



The Parish of St. Peter, Bushey Heath September 2026



From the vicar

I am writing this month to announce my departure from St. Peter's Church. After much prayer and thought I have realised that it is time to retire in order to look after my family more effectively and to take a different approach to ministry. I have informed the bishop of my intentions and am making plans to leave at the end of the year. This will give sufficient time to make all the necessary arrangements. It all feels very strange at the moment.

Retirement will be a time to live more simply. I shall certainly be busy with my caring duties and whatever priestly tasks I am called to undertake (there is always a parish which needs cover whether for holidays, sickness or a vacancy), but everything will be done without the responsibilities of an incumbent. I shall also be living somewhere much smaller so there will be much less space for clutter. The accumulated possessions of a 19 year residency here and over 30 years of married life make for something of a surfeit! I am looking forward to making some space at the vicarage over the coming months. How much does anyone actually need?

In due course the parish will need to consider the next phase of its life. Before too long someone from the Diocese of St. Albans will be in touch about the next stage. Nothing will be done in a hurry so there is plenty of time for you to reflect about the needs of the parish and specifically the needs of St. Peter's. The PCC will prepare a new Parish Profile which will describe the life of St. Peter's, its activities, strengths and weaknesses, and above all your hopes and intentions for the future.

If there is plenty of time to think, much more is there time to pray. We are God's people and a part of God's Church. He has made it clear to me that it is time for me to leave – something he revealed to me on Ascension Day. It is also clear to me that having been spared during the pandemic, we have had the opportunity to draw closer together as a community and to welcome newcomers who have had a significant and far-reaching effect on our corporate life. This is something that God is doing amongst us, something which creates the context for our prayers and for future ministry. In the weeks to come may God's purpose be revealed to us in prayer and fellowship.

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The principle of simplicity. Materialism is an obsession with material things. Asceticism is the denial of the good gifts of the Creator. Pharisaism is binding ourselves and other people with rules. Instead we should stick to principles. The principle of simplicity is clear. Simplicity is the first cousin of contentment. Its motto is, 'We brought nothing into this world, and we can certainly carry nothing out.' It recognises that we are pilgrims. It concentrates on what we need, and measures this by what we use. It rejoices in the good things of creation, but hates waste and greed and clutter. It knows how easily the seed of the Word is smothered by the 'cares and riches of this life.' It wants to be free of distractions, in order to love and serve God and others.

From 'The Christian and the Poor' by John R. W. Stott

Richborough October Devotion

Canterbury Cathedral
Saturday 17th October

12 noon Mass in the Chapel of Our Lady of the Undercroft

Lunch provided

2.30pm Devotions

All are welcome

If you are interested in attending please speak to Father Andrew

PRAYER FOCUS

Please continue to pray for an end to conflict in the Holy Land, Iran, Ukraine and in all countries beset by violence. Remember too those who bear the weight of authority that they may be humble in their deliberations.

From the diary...

Usual Sunday services: 8.00am Holy Communion; 9.30am Parish Mass

Sunday 23rd August

Wednesday 26th August, 10.00am

Friday 28th August, 7.00pm

Sunday 30th August

Wednesday 2nd September, 10.00am

Friday 4th September, 7.00pm

Saturday 5th September, 7.00pm

Sunday 6th September

In addition to services at 8am and 9.30am: Family Service at 11.15am. Note change of Sunday for Sept. no midweek services

Sunday 13th September

8.00am no service

9.30am Parish Mass (Father Leslie Drake SSC)

no midweek services

Sunday 20th September

8.00am no service

9.30am Parish Mass (Father Leslie Drake SSC)

Wednesday 23rd September, 10.00am

Friday 25th September, 7.00pm

Saturday 26th September, 10am-12noon Church cleaning

Sunday 27th September

Wednesday 30th September, 10.00am

Friday 2nd October, 7.00pm

Sunday 4th October

Wednesday 7th October, 10.00am

Friday 9th October, 7.00pm

Sunday 11th October

Trinity 12

Mass

Mass

Trinity 13

Mass

Mass

Quiz Night (*see below for booking details*)

Trinity 14

Trinity 15

Trinity 16

Trinity 17

Trinity 18

Harvest Thanksgiving

In addition to services at 8am and 9.30am: Family Service at 11.15am.

St. Peter's Quiz Night

This year's quiz will be on Saturday 5th September 2026 starting at 7pm in St Peter's Church Hall. The cost is £17.00 to include a supper of either Fish and Chips, Chicken and Chips or a Vegetarian option and Chips. Bring your own drinks. Tables may have a of maximum of 8 people per team. If you don't have your own team, individuals and couples are most welcome and we will allocate a suitable table to join.

For tickets and table reservations please contact me by email at alan.hudson249@btinternet.com or call 07710 889591. Full payment will be required no later than Sunday 30th August.

All proceeds will go towards St Peter's Church and hall repairs which have now cost over £65,000. So please give us your support and enjoy this popular event now in its 21st year.

BUSHEY INTERFAITH FORUM

Our 2026 Function is

"JOURNEYS OF FAITH"

There will be speakers from about six different faiths

Wednesday 18th November 7.30pm

St Peter's Church Hall

Free Admission. Light refreshments provided.

Contact details:

Parish Priest: Fr. Andrew Burton SSC, a priest of the Society. (020 8950 1424). Usual day off Monday.
Churchwardens: Mr. Simon Farley (020 8950 4073) and Mr. Tony Quinn (07786 332654)

www.stpeterbusheyheath.org.uk / www.achurchnearyou.com