

News and Views from St Peter's Church and The Parish of Redcar



July 2023

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OFFICE HOUR—the church is open between 6.00pm and 7.00pm on Thursday evenings to discuss baptisms or weddings. For funerals, please contact your funeral director.

CHURCH EMAIL ADDRESS stpeterschurchredcar@gmail.com

CHURCH WEBSITE www.stpeterschurchredcar.co.uk

FACEBOOK PAGE <https://www.facebook.com/stpeterschurchredcar>

WORSHIP AT ST. PETER'S

Sundays 10.00am HOLY COMMUNION

2nd Sunday of month - two services on this Sunday morning

**9.00am REFLECTIONS BREAKFAST CHURCH
(includes breakfast)**

**10.00am ALL AGE WORSHIP, a family friendly
Service with Holy Communion**



The children's area near the font has appropriate resources and activities available for all services.

Fortnightly, on ALTERNATE Sundays, either

5.00pm PETER'S NET - a relaxed service of worship, praise, bible study and prayer

Or

7.00pm NIGHT PRAYER (Compline) on Zoom

Meeting ID: 930 2516 0828, Password: 1234



Wednesday 9.30am HOLY COMMUNION

Last Wednesday of month is also Mothers' Union Corporate Communion

Wednesday 6.30pm REFLECTIONS—an opportunity to reflect on the big questions of modern life in a safe, comfortable and friendly space

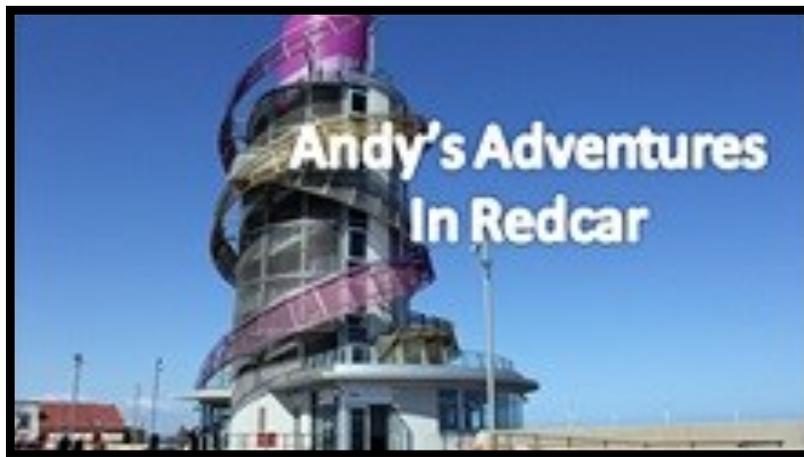
Thursdays 9.00am MORNING PRAYER in the Lady Chapel

10.00am PRAM SERVICE—a time of worship and play for babies, toddlers and their parents, grandparents, and carers (school term-time)

Prayers and reflections are posted on St Peter's Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/stpeterschurchredcar>



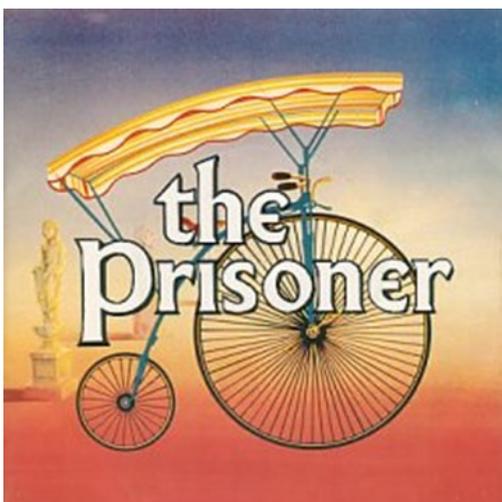


Wales is a beautiful country and Debbie and I were blessed to visit there in June to take in the sights. I've been a few times but had never been to Portmerion on the NW coast.

Portmerion is a very strange place, built on the side of a hill, leading down to a river estuary that eventually finds its way into Cardigan Bay. The town is basically a large folly with a mismatch mix of architectural styles. It looks more like a small Italian town rather than somewhere you'd find in Wales. You may even recognise it even if you haven't ever been, because it is where they filmed the 1960s TV drama 'The Prisoner' starring Patrick McGoohan.



This was a strange programme, that I have never really understood except that the main character wakes up to find himself trapped there. His identity is taken away



and he is left being known simply as number 6. It's an interesting concept that he is a prisoner but not in a regular sort of prison with locks and bars but in a rather weird but pleasant village. No prison guards, just large white balloons that chase any escapee across the beach.

Many of us are imprisoned, not perhaps by authorities but by circumstances, addictions, relationships, behaviours, disabilities, health issues, poverty, debts It is an awful feeling being a prisoner of something. Jesus walked into a synagogue near the start of his ministry and read aloud a passage from Isaiah, he read, ***“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.” (Luke 4)***

Here was Jesus’ manifesto, *his declaration of intent, the statement of his goals of who he is and what he is all about. This is his big idea, his mission statement, his Jesus plan.

The words he actually uses, however, are not his own creation: they are the five-hundred-year-old words of Isaiah 61: 1–2. He makes them his own, however, by saying, ‘at last now is the time, I am the one, the Spirit is on me, I am anointed and this is what I am going to do’. When we read his ‘what I am going to do list’ we can see it falling into two major zones of thought, almost as if his plan has got two major thrusts. One is all about addressing people’s immediate and physical needs, whilst the second idea responds to their eternal spiritual needs.

Jesus is going to reach out to the poor, release the captives, give sight to the blind and free the oppressed. At the same time he will bring good news and proclamation. He is going to touch their bodies and reach into their souls, give them help and hope. Having read out Isaiah’s amazing prophetic and promise words he calmly sits down, everyone’s eyes are on him and he says, ‘today this scripture is fulfilled’. Wow, we have lift off. Jesus makes the words of Isaiah his two pronged or twin zoned mission statement. Today if we are serious about following him it should be ours too.

The problem is we find it very difficult to follow two tracks at the same time. There have clearly been times in the churches history where it has been all proclamation and very little helping of the poor. In today's church we seem to have got it the other way round, lots of helping the poor, getting involved in social community issues and raising grants but not much proclamation of the Good News. Jesus did both and made them part of the one whole mission. Here then is a big question for us all. Looking at our own individual mission and that of our church have we got a well-balanced 'holistic' mission in the way Jesus had?

*Adapted from Gamble, Robin. Jesus 100 (p. 70). Grosvenor House Publishing. Kindle Edition.

Every Blessing, Rev Andy

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In Aid of Mothers' Union Charities

LECTIONARY JUNE 2023

Sunday 2nd July

Genesis 22.1-14
Psalm 13
Romans 6.12-23
Matthew 10.40-42

Fourth Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 9th July

Genesis 24.34-38,42-49, 58-67
Psalm 45.10-17 or Canticle: Song of Solomon 2.8-13
Romans 7.15-25a
Matthew 11.16-19,25-30

Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 16th July

Genesis 25.19-34
Psalm 119.105-112
Romans 8.1-11
Matthew 13.1-9,18-2

Sixth Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 23rd July

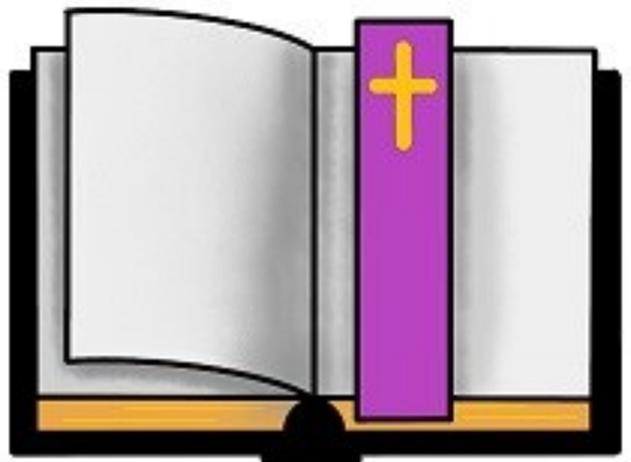
Genesis 28.10-19a
Psalm 139.1-11,23,24*
Romans 8.12-25
Matthew 13.24-30,36-43

Seventh Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 30th July

Genesis 29.15-28
Psalm 105.1-11,45b* or Psalm 128
Romans 8.26-39
Matthew 13.31-33,44-52

Eighth Sunday after Trinity

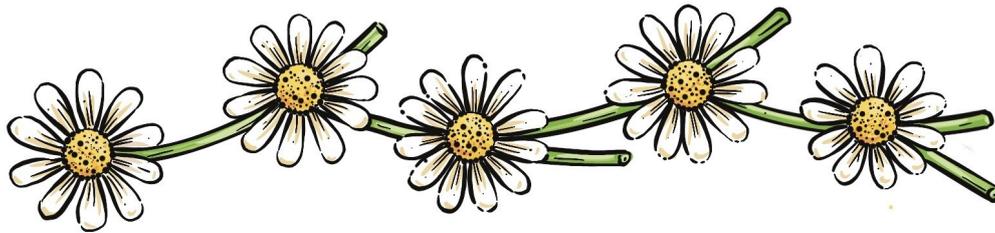


FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Holy Baptism

We welcome into the family of the church...

4th June Albie Smith
11th June Naveah Crossman
11th June Dax Crossman
25th June Isabella Simpson



Holy Matrimony

We pray for the home and happiness of ...

7th June Catherine McKenzie and Andrew Hall
17th June Caroline Wilkins and Michael Hammond

Marriage Blessing

2nd June Stephanie and Nicholas Heslehurst



Our Diary for July

Tuesday 4th 2.00pm Let's Celebrate Summer

See poster on page 7 for details of our summer fundraising event.

Tickets £5 from Anne

Wednesday 19th 7.30pm EMUs meeting tbc



Wednesday 26th 9.30am Corporate Communion (do wear your badges)

Hi everyone,

We were just a small gathering at Branch meeting in June so I do hope everyone has been reading our lovely Parish magazine and in particular seeking out these MU pages!!

There is such a lot to be getting on with as summer gets underway; gardens need attending to, there are holidays to plan, visitors to look forward to receiving, and day trips to look forward too. Happy birthday to all who celebrated their birthdays recently.

July and August are generally when we see less of each other on a weekly basis, but I do hope all members will try and make Tuesday 4th July and invite a friend or two for our summer fundraiser for the Mothers' Union. Although ticketed, you may pay at the door, but we do need numbers please so do let Sandra, Daphne or myself know if you are coming.

Please remember to include in your prayers (and visit if you are able) our friends unable to get out much or are now resident in Care Homes.

Also, please don't forget the Deanery Lunch to celebrate Mary Sumner Day on WEDNESDAY 9th AUGUST at Cleveland Golf Club!

And finally, the Mothers' Union Annual Gathering 2023 is at York Barbican, in the wonderful city of York, on 22nd September 2023. With visitors from overseas and all over the UK, this is a one day ticketed event (£23.50), with an address on global MU from Sheran Harper, our Worldwide President, a midday service, and afternoon session on Supporting our Clergy led by Bishop Emma, our Central Chaplain, an interactive and fun session with members and inspiring stories from here and overseas . The day's programme runs from 11.00am – 3.45pm (doors open from 10.15am) followed by an invitation to Evensong in York Minster with Archbishop Stephen from 5.30pm - 7.00pm.

Visit - <https://www.mothersunion.org/annual-gathering-2023> for details of how to apply for tickets. There will not be another gathering until 2026 - so don't miss out!



Thank you to everyone who sent contributions for the toiletries Stall at the Fair, or baked or helped out on the day on lots of other stalls. You are all such a wonderful group.

God bless Anne x

Spiritual Disciplines: Solitude

‘Solitude is a time when we withdraw from the company of others in order to give God our undivided attention’ (John Ortberg).

The spiritual discipline of solitude is about spending time alone with God, to grow in relationship with Him and hear Him more clearly. This practice was a priority in Jesus’ life and ministry, especially at crucial moments eg ***‘Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed’ (Mark 1:35).***

Solitude is not so much about what we do as what we don’t do! If we want to hear God, we need to consciously shut out the external noise in our lives and focus on the quiet inside us. If we are honest, this can be a real struggle. We want to do it, but other things can so easily get in the way: distractions, tiredness, jobs that need doing, wandering thoughts etc. Solitude gives us an opportunity to enjoy God’s presence, as somebody who we really want to spend time with.

Richard Foster (*‘Celebration of Discipline’*) suggests some ways in which we might grow in this discipline:

- ***‘Little solitudes’***: small everyday moments to seek inner silence eg, coffee times, travelling to work and time spent outside.
- ***Quiet place***: having specific places where we go to be quiet, eg a room or special chair in our home.
- ***Retreat***: organising a retreat where we can have time in silence and solitude.

We need to plan carefully how we use our time with God, including silent listening, meditating on Scripture, prayer, journaling, taking a meditative walk, or listening to a worship CD.

‘If we possess inward solitude we do not fear being alone, for we know that we are not alone.’ (Richard Foster)

by Canon Paul Hardingham, taken from The Parish Pump.

LADIES' WEDNESDAY GROUP

At our Annual General Meeting held in June we had the Secretary's Report outlining our last year's meetings, all of them very well enjoyed.

Our Treasurer then gave her report which again showed that in spite of our member numbers falling we were still financially viable.

Joan then organised another interesting Quiz.

My Thinking Place

There's a corner in my Garden, a cosy little nook
Where I often take my ease to knit or read a book
I've contemplated knitting patterns on the seat beneath the tree
A Blackbird's song, a clear blue sky, or what to have for tea
I iron out knotty problems, solve crosswords by the score
Sew on buttons, check recipes, chat to the girl next door
World affairs are quite forgotten and time scurries on a pace
When I'm lost in contemplation In my little thinking place



Mary Magdalene

Six Marys are mentioned in the New Testament, including Mary Magdalene, who is remembered this month in the church's calendar.

What can we learn from Mary's story?

We don't have to be defined by our past:

When Jesus encountered Mary, He cast seven demons out of her (Luke 8:2). As a result, her life was transformed and she became a follower of Jesus. Her life as a disciple was no longer defined by the person she had been before. Like Mary, we don't have to let our past without Christ dictate how we see ourselves today.

Put Jesus at the centre of our world:

Along with some of the women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases (Luke 8:1-3), Mary followed Jesus and His disciples and supported them in ministry. She was there at the cross (Matthew 27:55-56) and one of the first to the tomb on the Sunday (Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:1 and John 20:1-18). Like Mary, we are called to serve Jesus as dedicated disciples.

Jesus uses the weakest in the world:

Mary is a great example of Paul's words: ***'But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.'*** (1 Corinthians 1:27). At a time when women were regarded as second-class citizens with no real autonomy, Jesus had a special compassion and care for women. Alongside Mary, the women's witness to the resurrection was taken seriously.

We should be careful not to dismiss the things that don't follow our expectations, because Jesus doesn't always do what we expect! He delights in working out His plans through unlikely people and in surprising ways. He did this through Mary, and if we let Him, He can do it through us!

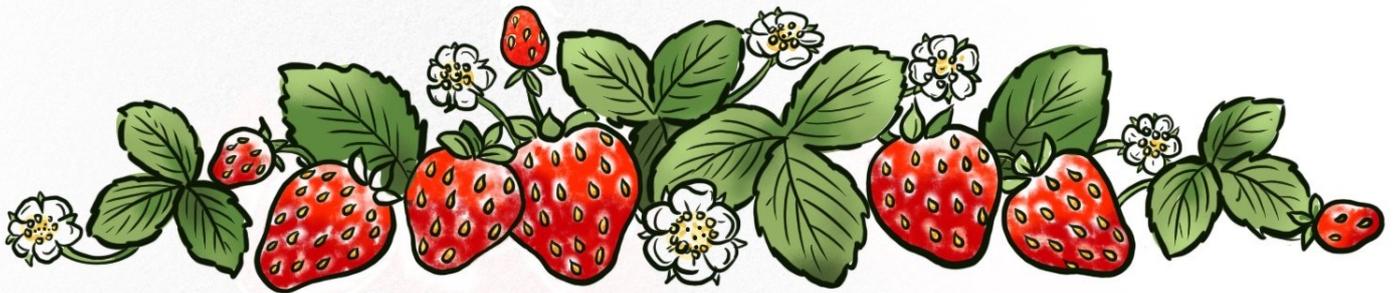
By Canon Paul Hardingham, taken from The Parish Pump



THANK YOU to everyone who has renewed their subscription for another year.

There are still a few people I haven't heard from; please let me know as soon as possible if you wish to continue, or if you are a newcomer and would like to join.

Contact Anne on 07804047354.



ST PETER'S 100 CLUB

The result of the June 2023 draw was:

No. 42 Eileen Simpson £40

No. 79 Marianne Faulkner £10

A Prayer for July

Loving Father,

July brings long days and summer pleasures, for many, but not for all.

Lord, we pray for those who are finding life to be a struggle; for families with no hope of a holiday this year; for parents who don't know how they will feed their children during the upcoming long school break; for those who are lonely, or discouraged, or isolated, or afraid.

Lord, we pray for justice and compassion from those in positions of power and responsibility.

And please Lord, show us how to help, how to be part of the solution.

May we, as your children, reflect your loving kindness wherever we can.

May your Kingdom come on earth, through us.

In Jesus' name.

Amen

By Daphne Kitching, taken from The Parish Pump

EAST REDCAR RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

The next meeting of the above will be at 7.00pm on Thursday, 7th July.

The meeting will be held in the upstairs meeting room of St. Peter's Church, Redcar Lane, and will finish at 8.30pm or earlier. Guest Speaker to be announced.

There will be reports from Redcar local police officers, whereby we can also feed back any policing concerns we may have. There will also be the Parks Reports – a round up of what's currently happening in Redcar's parks – Zetland park, Green Lane, Holyhead park, Borough Road park, Redcar cemetery, the Lily Park and the paddling pool. Finally we will have Any Other Business where members can raise specific concerns or items of interest not covered by the agenda.

Why not come along and see for yourself? Just turn up on the night, give me a ring on 01642 482132 or e-mail bib_ken@ntlworld.com for further information.

Ken Bibby Chairman



NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS OF REDCAR CEMETERY

The work continues in the cemetery, and we have been given a boost with two new members joining us; they seem to enjoy being part of the team.

We had a very busy Armed Forces Day; thanks to those who came to the stall to support us.

We are in the Darlington Building Society High Street branch with a tombola. This is the first time we have done this. For this year we are now one of their charities.

Please support us if you can.

Saturday 22nd July is a very important day for us as we are holding a service and blessing of the newly erected Commonwealth War headstone at Robert Wilson's grave. He was a Redcar man who fought in WW2 in the RAF and died at a Battle of Britain display in 1949. We are meeting in the cemetery; the service is starting at

10.30am and then

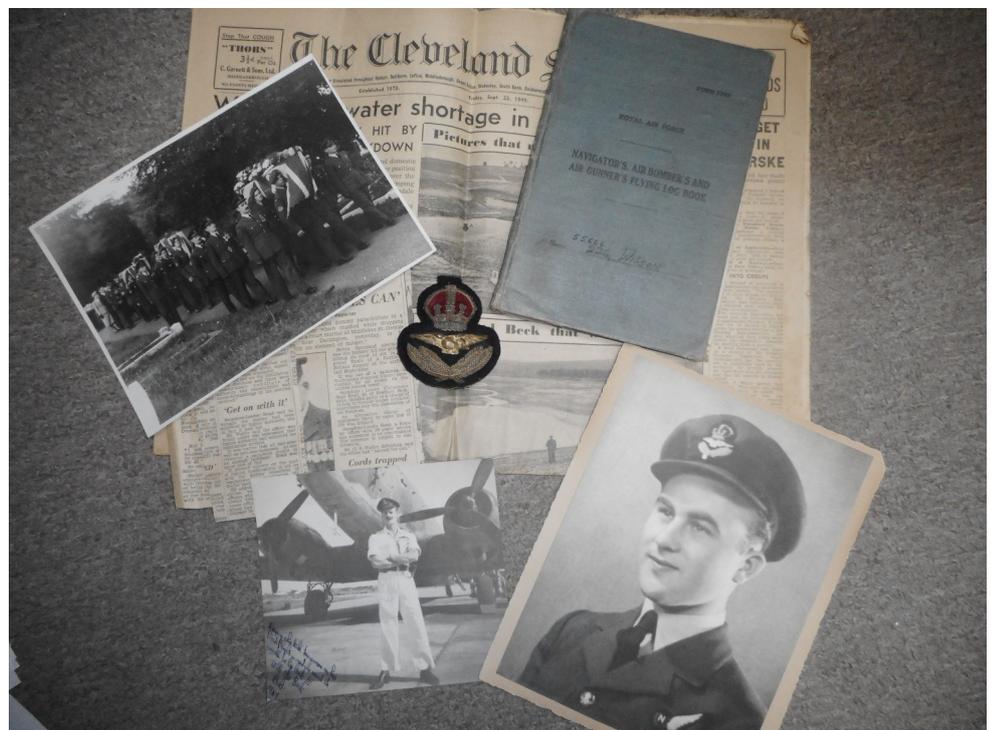
refreshments to follow in the Bowling Club. You are most welcome.

Our new work is to replace the plot board in Thwaites Lane as over the years it is looking in much need of refurbishment. This board gives a lot of information of

where graves and special areas can be found. We are working on this and hope to replace and update it soon.

Thanks to all St Peter's members for their continued support.

Dot Ahmed





DIY...

Our churchwarden has the courage, but not always the skills, to tackle any DIY job that needs doing around the church.

For example, in the church shed are still pieces of the church lawn mower that she once tried to fix. So, our vicar wasn't surprised the day he found her in the vestry, attacking the vacuum cleaner with a screwdriver.

"This thing won't cooperate," she complained. The vicar thought for a moment:

"Why don't you drag it out to the shed and show it what you did to the lawn mower?"

Grandmothers...

Becoming a grandmother is wonderful. One moment you're just a mother.

The next you are not just all-wise, but also prehistoric.

The Nervous Nun...

"People get nervous when they think that they have to call me 'my Lord', said an Irish bishop. "Especially the poor nuns. One was giving me a cup of coffee.

As she pushed the sugar bowl towards me, she said, 'How many lords, my lump?'"

Sun...

Reading while sunbathing makes you well red.

Not like it used to be...

I used to be able to do cartwheels. Now I tip over while pulling on my socks.

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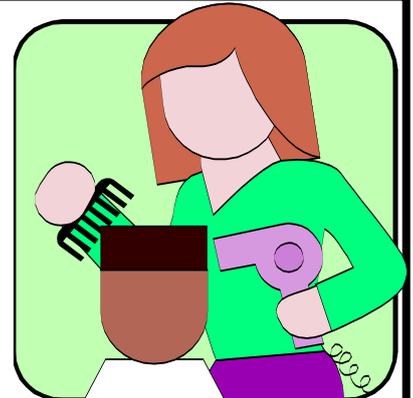
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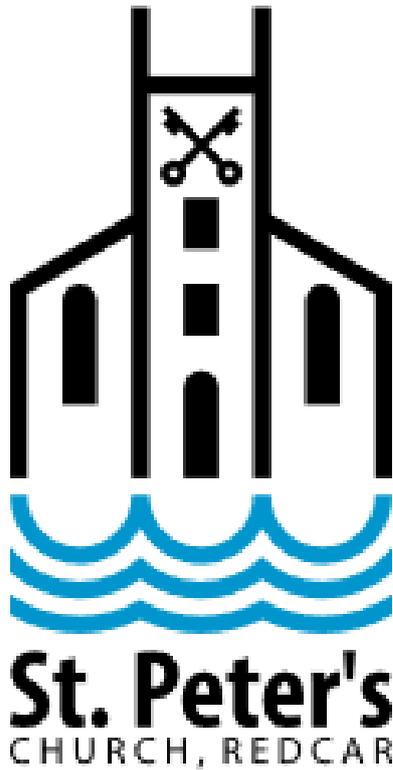
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