

February/March 2025



Speak

St Peter's Church, Elworth
<https://www.stpeters-elworth.org.uk>

Welcome

Welcome to the February/March 2025 edition of Speak magazine.

As we move into spring, there are many things happening for everyone to get involved with. On page 12 you can find information about our Easter Services. For young people, we have Lego Church dates and Messy Church on 23rd March.

Lucy Kelly & Jenny Drain
Editors

Vision statement

We are committed in love to worshipping God:

- **By proclaiming the Gospel In word and action**
- **By encouraging growth**
- **By serving others**
- **By leading people into a personal relationship with Jesus.**

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Magazine deadline

Articles for the April/May edition need to be submitted no later than
Monday 10th March 2025 .

Submissions by this date are requested via email to
editor@stpeters-elworth.org.uk. Thank you.

Tulips and seeking solutions

In February 2023, I visited the Tulip Museum in Amsterdam. The Dutch have a passion for tulips that can be traced back nearly 400 years. I learned that in the 17th century the Dutch were amongst the wealthiest people on Earth and looking for ways to display their wealth began to acquire the relatively rare tulip flower. Speculators, usually called florists, began to buy and sell bulbs. By the mid-1630s, a single bulb sold one day for 46 guilders, then changed hands a month later for 515 guilders. Another bulb rose from 95 to 900 guilders in a similar period of time. Tulips, like most flowers, have symbolism and meaning attached to them. One of the most common meanings of Tulips is Love. It is also associated with messages of Joy, good luck and well wishes. Tulips are one of the first flowers to bloom in the Spring and are also associated with rebirth and new beginnings.

After cutting or buying tulips, cut off the white stem ends and soak them in deep water overnight. The flowers can be arranged in a vase, and I like to cut the tulips to different heights. Place your vase near a window and turn it a little each day, the stems will twist and turn seeking the source of light. There can be times in our lives when we desperately seek a solution to a problem, twisting and turning, exhausted and suffering with stress and anxiety. But if like the tulips, we seek the light to show a way out of our troubles we shall find relief.

“Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.” John 8:12

Tracy Rigby



Anthony Articulates

Moving Forward: From Christmas to Candlemas and Beyond

As we bid farewell to the Christmas season, the echo of "Emmanuel; God with us" should continue to resonate in our hearts. The joy of Christ's birth has illuminated our journey, and now, as we approach Candlemas on February 2nd, we are reminded of Christ as the light of the world.

Candlemas was so named as traditionally this was the day all church candles would have been blessed. More importantly this day marks the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, it is a moment of transition, a bridge between the celebration of Christmas and the anticipation of Easter. On this day, we reflect on Mary and Joseph presenting the infant Jesus in the temple, fulfilling the law and encountering Simeon and Anna, whose faith revealed the divine truth of Christ. Simeon's proclamation of Jesus:

" Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of His people Israel" (Luke 2:29-32) this should inspire us to renew our commitment to walking in His light.

The tradition of keeping crib scenes out until Candlemas reminds us that the Christmas story does not end on December 25th. It frustrates me deeply when I hear peoples early as Boxing day say, "well that's Christmas over for another year." Christmas runs through to Epiphany on the 6th of January and, it continues to unfold as we journey with the Holy Family through the events of Christ's early life through to Candlemas.

Candlemas serves as the culmination of this season, celebrating the presentation of Jesus and the revelation of His mission as the light of the world.

As the days grow longer and the world begins its slow emergence from winter, this season invites us to prepare spiritually for what lies ahead. Lent and Easter await on the horizon, offering us a chance to deepen our faith and align our lives with the path of Christ.

Let us embrace this season of transition with hope and intentionality, allowing Candlemas to inspire us to shine Christ's light in a world that often feels dark. May we carry the joy of His birth forward, looking ahead to His sacrifice and the glorious triumph of the resurrection.

Dear God,

As we remember how Jesus was presented as a baby in the Temple,

We remember Simeon's declaration that he is the Light of the World.

We have experienced so much darkness within ourselves and within our world.

We hunger for your light to dispel the darkness and guide us to life.

Increase the small flames you have created in our lives

That we might bring your light into the darkness.

Amen.

Rev. Anthony Rigby



The Children's Society

In 1881 Edward Rudolf, a young Sunday school teacher and civil servant in South London, saw the effects of poverty on children and decided to do something about it.

When two young boys failed to turn up for his Sunday school, he went to look for them and was shocked to find them begging for food on the streets. Their father had died, leaving their mother struggling to bring up seven children under the age of 11.

Rudolf soon realised this was not a unique story and there were countless young people living in poverty. At that point, he decided to dedicate his life to improving the lives of children who had it toughest. This was the beginning of The Church of England Children's Society.

Edward Rudolf believed the workhouses were not a good environment for children to grow up in. He wanted to make sure that those growing up in poverty had a loving and secure family environment. He gained support from within the Church of England, backed by the Archbishop of Canterbury. This enabled him to set up small Church of England children's homes, each with around 10 children aged five to 14, with a master and matron to act as parents. Everything it stands for today is owed to this bold act.

From the 1920s through to the 1950s they established 34 permanent residential nurseries around the country to cater for the increasing number of young children in need of care. During World War II the Society housed Jewish children from Germany and Czechoslovakia, who were seeking asylum from Nazi persecution. This is an early example of their work with asylum seekers. By 1969 The Society had opened their first day-care centre, Foulkes House, in South London. It offered support for single-parent families and those affected by illness, stress or severe poverty. It was so successful that they opened more across the country.

By the 1970's social attitudes had changed considerably. Abortion and lone parenting were viewed differently and contraception was more readily available. Fewer children were entering children's homes or being placed up for adoption as local social services departments increased their activity in this area. This gave rise to change. The Children's Society closed

many of their children's homes and moved away from adoption and fostering to focus on helping young people solve their own problems. The 1980s then marked a decade of significant growth for. To celebrate 100 years of making a difference to children's lives, they opened 12 new family centres. They also opened toy libraries and soft play areas and set up information services offering help with welfare rights. In 1986, the Community and Diocesan development teams were set up, drawing on their link to the Church of England. Their aims were to help people identify local problems and find solutions. During the 1990s they built on the experience and understanding gained in the previous two decades and began working for social justice. They became more effective at responding to the issues faced by young people. They also started campaigning to change laws on issues such as, health care, housing, social security, education and social work. They also wanted to do more to give young people a way to speak and act for themselves. In 1992 they argued that child prostitution should be seen as a child protection issue. They continued to campaign on this issue until in 2000 fresh government guidelines recommended that the police should treat the children as victims of abuse rather than as perpetrators of crime.

Nowadays they continue to work and campaign on the changing issues that affect children. They started a campaign to Make Runaways Safe. As a result, more than 40 local authorities committed to making changes to protect young people who run away and all councils will now have to offer young runaways a mandatory 'return interview', to identify and help provide the support they need. Nowadays the Children's Society works in the following areas: Child Sexual Exploitation, Children's Rights and Advocacy, County Lines and Criminal Exploitation, Mental Health and Wellbeing, Missing from Home, Poverty, Refugees and Migrants, Substance Misuse and Young Carers and their problems.

St Peters supports The Children's Society through a Christingle service every year where donations are given either through small cardboard candles or plastic boxes and as well as larger donations by individual church members. Please remember the work of the Society in your prayers. For more information:

www.childrenssociety.org.uk

Norma Chapman



Friends of A Rocha Sandbach

These are the walks I have arranged for this summer 2025:

Sunday May 4th, 2.30pm - from Sandbach Crosses:
St Mary's Wood, Dingle Wood and Sandbach Park nature stroll

Sunday June 8th, 2.30pm - from Sandbach Crosses:
Brook Wood Trail to Wheelock nature stroll

Sunday July 6th, 2.30pm - from Sandbach Crosses:
Filter Bed Wood Trail nature stroll

See you there if you can make it!
Many blessings in Christ
George Hill



If you haven't seen my guide to the new Sandbach Fine Trees Circuit, you can find the links to download it for free on this page:

www.swwg.org

Small Groups

Small Groups provide an opportunity for people to make friends, grow in their faith and discuss life together in a smaller setting than the Sunday Service.

They are informal, friendly and supportive, providing an ideal setting in which to meet new people. Groups run throughout the week.

For further details contact the
Church Office on 01270 766557

Liverpool Anglican Cathedral

'Threads through the Bible'

This is a free exhibition which is open weekdays from 10.00am-4.00pm (Saturdays 10.00am-5.00pm and Sundays 12 noon-5.00pm) in Liverpool Anglican Cathedral from 16th January – 2nd March. It will be going to Chester Cathedral but not until 2026 or 2027!

Threads through the Bible is a breathtaking culmination of ten years' dedication and passion, showcasing three extraordinary exhibitions: *Threads through Creation*, *Threads through the Cross*, and *Threads through Revelation*. Across a stunning display of 38 silk panels, stretching 80 meters and featuring over 25 million intricate stitches, this exhibit is a visual storytelling masterpiece.

Previously, *Threads through Revelation* captivated audiences at cathedrals across the UK from 2016 to 2018, as did *Threads through Creation* from 2021 to 2024. Now, Liverpool Cathedral proudly brings these works together to tell the overarching story of the Bible—from the “all is initially good” of Genesis, through the life and sacrifice of Jesus, to the “all is good again” of Revelation. This unique and celebratory exhibition offers a transformative encounter with one of the world's greatest stories. Visit the Cathedral for this powerful and moving display of faith, art, and storytelling. Don't miss your chance to witness this exceptional journey through the Bible's narrative in silk artistry.

Helen Jones



What is prayer?

Even those who say they have no religious faith will pray at some time or another, or find themselves inclined to pray, whether simply exclaiming 'Thank God' when relieved that something good has happened or that something bad has not happened. Sometimes people find themselves wanting to plead with a mysterious 'someone out there' for help in a difficult situation. The instinct to pray seems deep rooted in us as human beings. But what is prayer? Is it a repetition of a set formula of words? Or is it something more?

As Christians we believe that prayer is a vital part of our Christian lives, By prayer we develop a relationship with God through Jesus Christ who describes himself in the Bible as the way to God, revealing the truth about God. In Jesus, God became man so that we could begin to understand Him in human terms that we could understand

To pray is to make our hearts ready to experience the love of God in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. Praying regularly will help us to develop a spiritual rhythm. Prayer changes the way that we think about our lives, because it creates new habits of heart and mind. Prayer opens us more deeply to the transforming grace of God. We enter into God's presence, allowing the Holy Spirit to pray in us. God through Jesus Christ who describes himself in the Bible as the way to God, revealing the truth about God.

Remember that God hears every prayer—but not all prayers are answered in the way we might expect or desire. We don't always pray for **His** will to be done! Our prayers can be self centered or be leading us into unhelpful paths. We need the guidance of the Holy Spirit to guide us along. Can you be a Christian and not pray? Well, just as our human bodies need food to be nourished and grow, so our spiritual being needs the nourishment of prayer to develop and progress. Prayer is a discipline - it can be difficult at times, just like keeping fit, being on a diet, or keeping weeds down in the garden. Little and often is best, but don't give up! No prayer, however inadequate you may feel it to be, is ever wasted or of no value. God prefers the honest prayers of those who genuinely seek Him to elaborate or pompous prayers of the proud.

Some reflections

How do we settle our minds to receive from God. Traditionally people have read a verse or passage from the Bible and let God speak to them through it before prayer. But God speaks to us in many ways, sometimes in ways we do not expect. Through a beautiful sunset, a wild sea, a personal experience, a poem that moves us, reading a Christian book about how God has blessed others. We just have to have our minds open to hear him through life's experiences, stillness to take it in, and time not to lose it in the business of life.

If you wish to learn more about prayer feel free to approach any church leader or myself and we will gladly help you get started, or provide you with some material that will be helpful.

The church meets together once a month on the first Monday of the month to pray together for the needs of the church and the world. You do not have to pray aloud if you do not feel confident, but just joining together with others and listening can be very supportive and helpful. Some people also meet together in small units of two or three on a regular basis.

There is a prayer network called Connect which you could ask for prayer support for a situation which you are concerned about , family issue, health issue etc. Of course there are always people available if you wished to share this on a more personal basis as well. You can even e mail a prayer request or ask for support on the helpline at any time. If you wish to be part of Connect and pray for others, please see me or email the link to be added to the network.

connect@stpeters-elworth.org.uk

Norma Chapman



Special Services



Ash Wednesday **Wednesday 5th March**

7.00pm

Holy Communion
St Peter's Church

Good Friday **Friday 18th April**

10.30am

All Age Service
St Peter's Church Hall

1.30 - 3.00pm

Meditation at the Cross
St Peter's Church

Easter Sunday **Sunday 20th April**

9.00am

Holy Communion
St Peter's Church

10.30am

All-age Holy Communion Service
St Peter's Church Hall

6.00pm

Holy Communion
St Peter's Church

Services for February and March

	9.00am St Peter's	10.30am St Peter's	6.00pm St Peter's
2nd February	Prayer Room is open for Prayer	Morning Worship	Evening Prayer
9th February	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Evening Prayer
16th February	Prayer Room is open for Prayer	Morning Worship	Evening Prayer
23rd February	Holy Communion	All Age Service	Holy Communion
2nd March	Prayer Room is open for Prayer	Morning Worship	Evening Prayer
9th March	Holy Communion	Baptism Service	Confirmation Service
16th March	Prayer Room is open for Prayer	Morning Worship	Evening Prayer
23rd March	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Holy Communion
30th March	Prayer Room is open for Prayer	Mothering Sunday All Age Service	Evening Prayer

Future events

Ladies event

Saturday 15th March

7.00pm-9.00pm

Full details TBC. Look out for the details in the weekly notice sheets!



Sunday

23rd March 2025

3.00pm

Messy Church

at

St Peter's Church Hall

All are welcome.

Join us for crafts, worship,
food and fun



LEGO Church Dates for your
diary

February 12th

3.30 - 4.30pm

March 12th

3.30 - 4.30pm

May 14th

3.30 - 4.30pm

All take place in the Church Hall

From the registers

We join in sadness with the family of the late:

William Allan Cooper

Confirmation Service

9th February at 6pm

All are very welcome to the service, which will be led by Bishop Sam, as we join together to support and pray for the Confirmation candidates. There will be tea/coffee and cake served afterwards. For catering requirements, please let the office know if you are able to stay and share in a time of fellowship together.



Editorial disclaimer

Whilst every care has been taken in the compilation of this magazine, we cannot guarantee that inaccuracies will not occur. The Editors are responsible for content selection and reserve the right to amend articles and withhold items as deemed necessary. Articles submitted after the deadline date may not be included in that edition of the magazine and the Editors' decision is final. Should you have any concerns regarding the content in the magazine or wish to submit an article for inclusion, please contact us by phoning the Church Office on 01270 766557 or email editor@stpeters-elworth.org.uk.

Lucy Kelly & Jenny Drain, Editors

St Peter's PCC, Elworth - Registered Charity Number 1130803

Information

Giving to St Peter's

Please use the gift aid envelopes if you would like to make a gift for the church and are a UK taxpayer. If you attend St Peter's regularly please consider setting up a standing order.

Church Giving - QR Code

If you'd like to donate to help fund our Church's mission, this QR code will take you to a site to enable your giving :



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