St. Peter's Gardens. The original church by the Lacy family, was rebuilt in 1506, and again in 1836.

Before the Cloth Hall was built in 1766 by Sir John Ramsden, at the top of Cloth Hall Street, venders sold their cloth in the graveyard of the church, on the walls and gravestones. The Cloth Hall was demolished in 1928 but parts of the entrance, including the clock tower, were re-erected in Ravensknowle Park.

The church in the sketch must then be before 1766 and shows the cloth sellers in action.

*Thank you Sue for bringing this sketch to us.*





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# Huddersfield Ceremony of Peace 2017

**Thursday 21st September**

**1.30pm**

**Huddersfield Parish Church**

Featuring art and reflections  
and song from...

Beaumont park primary School

Linthwaite clough JI&EY School

Spring Grove School

Woodley School



**We all live on one Earth. We all live under one sky...**

# St PETER'S DIARY FOR AUGUST/ SEPTEMBER

## AUGUST

Wed 2	12.35pm	Holy Communion
Fri 4	01.00pm	Mother's Union Eucharist and Meeting
Sat 5	10.00am – 02.00pm	Coffee Gathering
Sun 6	<b>TRINITY 8</b>	
	08.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Sung Eucharist
	03.00pm	Evensong
Wed 9	12.35pm	Holy Communion
Sun 13	<b>TRINITY 9</b>	
	08.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Sung Eucharist
	03.00pm	Evensong
Tues 15	10.30am	Finance group
Wed 16	12.35pm	Holy Communion
	06.30pm	PCC Meeting and Social at the Vicarage
Sun 20	<b>TRINITY 10</b>	
	08.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Sung Eucharist
	03.00pm	Evensong
Wed 23	12.35pm	Holy Communion
Sun 27	<b>TRINITY 11</b>	
	08.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Sung Eucharist
	03.00pm	Evensong
Wed 30	12.35pm	Holy Communion

## SEPTEMBER

Fri 1	06.00pm	Mother's Union Eucharist and Meeting
Sat 2	10.00am – 02.00pm	Coffee Gathering
Sun 3	<b>TRINITY 12</b>	
	08.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Sung Eucharist
	03.00pm	Evensong
Mon 4	6.30pm	Pakistan Independence Day – a Christian Perspective

Wed 6	12.35pm	Holy Communion
Sat 9	10.45am	Battle of Britain Parade and Service
Sun10	<b>TRINITY 13</b>	
	08.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Sung Eucharist
	03.00pm	Evensong
Wed 13	12.35pm	Holy Communion
	7.00pm	Cursillo Service at HPC
Sun 17	<b>TRINITY 14</b>	
	08.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Sung Eucharist
	03.00pm	Evensong
Wed 20	12.35pm	Holy Communion
Thurs 21	01.30pm	Peace Service (Page 17)
Sat 23	11.00am	Family walk and picnic (Page 11)
Sun 24	<b>TRINITY 15</b>	
	08.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Sung Eucharist
	03.00pm	Evensong
Wed 27	12.35pm	Holy Communion



**Mon 25 – Sat 30**    **Pop-up-Shop in the Packhorse Centre**  
See Page 24

**Sun 1 October \*\*\* Next issue of the Network Magazine \*\*\***

## Coffee Morning Plus

### on the first Saturday every month

### 10am to 2pm



Pop in to St Peter's for refreshments and a chat.  
Bring your friends and family.  
We always have a cake stall with some delicious  
home made confectionary, and we usually have a  
bookstall outside, weather permitting.

**The next ones:**  
**Sat 5 August and 2 September**



## Yorkshire Christian Joke

*There had been a drought in Sedbergh. A farmer parishioner approached the vicar to pray for rain.*

*“Nay,” said the vicar “I can’t do that.”*

*“Why not?” asked the farmer*

*“T’roofs off t’vicarage.”*

*From The Dalesman*



Two boys were walking home from church after hearing a strong sermon on the devil. One said to the other, “What do you think about all this Satan stuff?” The other boy replied, “Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out to be your father. It’s probably just your dad.” *From the Server.*



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## POP-UP SHOP

Well it's that time of year again, Jane and I have booked the popup shop in the Packhorse Centre for this September. There will be no charge as we are a charity and we aim to raise our profile further as a church and carry out mission within the town centre.

The dates we have booked are Monday 25<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2017, with setting up on the Sunday before and dismantling on the Sunday after, as we do each year.

I know some goods have already been donated, but we need lots of stock, so do look out unwanted items for us to sell. Any clothes donated must be new or unworn and we can't sell electrical items unless they are new and still boxed, but anything else is fair game.

This year we are going to try to claim Gift Aid, so can you bring items to church labelled "pop-up shop" and your name. We will record the items and if they sell for a reasonable amount then we will be able to claim gift aid if you are a tax payer. If people have larger or heavier items, let Mike or Jane know and we can arrange collection locally.

Also related, any birthday (or Christmas) gifts which are surplus to your requirements can be brought to church and either sold, or used as prizes for the church events. If people wish to ask relatives for money in lieu of presents then one really nice way of commemorating this at church, is to donate this money to the flower fund and have flowers in church as your birthday commemoration.

Finally, please pencil the dates for the shop in your diary, we will be putting a sign-up sheet in church soon for people to do shifts on duty.

*With thanks in anticipation, Mike and Jane Bembridge.*



*Two Sandras 'popped-up' last year*

# *Huddersfield Parish Prayer Cycle*

Below is a prayer cycle, the left hand column for the streets, the activity and the people within the parish boundaries, whilst the right hand column are the street names of parishioners who are on the electoral role as well as addresses of friends, relatives and concerns. Please use each column during the two months of this magazine - there are 31 entries in each columns (one per day), please use the extras in the shorter months.

## **PARISH STREETS**

## **CHURCH ROLE AND CONCERNS**

1.	Merton Street	Patterdale Drive HD5	1.
2.	Milford Street	Pole Gate HD7	2.
3.	Myrtle Street	Pole Moor Chapel HD7	3.
4.	New North Parade	Pyremont Road, London W4	4.
5.	New North Road	Quarry Lane HD5	5.
6.	New Street	Queen Street HU19	6.
7.	Northgate	Rafborn Grove HD3	7.
8.	Northumberland Street	Rawthorpe Lane HD5	8.
9.	Old Fieldhouse Lane	Richmond Court HD4	9.
10.	Old Leeds Road	Ritson Wharf CA1	10.
11.	Old South Street	Runnymede Road NE16	11.
12.	Oldgate	Rydal Drive HD5	12.
13.	Oxford Street	Scar House Lane HD7	13.
14.	Pack Horse Centre	Scar Lane HD3	14.
15.	Page Street	Scar Lane HD7	15.
16.	Peel Street	School Lane HD7	16.
17.	Pine Street	Slade Lane HD6	17.
18.	Portland Street	Smithy Lane HD5	18.
19.	Primitive Street	Somerset Road HD5	19.
20.	Princess Alexandra Walk	Sorbus Way HD8	20.
21.	Princess Street	South Shields NE34	21.
22.	Quay Street	Southgate HX5	22.
23.	Queen Street	Southway HD3	23.
24.	Queen Street South	Spar Bottom HD8	24.
25.	Queen Tap Yard	Spinkfield Road HD2	25.
26.	Queens Square	Springdale Avenue HD1	26.
27.	Queensgate	Springwood HD1	27.
28.	Railway Street	St Francis Gardens HD2	28.
29.	Ramsden Street	St. Mary's Lane HD5	29.
30.	Ray Street	Staindrop DL2	30.
31.	Red Doles Lane	Stancliffe Way HD5	31.

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## Summer fun for colouring

Q: How do bees get to school?

A: By school buzz!

Q: What do you get when you cross a snake and a pie?

A: A pie-thon!

Q: What did the buffalo say to his son when he went away on a trip?

A: Bison!

Q: What is 'out of bounds'?

A: An exhausted kangaroo!



## KIDS' CORNER

# PUZZLE PAGES

4				1				3
							1	
			3			4		2
6	7	5		9				
8			4			2		
					5		9	
5		4	7			9		
	9					8	2	
		1		4	8			



## Sudoku

Get your pen out,  
and your deck chair  
and try this one.

### Try to fill in the missing numbers (X002).

Use the numbers 1 through 16 to complete the equations.  
Each number is only used once.  
Each row is a maths equation.  
Work from left to right.  
Each column is a maths equation.  
Work from top to bottom.

Answers last issue (016):

5	×	13	-	9	/	14	4
-		-		+		/	
10	+	12	-	15	+	2	9
-		+		+		-	
3	+	6	+	7	/	8	2
-		-		-		-	
1	+	4	×	16	+	11	91
-9		3		15		-12	

	×		/		-		47
×		-		-		-	
	+		/		×		17
+		-		+		+	
	×		+		/		13
-		-		-		×	
	×		+		+		108
75		-12		2		43	

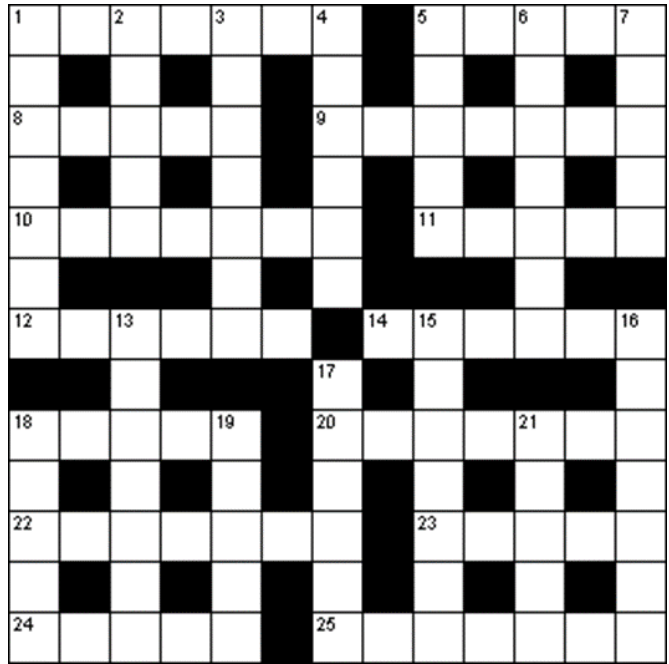
## Across

1. Mythical winged horse (7)
5. Prepared (5)
8. Parasitic insect (5)
9. Enticed (7)
10. Heart of a nuclear power station (7)
11. Spring month (5)
12. Spoiled (6)
14. Frank (6)
18. Deadly (5)
20. Futile (7)
22. Mathematical proposition (7)
23. Way (5)
24. Detested (5)
25. Neatest (7)

## Down

1. Traveller to a holy place (7)
2. Dutch cheese (5)
3. Encase (7)
4. One of the planets (6)
5. Cuban dance (5)
6. Changed (7)
7. Sing in Tyrolean fashion (5)
13. Withdrawal (7)
15. Declared (7)
16. Cut apart (7)
17. Peak (6)
18. Go and get (5)
19. Enticed (5)
21. Evade (5)

# QUICK CROSSWORD



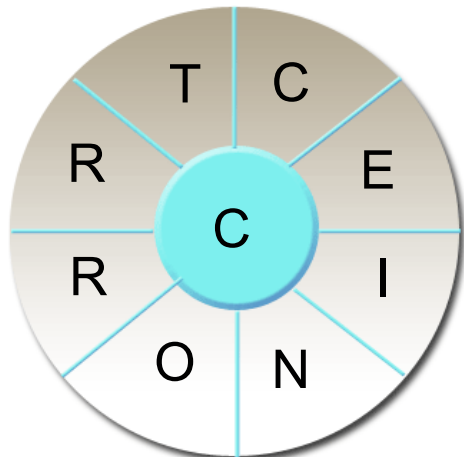
### Answers to previous crossword

**Across:** 1 Strident. 5 Pint. 8 Essex. 9 Regatta. 11 Taffeta. 12 Aaron. 13 Calico. 15 Beaver. 18 Moose. 20 Infants. 23 Chez moi. 24 Lunar. 25 Lost. 26 Highbrow.

**Down:** 1 Sweat. 2 Restful. 3 Dixie. 4 Norway. 6 Inter. 7 Trainer. 10 Glade. 13 Comical. 14 Cream. 16 Vintner. 17 Bikini. 19 Omens. 21 Filch. 22 Screw.

## WORD WHEEL

How many words can you make from the letters in the wheel? Each word must contain the hub letter. Can you find a 9-letter word and at least 10 other words of four letters or more avoiding proper nouns?





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Preserving ties that bind,  
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And bring us peace of mind.*

*Emily Mathews*



*Jennie Coxon Funeral Director*

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# The Archdeacon's Inspection at St Peter's

Towards the end of June our Archdeacon, the Venerable Anne Dawtry, came to visit the Parish Church. This was a formal visit that neither of the current wardens had experienced before and as it happened neither had Simon the vicar! The purpose of the visit is to examine all the church's registers and other documentation, including our Annual report and Quinquennial report to ensure that our records are being correctly kept and are up to date. She also has to check that we comply with rules concerning insurance, child protection, health and safety regulations, fire regulations and so on. The visit was planned between 4.30pm and 9pm, beginning with discussions between the Archdeacon, all the clergy and wardens and finished with her staying to our pre-arranged PCC meeting that evening.



The inspection of our records was fine, and with only a few small items we needed to sharpen up on, we were awarded an A\*. The major discussion was planned around a document we had to produce for the Archdeacon, called a "SWOT analysis" of the church here at St. Peter's. SWOT stands for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats and it is a useful tool in business to allow focus on things that are done well, things that are not so good, opportunities that can be used to advantage and areas of outside influence which can alter plans. The group went through our SWOT analysis item by item discussing some of the issues in a very useful way. The group felt this was a really important piece of work about the church and that it should be published in the magazine for people to think and pray about, so here it is overleaf:

# **HPC SWOT Analysis 2017**

## **STRENGTHS**

- ♦ Churchmanship: HPC fills a need for this particular type of churchmanship described as 'Liberal Catholic tradition of the Church of England', 'formal'
- ♦ Music Quality: choir, organ, organist
- ♦ Faithful, growing congregation made up of a range of backgrounds and ethnicity
- ♦ Committed volunteers
- ♦ Several congregations: 4 services regularly, also daytime visitors and coffee morning regulars
- ♦ Large building: able to offer space for civic services, concerts funerals and weddings
- ♦ Well established children's church
- ♦ Successful HLF bid to complete our building maintenance works
- ♦ Active bell tower, popular with bell ringers
- ♦ Good training parish for curates
- ♦ Active fundraising and social groups
- ♦ Church open every day, busy
- ♦ Situated in the town centre
- ♦ Good pastoral care system in place
- ♦ Presence of a crypt café increases visitor numbers
- ♦ Active mission work (Presence) in the town centre: eg pop-up shop, coffee gatherings, fayres
- ♦ School visits

## **WEAKNESSES**

- ♦ Reliance on a relatively small number of volunteers
- ♦ Reliance on income from crypt, Aspley rent and car park rent
- ♦ City centre Church/parish: few in the congregation live in the parish
- ♦ Small (but potentially growing) children's choir
- ♦ No schools directly linked to the parish
- ♦ Poor nearby parking, even on a Sunday
- ♦ Evening events are not popular, poor transport and safety concerns

- ♦ Not sure as to our place/position within the overall Diocesan plans

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

- ♦ Developing choir, especially children's choir
- ♦ Developing the role of children in the wider church community and activities
- ♦ Developing links to schools, this is taking place to a certain extent
- ♦ Develop the use of the building as a concert venue
- ♦ Development of the North Porch, parking and crypt to facilitate the increased use of the crypt room for a variety of uses
- ♦ Links to the University
- ♦ Visits by bell ringing teams
- ♦ We are a busy church with good support for assistant curates in training

## **THREATS**

- ♦ Financial constraints may prevent our development plans
- ♦ Unable to use some of the balcony because of fire regulations
- ♦ Loss of car park revenue
- ♦ Reduction in clergy numbers may challenge us to look at increasing lay involvement
- ♦ Concern regarding the potential for amalgamation with other parishes
- ♦ Security of buildings and staff
- ♦ Children's church facilities may be outgrown
- ♦ Use of church by some locals may put others off coming into the building

The items are in no particular order and we have not attached more or less importance to any item. The lists are not exhaustive and the opportunities and threats won't necessarily come to pass but we do need to think about how we, as a church, would respond in certain circumstances.

I hope you find this interesting, the visit was certainly useful for the wardens and clergy and Anne felt that we were doing a good job ensuring that the work of the church in the town and community was moving forward. We are continuing to grow and our efforts are coming to fruition, but we mustn't become complacent and be mindful to hear God's calling.

*Many thanks, Michael Bembridge (Warden)*



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## Flower Rota

You may notice that there is a 'Flower Rota' displayed in church. The rota can be populated by anyone who:

- Wishes to take a turn arranging the flowers on a particular week. (Help and guidance can and will be given.)
- Wishes to have flowers arranged in memory of someone.
- Wishes to have flowers arranged for a significant birthday or anniversary.

Thanks to all those who take part in this artistry that beautifies St Peter's on a week to week basis.



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