

PETERPOST

Parish of St. Peter and the Winchester Martyrs

Alresford • Stockbridge • Winchester

11th February 2024

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

Lent 2024 – Listening to God’s Heart

Father Mark writes:

Each year, the Holy Father, Pope Francis, offers the People of God a [Lenten Message](#). This year he begins with these words:

“When our God reveals himself, his message is always one of freedom: “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery” (Ex 20:2). These are the first words of the Decalogue given to Moses on Mount Sinai. Those who heard them were quite familiar with the exodus of which God spoke: the experience of their bondage still weighed heavily upon them. In the desert, they received the “Ten Words” as a thoroughfare to freedom. We call them “commandments”, in order to emphasize the strength of the love by which God shapes his people.

The call to freedom is a demanding one. It is not answered straightaway; it has to mature as part of a journey. Just as Israel in the desert still clung to Egypt – often longing for the past and grumbling against the Lord and Moses – today too, God’s people can cling to an oppressive bondage that it is called to leave behind.

*We realize how true this is at those moments when we feel hopeless, wandering through life like a desert and lacking a promised land as our destination. Lent is the season of grace in which the desert can become once more – in the words of the prophet Hosea – the place of our first love (cf. Hos 2:16-17). God shapes his people, he enables us to leave our slavery behind and experience a Passover from death to life. Like a bridegroom, **the Lord draws us once more to himself, whispering words of love to our hearts.**”*

Here in our little portion of the Kingdom, I’m inviting us as a community to journey together. I’m asking each and every one of you to join me on this Spiritual Campaign. I’m encouraging you to walk alongside me this Lent as we learn to “Listen to God’s heart” as he whispers words of love into our hearts.

There will be lots of questions. For example:

- ✦ Why does God want to speak to us?
- ✦ Why listen to God?
- ✦ How does our understanding of God affect how we listen to Him?
- ✦ How does God speak to us?
- ✦ How do we know whether it’s God speaking to us or not?
- ✦ How do we get better at recognising God’s voice?
- ✦ What stops us from hearing God?

This Lent we will have the chance to explore these questions together and to practise listening to the God who speaks.

God the Father - the Creator of the Universe and King of all that is - has chosen you out of love. He invites you to share in his life of love as his beloved child. This is an unconditional, never-ending, perfect, infinite, freely given, abundant love.

Jesus came into the world to reveal the heart of his Father - a heart which is filled with this great love for you, personally.

The **Holy Spirit** enables us to see and know and experience this immense love. Through the Holy Spirit, God's heart and ours can speak intimately to one another.

We call this privileged conversation prayer and prayer always begins with us listening.



During this season of Lent, in this Year of Prayer, we will try and help each other to listen to the voice of God, speaking into our hearts from the depth of His.

“God speaks in the silence of the heart. Listening is the beginning of prayer.”
(Mother Theresa, St. Theresa of Kolkata)

What would I like you to do?

The basic ask is the same every year: fast, give alms and pray! Pope Francis puts it like this:

“prayer, almsgiving and fasting are not three unrelated acts, but a single movement of openness and self-emptying, in which we cast out the idols that weigh us down, the attachments that imprison us. Then the atrophied and isolated heart will revive. Slow down, then, and pause! The contemplative dimension of life that Lent helps us to rediscover will release new energies.”

More specifically, to help you enter into that “contemplative dimension of life that Lent helps us to rediscover”, I am asking you to commit in this way:

Messages

[Sign up here](#) for our Lenten daily messages. These will offer you some bite-sized food for thought and contemplation and some practical steps to help you learn to listen to God’s heart. Take time also to listen to the homilies and these messages in Peterpost and to ponder them in your heart.

Small Groups

The Christian life isn’t a solitary expedition. We need to walk alongside each other along the Way (‘synodally’). Please strongly consider joining a small group this Lent.

You can [sign up here](#) to our **Lenten Small Groups**, which will be running for 5 weeks. It’s a series on "Lectio Divina", learning how to hear God by praying the Bible together as a community. The Lectio Course will help us explore the ancient practice of Lectio Divina, to equip us and the community we are to grow in prayer, discern God’s voice and fall in love with the Bible.

“How can I grow in my prayer life?” “What on earth is God saying?” “How do I make sense of the Bible?”

We have [online and in-person groups](#) available, starting the week commencing 18th February.

OR/ you can [sign up here](#) for our **Alpha Course** – a series of sessions, typically over eleven weeks, designed to explore the basics of the Christian faith in a relaxed and interactive way. The course creates a space online or in person where ‘friends bring friends’ to a conversation about faith, life and God which is authentic and unforced. Each session includes the welcome (around a meal in face-face gatherings), a talk, and small group discussions.



Last words from Pope Francis:

“faith and charity take hope, this small child, by the hand. They teach her to walk, and at the same time, she leads them forward. I bless all of you and your Lenten journey”

Changes to Masses in the Coming Week.

9.15am Mass at St Stephen's on Sunday 11th February is a Family Mass.

Wednesday 14th February is ASH WEDNESDAY, the beginning of the Season of Lent. There are additional Masses at St Peter's at 7am and 7pm and at St Gregory's at 10am.

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year B) – 11th February 2024

Entrance Antiphon:

Be my protector, O God,
a mighty stronghold to save me.
For you are my rock, my stronghold!
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

Cf. Ps 30:3-4

First reading:

The Book of Leviticus 13:1-2,44-46

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 31:1-2,5,11. R. v.7

You are my refuge, O Lord;
you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Second reading:

1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

Gospel Acclamation:

Cf. Ep 1:17,18

R. Alleluia, alleluia!

May the father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our mind,
so that we can see what hope his call holds for us.

R. Alleluia!

Gospel:

Mark 1:40-45

Communion Antiphon:

Cf. Ps 77:29-30.

They ate and had their fill,
and what they craved the Lord gave them;
they were not disappointed in what they craved.



PRAYER CORNER: Each week, this section will contain an intercession that I hope every parishioner will pray for during the coming week. In this way, we will all pray to the Lord for the parish's mission, because "if the Lord does not build... in vain do the builders labour" (Ps 127:1) Fr. Mark

This Week's Intention: Let us pray for all on the journey of faith process, especially those pondering the next step on their journey, and looking forward to the forthcoming Rite of Election.

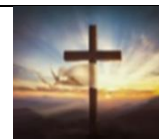


PLEASE PRAY FOR the repose of the souls of those who have died recently:

Chloe Donnelly RIP
Hania Banyard RIP
Joel Mutanda RIP
Barry Lawlor RIP

Funeral Notices:

Hania Banyard RIP – **Funeral Mass at St Peter's Church, Winchester on Thursday 22nd February at 10am**
Please pray for their family and friends at this difficult time. May God grant them eternal rest.



Welcome to Žiga, our new Seminarian



"Follow me," said the Lord Jesus, and here I am. My name is Žiga Kreft and I am a Slovenian seminarian. This fourth year of formation is dedicated to a pastoral experience abroad. I have already spent four months in a parish in Italy. I am very grateful for the enrichment of being able to spend part of my pastoral year (February to June) in your parish in Winchester. I come from a small but beautiful region of Slovenia, Carinthia, in the north of the country. My family lives in the countryside where we have a small farm. Surrounded by nature, I spent a lot of time in it as a child, playing and discovering so much beauty as a gift from the Creator. That is why some of my hobbies, such as cycling and scouting, are related to nature. I am also interested in art, reading books and watching films. It seems to me that these four months will be beautiful, full of new experiences, strong from a pastoral and spiritual point of view, and profitable not only for me but also for your community.

LENT

ASH WEDNESDAY is the beginning of the Season of Lent and there are **Masses at St Peter's at 7am, 12.15pm and 7pm and at St Gregory's at 10am.**

There will be **Early Mass at 6.30am in the Lady Chapel at St Peter's every Tuesday in Lent.**

Lenten Stations will be held at St Peter's on Fridays at 11.30am – CWL will give the view of Mary on Friday 16th February.

Further details of Stations in St Peter's and the other Churches will be available next weekend.

Lenten Almsgiving Opportunities include CAFOD (2nd Sunday Lent) and CWP (5th Sunday Lent)

Listening to God's Heart – Daily Messages

Lent is a wonderful opportunity for each and every one of us to grow in our faith and our relationship with the God who loves us. As Mother Theresa says, "God speaks in the silence of the heart. Listening is the beginning of prayer." During this season of Lent, in this Year of Prayer, we will try and help each other to listen to the voice of the Lord, speaking into our hearts from the depth of His.

One very simple thing we're inviting you to do is to sign up for a daily email during Lent and Easter (from Ash Wednesday until Pentecost). We're hoping to give you a little food for thought and a little opportunity to practise praying. You can sign up by filling in a [short form here](#) or calling the parish office.



Lent 2024 – Join us for a rewarding spiritual journey

Have you heard about this exciting opportunity to learn how to listen to God this Lent?

Why not sign up for our Lenten Spiritual Campaign, **The Lectio Course** is a five session video series exploring the ancient practice of Lection Divina.

It is a free small group resource from 24-7 Prayer which will equip us and the community we are to grow in prayer, discern God's voice and fall in love with the Bible. To register click [here](#) link: <https://bit.ly/TheLectioCourse> Or scan the QR code.

Leaflets will be available at the back of church.





Discover Faith, Friendship, and More at Alpha

Join us for a new journey of exploration and connection with our upcoming Alpha season, beginning on Tuesday, 20th February, at 7:30 pm at the Pastoral Centre. Over ten enriching weeks, we invite you to engage in meaningful conversations about faith, life, and God in a casual and welcoming atmosphere.

Alpha provides the perfect opportunity to delve into spiritual discussions, regardless of your beliefs or knowledge about God. Whether searching for answers, needing a spiritual refresh, wanting to deepen your relationship with Jesus, or cultivating connections with like-minded individuals, Alpha is your gateway to a transformative experience.

One of our past guests shared their journey: "Through Alpha, I've developed a much stronger personal relationship with Jesus and a renewed dedication to prayer. I've embraced the guidance of the Holy Spirit and am actively contributing to our worship community."

Embark on this adventure with us, where questions are encouraged, friendships are formed, and personal growth is inevitable. Alpha is more than a course—it's a starting point for a lifetime of discovery.

Each session begins with a delicious, cooked meal.

To register, visit www.catholicwinchester.org.uk/alpha or email alpha@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

If you would like to invite a friend to join Alpha but are unsure who to invite or why, please watch this short clip

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OI5wAFuky1w>



Laudato Si Corner

What resolution are you making for Lent?

As we enter a time of reflection and prayer there are lots of actions that we can take aimed at reducing our impact upon the environment. Here are a few ideas:

- Fasting: eat less meat – not just on Ash Wednesday but over the five weeks of Lent
- Giving: help those most affected by climate change by signing up for Cafod's Big Lent Walk: see link here <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/sign-up>
- Pray Pope Francis *Prayer for the Earth* contained in Laudato Si that includes the words: 'Pour out upon us the power of your love that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with your peace that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no-one'.

Pope Francis finishes with the words: Encourage us we pray in our struggle for justice love and peace.

The Gospel of Mark



The Gospel of Mark - a new formation series, which you can follow online at your own pace

Deacon Martin invites you to join him on a journey through the Gospel according to Mark.

As you may know, in this liturgical year (which started in Advent), we will be reading Mark's gospel on most Sundays, and also in weekday Masses, during Ordinary Time.

Deacon Martin is re-publishing the videos of the presentations he made during the formation series on Mark's gospel, which ran in the spring and summer of 2021. One video will be published each week,

allowing you to follow in your own time, and at your own pace, from the comfort of your own home.

You can access the videos (plus an accompanying PDF document with the presentation material) from [our parish YouTube site](#). [Session 1](#) is already there, with its [PDF document](#), for you to get started.

You can find out more details in the document that is attached to the email that delivers this week's Peterpost - or if you have any questions, please contact Deacon Martin (mmcelroy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

Last Sunday – A BIG THANK YOU! Amazing what bacon butties and cake can do for a parish!

After last Sunday's morning Masses, the Pastoral Centre was busy and buzzing with smiles, fellowship and full tummies! CWL served up delicious bacon butties and Family Fridays held a cake sale.

We appreciate all the hard work (especially from the ladies at CWL) and your support in making this event a successful fundraiser for Family Fridays. Total raised as follows:

- CWL butties & refreshments (after 8am & 10.30am Masses) = £384
- Family Fridays Cake Sales (at St Stephen's after Mass on 14th January and at St Peter's after 10.30am Mass last Sunday) = £323 in total
- **TOTAL = £707** - THE FAMILY FRIDAYS TEAM ARE HUGELY GRATEFUL TO YOU ALL!

The Winchester Camerata, conducted by Fr Andrew Moore, is giving a concert in aid of **Winchester Bereavement Support** at St Paul's Church, St Paul's Hill, SO22 5AB on **Sunday 25th February at 7.00 p.m.** The programme "An Evening in Paris" consists of music by French composers from the 17th to the 20th centuries. Tickets £20 on the door or from ticketsource.co.uk/winccamerata.



CWL Soup & Pud Lunch at St Peter's. The next CWL Charity Lunch, in the Pastoral Centre, is on **Friday 1st March** and will be in aid of **BOAZ**. The Boaz Project is an inclusive, farm-based charity set up to provide a brighter future for people with learning disabilities. All are very welcome to come along and enjoy delicious home cooked food, 12-1.30pm. Suggested donation **£7**.

BOOKSHOP We have a selection of **Lent** booklets and cards for St Patrick's Day and Easter (with more on order). We also sell Missals and Mass books, Bibles, Rosaries, Crosses, gifts and cards for Confirmation and First Holy Communion, Encyclicals including Laudate Deum. And, for the Year of Prayer, we have several copies of the book "Heaven on Earth" which includes a chapter by Allegra Mutanda. We are open weekdays during office hours and payment by cheque or cash is appreciated. Many thanks Susan Henry.

An invitation to young musicians.

The St Stephen's Players are a group of young musicians who play for the 9.15am mass at St Stephen's church on the second Sunday of each month. Players are contacted in advance of the Sunday monthly mass to determine availability. Music is then sent through, and a brief rehearsal takes place at 8.40am before the mass. The music is written to suit the ability of the player. This is a great opportunity to enjoy contributing to the music in our parish. For more information, please contact Emma Sharrock through Ststephens@stpeterswinchester.org.uk





**Message from St Peter's School:
National Storytelling Week**



Last week in the library we took part in National Storytelling Week which is a yearly event celebrating the power of sharing stories. Stories teach children about the world and can help them understand emotions in a relaxing way, while also helping to develop their literacy skills. Children designed character costumes and played games to come up with their own stories to tell out loud.

Some children also came to lunchtime story club where they could listen to a story being read by a grown up, share stories with friends or find a quiet spot to read. It was lovely sharing stories with lots of children choosing to participate.

We asked the teachers about their favourite books to read aloud. Some of our favourites include:

“The Squirrels that Squabbled’ - it is a funny read but with a great message. ‘The Disgusting Sandwich’ - another funny read and I like the way it keeps repeating so it becomes a story that all can join in with.” (Mr Read)

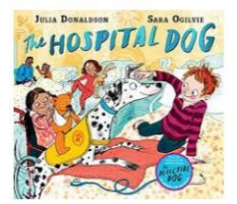
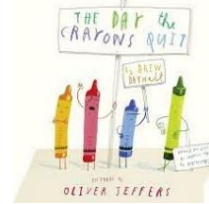
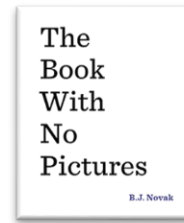
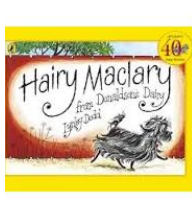
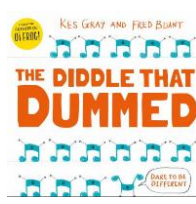
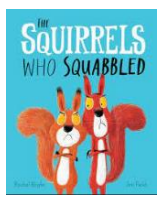
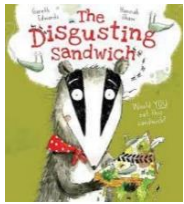
“The Book with No Pictures’ by BJ Novak! A surprising book that will remind you that words are as powerful as pictures. The Year 1s love this book. Warning - if you read this to your children, you will look and sound very, very silly.” (Miss Dougan)

“I love to read ‘The Day the Crayons Quit’ and its sequel ‘The Day the Crayons Came Home’ by Drew Daywalt and Oliver Jeffries. I read it to my 3 year old but I find that children much older love them too. They’re funny, expressive and super imaginative!” (Mrs Wright)

“The Diddle that Dummed’ by Kes Gray is a bit of a tongue twister but it has a surprising (and funny!) ending. It’s great if you love music too.” (Miss Welsby)

“I love ‘Hospital Dog’ - it is a great story and all the Lynley Dodd books about ‘Hairy McClary’ - love the rhyme and fun.” (Mrs Woolgar)

If you have any favourites, or love the same books that we do, come and let us or your teacher know!

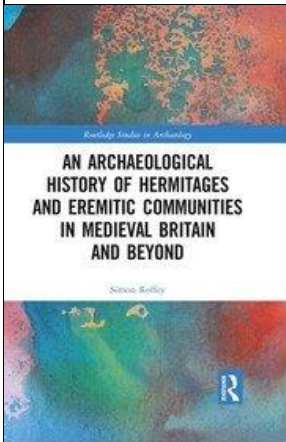


We currently have a vacancy for a Deputy Headteacher. Please see our website for further details: <https://www.stpetershants.co.uk/vacancies/>

If you have pre-school children and like the sound of St Peter's School, then why not contact us to find out about the application process?

Telephone 01962 852820 or email admin@st-peters.hants.sch.uk.

Best wishes Louise Buxton (Miss) Headteacher



Winchester Catholic History Society.

The next meeting of the Winchester Catholic History Society will be on **Wednesday 21 February at 6.30 pm in the Parish Centre** when Dr Simon Roffey will be speaking on his new book, ‘An Archaeological History of Hermitages and Eremitic Communities in Medieval Britain and Beyond’.

Dr Simon Roffey is a Reader in Medieval Archaeology at the University of Winchester. His main research area is Medieval Religion and Belief. This book offers an illustrated archaeological history of hermitages. It presents a unique window into a lost world of Medieval Spirituality and Religious Life.

New members most welcome, Visitors £7 on the evening. All enquiries please email win.cath.history@gmail.com.

PLEASE NOTE THE NEW START TIME OF 6.30 PM.



Southern Voices celebrate 40 in style

Southern Voices launch their ruby anniversary season on 23 March in the Chapel of St Cross at 7.30pm. 40 years of singing together is a big achievement and the choir's popularity has endured throughout the years. They commence celebrations with a concert featuring a stunning 40 voice-part piece which is rarely performed.

Spem in alium by Thomas Tallis is a majestic work, written to impress the court of Queen Elizabeth 1, that requires eight choirs, each with 5 voice parts. The choir will be boosted in numbers to achieve this by welcoming back past members to join them. They will stand surrounding the audience and this, together with the renowned acoustic of the chapel, will create a most amazing sound experience.

Booking is essential and tickets are now on sale. You can find more information on the other pieces in the programme and buy tickets on the website: southernvoices.co.uk. (Registered charity 1086868)



Portsmouth Diocesan Don Bosco Boys Camp - Sunday 28 July to Saturday 3 August 2024

We are delighted that camp will be going ahead again this summer for boys of secondary school age at St. Cassian's, Kintbury. There will be plenty of sport, outings, competitions and games to ensure that boys will have a fantastic week. This will continue to take place within the context of the celebration of the Catholic Faith, including daily Mass and morning prayer. The cost of the camp is **£230** (part bursaries may be available on application).

We are holding a **Bosco Experience/Reunion** on **Sunday 25 February 2024 from 2 to 4pm** at St. Peter's Church, Jewry Street, Winchester SO23 8RY. This is for boys currently in year 6 up to year 11. A chance for new boys who want to find out more and have a 'taste' of the Bosco Experience and for those who have been on camp to meet with old friends. Fun activities and a chance for parents to find out more and sign up for camp.

Booking is essential. To find out more please email: dbcamps@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

Diocesan Vacancies

Please follow the link for current vacancies throughout the Diocese: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/other/jobs>

Mass Timetable	10th February 2024 – 17th February 2024		
Date	Mass Times & Intentions		
SATURDAY – February 10th – St Scholastica, Religious. 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Vigil	9.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	The Soul of Mary, Lady Mannock
	5.30 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Rosalba Martinez de la Rosa RIP
SUNDAY – February 11th - SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME.	8.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Soul of Edward Hill
	9.00 AM	Mass at St Thomas More's	
	9.15 AM	Family Mass at St Stephen's	People of Ukraine
	10.30 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Catenian Deceased Brothers
	11.00 AM	Mass at St Gregory's	People of the Parish
	5.30 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Soul of Peter Walshe
MONDAY – February 12th	12.15 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Mark Herbich RIP
TUESDAY – February 13th – (Shrove Tuesday).	10.00 AM	Mass at St Gregory's	
	12.15 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Benefactors
WEDNESDAY – February 14th – ASH WEDNESDAY.	7 00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Intentions of the Neil Family
	10 00 AM	Mass at St Gregory's	
	12.15 PM	Mass at St Peter's	In honour of St Joseph
	7.00 PM	Mass at St Peter's	The Soul of Margaret Merriman
THURSDAY – February 15th	10.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	Soul of Victoria Fernandes
FRIDAY – February 16th	10.00 AM	Mass at St Gregory's	Michael, Marion & Michael Patrick Lydon RIP
	12.15 PM	Mass at St Peter's	The Soul of Margaret Merriman
SATURDAY – February 17th – 1st Sunday of Lent – Vigil	9.00 AM	Mass at St Peter's	The Soul of Beatrice Hew Tompson
	5.30 PM	Mass at St Peter's	Mary Alfreida O'Donoghue RIP

Confessions every Saturday 9.30am till 10.30am and 4.30pm-5.00pm at St Peter's Church – booking not required.

Morning Prayer (livestream and open to public), every weekday 8.00am at St Peter's followed by Adoration till 9.00am.

To participate in any service online (including Morning Prayer & Adoration) or to see the recorded services, go to our [YouTube channel](#)

ALL SERVICES (INCLUDING MORNING PRAYER) FROM ST PETER'S ARE LIVESTREAMED.

Useful Contacts

Clergy: Fr Mark Hogan (Parish Priest) (mhogan@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Fr Benedict Ndikum (Assistant Priest) (bndikum@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Deacon Martin McElroy (mmcelroy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Deacon Tony Darlison (tdarlison@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Director of Evangelisation and Leadership: Allegra Mutanda (allegra@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

Parish Music Team Leader: - Alastair Ross (aross@stpeterswinchester.org.uk).

Housekeeper: Sarah Harfield (sharfield@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

Finance Assistant: Isabelle Guerin: (accounts@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

Facilities and Resources Manager: Sean Reidy (sean@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

Room Bookings & Rentals: Sarah Walker (bookings@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

Parish Administration: Alison Young (office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

Sacristan: Laurie Howe Caretaker: Richard Phiri

Pastoral team – Baptism and First Holy Communion: Rosanne Walker (baptism@stpeterswinchester.org.uk), (FHC@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

Pastoral team – Youth Ministry: Jo Donaldson (youthstuff@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

Outreach Ministry Lead: Mike Elks (mike@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

Volunteer Director of Communications: Lisa Justice (ljustice@stpeterswinchester.org.uk)

To get in touch with them, and for other general matters, please contact the Parish Office: 01962 852804 office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk .

PeterCares: petercares@stpeterswinchester.org.uk **Prayerline:** prayers@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

Wedding information – weddings@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

Newsletter (deadline for items Wednesday evening): newsletters@stpeterswinchester.org.uk **Newsletter list:** hello@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

St. Peter's School Office: 01962 852820 admin@st-peters.hants.sch.uk

St. Thomas More's Stockbridge: please email stm@stpeterswinchester.org.uk