



Advent  
2016

# THE NET

The Parish Newsletter for St Peter's Church, Harrogate

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Alan Garrow

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## Welcome to THE NET

- the first edition of the new parish newsletter of St Peter's Church. St Peter's is right in the centre of Harrogate, on the corner of Cambridge Road, overlooking the War Memorial. We hope to publish this newsletter three times a year: one at the beginning of Advent, one for the start of Lent and one in the Summer. Please take the time to read it, perhaps you might like to come to one of our events or services - you will be most welcome!



## St Peter's has a new Vicar



*The Vicar, Alan Garrow, with his children Sam and Ellie*

Why St Peter's? Sometimes people ask why I applied for this particular job. My response is to ask: what kind of church would *you* like to belong to? If you'd like to belong to a church where there is space for everyone; where there is a desire to serve those who are most in need; where people are valued simply because God values them – then St Peter's is a great place to start.

Another question might be: where is St Peter's headed? To answer that I'd point to how Jesus showed his first followers where he was leading them. He took them to a wedding reception. And, when the drink ran out, he turned gallons of water into gallons of choice wine. By doing this he painted a small picture of his big destination: a great homecoming banquet full of God's joyful and generous welcome. The journey in between was exceptionally difficult for Jesus, so anyone who follows him can't expect it to be easy either. Nevertheless, that ultimate homecoming banquet is, I think, the only place where our deepest hungers, for purpose, belonging and God himself, can ever truly be satisfied. Are you hungry for these things too? Come and join us.

Alan Garrow (*Vicar*)

# Autumn 2016 at St Peter's

*Here are just a few of the things that have been happening in and around our Church*

## St Peter's Youth Club is Back!

There are lots of ways for children and young people to take part in the life of St Peter's: Parent and Toddler Group, Sunday Club, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Boys' Brigade and Youth Club.

The Youth Club began a new programme this Autumn with a Club Night, Games at the Vicarage (*pictured right*) and Lazer Tag at Action Zone. At the latter, twenty young people and three adults pitted their wits against one another as darkness fell (the clocks had just gone back). Most Youth Club members are currently in Year 7. It's a great way to keep up with old friends and to make new ones. If you'd like to find out more contact Jane Cox on 07944 906696 or check our website for details of the next meeting.



## All Creatures Great and Small

Our annual Animal Service took place on Sunday 2nd October this year. Dogs of all shapes and sizes, guinea pigs, hamsters and even a litter of newborn kittens were brought to Church for a blessing. The blessing of animals in churches originated in the thirteenth century to coincide with the feast day of St Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals and the environment.

St Peter's applied to become Animal Friendly Church last year; in fact the Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals were so impressed with our application that we were chosen to be the winners of their Animal Friendly Church Award for 2015 and they sent us a hamper!

## Dancing the Night Away

Our Parish Events Team organise a wide variety of events throughout the year - from a faith lunch to welcome the new Vicar and his family; to fundraisers like the Christmas Fair. Recently a Ceilidh was held at St Luke's Community Hall on Saturday 15th October. Everyone enjoyed the buffet supper and the music was provided by the Village Hop Band.

In December there will be the annual St Peter's Ball, held this year at the White Hart Hotel, when there will be a three course dinner, a Grand Raffle and, of course, more dancing!



## Renewed, Refreshed, Restored

On a glorious November day over 30 members of St Peter's came together to enjoy a day focusing on prayer at Scargill House. Scargill is a Christian movement based in Wharfedale, where an international community representing many Christian traditions welcomes visitors for holidays, conferences and retreats. We spent the morning joining members of the community in worship, thinking about what prayer involves and listening to other people's experiences of prayer. After a delightful lunch, some of us chose to enjoy the beautiful, if somewhat bracing, outdoors; others returned to the chapel for a time of silence and contemplation. A wonderful day.



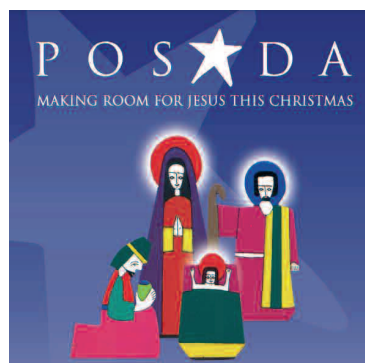
## What is a Christingle?

This year there will be three Christingle Services at St Peter's Church on Christmas Eve at 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm and 5:00 pm. The Children's Society first introduced the Christingle service to the Church of England in 1968; since then the funds raised are vital in supporting their work with vulnerable and disadvantaged children.



Christingle actually means *Christ Light* and celebrates the light of Jesus coming into the world. The orange is round like the world. The candle stands tall and gives light in the darkness like the love of God. The red ribbon goes all around the world and symbolizes the blood of Christ, shed when He died for us. The four sticks point to the four corners of the world— north, south, east and west. The fruit and nuts (or sometimes sweets!) represent God's gifts to us, including the fruits of the earth. Please come and join us!

## Posada is coming to St Peter's



Posada is a traditional Mexican celebration, commemorating Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem in their search for *posada*, a Spanish word for *shelter* or *inn*. In recent years the idea

has been taken up by Christian churches and schools in other countries. During Advent, figures of Mary and Joseph travel around the area visiting a different family or place every night.

This year, St Peter's is going to celebrate Posada. The Vicar, Alan Garrow, and his family have agreed to be the first hosts of the figures at the Vicarage. Then every night during Advent the figures will visit a different home, giving the family a unique opportunity to remember the true meaning of Christmas with their friends and neighbours. They might also retell the Christmas story, say prayers, sing carols or share mince pies. At the end of Advent the figures will return to St Peter's Church on Christmas Day finally finding posada.

## Advent and Christmas at St Peter's

### December

Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup>	5:30 pm	Craft Aid International <b>Carols by Candlelight</b> - <i>come and enjoy Christmas carols with mulled wine and mince pies</i>
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	7:30 pm	<b>Carol Concert and Festivities</b> with <i>Girl Guiding Yorkshire North West</i>
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10:00 am - 4:00 pm 7:00 pm	<b>Refreshment Day</b> in aid of Amnesty International <b>St Peter's Ball</b> - <i>dinner and dancing at the White Hart Hotel</i>
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Second Sunday in Advent with our usual Sunday Services	
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	2:00 pm	Supporting Older People <b>Carol Service</b>
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am - 4:00 pm	<b>Refreshment Day</b> in aid of Harrogate Phoenix Players
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Third Sunday in Advent with our usual Sunday Services	
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Fourth Sunday in Advent with our usual Sunday morning services 6:30 pm	<b>Service of Nine Lessons and Carols</b>
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> <i>Christmas Eve</i>	10:00 am - 12:00 pm 3:00, 4:00 and 5:00 pm 11:30 pm	Shoppers <b>Coffee and Carols</b> : relax and take a break <b>Christingle Services</b> <b>Midnight Mass</b>
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> <i>Christmas Day</i>	8:30 am 9:30 am 11:00 am	Holy Communion Family Communion Choral Communion
Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup>	11:30 pm	<b>Watchnight Service</b> : bring in the New Year by candlelight

**Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year from everyone at St Peter's Church!**

# What's happening in the New Year?



## faith pictures Course

Sometimes matters of faith seem beyond words. To some extent it can't be any other way! At the same time, however, it is hard to connect with others about the things that matter most if we can't talk about them somehow. This six week course, running in February and March 2017, uses pictures to help explore and express what we believe. This has three benefits. First, it helps crystallise what we really think about God. Second, it opens up a way to connect with, and learn from, others' experience. Third, it makes it easier to talk about what we believe more generally. If you'd like further details please contact St Peter's Parish Office (Tel: 568218).

## Confirmation 2017

After Christmas there will be an opportunity to join a six-week course in preparation for Confirmation. The course for **Adults** will take place on Thursday evenings from 7:00 – 8:30 pm starting on 12<sup>th</sup> January. For further details please contact Tim Hurren before 1<sup>st</sup> January at: [tim.hurren@ntlworld.com](mailto:tim.hurren@ntlworld.com)

The course for **Young People** (year 7 and above) will take place on Sunday afternoons from 4:30 – 6:00 pm starting on 29<sup>th</sup> January. For further details and to reserve a place please contact Alan Garrow before 1<sup>st</sup> January at:

[alan.garrow@gmail.com](mailto:alan.garrow@gmail.com). The Bishop of Ripon, James Bell, will be coming to St Peter's to confirm the candidates on Sunday 2nd April at 6.30 pm.



## Daily Services at St Peter's

*Morning Prayer is at 8:00 am and Evening Prayer at 5:00 pm daily*

### Sundays

8:30 am

**Holy Communion** - a traditional said service held in the Choir stalls

9:30 am

**Family Communion** - a Common Worship service accompanied by our Music Group.

There is a Sunday Club for children.

11:00 am

**Choral Matins** - a traditional service led by our Choir. On the first Sunday of the month this is Choral Communion.

4:15 pm

**Afternoon Church** - starting with refreshments, a service for all the family.

6:30 pm

**Choral Evensong** - a Cathedral style service led by our Choir. On the third Sunday of the month we have Choral Communion

### Tuesdays

12:30 pm

**Healing Service** - includes prayers with laying on of hands

### Wednesdays

10:30 am

**Café Reflexion** - coffee, cake and Bible reflections

8:00 pm

**The Hour** - silent prayer by candlelight, ending with Compline

### Thursdays

9:30 am

**Parents and Toddlers** - stories, songs and prayers, followed by time for coffee and play

11:00 am

**Holy Communion** - a traditional said service

11:30 onwards

**Lunchtime Reflexion** - food for your body and soul: a delicious lunch with readings

### Contact us:

**Parish Office:** Tel: 568218, email: [stpeters.office@ntlbusiness.com](mailto:stpeters.office@ntlbusiness.com) or visit our website: [www.stpetersharrogate.org.uk](http://www.stpetersharrogate.org.uk)

**Vicar:** The Revd Dr Alan Garrow, St Peter's Vicarage, 13 Beech Grove, Harrogate, HG2 0ET. Tel: 526454  
[alan.garrow@gmail.com](mailto:alan.garrow@gmail.com)

**Parish Newsletter Editor:** Marian Chambers [marian.chambers41@gmail.com](mailto:marian.chambers41@gmail.com)

The next edition of THE NET will be coming out at the beginning of Lent, on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2017.