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Try Alpha
No charge
No pressure
No follow up

Advent 2017

Welcome to THE NET - the parish newsletter of St Peter's - the church in the centre of Harrogate right beside the War Memorial. With Christmas fast approaching, the theme for this Advent edition is Music, so much a part of our Church's life. Inside there are details of all our Christmas and Advent services and a special invitation just for you.



THE NET

The Parish Newsletter for St Peter's Church, Harrogate

Music: expressing the inexpressible



Emily Williamson, one of the younger members of St Peter's Music Group

Music has no physical substance but nonetheless has the power to move the human heart. Music has the capacity to provide solace, to reveal truth, and express what must otherwise be left unsaid. No surprise then that music plays such a vital role in how God speaks to us and how we, in turn, respond. As you will see in this edition of THE NET, music plays a rich and varied role in the life of St Peter's. As we enter into the Christmas season there will, of course, be lots of opportunities to express the joy of Christmas in gathered carol singing. And also, week by week, we rejoice in the wonderful Music Group, full of people from all ages and abilities, that leads our singing at 9:30 am on Sundays, and in the excellent Choir that lifts our hearts in worship on Sundays at 11:00 am and 6:30 pm. You are most welcome to join us, at this and all

other times of the year, in joy and in sorrow, as we share in the varied and wonderful mystery of music. "Music expresses that which cannot be said and on which it is impossible to be silent" – Victor Hugo.

Alan Garrow (Vicar of St Peter's Church)

Music at St Peter's

At St Peter's we are so lucky to have so many dedicated and talented musicians.

Our Director of Music and Organist is John Longstaff, pictured below with St Peter's Choir. John was born in Lancashire, read music at Cambridge and studied conducting at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. He has been Musical Director, and then Artistic Director, of the Sheffield Symphony Orchestra; pianist and conductor at the Opera House in Kiel and also with the Northern Ballet Theatre. His many guest engagements include those for Opera North, D'Oyly Carte and Opera Lyrica.



John and the Choir can be heard at the 11:00 am and 6:30 pm services every Sunday, and for weddings and funerals by arrangement. The choir has a longstanding place in St Peter's history. Their repertory is notable for its variety, spanning choral music from over 600 years ago right up to the present day, and for its quantity, made up of a growing collection of hundreds of anthems, psalms and service settings. The Choir rehearses from 7:30 - 9:00 pm every Thursday evening. Potential new members are warmly invited to contact John on 07974 742991 or through the Parish Office.

St Peter's Music Group leads the music at our 9:30 am Family Communion Service on Sunday mornings and at special times like the Christingle services on Christmas Eve. They are led by Judy Williamson, who also plays the piano, and have about twenty-five other members who love to sing or play an instrument. They meet once a month on a Sunday afternoon to practice new songs and hymns, mainly drawn from *Songs of Fellowship*, and to enjoy cake. They welcome new members of any age either as singers or instrumentalists. Please contact Judy through the Parish Office if you are interested in joining the Music Group.



The Harrogate Handbell Ringers have recently celebrated their silver jubilee. They meet at the Wesley Centre once a week on Thursday afternoons and are often invited to perform locally - this photo was taken at a recent visit to The Adelphi, where they entertained the delighted residents.

There are many other music making opportunities at St Peter's. Local charity *Supporting Older People* hold an informal group singing session on the third Wednesday of each month starting at 2:00 pm. The Shanty Folk Singers, led by Don Mason, meet on Monday afternoons at 2:00 pm - they are a friendly group and you are sure of a warm welcome. Our drama group, the *St Peter's Players*, often choose musicals for their annual production - this year a very enjoyable staging of *Wind in the Willows*. There are also concerts from visiting choirs and orchestras - local community choir *The Fisher Singers* will be presenting a Christmas Concert with a brass band on Saturday 2nd December - check our website for details of this and other events.

St Peter's Bell Ringers

St Peter's is one of only two churches in Harrogate to have a full ring of bells and the only church in Yorkshire to ring for three services on Sundays. Although St Peter's was built in the 1870s, the tower was not completed until 1926 and the bells



were finally installed in 1963. Our present team meet on Friday evenings at 7:00 pm to practice and welcome anyone interested in becoming a bell ringer to join them. Please contact Hannah Beck, seen here holding the blue sally, through the Parish Office for further details.

St Peter's Christmas Tree Festival is back!

Our Christmas Tree Festival runs this year from 2nd - 16th December! Local shops, families, clubs, groups and businesses will bring their decorated Christmas trees to display in Church. Then visitors to the festival are invited to vote for their favourites for a



small donation. The winners will be announced during the 9:30 am Family Communion Service on Sunday 17th December. There will also be a Tree of Remembrance, kindly donated by B&Q, for visitors to remember a loved one with a prayer or dedication hung on the tree.

Advent and Christmas at St Peter's - December 2017

Friday 1 st	5:30 pm	Carols by Candlelight in aid of Craft Aid International
Saturday 2 nd - 16 th		St Peter's Christmas Tree Festival - 10:00 am - 4:00 pm daily
Saturday 2 nd	2:00 pm	A Celebration of Christmas with <i>Girl Guiding Yorkshire North West and the White Rose Band</i>
	7:30 pm	Christmas Concert with <i>the Fisher Singers</i>
Sunday 3 rd		First Sunday in Advent with our usual Sunday morning services
	6:30 pm	Advent Candle Service with music by <i>St Peter's Choir</i>
Wednesday 6 th	2:00 pm	Supporting Older People Carol Service
Saturday 9 th	10:00 am - 4:00 pm	Refreshment Day in aid of Amnesty International
Sunday 10 th		Second Sunday in Advent with all our usual Sunday Services
Saturday 16 th	10:00 am - 4:00 pm	Refreshment Day held by Rotary Club International
Sunday 17 th		Third Sunday in Advent with our usual Sunday morning services
	6:30 pm	Service of Nine Lessons and Carols - <i>the traditional readings with carols and anthems led by St Peter's Choir</i>
Friday 22 nd	9:30 am	St Peter's School Carol Service
Saturday 23 rd	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Shoppers' Coffee and Carols - <i>relax and take a break.</i>
Sunday 24 th		Fourth Sunday in Advent with our usual Sunday morning services
Christmas Eve	3:00 and 4:00 pm	Christingle Services led by our Music Group
	6:30 pm	Carols for Christmas Eve with <i>St Peter's Choir</i>
	11:30 pm	Midnight Mass - led by <i>St Peter's Choir</i>
Monday 25 th	8:30 am	Holy Communion
Christmas Day	9:30 am	Family Communion
	11:00 am	Christmas Morning Service
Saturday 30 th	7:30 pm	A Concert by the Vacation Chamber Orchestra
Sunday 31 st		The First Sunday of Christmas with our usual Sunday services
New Year's Eve	11:30 pm	Watchnight Service: bring in the New Year by candlelight

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

Alpha starts here in January 2018



Everyone has questions. We believe that everyone should have the chance to explore the Christian faith, ask questions and share their point of view; wherever they are in the world.

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith. Each session looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. **Alpha** is run around the globe and everyone's welcome. No two **Alphas** look the same, but generally they have three things in common: food, a talk and good conversation.

If you would like to try **Alpha**, come to St Peter's Church, Wednesdays 6:00 – 8:00 pm, starting 10th January 2018. Each session will start with a meal, because it's a great way to get to know each other, then there's a talk, around 30 minutes long, followed by the most important part - a discussion. There's no obligation to say anything and there's nothing you can't say. Visit alphaharrogate.org or contact Sarah Martin 0791 325 9490 to find out more.

Daily Services at St Peter's

Morning Prayer is at 8:00 am and Evening Prayer at 5:00 pm Monday to Saturday

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

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:

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The next edition of THE NET will be coming out at the beginning of Lent, on Sunday 11th February 2018.