



The Parish of St. Peter, Bushey Heath August 2026



From the vicar

I am writing this letter on the feast of St. Mary Magdalene whilst I reflect on a particularly formative period of my life when I worshipped variously at the church dedicated to that saint in Bradford. I used to attend during Lent on weekday evenings for Stations of the Cross and sometimes for other special devotions like Benediction which we didn't have at St. Michael and All Angels in Shelf where I was working.

St. Mary Magdalene's, Manningham was completed in 1878 to a design in the Gothic Revival style by the architect E. Pearson Peterson. The church was built right up to the edges of the site and without the right to light so it is without ground floor windows, natural light being provided by clerestory windows instead. The entire East wall is also windowless on account of its proximity to a factory owned by Methodists who didn't wish their employees to be distracted. These arrangements meant that the interior of the church was rather dark.

The darkness of the interior might have been off-putting for some, but every time I visited St. Mary Magdalene's I found that I was able to concentrate on the important matters in hand whether it be the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament or the Stations of the Cross. As I write this I find it hard to remember any other aspect of the building apart from the rood figures high up on a tie beam, but despite the passing of the years my memory is of beauty, not the beauty of the building, but the beauty of the liturgical provision. God was present in the place and could be found. The experience of being in the midst of such beauty has remained with me and sustained me.

The beauty of St. Mary Magdalene's was not to be found in its architecture, worthy though it was, but in the way it honoured God. The scriptures use a number of words for 'beauty' with a subtle variety of meanings. Inevitably the word expresses 'fairness', 'pleasantness' and 'desire', but the range of meanings also includes 'honour' especially when referring to God and the worship of him. Beauty is found in many places and in many ways, but especially in the divine.

And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it. (Psalm 90: 17)

As we often sing at the Epiphany,

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
With gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
Kneel and adore him: the Lord is his name.

J. S. B. MONSELL (1811 - 75)

In our devotions and in other areas of our lives may we never be diverted by the superficially attractive, but see instead where the beauty of God may be found and adored. St. Mary Magdalene's, Bradford may sadly no longer be a church, but its legacy is maintained at least in the heart of this writer.

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 dealings.

From the diary...

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

Sunday 26th July

Trinity 8

no midweek services

Sunday 2nd August

Trinity 9

8.00am *no service*

9.30am Parish Mass (Father Leslie Drake SSC)

Wednesday 5th August, 10.00am

Mass (St. Oswald, Martyr)

Friday 7th August, 7.00pm

Mass

Sunday 9th August

Trinity 10

Wednesday 12th August, 10.00am

Mass

Friday 14th August, 7.00pm

Mass

Sunday 16th August

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Wednesday 19th August, 10.00am

Mass

Friday 21st August, 7.00pm

Mass

Sunday 23rd August

Trinity 12

Wednesday 26th August, 10.00am

Mass

Friday 28th August, 7.00pm

Mass

Sunday 30th August

Trinity 13

Wednesday 2nd September, 10.00am

Mass

Friday 4th September, 7.00pm

Mass

Sunday 6th September

Trinity 14

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

Trinity 15

8.00am *no service*

9.30am Parish Mass (Father Leslie Drake SSC)

no midweek services

Sunday 20th September

Trinity 16

8.00am *no service*

9.30am Parish Mass (Father Leslie Drake SSC)

Wednesday 23rd September, 10.00am

Mass

Friday 25th September, 7.00pm

Mass

From the registers

Blessing of Marriage

27th June James and Jane Burton

St. Peter's Quiz Night, Saturday 5th September 2026 starting at 7pm.

We hope to keep the cost similar to last year to include a supper of either Fish and Chips, Chicken and Chips or a Vegetarian option and Chips. I will let you know the actual cost once we have agreed a price with the fish and chip shop. Bring your own drinks.

Tables may have a 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 Saturday 29th August 2026.

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.

Kind regards,

Alan Hudson

Contact details:

Priest Administrator: 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