

The Minister writes:

I have been struck afresh this summer and moving into September about the extraordinary contrasting experiences that are part of ordinary life. The current news is full of dangerous and worrying situations, such as North Korea which is pursuing its own path to nuclear capability, despite the efforts of its neighbours and the rest of the world. Understandably, threats of violence against it only increases their determination to have an effective military response. It is a very dangerous path to be on. Also, indiscriminate attacks with cars and knives remind us that a few determined individuals can cause extraordinary suffering.

Then we have experiences of great beauty. I was sailing with my sister and family and in one day two pods of dolphins came to play. We saw them leaping gracefully out of the water at a distance, they saw us and sped to join us. For quite a few minutes they played around the boat, sometimes swimming on their sides to look at us. It was a wonderful uplifting experience. The birth of a new child reminds us of the miracle of life and the power and exhilaration of human love.

This is the world in which we live and seek to find meaning and

purpose. We can rightly ask the question where is God in all this. It is easy in the beauty but what about the suffering.

The Christian faith is centred around the mystery of pain and suffering. Jesus, like

us, would have preferred an easier way. The temptations in the wilderness were real for him. At the end in Gethsemane he was wondering if there was another way; but there was not. So at the centre of the Christian story, the truth and mystery about God's love is shown through suffering and death but finally in the resurrection. While we all sensibly want to avoid suffering, there is something powerful about discovering the depth and power of God's love in the midst of difficulties. We experience strength we did not expect and the love and sacrifice of good friends that would be impossible in easier times. We had this verse on Sunday: "Let your hope keep you joyful, be patient in your troubles, and pray at all times" (Romans 12 v 12).

Rev Bill Henderson





All	services are	Church Services held at St Peter's Church, bad, Stanley, WF3 4HW
Sunday	10am	Family Communion
Monday	6pm	Prayers
Wednesda	ay 9.30 am	Holy Communion
	6pm	Prayers
Thursday	9:15 am	n Children's Ark

Other Christian Worship

METHODIST CHURCH: Lee Mount Chapel Sunday: 10:30am service

Minister: Revd Barry Owen email: barry.owen@methodist.org.uk, tel: 07753 127681

ZION CHRISTIAN CENTRE

466a Aberford Road, Stanley, www.zionchurch.co.uk, telephone: 01924 872262

Sunday:

Tuesdays:

Wednesdays:

10:30am Service 11:00am Sunday School & crèche 7:30pm Prayer meeting 7:30pm Bible Study, discussions

Minister: David Dixon, telephone: 01924 872262



DATES FOR SEPTEMBER

Tues 5th Sept 10am—2pm	Senior Citizens' Lunch club with activities and a hot meal every Tuesday. See p11 for details.
Weds 6th Sept 2pm-4pm	<u>Coffee Afternoon</u> at Mount Road Chapel with cakes, refreshments etc. See p10 for details.
Weds 6th Sept 7.30pm	<u>United Benefice evening event</u> at St Peter's; a joint get-together with St Anne's Wrenthorpe and St Mary Magdalene, Outwood.
Fri 8th Sept 7.30pm	Film Club—"Tea with Mussolini" with Dames Dudi Dench and Maggie Smith. See page 14.
Sat 9th Sept 10am-12pm	<u>Coffee morning:</u> now at St Peter's church but with all the usual great stalls. See page 9.
Sun 10th Sept 10am	Family parade and communion service: with the uniformed organisations.
Thurs 14th Sept 6pm	Moorhouse community action group meeting: See page 10 for more information.
Sun 17th Sept 10.30am	Harvest Festival at Mount Road Chapel: see page 10 for more information.
Wed 20th Sept 7.30pm	PCC Meeting at the church.
Weds 27th Sept 7pm—9pm	West Riding Watercolour Society & Art Group with a painting demonstration. See page 14.
Sun 1st Oct 6.30pm	Evening Service at St Peter's: a new bi-monthly evening service, relaxed and informal.
Weds 4th Oct 2pm-4pm	Coffee Afternoon in aid of Macmillan at Mount Road Chapel. See p10 for details.
Sun 8th Oct 10am	Harvest Festival and Parade service at St Peter's church. Please join us.
Tues 10th Oct 12.30pm	<u>Community Harvest lunch</u> at St Peter's church, all welcome to this free lunch.

STANLEY LIBRARY

Stanley Library offers a wide selection of books, talking books, selected language tapes, DVDs for hire, as well as a photocopier/A4 colour photocopier, fax machine, newspapers and selected magazines. There are also public access computers, offering free internet access, and basic computer programs (i.e. word processing). There are also free UK Online computer courses available offering internet training and Introduction to Computers —please ask in the library.

OPENING HOURS

Monday	9.30am—5pm
Tuesday	9.30am—5pm
Wednesday	Closed all day
Thursday	9.30am—7pm
Friday	9.30am—5pm
Saturday	10am—1pm

Activities for Children: There is a Tiny Tots Storytime for under 5's from 11.15am on most Mondays in term time. Other activities for children are organised in most school holidays—please ask for details.

Crafts and Chat morning: Every Tuesday from 10am-11.30am: bring your knitting, drawing, crochetting or any other activity and enjoy chat and refreshments.

Coffee Morning: There is a coffee morning every Thursday morning, 10am-12 noon. Come and relax with friends over a cuppa.

Code Club: Learn how to make your own computer games and animations at Code Club, every Thursday from 3.30pm—6pm.

Family History: Would you like help researching your family history? An advisor is available in the library every Saturday from 10.30am who can help navigate Ancestry and other useful sites.

Reading Groups: Check with the library for the meeting times and book details of the current reading groups.

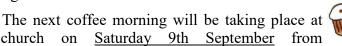
Community Centre rooms: The community centre rooms are available to hire from Stanley Nursery.

Stanley Library contact details: Lake Lock Road, Stanley, Wakefield, WF3 4HU, Telephone number—01924 303130.

Church coffee mornings—a thank you

Thank you to everyone who has continued to support the church coffee mornings, especially following the relocation from the Community Centre to the church. The coffee morning in July raised £209.20 and the August coffee

morning raised £180.61.



church on Saturday 9th September the 10am-12pm with all the usual great stalls including refreshments,

bacon butties, cakes, raffle, jigsaws and more. Please come along and support our coffee mornings in its new location! You can be assured of a very warm welcome and a very pleasant morning.

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Mount Road Methodist Chapel:

- The next <u>Coffee Afternoon</u> at Mount Road chapel will be on Wednesday 6th September from 2pm—4pm with cakes, refreshments and other stalls.
- The <u>Harvest Festival Service</u> will be on Sunday 17th September at 10.30am where the visiting preacher will be Rev Trever Grewcock.



• Next month's coffee afternoon will be a <u>Macmillan</u> <u>Afternoon Tea Event</u> in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. This will be taking place on Wednesday 4th October from 2pm—4pm.

Knit and Natter, Sew and Chatter!

At St Peter's Church Centre, every Thursday, 2pm-4pm Enjoy a cuppa, company and a 'crafty' afternoon! Please come and join this established group of ladies as they knit, sew, compare ideas and patterns, learn new crafty skills, and share conversation, refreshments and friendship.

Just turn up: you will be very warmly welcomed

Moorhouse Community Action Group

The next meeting of the Moorhouse Community Action Group will be on <u>Thursday 14th September</u> at 6pm at St Peter's Church. Come along and share any issues specific to Moorhouse with local councillors and WDH representatives.



Prayer Meetings: Mondays and Wednesdays at 6pm

Rev Bill Henderson is available for prayer every Monday and Wednesday at the church from 6pm—6.30pm. Call in at either of these times to pray for those in trouble, sorrow, sickness or need; for family, friends, the community and the world. Everyone is very welcome; please come along.

From the Stanley Parish Register

Funerals

Allan Owen

25 July 2017

Baptisms

Joshua James Taylor	16 July 2017
Olivia Louise Woodhead	20 August 2017
Orla Mae Dean	20 August 2017
Ashton Victor Graham Brickwood	27 August 2017
Lottie Florence Turton	2 September 2017

Weddings

Katie-Jayne Teal & Matthew West

27 July 2017

***** ********************* St Peter's church Senior Citizens' Lunch Club Every Tuesday, 10am—2pm Arrive from 10am-10.30 and enjoy tea or coffee and a chat, followed by the activity of the day e.g. films, talks, crafts, games, cake decorating, to name just a few! `************* On Tuesday 26th September, Wiltshire Farm Foods will be coming to the lunch club to talk about their meal delivery service and will be bringing some samples to try. Everyone is welcome to come along-regardless of whether you've been before and there is no obligation to stay for the lunch. But it is a good opportunity to find out more about the service that Wiltshire Farm Foods offer to older people. • Lunch served from about 12:15pm: a freshly cooked hot meal followed by dessert, for just £5 per person. Ideal for anyone wanting a bit of companionship and • something to do! Phone the church office on 01924 835746 for more info. ************************ 11

'England's Rose' The Rev Paul Hardingham remembers Diana, Princess of Wales...

This month marks 20 years since the funeral of Princess Diana in Westminster Abbey on 6th September 1997. Recently Prince William described how his mother's death was like an earthquake; the shockwaves taking time to sink in. When we remember the days leading up to the funeral, the whole nation seemed touched by her death.

Two thousand people attended the ceremony; the British TV audience peaked at 32.1 million, one of the highest viewing figures ever. Two billion people followed it worldwide, and the streets were lined with about two million people as the cortège travelled four miles through London.

The Princess's body was in a lead-lined coffin, and her pallbearers had to practise with two concrete kerb stones for the "icerink" journey along the aisle.

Buckingham Palace had just a week to organise the funeral. There was particular tension over who should walk behind the coffin, with the young Princes not keen. Prince Harry has said recently: "I don't think any child should be asked to do that."



The event was not a state funeral, but a royal ceremonial funeral with pageantry and Anglican funeral liturgy. The ceremony lasted one hour and ten minutes and was led by the Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, and the Dean of Westminster, Wesley Carr. During the service, Elton John sang 'Candle in the Wind', which had been re-written by lyricist Bernie Taupin in tribute to Diana.

After the ceremony in the Abbey, the Princess's body was buried in a private ceremony on an island within the grounds of Althorp Park, the Spencer family home.

As we look back to these events of 20 years ago, what is its continuing significance? As those made in the image of God, we are called to reach out to show love to others. "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God." (1 John 4:7). Princess Diana did this, especially the vulnerable in our society, remembering especially her work with AIDS sufferers and landmine victims. However, she

was also a flawed individual, who fought various 'demons' in her own life and struggled with relationships. People identified with her humanity as one like us: fallible, weak yet more than good enough.

There is always something powerful about vulnerability in others; we can identify with them because, like us, they don't have it all together. God uses flawed people in his purposes, as we clearly see in the pages of the Bible: Abraham, Moses, David and Paul, to mention just a few!

Ironically, Mother Theresa died the day before Diana's funeral. Again, she was somebody who was much loved for her work among the poor. However, despite being declared a saint last year, she openly talked about the vulnerability of her faith. Mother Teresa revealed that she spent nearly 50 years without a tangible feeling of God's presence in her life! It's not easy to be a perfect saint!

'I think the biggest disease the world suffers from in this day and age is the disease of people feeling unloved.' (Princess Diana).

Work that involves caring is good for you

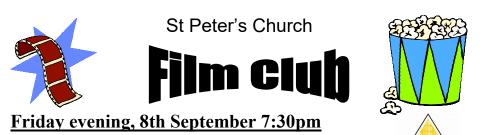
It is good to keep working. The UK's Chief Medical Officer, Professor Dame Sally Davies, in a recent annual report on the state of the nation's public health, said that the health benefits of staying in work, as a volunteer, in paid employment or as part of a community group, 'cannot be overestimated'.

Work that involves caring is also excellent for you. A former nurse, June Shepherd, is now 81, but still loves working as a carer, even though she is looking after some clients younger than herself. "I think it's the most rewarding way I can spend my time, particularly as many clients are isolated and often feel quite alone," she said. She says she cannot imagine a time when she would want to retire from her job.



Flowers in church

The congregation and visitors to the church have loved the wonderful flowers in church in recent months: "What a joy it is to see those beautiful arrangements of flowers in church. Thank you Val and Jill" *Mavis Darlington*



'Tea with Mussolini' (2010)

This is well-received drama based on the childhood memories of director Franco Zeffirelli. It is Florence, 1934 and a diverse group of women meet each afternoon for tea: Lady Hester Ransom (Maggie Smith), widow of the British Ambassador to Italy; Arabella (Judi Dench), a singer and artist; Georgie (Lily Tomlin), an eccentric American archaeologist; Elsa (Cher), also an American, and brash and reckless with it; and finally Mary (Joan Plowright), who has virtually adopted a young Italian boy named Luca. As the political climate shifts, the ladies witness the rise of fascism and the dangers of resistance. They face inevitable changes, and Luca must face his own responsibilities. There are uniformly fine performances from this stellar cast, resulting in a completely engaging film.

Doors open 7pm, film start 7.30pm

Free admission, tea & coffee; bring your own popcorn!

West Rídíng Watercolour Society & Art Group

The group meets every month at St Peter's Church for demonstrations by artists, informal painting evenings and to share techniques and knowledge.





Open to everyone; the cost is £3.50 per session.

Next meeting: Wednesday 27th September 7pm-9pm

With a demonstration by artist Miriam Laville.

Note that meetings are now taking place on Wednesdays





China opens its arms to the Bible - with 30 years of help from Bible Society

Just over 40 years ago, the Bible was a banned book in China. But today, in this largely atheist country, the Bible is a best seller. In China today, you will find churches so full that their congregants spill out onto the pavement. Those in rural areas often walk for hours just to attend a service, while more and more city-dwellers can be found in churches, both underground and state-run, on Sunday mornings.

What's more, copies of the Bible, once a banned book in China, are now within reach through local churches and specially-licensed.



bookshops. And those Bibles are desperately needed. As one Chinese Christian explains: 'The fire of revival has been burning in China for 30 years. But to keep burning, we need to feed it with God's word.'

It's a remarkable story. And over the last 30 years, the Bible Society has been at the heart of it. Over decades, through working with the registered Church, they have carved out a unique ministry in China. For it was back in 1987, in response to requests from Chinese church leaders, that the Bible Society helped to establish the Amity Printing Company. In 2008, it moved to a larger, upgraded facility, the size of 12 football pitches and with the capacity to print 20 million Bibles a year. It's now the world's biggest Bible printing factory!

The Bible Society is still hard at work, printing and distributing Bibles across the country, helping to strengthen the roots of the Chinese Church, and to help new believers grow into mature followers of Jesus. Here's just some of the numbers that describe the Bible Society's work in China:

- 68 million Chinese Bibles printed from its press since 1987.
- 55,000 local churches with whom it is connected.
- 77 distribution centres from which it bases itself.
- 48 Bible vans taking Bibles wherever they need to go.



How much cash do you have? How much cash do you carry around with you these days? The typical Briton now carries around only about £5 in cash, and relies on their card to pay for the rest. One in ten of us have even given up carrying a wallet or purse, preferring the card in our pocket, instead.

Some food and health news.....

Beware fizzy drinks: It seems that the fizzy drinks we've been drinking all our lives may not be such a good idea, after all.

It seems that just two fizzy drinks a day could double your risk of diabetes, even if they are the diet version. Researchers at the Karolinkska Institute in Sweden also believe that the sugary drinks may induce insulin resistance. They believe that the artificial sweeteners in the diet form of the drinks may stimulate and distort appetite, increasing food intake and encouraging a sweet tooth. Such sweeteners might also affect microbes in the gut, leading to glucose intolerance.

Tam Fry, of the National Obesity Forum, said: 'This is yet another warning that sweetened drinks, though appearing harmless, can mess things up for you. Why should you want to take that risk when a glass or two of water will slake your thirst and not put your health in jeopardy?'



No shame in a doggy bag: Next time you are eating out, and have more food than you really want, don't let the restaurant bin it – ask for a doggy bag. In Scotland, the 'Good to Go' campaign is aiming to introduce doggy bags in all restaurants, and thus cut down on the enormous waste in uneaten restaurant food. According to research, 75 per cent of us would like to ask for a doggy bag, but 42 per cent admit to being too embarrassed to do so.

Portion creep: Bet you didn't notice this, but dinner plates have got bigger. In the 1950s, a dinner plate measured 25cm across; now the usual is 28cm. And take a look at those very old wine glasses in the charity shops: our grandparents served wine in what looks like liqueur glasses to us now. These days, many wine-glasses seem to hold nearly half a bottle....

Cycling is good for you: Cycling to work may be one of the best things you could ever do: it can lower the risk of dying early by 40 per cent, and reduce your chance of developing cancer by 45 per cent. It also nearly halves the risk of heart disease, according to a recent study at Glasgow University. Yet currently only about four

per cent of us cycle to work. Glasgow University researchers want to see more infrastructure built to support cyclists in urban areas.



The Hobbit – celebrating the 80th anniversary

J.R.R. Tolkien's fantasy novel The Hobbit was first published 80 years ago, on 21st September 1937. With a number of revisions, it has remained in print ever since. Today it has sold 100 million copies and been translated into about 50 languages, including Icelandic and West Frisian. It has also spawned a trilogy of films which, although flawed, are spectacular in scope.

Tolkien was Professor of Anglo-Saxon at the University of Oxford. He was also a devout Roman Catholic, whose vision of Jesus' story as a 'true myth' helped convert his friend C. S. Lewis (author of 'The Chronicles of Narnia') to Christianity.



Tolkien had an academic fascination for ancient

languages, particularly Old Norse, but he also produced a series of amusing poems and stories for his children. All this came together in The Hobbit which, while primarily a children's book, created a rich fantasy world that was a precursor of the one underlying his major, profound fantasy epic, The Lord of the Rings.

The original manuscript of The Hobbit was two years in the making, and circulated originally among his friends. Through contact with one of Tolkien's students at Oxford, the publisher George Allen & Unwin obtained a copy, and the 10-year-old son of the owner gave it an enthusiastic thumbs-up. The initial run of 1,500 copies sold out within three months, and further runs proved similarly popular.

Tolkien wrote that in creating these stories, his allegiance was to Christ and the Church. He felt myths generally were part of our God-created imagination.

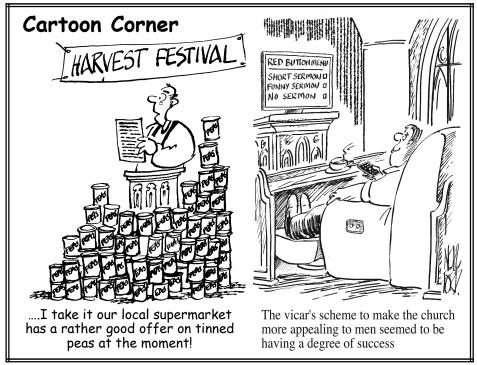
Ever wonder why some people are more 'successful' than others? It may be because they have the five 'life skills' that are critical in achieving any kind of sustained success. According to scientists at University College, London, the five critical 'life skills' that you need to succeed are: emotional stability, determination, control, optimism and conscientiousness. Together, these habits are thought to form a firm bedrock on which to build your life. The team from UCL looked at data from the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing, and found that highly skilled people even walked more quickly than others, and rate their health very highly.

Demographics on the change...

Muslim babies will begin to outnumber Christian babies by 2035 according to research by The Pew Research Centre which found that Muslims will be the world's fastest-growing religious group in the coming decades. In 2015, Christians were the largest religious group in the world, making up almost one third of the Earth's 7.3 billion people. Muslims were second, with 1.8 billion. From 2010-2015, Muslims made up an estimated 31 per cent of all babies born around the world. In contrast, Christian populations are ageing, and in Europe deaths are expected to outnumber births in the years to come.

Some quotes.....

- Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil it has no point.
- Don't give up on yourself. Even Moses was once a basket case.
- The only normal people are the ones you don't know very well. Foe Ancis
- If you think you're too small to have an impact, try going to bed with a mosquito in the room. Anita Roddick
- Children are a great comfort in your old age, and they help you reach it faster too. Lionel Kauffman



Prayers for September

Be Thou Strong and Be Courageous

When the task ahead seems daunting When the road seems rough and steep When beset by demons, haunting Waking thee from restful sleep – Be thou strong and be courageous: What God promises, He'll keep!

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Joshua, like us, was frightened By the job he had to do; But his faith in God was heightened By God's words both wise and true: "Be thou strong and be courageous "Have not I commanded you?"

God has said He'll stand beside you He will guide you by the hand He'll be there whate'er betide you 'Gainst the pow'rs of Hell He'll stand Be thou strong and be courageous Till you reach the promised land. *By Nigel Beeton*



Daily Strength

Jesus said: "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no-one can snatch them out of my hand." John 10: 11, 27-28

Prayer of thanks to our Faithful Father Faithful Father,

Thank you for your presence with us, all the time. Thank you for your goodness towards us, all the time. Thank you for the forgiveness you offer when we put our trust in Jesus and what He did on the cross, so that not even the most desperate circumstances can cut

us off from you. Thank you for the on-going possibility of a new start with bright hope for each tomorrow.

- Thank you, thank you Lord,
- In Jesus' name. Amen.
- By Daphne Kitching



Please contact the editor, Eleanor Plant, with items for the next magazine on 01924 835746, or by email: churchoffice@stpeters-stanley.org.uk











ST PETER'S CHURCH DIRECTORY

Vicar	Rev W Henderson	822143
	379 Aberford Road, Stanley	
Assistant Minister	Rev David Teece	
Readers	David Greenwood-Haigh	
	Calli McKenna	
	Vicky Wilson	
Lay Pastoral Minister	Margaret Woffendin	
Church Wardens	Jason Plant	
	David Sunderland	
Church Office	Eleanor Plant (Church Administrator)	835746
	churchoffice@stpeters-stanley.org,uk	
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Musical Director	Julie West	829098
Electoral Roll	Eleanor Plant	835746
Prayer Chain	Glenda Oakes	820222
House Groups	Rev W Henderson	822143
Ladies Society	Contact Church Office	835746
Magazine Editor	Eleanor Plant	835746
Safeguarding Co-ordinator	Calli McKenna	07557
		735610

CHILDREN'S GROUPS

Children's Ark	Viv Henderson	822143
Sunday Gang	Rev W Henderson	822143

UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS

Cubs/Scouts (boys & girls)	Mark Pringle	07450 953744
	firstyorkshire@gmail.com	
Brownies	Via Church Office	835746
Rainbows	Via Church Office	835746

For information regarding weddings and baptisms please contact the Vicar after any church service or by telephone on 01924 822143.

Contact the Church Office on 835746 (answer phone out of office hours) or by email: churchoffice@stpeters-stanley.org.uk

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