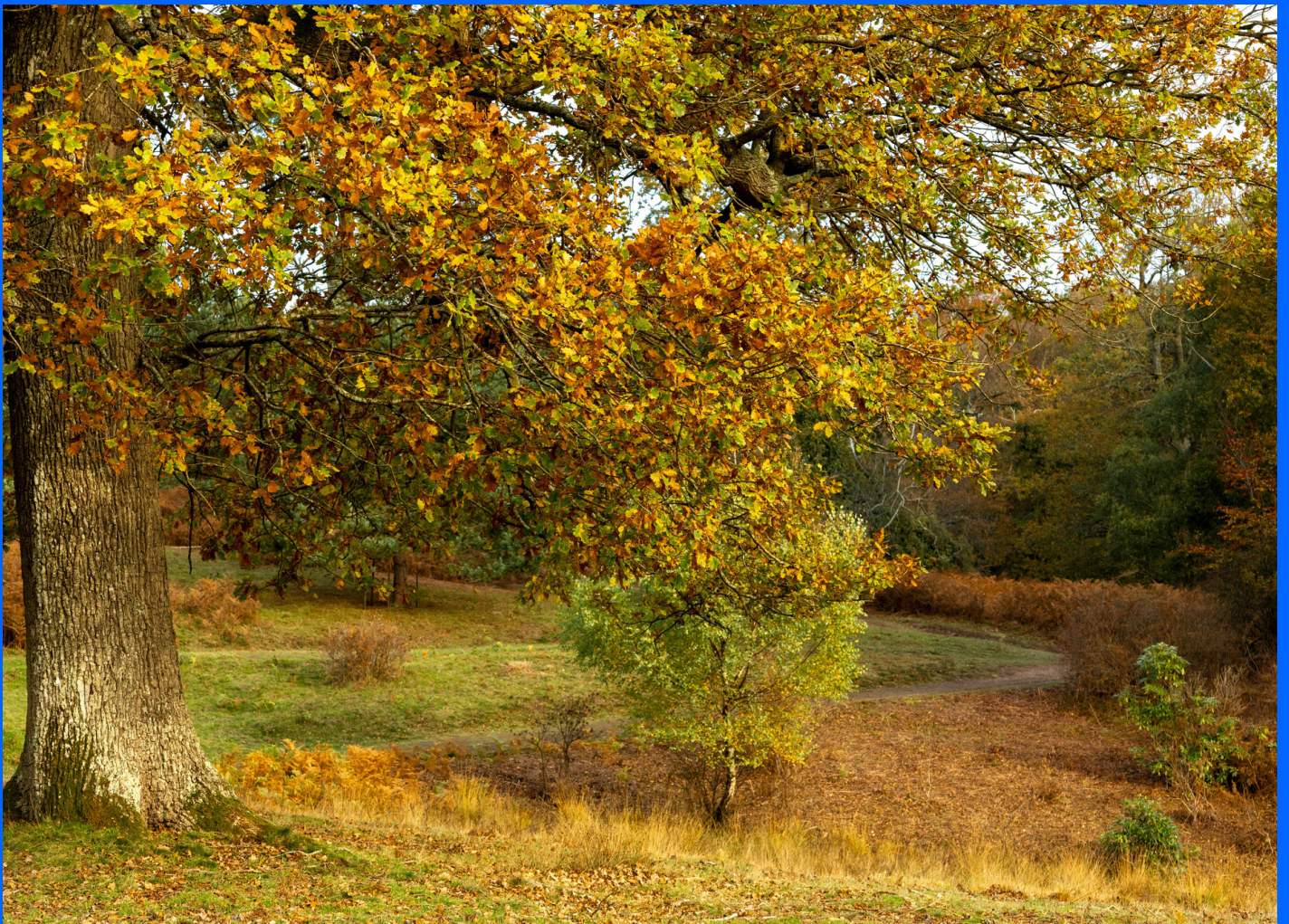


SPEAK

SEPT/OCT/NOV 2026

St Peter's Church



St Peter's Church, Elworth
www.stpeters-elworth.org.uk

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Chester

Welcome

Welcome to the Sept/Oct/Nov 2026 edition of SPEAK. This edition has three months in one as we are changing the SPEAK schedule. There are some interesting articles in this edition, including information about our Inter-church Mission Support on page 8 and the Shoebox Appeal on page 13.

If you wish to submit an article for the Dec/Jan edition of SPEAK, please email:

editor@stpeters-elworth.org.uk

by 16th November

Jenny Drain

Editor

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.

Contact

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Harry Reflects

Over this school summer holidays, we were fortunate to be able to spend a week in the Lake District in Keswick. It is a beautiful town surrounded by picturesque scenery, but also for three weeks in the summer, the centre of the Keswick Convention. This Christian conference takes place in the old pencil factory and over the three weeks welcomed over 10,000 adults and 3,000 children. This year's theme was Strong in His Strength, and for week three, in the main morning sessions, we looked at Ephesians with Michael Reeves and Exodus with a variety of preachers in the evening. Joyful Noise led the sung worship, and it was a real encouragement to be there. There is no charge for the convention itself, and so while there is much on beyond just the main morning and evening meetings, there is less pressure on how much you get to.

Myself and the eldest four also managed to get to the top of Latrigg. I ended up carrying Annie on my shoulders for most of the walk, so it was a bit more physically demanding than I anticipated, but the boys had no problem racing up. It is a fairly full-on holiday, but it is always a real encouragement to spend time with God's people and particularly with such a large number. It was also an excellent reminder of the centrality of Christ and God's work in the life of a Christian. I was particularly struck by this when we looked at Ephesians 4:17–24 and thought about who we are in Christ. It was interesting to think about a phrase that has been used, I may have used it, about finding your identity in Christ. It was striking to think how, while it may be helpful, it still places the work of creating an identity on the person and so aligns more easily to any other way of thinking presented to us. In contrast, Ephesians 4 speaks of Christians learning a new way and then in v23 being made new and simply putting on this new self. Remarkably, we are largely passive; we do not create a new self or find it; we are made new. In our newness, we are called to live out the image-bearing quality that we were always created for. Now, like anyone, I want to ask how.

Waiting, with bated breath, for the three-step plan to greater godliness, I heard that, perhaps unsurprisingly, the answer is to behold Christ more fully. I think, understandably, there can be some initial frustration at this; to-do lists are easier. A list of things to work harder at: anger, lust, prayer, kind words, etc., may be what we want. Yet it is likely this will lead to the usual issues: pride, frustration, and hopelessness. Instead, let us aim at beholding, knowing, and loving Jesus. Trusting that captivating your heart and mind with the Lord Jesus will result in the fruit that is required. With a new school term beginning and seasons of church life coming thick and fast— harvest, remembrance, Advent, and Christmas— perhaps just open a Gospel and read. Not to find more things to do. Not for self-improvement goals. Not to impress the Vicar but to allow yourself to meet again the Lord Jesus. Let us allow the real Jesus to challenge our assumptions, amaze us, and change us.



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Sunday services for Sept/Oct 2026

	9:00am St Peter's Church	10:30am St Peter's Church Hall	6:00pm St Peter's Church
6 th Sept	Prayer room open for prayer	Morning Worship	Holy Communion
13 th Sept	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Evening Prayer
20 th Sept	Prayer room open for prayer	Morning Worship	Evening Prayer
27 th Sept	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Evening Prayer
4 th Oct	Prayer room open for prayer	Harvest All Age Worship	Holy Communion
11 th Oct	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Evening Prayer
18 th Oct	Prayer room open for prayer	Holy Communion	Evening Prayer
25 th Oct	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Evening Prayer

Sunday services for Nov 2026

	9:00am St Peter's Church	10:30am St Peter's Church Hall	6:00pm St Peter's Church
1 st Nov	Prayer room open for prayer	All Age Worship	Holy Communion
8 th Nov	Holy Communion	Remembrance Service	Evening Prayer
15 th Nov	Prayer room open for prayer	Holy Communion	Evening Prayer
22 nd Nov	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Evening Prayer
29 th Nov	Prayer room open for prayer	Morning Worship	Evening Prayer

**Prayer meetings 7:30pm -8:30pm in the Church Hall
6th Sept, 4th Oct and 1st Nov.**

A fond farewell to the Rigby family

The departure of the Reverend Anthony Rigby, our Associate Minister, and his family this October marks the end of a deeply valued chapter in the life of St Peter's — and the beginning of an exciting new one for them as Anthony becomes Rector of the Mulgrave Benefice in North Yorkshire. Our loss is very much their gain, but we send them with full hearts and enormous gratitude.

Anthony has served St Peter's with faithfulness, steadiness, and good humour over many years. His ministry has touched every corner of parish life, from Sunday worship to pastoral care, from baptisms, weddings and funerals to fundraising. During our recent interregnum, his commitment was nothing short of extraordinary. At one point he conducted five funerals and two interments of ashes in just ten days, offering compassion, dignity, and hope to grieving families at a time when the church most needed a calm and capable shepherd.

His practical contributions have also left a lasting legacy. Anthony researched, wrote, and secured the grant that enabled the installation of improved audio-visual equipment in the Church Hall, transforming how we gather, teach, and celebrate. For several years he also masterminded our annual Burn Supper, a much-loved fundraising event that brought laughter, community, and a good dose of Scottish flavour to St Peter's.

We will miss Tracy just as much. Her quiet reliability and gentle creativity have blessed the church in countless ways. She has faithfully organised the flower rota, served on the prayer rota, and supported many children's and ladies' events with warmth and generosity. Her beautiful flower arrangements — always thoughtful, always crafted with care — have brightened our worship and lifted our spirits.

As a family, the Rigby's have woven themselves into the fabric of St Peter's. Their departure will be felt deeply, yet we are genuinely delighted for them as they step into this new calling. The Mulgrave Benefice is gaining a devoted vicar, a gifted pastoral couple, and a family rooted in faith and service.

Anthony's Licensing as Rector of the Mulgrave Benefice by The Rt Reverend Barry Hill Bishop of Whitby, will take place on Sunday 1st November at 2:00pm St Hilda's Church, 3 Rosedale Lane, Hinderwell, North Yorkshire TS13 5JZ.

We pray that God will bless Anthony, Tracy, and their family richly in the months ahead guiding them, strengthening them, and surrounding them with the same love they have so generously shared with us.

May they go with our thanks, our affection, and our prayers.



Monthly prayer meetings

Regular prayer meetings are held at the Church Hall 7:30pm-8:30pm on the first Sunday of each month (any changes to this will be in our weekly sheets). These meetings are designed to encourage people to come together for a time of prayer and reflection. Each month a different home group is asked to lead the prayers on a particular topic, but all prayers are welcome. Whilst you may be led in prayer, no one is required to pray out loud if they would rather not, it is perfectly acceptable to sit in silence if you wish.

The meetings are usually held in the small meeting room and all are very welcome.

For more information please speak to Rev'd Harry Frost or Jenny in the Church Office.



Inter - Church Mission support

The Bible Society

Today we take having our own Bible to read as normal but this has not always been the case, nor is it the case in many countries today. In Medieval times the Bible and prayers in church were only in Latin and accessible only to an educated elite, but through the works of various reformers like John Wycliffe (1328-1384) who translated the Bible into the spoken English of his day (Middle English), Luther in Germany, and William Tyndale (1494-1536) who went abroad to print the Bible in English on the newly invented printing press . (Wycliffe's were all still handwritten). However spreading the Bible in English in those days was regarded as treasonous and Tyndale and others preaching and promoting the Bible in English were persecuted and in many cases executed, including Tyndale himself. Later the Authorised Bible (King James 1611) gained acceptance and began to be used in most churches. Many translation editions have followed updating language as needed.

In 1800 a 15-year-old Welsh girl named Mary Jones trekked 26 long miles through the rugged terrain of north Wales to buy a newly translated Welsh Bible. Mary was so determined to have a Bible of her own, in her own language, that she saved up for six long years before her walk to Bala. With the help of Revd Thomas Charles of Bala, who arranged lodgings for Mary and sold her three Bibles for the price of one, Mary Jones' determination was rewarded. Her story – and her unswerving desire to get hold of God's written word soon became the talk of the churches in the area. Inspired by Mary's hunger for the Bible in her own language, the British and Foreign Bible Society, now called The Bible Society was formed.

Nowadays the Bible Society still translate the Bible and make it accessible in people's heart languages. They bring it into public spaces where its voice can be heard (eg The Houses of Parliament). They find new 21st Century methods to tell its stories and encourage people to

explore it for themselves. For example the Bible Course which aims to give an overview of God's Big Story), was enjoyed in our own Church, and various teaching aids (eg videos) making exploring the Bible easier.

There is a thoughtful set of videos on the Beatitudes which is available on the website www.biblesociety.com and available on You Tube. Jesus taught us how to live our lives in accordance with God's will and the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5 is key to that.

They now work around the world as part of the United Bible Societies, in every Continent opening people's hearts and minds to actually engage with what is written. In China an opportunity arose to actually print Bibles in Nanking with the agreement of the Chinese authorities though opposition still occurs, and easily transmittable Bible resources have been produced to help and grow new Pastors.

The Bible Society is supported by St Peter's Church. Look for yourselves at all their work on the website and be inspired. Or speak to myself, Norma Chapman , the representative for this church for the Bible Society if you want to know more.

Norma Chapman



Scan the QR code with the camera on your phone to go to the Bible Society webpage

Inter - Church Mission support

The work of The Bible Society with the Chinese Church Today Equipping volunteers to teach the word

Lay preacher Liang Mianxing, 45, found herself at a loss for words one Sunday morning, trying to explain Jewish beliefs in the New Testament. She is a woman in her forties and says 'I thought I understood the idea, but I just didn't know how to explain it,' she says. 'My mum was in the congregation and she was looking at me, feeling nervous that I could not convey it clearly!'

Liang recalled feeling frustrated and desiring to be more equipped. However, like many lay preachers in China, she does not have easy access to biblical resources to help her in her ministry. The congregation themselves will not have had the opportunity to learn beyond Sunday sermons, which are rarely given by an ordained minister. Christians in rural China desire but struggle to gain an in-depth understanding of Scripture. They depend on volunteer leaders who are often untrained and haven't had any more opportunity to learn than anyone else in the congregation. That's why the gift of a Chinese Study Bible had such an impact on Liang and her entire church family. She'd never seen anything like it. Having now served 20 years in her church, it makes her laugh to remember how shocked she was when a Bible Society supporter generously gave her this resource.

Liang loves God and loves to serve her church. Walking to school as a student 30 years ago, Liang often thought to herself how wonderful it would be to live forever. 'I wished I didn't have to grow old and die,' she says. Around this time, someone shared the gospel with her mother. 'They told us we will have eternal life through Jesus, and we can go to heaven.' Liang was captivated by the good news, and she and her mum became believers. Like many Chinese at the end of the 1990s, Liang left her village to work in the nearby bustling province of Guangdong.

After some time, she returned to her village and began attending her home town church, where she found many elderly members who loved God but were illiterate and could not understand the Bible. Being one of the few believers who could read the Bible, Liang was soon asked by her local church leader to preach. But she felt ill-equipped. ‘I didn’t know how to preach and felt embarrassed,’ she says. She and other volunteers served their congregation in the absence of a pastor, but it’s one thing to read and another to explain and preach. ‘When we shared from the Bible, we were not sure if we had misinterpreted it,’ she says. ‘Sometimes, we would simply have someone read articles from a Christian magazine.’

Liang wanted more than this – for herself and the rest of this local church: ‘I had a vision in my heart that I would minister God’s word in my hometown.’ She looked for opportunities to learn. These included a one-year Bible training programme, after which she began to serve and preach more regularly. However, like many other lay preachers without formal theological training, she continued to face challenges, struggling to explain some Bible passages and to preach with confidence. That’s why it made such a difference to receive a Study Bible. Now she had practical help every time she preached. The Chinese Study Bible contains study notes translated and adapted from Crossway’s ESV Study Bible. Liang would delve into this precious resource, enriching her teaching with comprehensive background explanations and detailed profiling of biblical figures.

Now Liang teaches Scripture three to four times a week. She consults the CSB regularly to minister God’s word more effectively. ‘The historical background provided in the CSB, especially that of the Old Testament, has been instrumental in enabling me to draw more accurate applications for today,’ she says. ‘Thanks to Bible Society, my understanding of the Bible’s historical context has deepened. This has helped to make my sermons clearer and enabled our fellow believers to have a better grasp of the word of God. It has been a great blessing to the church community!’

Do you wish to support volunteer pastors today? Despite restrictions, you can provide solid Bible teaching to a Chinese Christian today. Your donation to the Bible Society will support their lay preachers with the gift of a Study Bible and empower them to teach.

Norma Chapman



Lay preacher Liang Mianxing

Operation Christmas child shoebox appeal



Yes, it really is that time of year again when as a church and local Community we prepare to support the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal.

National Collection Week in the UK is 16–23 November 2026.

Year after year, we are moved by the incredible generosity of everyone who supports this campaign. Once again, I would like to encourage you to get involved and help bring joy and hope to children around the world.

Many of us are familiar with the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal but if you are new to it and wish to be involved there are a number of ways to participate.

Ways to Get Involved

- Build and fill a Shoebox: Pack a physical shoebox with toys, school supplies, and hygiene items. For more information please speak to Denise, contact Jenny at St Peters Church Office. 01270 766557 or take a look at <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/how-to-pack-a-shoebox>
- Build a shoebox Online: Use the online custom packing option via Samaritan's Purse UK. Follow the instructions on <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child> and follow "Shoebox on line".
- Donate Individual Items: From 6 September 2026, we will have our weekly collection at St Peter's Church, Elworth. Donated items will be used to make up age-appropriate shoeboxes at the church. Every item, however small, can make a difference.

Most Importantly –Please pray for the children who will receive these gifts, and for everyone involved in this wonderful worldwide ministry.

The purpose of the campaign remains the same - to demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ through a gift filled shoebox. Through prayer, through the gift of their shoebox and through the opportunity of children participating in a bible study called “The Greatest Journey” the word of God is shared.

Thank you for your generosity, prayers and support. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of children around the world. With grateful thanks,

Denise



Chester Cathedral: What's on...

Tyndale 1526: 500 Years of the English Bible

William Tyndale's revolutionary New Testament in English first appeared in 1526. From Tyndale's world to his present-day legacy, explore the fascinating history of the English Bible using Chester Cathedral's own Library collection.

A special display in the Cathedral Library from

1 May – 30 September.



Who was William Tyndale?

William Tyndale (born c. 1490–94, near Gloucestershire, England—died October 6, 1536, Vilvoorde, near Brussels, Brabant) was an English biblical translator, humanist, and Protestant martyr.

Tyndale was educated at the University of Oxford and became an instructor at the University of Cambridge, where, in 1521, he fell in with a group of humanist scholars meeting at the White Horse Inn. Tyndale became convinced that the Bible alone should determine the practices and doctrines of the church and that all believers should be able to read the Bible in their own language.

Book review

*We would like to start a book review section in each SPEAK magazine.
If you would like to submit a review, please email
editor@stpeters-elworth.org.uk*

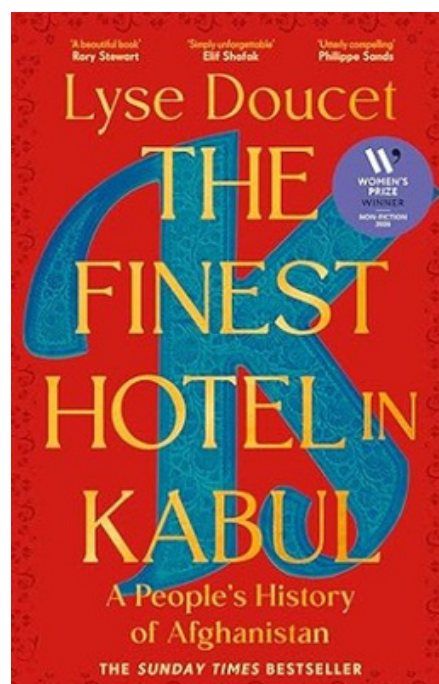
The Finest Hotel in Kabul: A People's History of Afghanistan

Lyse Doucet

Review by Jenny Drain

Lyse Doucet, the BBC's Chief International Correspondent, has been staying at the Inter-Continental hotel in Kabul, Afghanistan since 1988. She has spent decades meeting its staff and guests, and listening to their stories. The hotel first opened in 1969, and was hailed as a jewel in the crown of the Inter-Continental chain. Over the years, staff have seen how the politics of their country have influenced the way in which the hotel both thrived and struggled; but ultimately kept going. This is a beautiful and inspiring book, at times funny, at times heart - breaking, you will fall in love with the staff and by the end care deeply about them and the future of the hotel.

Highly recommended





BABY GROUP

Come and grow with us!
 A warm welcome awaits.
 Look out for our Facebook posts for start date and times.
 For babies up to 12 months
 £2 each (for up to 2 babies)
 Lots of toys to explore with singing time at the end of the session.



ABC toddler group

Look out for our Facebook posts for start date and times
 £2 for up to two children up to 4 years old
 Toys and ride-ons
 Refreshments and singing.

A poster for St Peter's Elworth Friday nights. The background is a gradient of blue and green with a sunburst pattern. The text is in a blue, serif font. The title 'St Peter's Elworth' is at the top, followed by 'Friday nights' in a larger font. Below that, it says 'Look out for our Facebook posts for start date', '6:00pm - 7:15pm XPLORE (Primary age children up to Year 4)', '7:30pm - 9:00pm ENCOUNTER (Year 5 - 7) & YOUTH HUB (Year 8 up to aged 16)', and 'Feel free to bring a friend - everyone is welcome.'

St Peter's Elworth

Friday nights

Look out for our Facebook posts for start date
6:00pm - 7:15pm XPLORE
(Primary age children up to Year 4)

7:30pm - 9:00pm
ENCOUNTER (Year 5 - 7) &
YOUTH HUB (Year 8 up to aged 16)
Feel free to bring a friend -
everyone is welcome.

Home groups

Home 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 and groups run throughout the week.

For further details contact the

Church Office on 01270 766557

From the registers

We join in sadness with the family of the late

Mr David Stockton

Mr Reg Lewis

We welcome in Baptism

Josephine Alexandra Firth Jack

We welcome in Dedication

Kit Jason Astley

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.

Jenny Drain Editor

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

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