

Your Monthly Update from Earley St Peter's – June 2024

Thought for the Month *from the Revd Kate Wakeman-Toogood*

I admit that I was particularly excited to write this month's reflection. The main reason being that it is my first June as Vicar of the parish and therefore my first St Peter's Day as Vicar of St Peter's Church!

The joy of being a priest in a church with a Patron Saint is that over the years you end up learning a lot – and I mean A LOT – about that Saint. I was in my previous church, St Andrew's, over six years and in most of those years I did the St Andrew's Day primary school church service. In order to not repeat myself, I found out more and more about Andrew, particularly his Patronages and their origins. Peter is mentioned a lot more in the Bible than Andrew which means there are lots of different stories to focus our celebrations on, but I am still looking forward to finding out some weird and wonderful facts about Peter. I won't put any in this reflection as it will ruin my St Peter's Day sermon which I am hoping will be interesting, and perhaps even slightly humorous at the start!

Not only is 29th June St Peter's Day, but it is also the anniversary of my ordination and this year feels particularly special as it is my 10-year anniversary. I was fortunate to be ordained in Lincoln Cathedral which is stunning and many of my friends and family came to support me. I was terrified and excited in equal measure; not so much about embarking on working in full-time ministry, although of course this was new and daunting, but mostly I was terrified and excited about actually being ordained. I will never forget the moment of kneeling down and the Bishop laying his hands on my head. Even then, long before my ministry was in a church dedicated to St Peter, there was something very poignant about being ordained at Petertide. Peter's life and ministry, depicted largely in the Gospels and the book of Acts, remind us that God can do amazing things through us. Peter followed Jesus faithfully but he didn't always get it right; he didn't always understand. In his own strength he could not have gone on to do the things he did but in the strength of the Holy Spirit he led the church and became, as Jesus had told him, the rock on which the church was built.

I'll end by wishing you all a Happy St Peter's Day and encourage us all to remember that when we commit to following Jesus and put our trust in him, God can do amazing things through us and we all together will continue to build the church in this place.

Services and Events in June

We meet every weekday morning at 8.45am in the church for Morning Prayer. All welcome.

Saturday 1st June	12pm	Wedding of Rachel Milsom and Timothy Rogers
Sunday 2nd June	8am	Holy Communion <i>Readings: Deuteronomy 5.12-15; Mark 2.23-3.6</i>
	10am	Bread & Wine <i>Readings: 2 Corinthians 4.5-12; Mark 2.23-36</i>
	6.30pm	Evening Worship Questions and cake with Kate
Tuesday 4th June	9am	Church drop-in
	11am	Holy Communion
	12pm	Board Games and Lunch
Wednesday 5th June	9am	Church drop-in
	10.15am	Tots & Teddies
Sunday 9th June	10am	Parish Communion <i>Readings: Genesis 3.8-15; 2 Corinthians 4.13-5.1; Mark 3.20-end</i> Children's Church Inspiration Group
	6.30pm	Choral Evensong: last in sermon series (see below) <i>Readings: Psalm 37.1-11; Jeremiah 6.16-21; John 8.12-20</i>
Tuesday 11th June	9am	Church drop-in
	11am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 12th June	9am	Church drop-in
	10.15am	Tots & Teddies
Thursday 13th June	10am	Thursday@10. Coffee morning.
Friday 14th June	9.30am	Church cleaning
Sunday 16th June	10am	Parish Communion (with Senior Song School) <i>Readings: Ezekiel 17.22-end; 2 Corinthians 5.6-10, 14-17; Mark 4.26-34</i> Children's Church
	12pm	Baptism of Eduardo-Salvatore Petrosino
	6.30pm	Reflective Communion <i>Reading: John 15.12-17</i>
Monday 17th June	7pm	Bible Study – Women of the Bible (see below)
Tuesday 18th June	9am	Church drop-in
	11am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 19th June	9am	Church drop-in
	10.15am	Tots & Teddies
Sunday 23rd June		St Peter's Day (see below)
	10am	Parish Communion followed by photo and refreshments. <i>Readings: Ezekiel 3.22-end; Acts 12.1-11; Matthew 16.13-19</i> Children's Church

		Inspiration Group
	6.30pm	Festal Evensong for St Peter's Day (with Senior Song School) <i>Readings: Ezekiel 34.11-16; John 21.15-22</i>
Monday 24th June	7pm	Bible Study – Women of the Bible (see below)
Tuesday 25th June	9am 11am	Church drop-in Holy Communion
Wednesday 26th June	9am 10.15am	Church drop-in Tots & Teddies
Thursday 27th June	10am	Thursday@10. Geraint Thomas: 'Australia Reflections'
Sunday 30th June	10am 6.30pm	Parish Communion <i>Readings: Lamentations 3.23-33; 2 Corinthians 8.7-end; Mark 5.21-end</i> Children's Church Compline

St Peter's Day: We are celebrating our Patronal Festival on Sunday 23rd June. There will be a Parish Eucharist at 10am followed by refreshments in the hall and a Festal Evensong at 6.30pm followed by drinks in the church.

After the 10am service, there will be a whole congregation photograph outside church which we will be putting on our website. If you're able, please do gather outside church before going to the hall for refreshments as it would be good to get as many people in the photograph as possible. If you will need a seat for the photograph, please speak to one of our wardens or stewards.

'Board Games and Lunch' is a new weekday group and the clue is in the name! From June, on the first Tuesday of each month from 12-2.30pm there will be a range of board games in the church hall. We have classics such as ludo, snakes and ladders, and scrabble as well as newer games to try including dobbie and battle ships. There will also be a light lunch. If you'd like to come along, please sign up on the sheet at the back of church. For more information, speak to Mary Brooke.

Study series

Evensong sermon series: I AM the one and only!

On 9th June at 6.30pm, we will be hearing from an art historian about Holman Hunt's *The Light of the World*.

Women of the Bible: Explore the lives of some of the most famous women in the Bible. Come along to our four-session course this summer where we will learn about their stories and perhaps challenge some preconceptions. Sessions will be in the church hall from 7pm to 8pm with refreshments served from 6.30pm. Dates are 17th and 24th June and 8th and 15th July.

Weekly bulletin: We are trialling a weekly bulletin to highlight any changes to our regular pattern of services and events and to give information about any special or new events in the week ahead. A printed copy will be displayed at the back of church every Sunday, and it will be distributed by email every Monday. Regular weekly and monthly events will continue to be publicised on our web site and in the detailed monthly newsletter.

Confirmation course: Revd Kate is hoping to run a Confirmation preparation course in the near future. This will depend upon numbers of people wanting to be confirmed, and the availability of one of our Bishops. If you are an adult or a young person in school year 6 or above, and would like to be confirmed or find out more about confirmation preparation, please email vicar@earleystpeters.org.uk

'Questions and Cake with Kate' continues on the first Sunday of each month from 6.30-8pm in the church hall and is for young people in year 6 and above.

The dates for the next sessions are:

2nd June

7th July

4th August

Please note this group will still take place on Bank Holiday weekends and school holidays.

Church is open 9-11am on Tuesdays and 9-10am on Wednesdays. There are prayer stations for private prayer, along with a prayer guide, a small library and a chance to have a hot drink in our coffee area. We have had visitors to church every day since it's been open, both church regulars and some who have never been before. If you'd like to commit to one morning a month to help set up and be a friendly face to greet any visitors, please speak to Kate.

Holiday Bible Club! Wonder Zone! This amazing Faith and Science holiday club is from Scripture Union in conjunction with The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion. The dates are 30th July - 1st August from 9.30am-12.30pm. Details on how to book will follow but for now please save the date.

Packed with creative ways to explore and discover some of the wonders of the universe and the wonders of God. There will be experiments, construction (craft), games, drama, creative prayer and worship. Wonder Zone has a mixture of upfront presentation and small-group activities allowing children and leaders to build meaningful relationships with each other and with God.

Pastoral support: Our pastoral team will be happy to hear if you, or anybody you know, would welcome a phone call or visit. Please contact the parish of office (0118 9668575) or Mary Brooke (0118 926 2153)

Food Bank donations: Thank you for all your support to our local food bank with donations of tins, cartons, dried goods with a long shelf life and also personal hygiene items. At present, the food bank is particularly short of baked beans, pasta and pasta sauce. Please donate if you are able in the box at the back of church. Our continued support is still very much needed.

More information here: www.woodleyfoodbank.org