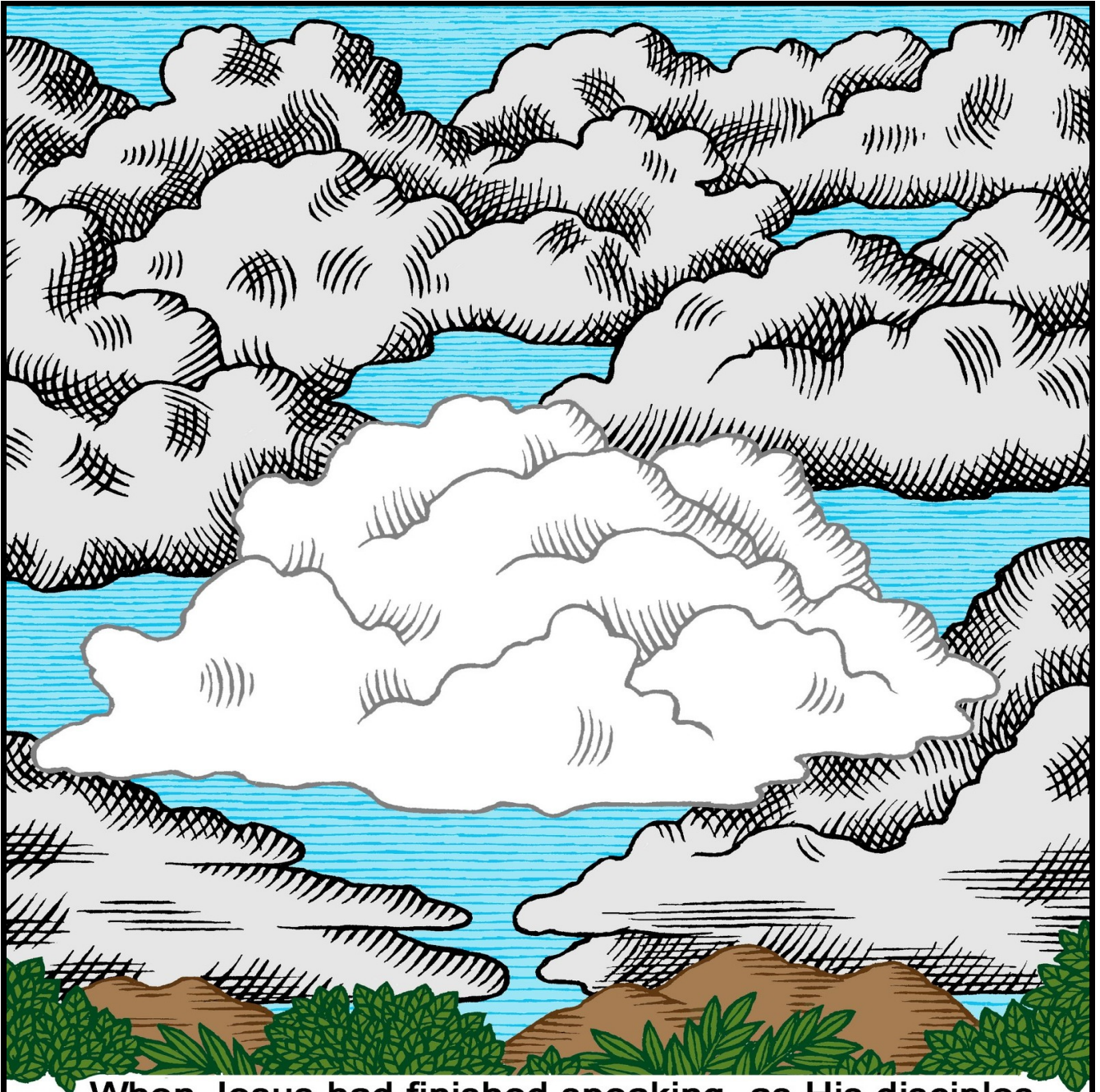




# May 2026



... When Jesus had finished speaking, as His disciples watched intently, He was taken up into heaven and a cloud hid Him from their sight. Acts 1:7-9

The Magazine for the Parish Church  
of St. Peter, Cleethorpes  
[www.stpeterscleethorpes.org.uk](http://www.stpeterscleethorpes.org.uk)

Our Vision  
St Peter's:

*Welcoming all to encounter the love of Christ. Growing together in faith. Reaching out to all generations*

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07835 996391

Priest-in-charge

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Usual day off - Friday

Study Day - Saturday

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David Esmond

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07484 710002

Note new number



Member Editor 2026  
Association for Church Editors



## An Ecumenical Letter for the Easter Season from The Archbishop of Canterbury

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

At Easter, the Church proclaims the truth at the very heart of our faith: Christ has conquered death, and through him, new life has begun. The resurrection of Jesus is not only an event remembered; it is a living reality that shapes our hope, our witness, and our shared calling as Christians. It gives us confidence – deep, unshakeable confidence – in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

This hope is not abstract. We proclaim it in a world marked by deep suffering and conflict. We think of those living amid war and violence – across the Middle East, in Ukraine, in Sudan, and in so many other places of conflict – and of the churches of the Holy Land, bearing faithful witness under immense strain. We remember all who are displaced, oppressed, or forgotten, and we renew our calling as Christians to stand with the marginalised and to serve those most in need.

In such a world, the mystery of Easter speaks with particular depth. Writing from prison, Dietrich Bonhoeffer reflected that “only a suffering God can help.” These words give us pause. They remind us that in Jesus Christ, God does not stand distant from human pain, but enters into it, bears it, and transforms it. The cross stands firm while the world changes. Empires rise and fall, cultures shift, and societies transform, yet the love of God revealed in Christ crucified and risen remains constant.

The cross and the empty tomb together tell us that suffering and death do not have the final word. Suffering and pain are penultimate; ultimate is the loving embrace of God in glory. Easter proclaims that even in the darkest places, God is at work bringing life.

At Lambeth Palace, the signs of spring offer a quiet echo of this mystery. The gardens are beginning to blossom again – what seemed dormant is now filled with colour and promise. In the courtyard, the magnolia has put on a breathtaking display, its blossoms both radiant and fleeting, a reminder of beauty held in time. Even the magnolia I recently planted has begun to flourish, a small but hopeful sign of life taking root. Yet the deeper truth to which all this points is found in the words of Jesus: “Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies... it bears much fruit.” The pattern of death and new life lies at the heart of the Gospel.

Easter invites each of us to entrust ourselves anew to this mystery. What in our lives, our churches, and our relationships must be surrendered so that God may bring renewal? The resurrection assures us that no act of faithful surrender is ever wasted. In the Christian East, the icon of the resurrection expresses this hope with profound beauty. Christ stands upon the broken gates of Hades, reaching down to raise Adam and Eve, and with them the whole human family. It is a vision not only of victory, but of joy: humanity lifted into the life of the triune God.

This is a hope we share across our churches. For those engaged in the work of Christian unity, the resurrection is our common foundation and calling. Our divisions, though real, do not define the final reality of the Church. The risen Christ continues to draw us to himself and to one another, and in him we find both the courage and the confidence to walk together.

Often, this work unfolds quietly – in prayer, in friendship, in hospitality, in shared witness. Yet these small and faithful acts are seeds of a greater harvest, signs of the deeper unity we already share in Christ.

Easter calls us to live from this hope: to trust in the victory of Christ, to stand alongside those who suffer, and to bear witness with renewed confidence to the Gospel. In a wounded world, we are called to be people of resurrection – people who live not in fear, but in hope; not in despair, but in the promise of new life.

As we celebrate this holy season, may the joy of Easter renew our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our commitment to one another in Christ. And may we walk together, with confidence and hope, toward that ultimate fulfilment, when all things are made new and all creation is gathered into the loving embrace of God.

Yours in the peace of the Risen Christ,

*The Most Reverend Dame Sarah Mullally*

*Archbishop of Canterbury*

\*\*\*

‘Thy Kingdom Come’ – global prayer movement marks ten years

This year the global prayer movement Thy Kingdom Come (TKC) will take place from Thursday 14th to Sunday 24th May. Spanning the 11 days between Ascension and Pentecost, the end of the Easter season, the initiative encourages Christians to pray for five people whom they know (friends, families, neighbours) to come to faith.

This year is a special one for Thy Kingdom Come. It was ten years ago, in 2016, that it began as a call to prayer from the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Archbishop of York. TKC has since grown into a global wave of prayer, involving tens of millions of Christians, in dozens of denominations, in almost 90% of countries worldwide. To mark these first ten years, the new archbishop, Sarah Mullally, has written a Novena for the initiative.

This year’s theme is ‘God With Us’. With the help of leaders from across the church traditions, TKC will explore a different Bible story each day, one which demonstrates God’s transformative presence, power and love at work in the lives of people and communities.

More information at: <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>

## Church 2026

January - March

### Income

Planned Giving	4,300.00
Gift Aid Tax Received	1,834.66
Collections	1,228.25
Donations	5,595.66
PCC Fees	405.93
Concert Income	0.00
Copier Income	1,031.89
Sundry Income	0.00
Restricted Income	0.00
Legacy	
Transfer CBF	

**Total** **14,396.39**

### Expenditure

Clergy Expenses	83.52
Salaries & Organist Fees	2,497.76
Utilities	3,934.26
Insurance	1,317.20
Repairs & Maintenance	0.00
Security	332.16
Upkeep of Services	1,225.58
Hospitality	333.09
Mission & Outreach	417.44
Print, Stationery & Office	570.00
Covenant giving	2,585.00
Charitable Donations	0.00
Sundry Expenses	70.83
Governance	487.00
Fixture & Fittings	0.00
Concert expenses	
Transfer CBF	

**Total** **13,853.84**

**Net Surplus/Deficit** **542.55**

*Andrew Longbottom*  
*Treasurer*

## Hall 2026

January -March

### Income

Rents	2,258.11
Donations	20.00
Donations (Thursday Group)	4,367.55
Donations (Friday Coffee)	390.52
Donations (Food Pantry)	275.00

**Total** **7,311.18**

### Expenditure

Salaries (Hall)	1,202.92
Co-Ordinator (Thursday Group)	655.20
Utilities	2,081.77
Insurance	656.50
Repairs	192.00
Consumables	300.32
Security	332.16
Fixtures & Fittings	0.00
Resources (Thursday Group)	1,983.09

**Total** **7,403.96**

**Net Surplus/Deficit** **-92.78**



## Holy Week and Easter at St Peter's

Hundreds of people visited the church as part of the Love Cleethorpes event on the Saturday before Easter and then church was open every morning during Holy Week. There were prayer stations set up to illustrate the events of Holy Week and several visitors enjoyed being inside our lovely church..





Plants and greenery provided a garden to walk through during Holy Week but after our Simple Supper and Holy Communion service on Maundy Thursday and Hot Cross Buns at the Good Friday service, the garden was completed with brightly coloured flowers in time for our Easter Day celebrations.

Our traditional early service of Holy Communion and our Breakfast Church service, which this time also included Holy Communion were very well attended.

## An Update from the Food Pantry

Since we started hot meals in January we have served an amazing 192 as at the end of March. Alongside this we have noticed an overall change in the environment as a quiet period of waiting for a food parcel has transformed into a social gathering with friendliness and communication between one another.

On the donations front we have very recently received two fabulous food provisions, one from Cleethorpes Athletics Club and one from Beacon Academy and just before I wrote this I travelled to Tesco (twice) to collect a huge number of frozen food items, an amount that has filled all 3 of our freezers to the brim. Myself and the team would like to personally thank all 3 of them again for their wonderful support.

We would also like to thank Ted and Joan Johnson, and their friends, for providing us with backpacks. This was a request made in the March edition of the magazine. We've used all of them now so if anyone has any that they no longer require we would love to receive them..

*Ian Jones*



Members of Cleethorpes Athletics Club pictured with Ian, and all the generous donations



Ian and Diane pictured with some of the backpacks

*Donations of non-perishable food can be left in church any time it is open or in the church hall on Friday mornings.*

\*\*\*



## Open Church

Church is normally open between 10:00 and 12:00 on Monday and Tuesday mornings, but extra help is needed on Mondays.

Look out for the A board to confirm that we are open.

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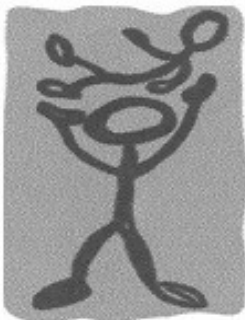
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## ‘He gave us eyes to see them’ – Stained Glass Windows

You may know the story of the little girl with her family during a guided tour around a cathedral. As the bright sun streamed through one of the windows, she asked the guide who were the people depicted there. “Those are the saints,” he replied.

Later that evening the girl told her mummy, “I know who the saints are.” “Do you, dear? Who are they?” the mother asked. little girl replied: “They are the people who let the light shine through.”

When the summer sun rises, its light catches the east window of a church I look after. It shines through the figures and colours of the Annunciation scene to bathe the chancel in a warm glow. Later as the sun sets, it shines once again through the west window showing Christ surrounded by angels, with the same wonderful effect. They are two stained glass windows by the Victorian designer, Kempe. But in St Mary’s Church, Fairford in Gloucestershire, there are an incredible 28 windows of medieval glass that have survived the centuries and continue to astonish the visitor.



As the sun catches this array of windows, the colours take on a new, vibrant life. We see scenes in the life of our Lord and our Lady, Old Testament prophets, New Testament apostles and the communion of saints. The eye moves round and we reach the west window portraying Christ in majesty and the day of judgement. This great work has been attributed to the royal glazier, Barnard Flower, who was influenced by the late medieval illuminated prayer books. The windows are a living witness to his skill and faith.

George Herbert has a poem that calls us to shine out like the church windows. It is easy, he says, to be “brittle crazy glass”, but in God’s good grace we can become like a window where colours and light, belief and life can combine and mingle to radiate out into the world.

*Revd Michael Burgess*

*We have beautiful stained glass at St Peter’s as seen in this picture of the east window.*

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## Cleethorpes Festival of Music and Words.

We live in a world full of conflict and turning on the news makes for depressing and upsetting viewing. It is therefore good to find out about joyful and positive happenings in our local area.

One such event is our own Cleethorpes Festival of Music and Words and it is absolutely great that this has kept benefitting our young people year after year. It started in 1909 and apart from during the two world wars and a period between 1965 and 1973 when there were financial problems, has been a regular annual event ever since. In 1973 the Mayoress and a respected adjudicator, Alec Redshaw got together and the present festival was reborn.

It helps young people interpret the written word and written music. It allows them to display their own ability in very positive ways, particularly over the actual Festival period, this year - 8th June to 17th June (music) and 17th to 20th June (words) with the Festival Concert on Saturday 20th June. The festival attracts performers from out of town. The committee is proud of the fact that the now famous soprano, Lesley Garrett entered the festival as a young girl from Doncaster in 1973, winning the Open Soprano Solo and Opera Classes.

However, will this be the last year? Sadly the answer may well be 'yes' unless some more support is forthcoming. The participating talented locals and there are many, some from our own church family, will benefit from the festival this year but may lose the chance in future.

If this is something that interests you and you feel you could offer support there are several ways this can be done. Attending the festival or offering a little time to cover some of the routine tasks that need to be done, especially over the festival period is one way of helping. Making a financial contribution to help cover ever increasing costs is another.

It would be so wonderful to see the festival go forward so our young people can continue to benefit. For further details you are welcome to contact Christine Penszor on 07848897060.

*Based on an article submitted by Leslie Watchorn*



### Geraniums

A man burst into a flower shop and urgently demanded two pink potted geraniums. The clerk explained that they did not have any, but could offer him African violets instead. "No," said the man sadly. "It was geraniums that my wife told me to water while she was gone."

## Some Dates for your Diary

**9 April—4 May Grimsby Minster. Here comes the Sun: Helios**  
Artwork Helios (the Sun) by British artist Luke Jerram featuring detailed imagery of the Sun's surface.

### **10 - 16 May Christian Aid Week**

It's that time of year again – when Christians across the country raise funds for Christian Aid's programmes, which help those suffering poverty and injustice worldwide.

Since 1957, Christian Aid Week has brought faith and action together to help families survive poverty and violence, and communities rebuild after crisis.

It says: "This is all thanks to the amazing support of churches, communities and individuals who choose to walk, run, bake, dance, make, and do whatever it takes to help make lasting change.

"Through our locally led work with partners around the world who are rooted in their communities to lead change, your valuable support will help communities ravaged by poverty and the effects of the climate crisis.

For more information and to donate visit the website.

<https://christianaid.org.uk>

### **10 June Cleethorpes Race for Life**

### **5 June –28 August St Peter's Church Cleethorpes 2026 season of summer Lunchtime Concerts.**

12:00 - 1:00 Light refreshments available.

See the programme for June on page 15. July and August programme to follow in the June magazine. Full programme available now in church.

### **8 - 20 June Cleethorpes Festival of Music and Words**

### **27 - 28 June Armed Forces Weekend**

\*\*\*

Daddy, I want to ask you a question", said little Bobby after his first day at Sunday school.

"Yes, Bobby, what is it?"

"The teacher was reading the Bible to us – all about the children of Israel building the Temple, the children of Israel crossing the Red Sea, the children of Israel making sacrifices. Didn't the grown-ups do anything?"

## St Peter's 2026 Programme of Lunchtime Concerts

<p><b><u>5th June</u></b>  <b><u>Grimsby and</u></b>  <b><u>Cleethorpes</u></b>  <b><u>Orpheus Male</u></b>  <b><u>Voice Choir.</u></b></p>	<p>The Orpheus Male Voice Choir was formed in 1949. The choir has performed in concerts with many well-known international and local solo artists as well as some of the country's leading brass bands, military bands and jazz groups.</p>
<p><b><u>12th June</u></b>  <b><u>Adele Dixon</u></b>  <b><u>With</u></b>  <b><u>Barry Whitfield</u></b></p>	<p>Adele Dixon with Barry Whitfield; both very popular local musicians who have performed regularly at St Peter's. Adele sings in a variety of styles and studies opera in Italy. Barry plays the piano and organ, as well as teaching music.</p>
<p><b><u>19th June</u></b>  <b><u>Nigel and Terri</u></b></p>	<p>We are pleased to welcome again an acoustic duo who perform a selection of English, Irish and contemporary folk songs.</p>
<p><b><u>26th June</u></b>  <b><u>Pianist</u></b>  <b><u>James Kirby</u></b></p>	<p>James Kirby enjoys a rich and varied career as a solo pianist, chamber musician, teacher and educator and has appeared as concerto soloist with orchestras including the English and Scottish Chamber Orchestras and the Moscow Symphony Orchestra.</p>

*Details of July and August concerts will follow in the June magazine  
 Full programmes available in church*

## Pilgrimage

At the time of writing this, Ted and I are watching Pilgrimage on BBC2. This year's series is called 'The Road to Holy Island' and the seven pilgrims are doing a walk from Whitby to Holy Island, but the route is by no means direct! It brings back so many happy memories for us as it takes in parts of St Oswald's Way and St Cuthbert's Way which we walked - St Cuthbert's first in 2009 and St Oswald's in 2017.

Their 390k walk began at the ruins of Whitby Abbey, with beautiful views of the coast. Here St Hild, the founder and first abbess organised a synod which set the course for the future of Christianity in England. Legend has it that the area where the abbey was built was overrun with snakes and St Hild turned them to stone and threw them over the cliff. There are ammonites to be found on nearby beaches and the Victorians carved heads on them to make 'snakestones'.

The pilgrims walked along the coast for a little way before making for Heavenfield which is the start (or end in our case ) of St Oswald's Way. On the way they stopped in Durham and spent time in the beautiful cathedral where St Cuthbert was finally buried and the head of St Oswald was later placed in his coffin.

At Heavenfield there is a church dedicated to St Oswald. It is in a field which was the site of The Battle of Heavenfield (634AD) when Oswald became King of Northumbria after defeating a Welsh army. It is believed that Oswald erected a huge cross and he and his men prayed to God for success in the battle. There is now a large cross marking the spot but this one was built in 1927. It was with this battle that Oswald brought Christianity to Northumberland. Oswald died around 641AD at The Battle of Maserfield.

The pilgrims walked a stretch of St Oswald's Way before taking a route through the Cheviot Hills and joining St Cuthbert's Way which had begun in Melrose in Scotland. They visited St Cuthbert's Cave where the saint's body had been taken in 875AD to keep it safe from Viking invaders. Cuthbert had died in 687AD and was originally buried in the monastery in Lindisfarne. His coffin was carried around northern England for several years before finally being laid to rest in the newly built Durham Cathedral.



Pilgrims' Path

The climax of the walk for the seven pilgrims and for us, back in 2009, was the Pilgrims' Path across to Holy Island. This can only be used at low tide so the walk must be carefully planned. It was an amazing experience, trying to imagine the monks carrying St Cuthbert's coffin. I have to confess that we didn't do it with bare feet, as is the tradition. The thought

of arriving with muddy feet at the pub where we were spending the night didn't seem good and it was really cold (no excuse I know!). I wrote in my diary at the time, that the water didn't go over the top of our boots and although we squelched along and sank down a few inches, we completed the path in an hour and a quarter but with ever so muddy boots and legs.

The walk ended at the Priory, where there is a monument to mark the site of St Cuthbert's original burial place.

It was really interesting to see the seven pilgrims and how their experiences affected them and how they interacted with each other. They are all celebrities and come from very different backgrounds and have different beliefs. There were some very moving moments.

We could really recommend watching the series, for the human interest and the historical interest to say nothing of the stunning scenery throughout. It will be on iPlayer for 12 months.

*Joan Johnson*

\*\*\*

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## 24 May – Day of Pentecost

Pentecost took place on the well-established Jewish festival of Firstfruits, which was observed at the beginning of the wheat harvest. It was seven weeks after Easter, or 50 days including Easter.

A feast day to celebrate the country's wheat harvest does not sound exactly world-changing, but that year, it became one of the most important days in world history. For Pentecost was the day that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit – the day the Church was born.

Jesus had told His disciples that something big was going to happen, and that they were to wait for it in Jerusalem, instead of returning to Galilee. Jesus had plans for His disciples, but He knew they could not do the work themselves. They would need His help.

And so, they waited in Jerusalem, praying together with His other followers, for many days. And then on that fateful morning there was suddenly the sound as of a mighty rushing wind. Tongues of flame flickered on their heads, and they began to praise God in many tongues, to the astonishment of those who heard them. The curse of Babel (Genesis 11: 1- 9) was dramatically reversed that morning.

That morning the Holy Spirit came to indwell the disciples and followers of Jesus. The Church was born. The Christians were suddenly full of life and power, utterly different from their former fearful selves. The change in them was permanent.

Peter gave the first ever sermon of the Christian Church that morning, proclaiming Jesus was the Messiah. His boldness in the face of possible death was in marked contrast to the man who had denied Jesus 50 days before. And 3,000 people responded, were converted, and were baptised. How's that for fast church growth!

Of course, Pentecost was not the first time the Holy Spirit had acted in this world. All through the Old Testament there are accounts of how God's Spirit guided people and strengthened them. But now, because of Christ's death and resurrection, He could INDWELL them. From now on, every Christian could have the confidence that Jesus was with them constantly, through the indwelling of His Holy Spirit.



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*- Family member*

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## Helping people caught in crisis in the Middle East

At Pentecost, we think back to that morning in Jerusalem when the Church was born . So this month, as we celebrate Pentecost, it is good to know that many Christian agencies are working hard out there in the Middle East now, to help the suffering people of Gaza, Lebanon, Israel, the West Bank.... Not to mention all the other countries where bombs are falling and people are running for their lives.

Many of the Christian agencies work through local partners to provide essential supplies like food, water, and hygiene kits, alongside psychosocial support. If you would like to help to support this work, you could send funds through various key organisations:

Caritas Jerusalem; Christian Aid; Embrace the Middle East; Friends of the Holy Land; Help the Persecuted; Medair; Mosaic Middle East; Samaritan's Purse; and Tearfund.

\*\*\*

Notices found in church newsletters – that didn't quite come out right!

Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of the vicar's sermons.

The Rector will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing: 'Break Forth Into Joy.'

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married last weekend in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their schooldays.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

Ladies are requested not to have children in the church kitchen.

For those who have children and don't know it, we have a crèche and nursery in the crypt.

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## FRIDAY COFFEE MORNINGS

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Fridays 9:30am to 11:45am



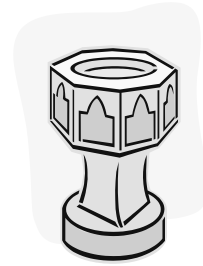
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## Parish Registers

### Baptisms

22 March 2026      Dominic Fitzgerald  
                              Jacob Elliot Denton  
                              Bethany Edwards



### Funerals

23 March 2026      James William Stark  
  
9 April 2026         Janice Crampin Davie



## Contact Us

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# SAINT PETER'S CHURCH CLEETHORPES

## PARISH SERVICES

### MAY 2026

#### SUNDAYS

3 May	8:00 am Holy Communion	
	9:30 am Breakfast Church	
10 May	9:30 am Holy Communion	
17 May	9:30 am Holy Communion	
24 May	9:30 am Holy Communion	Pentecost
31 May	9:30 am Holy Communion	Trinity Sunday
7 June	8:00 am Holy Communion	
	9:30 am Breakfast Church	

#### WEDNESDAYS

Every week during school term time                      10:00 am Holy Communion

Tea/Coffee is served at the back of church after services..

The next Parish Magazine is the **June 2026** issue. If you have any articles or news please submit these to the editors either by email or via the Parish Office by **8 May**. We always welcome contributions from our readers! Thank you.  
The magazine editors are Kate Esmond and Joan Johnson. Copy can be emailed to [kate.esmond@ntlworld.com](mailto:kate.esmond@ntlworld.com), [kateesmond@stpeterscleethorpes.org.uk](mailto:kateesmond@stpeterscleethorpes.org.uk), or [joanjohnson@stpeterscleethorpes.org.uk](mailto:joanjohnson@stpeterscleethorpes.org.uk)