



Summer  
2017

# THE NET

The Parish Newsletter for St Peter's Church, Harrogate

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at St Peter's

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Welcome to THE NET - the parish newsletter of St Peter's - the church right in the centre of our town beside the War Memorial. Members of all our different congregations came together to follow the *Faith Pictures* Lent course - as a result a new study group started in May - details inside. Fourteen people attended Confirmation classes and were confirmed by James Bell, Bishop of Ripon, at St Peter's in April - read Anya's story on page 3. St Peter's Youth Club and youth organisations have been busy - read all about what they've been up to overleaf!



## Children: full members

We live in a society where it is increasingly easy to mix only with people like ourselves – with the same cultural background, life experience, opinions and, perhaps most significantly, age. Churches are not, of course, immune to this



Marco Almenida and members of Sunday Club

tendency. What churches still offer, nonetheless, is an opportunity for children to grow as full and valued members of a wider 'family' that includes others at many different situations and stages in life. This is certainly our aim at St Peter's. We want our children and young people to grow up in the knowledge that they are precious and valued members of a wider community. As well as expressing this through the various provisions described in this edition of *The Net*, we also try to say it through a particular gift given to each child who is baptised, or christened, at St Peter's. At our christening services everyone

present is asked to write a prayer, a word of encouragement or a phrase from the service on a small piece of card. These are then gathered and sealed in an envelope to be opened on that child's fifteenth birthday. When the birthday comes we hope that each child will be reminded that, at the start of their journey, a wide community was lovingly concerned for their welfare – and, as they look back on their early years, we hope that they will be able to recognise plenty of evidence of that ongoing care and respect in their direct experience of being full members of St Peter's Church.

Alan Garrow ( Vicar of St Peter's Church)



# St Peter's youngest members

*There are lots of activities at our Church for children and young people*

Last year seventeen children were baptised at St Peter's and a member of the **Lay Baptism Team** will have attended their baptism service and invited the family to an event at our Church. They will also have been told about our **Toddler Group**, which is open to all children from birth to school age and their parent, grandparent or carers. Every Thursday, during term time, they meet in Church at 9:30 am, with a story and some songs, followed by drinks, snacks and time for play upstairs in the Brostoff Hall.



On Sundays during the 9:30 am Family Communion Service, all children and their parents are welcome to gather in the café area, where there are toys and activities to share. **Sunday Club** meets every week, apart from the first Sunday of the month or if it is a special occasion such as Mothering Sunday. Here Bible stories are introduced in an accessible and meaningful way using games and fun craft activities. At the end of the session they come back into Church to join their families for Communion and to share with the congregation what they have been doing. On Sunday afternoons at 4:30 pm something special happens - **Afternoon Church** - where everyone is welcome. We begin with refreshments from 4:15 pm and then the services follow this pattern: *Holy Communion* all gathered round the table, on the first Sunday of the month; *Service of the Word* on the second; *Crafters Church* with stories, prayers and creative (sometimes messy) activities on the third; *Celtic Worship*, a simple, reflective form of worship, recognising the sacredness of all creation, on the fourth. Come and join us if you'd like to try a more relaxed, informal style of worship.

St Peter's Church is lucky to have youth organisations for both girls and boys of all ages. Boys can join the Anchor section of the 4<sup>th</sup> Harrogate **Boy's Brigade** when they are five and they, along with the Junior section, meet on Wednesday evenings. Recently the boys went to Ripley Castle and worked with the LIVE FOR TODAY team to build dens (picture below) and to light a fire so they could toast marshmallows. Girls can start guiding as **Rainbows** when they are five. They have weekly meetings on Tuesdays and follow a programme of activities, trips and adventures - our girls took part in a Rainbow Olympics with other units and have been trying new things and earning lots of badges. When girls are seven they can join 10<sup>th</sup> Harrogate St Peter's **Brownies** - each week they work towards a badge or an event - at the end of term they have a games and party night! As part of their Disability Awareness Badge they had a visit from a blind lady and her guide dog; some of them packed bags at Asda to raise money for Birk Crag (the residential and training centre of Girlguiding in Harrogate) ; and they helped to make the posies for Mothering Sunday in Church. They've been to the pantomime and the cinema, as well as Stockeld Park at Christmas with the Rainbows - you won't be surprised to hear that there is a waiting list!



## Confirmation

We welcomed The Right Revd James Bell, Bishop of Ripon, to St Peter's to confirm fourteen candidates this year: Pouyan Ansari, Judith Cantlow, Anya Daley, Adam Davison, Harry Day, Noah Di Virgillio, Charles Gower-Smith, Victoria Harrison, Grace Humphreys, Annabel Kirman, Shoreh Naseri,



Imogen Thompson-Vear, Anyta Vance and Timothy Williamson. This was the Bishop's last visit to St Peter's, as he retired at the end of April.

The Junior Confirmation class met at the Vicarage - pictured here, left to right, are Annabel, Anya and Grace. Anya writes:

*I was confirmed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April in a service led by the Bishop at St Peter's. Before we were confirmed, we went to confirmation classes and this increased our knowledge about God. The class consisted of seven of us and at these classes we played games, learnt about each other and even had a few treats! Alan and Sherlita took the classes and after six classes we were ready to be confirmed.*

## Volunteers Always Needed

All these activities for children and young people at St Peter's just wouldn't take place without our adult leaders and helpers - all are unpaid and give up their time willingly to guide and inspire the youngsters in their care. If you would like to volunteer to help with any of these groups or organisations, please contact the Parish Office.

### Safeguarding

Every organisation needs to be aware of its duty to safeguard the people who use its resources and we at St Peter's are no exception.

We have a safeguarding policy and procedures for recruiting, checking and supporting our volunteers. We ask all our volunteers who work with children or vulnerable adults to have a Disclosure and Barring check. We know that these checks have limited value and so we have procedures in place which, for example, make sure that there is never just one person working with a child or group of children.



This protects our volunteers as much as the children and vulnerable people who come to our Church. Sian Lockwood (left), one of our Churchwardens, is St Peter's Safeguarding Officer.

## Older Children and Young Adults

The 10<sup>th</sup> Harrogate St Peter's Guide unit now has thirty girls, aged from ten to fourteen, and eleven Senior Section members, who can be fourteen up to twenty-five. The Guides have taken part in all sorts of challenges; activity days like kayaking on the River Nidd and climbing on the Harrogate Climbing Wall; a wide variety of crafts; music making (that's their ukele band on the previous page) and cooking, both indoors and out. They went on a weekend residential at Birk Grag, a very wet camp at Thornthwaite in Cumbria and to the tented 'village' at Waddow Hall in Lancashire, where they tried outdoor climbing, canoeing, abseiling and flying along a zip wire! Guides still work towards interest badges and two St Peter's Guides completed the Baden Powell Award - the highest award a Guide can achieve. The Senior Section is all about taking action and learning to lead - many of the girls are working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Awards and most are Young Leaders at St Peter's or with other units.



St Peter's Youth Club meets once a month in term time and currently has 40 members. They meet at Church in the Brostoff Hall for Clubnights, when there's pool, table tennis, music and a tuck shop. They've also held a Disco and a Comic Relief Quiz Night. The Youth Club is self-funded and holds Refreshment Days in Church - the money goes towards outings and to buy stock for the tuck shop. They've been to Laser Tag at *Action Zone* in Knaresborough; ice skating (pictured left) in Millennium Square, Leeds; *Live for Today* outdoor adventure activities at Ripley Castle and are looking

forward to having a go at dinghy sailing on the lake at Farnham with Ripon Sailing Club in June. New members, Year 7 and above, are always welcome!

Please contact the Parish Office if you or your child would like to join in with any of these groups or activities - 01423 568218 or email [stpeters.office@ntlbusiness.com](mailto:stpeters.office@ntlbusiness.com).



# What's happening now?

Summer is here and we had a very successful Flower Festival in Church at the beginning of June; there were over 40 entries and visitors voted for their three favourites. St Peter's is playing its part in supporting the town's effort to win this year's Britain in Bloom Champion of Champions competition. The flowerbeds around the Church are being transformed by members of our Breakfast Club and a new noticeboard has been installed.



The Parish Events Team held a Vicarage Garden Party with afternoon teas, a BBQ and Pimms being served, as well as traditional games and stalls.

A new, informal study group started in May called Bible Reflexions - they meet in the Undercroft on Wednesdays from 9:30 - 10:30 am. They will be taking a break in August, but will be back in September, contact Tim Hurren (01423 569218) if you want to know more.

There will be some wonderful concerts to enjoy at St Peter's in July - as part of the Harrogate Music Festival, there is **The Big Sing**, led by Armonico Consort, a chance to sing with a professional choir; **The San Jose Symphonic Choir** from America; and **The Richard Eaton Singers**, a choir from Edmonton, Canada.

All these concerts are free, but tickets must be booked in advance at the Festival Box Office (01423 562303). Also, on 23rd September, **Harrogate Male Voice Choir** will be performing in Church.

A Wine and Cheese Evening is being organised for 13<sup>th</sup> October. Our drama group, St Peter's Players, will be performing *Wind in the Willows* in early November and our popular Christmas Fair will be on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November. For details of these and all other events and services please visit our website or pick up a copy of our weekly pew sheet *The Weekly News* in Church.

## Worship through the week at St Peter's

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

### Sundays

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| 8:30 am  | <b>Holy Communion</b> - a traditional said service held in the Choir stalls   |
| 9:30 am  | <b>Family Communion</b> - a Common Worship service accompanied by our Music Group.<br>There is a Sunday Club for children in term time. |
| 11:00 am | <b>Choral Matins</b> - a traditional service led by our Choir. On the first Sunday of the month this is Choral Communion.               |
| 4:15 pm  | <b>Afternoon Church</b> - starting with refreshments, a service for all the family.   |
| 6:30 pm  | <b>Choral Evensong</b> - a Cathedral style service led by our Choir. On the third Sunday of the month we have Choral Communion.         |

### Tuesdays

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| 12:30 pm | <b>Healing Service</b> - includes prayers with laying on of hands. |
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### Wednesdays

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| 10:30 am | <b>Café Reflexion</b> - coffee, cake and Bible reflections.           |
| 8:00 pm  | <b>The Hour</b> - silent prayer by candlelight, ending with Compline. |

### Thursdays

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|---------------|--|
| 9:30 am       | <b>Parents and Toddlers</b> - stories, songs and prayers, followed by time for coffee and play |
| 11:00 am      | <b>Holy Communion</b> - a traditional said service   |
| 11:30 onwards | <b>Lunchtime Reflexion</b> - food for your body and soul: a delicious lunch with readings      |

**Website:** [www.stpetersharrogate.org.uk](http://www.stpetersharrogate.org.uk) **Facebook:** St Peter's Church, Harrogate **Twitter:** @stpetershgt

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The next edition of THE NET will be coming out for the beginning of Advent, on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2017.