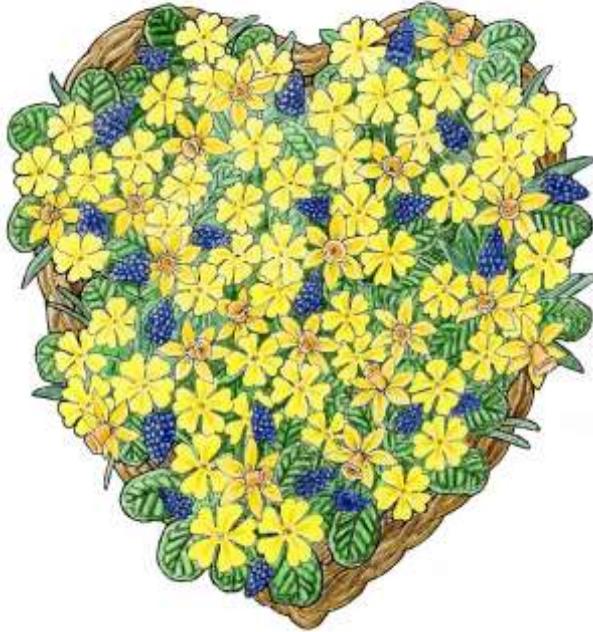


The Messenger

The Church Magazine of
St Peter's Church, Darwen

All are welcome in this place

THANK YOU



Mothering Sunday, 15th March

March 2026 Price £1 (unless prepaid)

ST PETER'S CHURCH DARWEN
BANK STREET, DARWEN BB3 3HE

VICAR
Rev Alison Mitchell
The Vicarage (also known as the Rectory)
2 St Peter's Close
Darwen BB3 2EA
rev.alison@stpeterschurchdarwen.org
07540 792409

PARISH OFFICE
Tel. 01254 703929
(Phone messages are currently picked up
on Sundays and Wednesdays but e-mail
messages to
stpeterschurch829@btinternet.com
are checked daily)

SERVICES

SUNDAY

10.00am Sung Eucharist

WEDNESDAY

10.00am Eucharist

We welcome visitors to our Church - Church is open:

SUN: Church open from 9.00am to 11.30am
Refreshments are usually served after the services

WED: Church open 8.45am - 11.30am
9.00am Morning Prayers 10.00am Eucharist
Refreshments are usually served after the service

**(At Christmas and Easter and on some other occasions alterations
to these times may occur)**

**Details of additional services, events and activities at church each
week can be found in our weekly Notice sheet, on 'A Church Near
You', and also on our Facebook page, which has a daily update.**

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Diary for March 2026

- 1st** **The Second Sunday of Lent**
9.00am Morning Prayers in church
10.00am Sung Eucharist with Junior Church
- 2nd** 9.00am Morning Prayer on Facebook
4.00-8.00pm Darwen Food Share
- 3rd** 9.00am Morning Prayer on Facebook
12.00pm Lent session at Church
- 4th** 9.00am Morning Prayer in church
10.00am Eucharist
- 5th** 9.00am Morning Prayer on Facebook
6.30pm Lent session at church
- 6th** 9.00am Morning Prayer on Facebook
- 8th** **The Third Sunday of Lent**
9.00am Morning Prayers in church
10.00am Sung Eucharist with Junior Church
- 9th** 9.00am Morning Prayer on Facebook
4.00-8.00pm Darwen Food Share

- 10th 9.00am Morning Prayer on Facebook
12.00pm Lent session at Margaret's house
- 11th 9.00am Morning Prayer in church
10.00am Eucharist with both Schools joining us
7.00pm PCC Meeting
- 12th 9.00am Morning Prayer on Facebook
6.30pm Lent session at church
- 13th 9.00am Morning Prayer on Facebook
- 15th **The Fourth Sunday of Lent - Mothering Sunday**
9.00am Morning Prayers in church
10.00am Sung Eucharist with Junior Church
- 16th 9.00am Morning Prayer on Facebook
4.00-8.00pm Darwen Food Share
- 17th 9.00am Morning Prayer on Facebook
12.00pm Lent session at Church
- 18th 9.00am Morning Prayers in church
10.00am Eucharist
- 19th 9.00am Morning Prayer on Facebook
6.30pm Lent session at church
- 20th 9.00am Morning Prayer on Facebook
- 22nd **The Fifth Sunday of Lent - the start of
Passiontide**
9.00am Morning Prayers in church
10.00am Sung Eucharist with Junior Church
- 23rd 9.00am Morning Prayer on Facebook
4.00-8.00pm Darwen Food Share
- 24th 9.00am Morning Prayer on Facebook
12.00pm Lent session at church

- 25th 9.00am Morning Prayers in church
 10.00am Eucharist
 2.30pm Holy Trinity Easter Assembly
- 26th 9.00am Morning Prayer on Facebook
 6.30pm Lent session at church
- 27th 9.00am Morning Prayer on Facebook
 9.00am St Peter's Easter Assembly
- 29th **Palm Sunday - the start of Holy Week**
 9.00am Morning Prayers in church
 10.00am Family Eucharist (no Junior Church)
- 30th 9.00am Morning Prayer on Facebook
 4.00-8.00pm Darwen Food Share
- 31st 9.00am Morning Prayer on Facebook

April

- 1st 9.00am Morning Prayer on Facebook
 10.00am Eucharist
- 2nd **Maundy Thursday**
 7.00pm Eucharist with washing of feet (hands)
- 3rd **Good Friday**
 9.00am Stations of the Cross
 10.00am Good Friday Eucharist
- 5th **Easter Day**
 10.00am Sung Eucharist with Junior Church



Rev Alison's Letter for March

Dear friends in Christ,

Here we are in the season of Spring, continuing our journey through Lent. And fast approaching the roller coaster of Holy Week. A week which brings us to the triumph and joy of Easter.

Spring is a time of new life, and of renewal and hope. But as we watch the TV news, we can all be forgiven for looking around our world and feeling a sense of despondency and/or despair. There seems to be so much bad news; wars, unrest, challenging political landscapes, climate change, crime ... It is a list which can go on and on. We might even avoid watching the news especially if we have our own personal troubles to worry about.

The Psalms, in the Bible, are a collection of 150 ancient Hebrew poems, songs, and prayers. They express a wide range of human emotion – joy, gratitude, sorrow, fear, anger, hope – and were used in both personal devotion and public worship. It is said there is a Psalm for every emotion you may feel. Traditionally attributed largely to King David, they explore themes like God's faithfulness, justice, creation, suffering, and praise. Because they're so emotionally honest and spiritually rich, the Psalms have been central to Jewish and Christian worship for thousands of years.

At certain times, I find it helpful to read a Psalm reflectively. Why not read these words, Psalm 121, slowly, and meditatively?

I lift my eyes to the hills, where does my help come from?

My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

**He will not let your foot slip,
he who watches over you will not slumber;
indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither
slumber nor sleep.**

**The Lord watches over you, the Lord is your shade at
your right hand;
the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by
night.**

**The Lord will keep you from all harm,
he will watch over your life;
the Lord will watch over your coming and going both
now and for evermore.**

The words from this Psalm I find very comforting on a personal level. It is a Psalm I will turn to when I am finding life a little tricky and hard. It is also a Psalm which speaks to us of a God who never takes his eyes off what is going on. He watches over everything and everyone and he surrounds people and their situations with love and compassion.

It doesn't mean that bad things will never happen or that God only protects those who turn to him. It tells us that God is right there in the mix, in the dark, and in the desperate places of our lives and those of the world. The Psalm reassures us of this just as the life and death of Jesus. God came down and lived among us. He experienced the joy and pain of being human and ultimately suffered for us on the cross.

We can respond by trying to find hope in the everyday and trying to be hope when the opportunity arises.

So, this month, as the temperature slowly rises, and the sun shines ... we hope! ... take some time to look out for those glimmers of new life in nature this Spring. Try to make time to reflect and pray for hope in the world and reach out

to those around you who need to know about God's love and compassion.

And at the end of the month ... have a blessed Holy Week and Easter and do join us here at St Peter's as we travel from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday in our services.

Blessings,

Alison.

CHURCH FLOWERS

EASTER: - *“In loving memory of Maurice” -
Mildred & Family*

Other donations for flowers for Easter will be much appreciated.

Esther

FOOD LARDER - JANUARY

TOOTHPASTE, SOAP, SHOWER GEL and SHAMPOO

We are in the fortunate position of having a well-stocked food larder at this moment in time, so the above items would be gratefully received to supplement our parcels.

Many thanks,
Esther

Anniversaries we remember in March



- 1st Jenny Bury
- 2nd James Wearing John Jacques
- 3rd Diane Nicholson Edna Ainsworth
- 4th Margery Townsend Ted Hudson
- 5th Jane Barnes
- 7th Harry Kenyon
- 8th Edna Howarth Emma Martin;
Elizabeth Heatlie-Jackson John Robinson
- 10th John Kershaw Phoebe Robinson
Bertha Dewitt Alexandrina Ramsay
- 12th Len Howorth Keith McDonald
- 16th Marjorie Halsall
- 17th Albert Smith
- 19th Alice Waters Elsie Cooper
- 20th Joyce West Baby Lottie
- 23rd Gwen Hargreaves
- 25th Revd Dr Steven Edwards Heather Ashurst
- 26th Erazm Dabrowski Raymond Ollerton
- 28th Kitty Rose
- 29th Andrea Jackson Elizabeth Warren
- 30th Linda Coughlin
- 31st Evelyn Knowles Mary Bonner

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ENQUIRIES

BAPTISM

Those who live in the Parish, and who can with any integrity make the affirmations of faith required within the Baptism Service, may have their child baptised at St Peter's. Baptisms are normally held by arrangement, but are usually on the second Sunday of the month at 12.30pm.

If you would like to arrange a baptism, please make contact with Rev Alison via rev.alison@stpeterschurchdarwen.org, or phone 07540 792409. Messages left for Alison on the office phone 01254 703929 will be passed on.

MARRIAGE

Those who live in the Parish, or are on the Electoral Roll of the Parish, are entitled to be married at St Peter's.

Anyone who would like to arrange a wedding, or the calling of Banns at St Peter's, is asked to make contact with the Vicar, Rev Alison.

CARE OF THE SICK

If you or a loved one are unable to be present at our Church services and would like to receive Communion at home, or if you want us to include someone's name on our sick list, please contact Rev Alison.

Rev Alison can be contacted in the following ways:

- by sending a message to her e-mail address rev.alison@stpeterschurchdarwen.org.
via a message to our church e-mail address stpeterschurch829@btinternet.com
- by phoning 07540 792409, or the Parish Office on 01254 702939 - any messages left will be passed on to her; or
- by speaking with her at church after one of our services.



Parish Office	01254 703929
Churchwarden	Elliott Walsh
Deputy Churchwarden	Tony Rivron
Authorised Lay Minister (ALM)	Adam Conley
Treasurer	Ian Riley
Stewardship Recorders	Alison and David
Gift Aid	Allison L
Under 18's and Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Officer	Susan Toms e-mail - safeguarding@stpeterschurchdarwen.org
Pastoral Assistants	Zillah and Lynne
Organist and Choir Director	(vacancy)
PCC Secretary Data Protection Lead and Electoral Roll Officer	Anne Carus



stpeterschurch829@btinternet.com

A Church Near You – [achurchnearyou.com/St Peters Darwen](http://achurchnearyou.com/St-Peters-Darwen)