



# St Peter's Church Harrogate



## Review of 2022-23

[www.stpetersharrogate.org.uk](http://www.stpetersharrogate.org.uk)

 St Peter's Church, Harrogate

 @stpetershgt

# Welcome!

You are what makes St Peter's such a remarkable church. Everywhere you look people are offering their time, experience, enthusiasm, and financial resources to serve the work and worship of the St Peter's community (in its widest sense), every day of the year.

At this time last year I confess I was concerned. The pandemic had more than halved the number of volunteers involved in the day-to-day life of St Peter's, and those who remained were definitely feeling the strain. Since then, however, the picture has very much improved. Areas for concern remain, of course, but the story has been one of strong recovery in many areas of our shared life. This Annual Review catches a flavour of some of that activity. Alongside the articles that make up the body of this review many other events took place in the past year: Chris Clayton was licensed as our full-time Associate Vicar in June 2022, and Judith Clark joined us to complete her Curacy in September.

We started to have more social events, after some years without – a very successful Harvest Supper in the Autumn and, in celebration of the many Hong Kongers who have joined our fellowship, our first ever celebration, in January 2023, of the Chinese New Year.

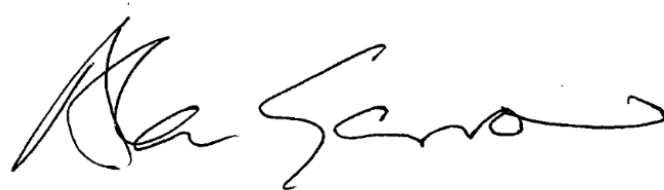
The HKUK community also provoked another first for St Peter's – a full immersion adult baptism in the West Porch.

New things also took place this year in the South Foyer. Shaeron Caton-Rose curated a series of art installations including works by I.D.Campbell, Shirley Hudson, Leon Varga and Eva Mileusnic, alongside her own work. The Foyer has also hosted a series of highly successful book sales and has been developed, along with the South Transept, as a space that more fully communicates a welcome.

Developing the quality of our welcome has been an important theme of the past year. During Lent 2022 we used the Living in Love and Faith materials to explore issues of sex, gender and identity, and explored these themes in our Lent sermons.

We also ran the Everybody Welcome course developed by the Diocese and the PCC explored issues of inclusion in their January away morning. Another important development has been the regeneration of our Pastoral Care Team – and we are looking forward to licensing Jan Edwards as our Lay Pastoral Minister later this year.

As we look back on the past year, however, I expect the event that will stand out the most in our collective memory is the death and funeral of Queen Elizabeth II. The Queen's long life of faithful service will serve as an enduring reminder of what it can look like to offer a whole life in the service of Jesus Christ.



Vicar of St Peter's









# Children and young people

## Sanctuary

Sanctuary is a place where Secondary School-aged young people can develop friendships and deepen their faith in a fun and friendly environment.

We have successfully integrated a quiet time when we are able to share, ask questions and pray for each other. This is becoming a very fruitful moment in the sessions. We continue to aim to lead a minimum of one 9.30 service a year and hope that this could be increased.

*Harvest Supper October 2022*

Some of our members are attending the upcoming Ripon summer camp. The current team is led by Revd Chris Clayton, and supported by Samantha Clayton, David Hipkin, Jill Hipkin, Carrie Brown and Alexander Clayton.

*Revd Chris Clayton – Associate Vicar*

## Sunday Club and All Age Worship



Sunday Club has been steadily growing over the last year, both in terms of children and volunteers to help lead them. This growth in numbers of children and team members is a great encouragement and is prompting us to split into two age categories. We aim to start this after the Summer break of 2023.

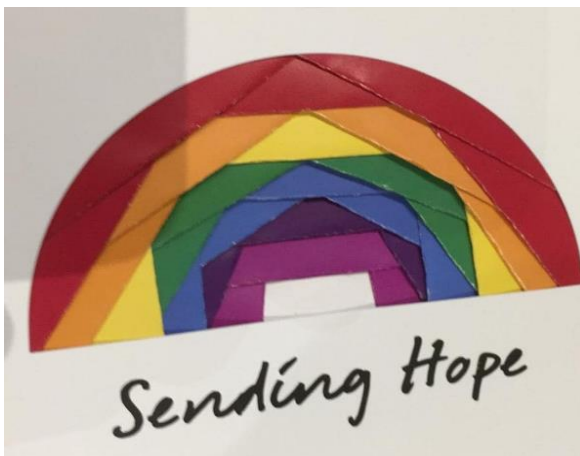
Our sessions and activities are biblically based and generally in line with the readings in the main service. We are also introducing the 'Godly Play' materials as well as continuing to use 'Roots'.

The first Sunday of each month continues to be all age worship service. The preaching team in conjunction with the music team are intentionally making the sermon, intercessions and music more engaging for our younger members, while still trying to ensure that all ages find the service nourishing.

## Stepping Stones Service

Our Stepping Stones Service is a vibrant and inclusive service which is growing in numbers and depth. It has brought many new families into the worshipping life of the church.

***Our mission is to ensure that all people have stepping stones of faith that give them sure foundations as they travel through the raging waters of life"***



It is now consistently the second largest service we have at St Peter's and the relaxed café style, (using all the available space at the front and overflow in the pews) has proved to be a very fertile environment for growth, numbers and spirituality. We have come to know all the families who attend, and conversations with them include where they are on their spiritual journey and how we can support them. We are delighted that this has resulted in two baptisms taking place with families from this service. The team consists of Revd Chris Clayton, Sarah Martin, Ruth Thompson-Vear and Samantha Clayton. Families also join the rota to assist with setting or clearing up and serving refreshments.

*Revd. Chris Clayton* – Associate Vicar

# 10<sup>th</sup> Harrogate (St Peter's) Brownies

Another year has flown by and the Brownies have achieved and learnt so much! Brownies took part in many challenges to earn their badges, such as design time, leader goals, DIY expert, Master-chef Fajita Fun and many more. We celebrated the Queen's Jubilee, our patron who served girl guiding from 1953, and we were invited to join a window decorating competition at a local shop which earned the Brownies 3<sup>rd</sup> place with their decorated flags. We held a two-minute silence and took part in activities in memory of the late Queen.

Brownies also took part in a community walk, community games night, cinema trip, picnic and trip to an ice-cream parlour. We welcomed local MP Andrew Jones for a Brownies question time, where the Brownies developed their questioning skills and learnt more about his role in our community (the girls were so amazing we have been invited to Westminster!)

We progressed onto our 'Be Well' theme award, learning how to take care of others and themselves, we also discovered our super powers and hosted a super hero themed party, invited a guest speaker physiotherapist to share fun engaging activities related to muscles and how they help us move. Brownies have taken part in Remembrance and Mothers' day parades and made posies to give to the congregation on Mothers' day. We took part in St Peter's Christmas fair fundraiser with Harrogate 10th Guides and entered the church Christmas tree competition. The Brownies made produce to sell on a stall at St Peter's School Christmas Fair to raise funds for the school.

At Harrogate Fire Station Brownies joined the crew for a tour, talk and had the opportunity to sit in a fire engine. They hosted a 'Bring a Friend' night and all did such a good job we have now recruited some new Brownies. We hosted a Mothers' day pamper evening and planned and delivered a pamper session for a special guest.

We have also acquired an additional young leader helper, who is completing her Duke of Edinburgh award.

It is with a heavy heart to say that this will be my last annual update for the foreseeable, as I hand over to Emily who will be helped by Connie.



I am increasing my responsibilities at work and will be line managing a team of teachers and a program of study where I work. We haven't lived locally for over two years now and with the commute and children's athletics commitments, where I also volunteer, life has become very stretched. Mia is now representing North Yorkshire in athletics and cross-country in addition to both children's training with Harriers and Young athletes several time a week; I have enjoyed every minute of my time with the Brownies at St Peters and am very sad to say goodbye, especially after reflecting on the year and writing this report.

Thank you for all of the opportunities for events and cross-curricular working, it has been an absolute pleasure liaising with everyone.



*Katy Hartley – Brown Owl*



## 10th Harrogate (St Peter's) Guides and Senior Section

Another year of action, fun and opportunities with twenty two girls, one young leader and four adult leaders. One guide completed The Rotary Nidderdale Walk towards her Gold Challenge, we enjoyed an excellent talk and demonstration at Hotel Chocolat from the bean to chocolate tasting and completed The Queen's Jubilee Challenge and celebrated her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday.

During the summer we enjoyed an outdoor day lighting fires, cooking lunch, with orienteering and games despite the rain; a town quiz, Balsam Bashing with the Pinewoods Conservation Group, open canoeing at Knaresborough were also enjoyed and we were delighted that three girls achieved their Gold Award, the top Award a Guide can achieve.

In September we had a visit from the Harrogate Food Bank and enjoyed a weekend away trying glass etching, pyrography, felting, and fire lighting. Girls supported the Harvest Festival, Remembrance Service, the Christmas Tree Festival and Church Fair plus a Girlguiding screening of 'Matilda'.

This year we've celebrated the Lunar New Year, Girlguiding International Thinking Day, made cards for a Girl Scout troop in Lake Placid, Florida, made Mothering Sunday posies, tried making and piping icing, created high energy bites, Easter crafts plus lots more!



*Sue Mackay* – 10<sup>th</sup> Harrogate (St Peter's) Guides Leader

## Parent and toddler group

Toddler Group meet every Thursday throughout the year with the exception of Christmas and New Year weeks. We welcome all parents, grandparents, carers and also older children during the school holidays.

We start at 9.30 in the church where we light a candle, listen to a story, sing then we have the popular news time! We continue up in the hall where we provide snacks, including toast and fruit, and the children have toys and craft to keep them occupied. The session ends at 11.30.

During the last year we have seen numbers increase and we have at least 3 babies who have been born since the last AGM! We do not charge for this group although people are welcome to make a donation.

This is an incredibly friendly and happy group, which it has been my pleasure to lead for many years! We have the wonderful Fiona Weare providing crafts each week, Chris Clayton keeping us all entertained and the Pam and Geoff who serve us all tea, coffee and refreshments to whom I am most grateful!



*Frances Roxby-Proud - Leader*



# Welcome and hospitality

## Breakfast Club, Supermarket and Sunday lunches



Trying to think in figures for breakfast club is quite mindboggling: We have been serving up breakfasts for over 21 years, and currently serve 10 meals every week 52 weeks a year. We have over 200 people on our books at any one time, and over 30 helpers from many different parts of Harrogate and beyond. Three other churches collect food donations for us, and we receive donations from 5 local shops as well as St Peter's own congregation who support us with goods or financially.

On an individual scale we said goodbye to Chris Sweeney who has helped for over 7 years, several of our members have died, some have been deported, and many come and tell us what a difference we have made to their lives. What we gain from the help and support our members give us in the many activities of the church is unmeasurable.

We always try and serve up the best we can from our donations, and make St Peter's a place free from the pressures of drugs, money, alcohol, and the outside world. Hopefully, it is a place where you can find a warm welcome and experience some of the love of God's kingdom.

Sunday Lunch Club takes place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month, and is a wonderful opportunity for the breakfast club members to not only share what they experience each week with others, but also, to actually serve the

members of the church and help with the preparation of the meal. Our amazing team of workers are happy to give something back to the church which supports them. Unfortunately we are not in a position to have children attend, however we do have around 50 adults per lunch.

Thank you all for your support.

*Hannah Beck – Leader*

## **The Market Day Café**

The Market Day Café (formerly known as Cake Matters) is now firmly established in the St Peter's calendar. It takes place on the second Thursday of the month to coincide with the Harrogate Farmers Market.

Following Holy Communion, it is well attended by church members as well as other visitors to the church. Whilst we have raised money for church funds, we consider the prime focus of the café to be a means for people to meet in a relaxed environment and also to provide a warm welcome to visitors to the church.

During this year, the atmosphere at the café has been enhanced by the wonderful music provided by Frances and Duncan. Thank you to you both!

Feedback from church members and the public is always very positive and we recently received the following from a member of the public:

“I am writing to express a heartfelt thank you to the volunteers of the Refreshments cafe my husband and I visited on Thursday 8th March. We were visiting Harrogate for the day, it was snowing and very cold. The welcome we received from the cafe was so friendly, cheerful and comforting. Coupled to this the music, singing and conversation afforded us in God's house portrayed a truly Christian ethos of offering hospitality to travellers. God Bless each and every person who helps, contributes and gives their time to the work of your church.”

That's what it's all about! Thanks to all who volunteer at this café and to all who support it.

*Sian Lockwood and Catherine Medforth - Leaders*



# Welcomers

St Peter's Welcomers' have had a busy year greeting the many visitors who come into our church during the week, some to find a peaceful place to pray or light a candle. Others come to join in one of our services and Café Reflections.

The number of Welcomers has increased during the past year and we are now managing to cover both morning and afternoon periods as the Church has extended its opening hours. We opened as a Warm Space in the Winter, offering a safe and welcoming shelter and a hot drink. The space in the South transept has been greatly improved by the installation of a large dresser and an attractive cover for the Welcomer's desk, kindly produced by Artizan.



We said goodbye to Gillian Sinclair in September, who had steered the group through the last half of the lockdown and thank her for her valuable contribution to the team. Our meeting in February brought us all together to get to know each other and look at our role in this busy Church. We welcome new volunteers who would be able to give up a few hours in a morning or afternoon and greet our visitors.

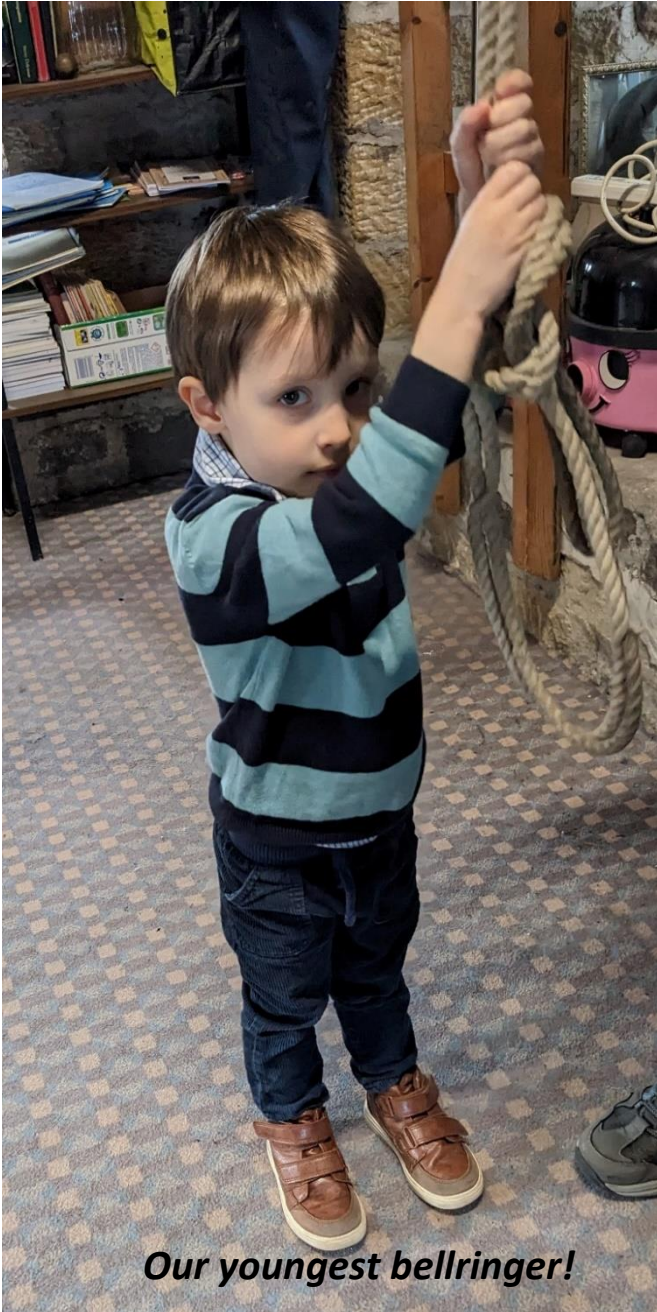


*Mo Atkinson* - Welcomer Co-ordinator

# Music, bells and drama

## Bellringers and Handbell Ringers

This year has probably been the most extraordinary year of highs and lows for the bell ringers in all the 60 years we have rung bells.



*Our youngest bellringer!*

Things were getting back to normal after COVID, but some of our ringers have never been able to return. At the same time we have had the joy of new learners, resulting in good reliable ringers, followed by the unbelievable disaster of Penny's stroke, and Andy Skinner's open heart surgery, and we greatly missed our two stalwarts during long periods of ringing. We have a wonderful supportive team – and we all know how much we depend on each other. We have wonderful support too from ringers from other Harrogate towers.

We had the joy and privilege of ringing for the Platinum Jubilee, something we believe will never happen again, and we felt we were part of history, but this was followed by the death of the Queen.

These occasions meant we rang in total coordination with the bells of the whole

country, in 'Operation London Bridge', ringing all 8 bells fully muffled, before taking the muffles off to welcome King Charles III. We rejoice that we are able to ring God's bells to celebrate a living Church worshipping the living God.

*Hannah Beck – Tower Captain*





The handbell ringers have had a productive year ringing most weeks in Wesley chapel, and St Peters Church. We now have a strong band who can turn their hands and their bells to anything.

We ring for our own pleasure as our personal commitments make it hard for us to do performances. Many of our ringers go to a lot of trouble to make sure that they do not let the team down – because together we can make a beautiful sound.

*Hannah Beck - Leader*

## Music Group



The Music Group continued to enjoy supporting the 9.30am Family Service in the past year together with special services at Christingle and Good Friday. We welcome anyone who wishes to share our enjoyment to join us either to sing or play an instrument, no audition.

*Tony Robinson*

# St Peter's Choir

A report on the choir's annual activities often has a sense of déjà vu about it, because in many ways nothing changes; we sing two services a week nearly 52 weeks of the year (we get an evening off around New Year), plus extras at Christmas and Holy Week. We sang 107 services in both 2019 and 2022 - the intervening years much reduced due to Covid - and last year we had 43 choir practices. Taking into account rehearsals before each service this amounts to a staggering 236 hours per year that the choir meets, and if you were to assume a normal working week of 37.5 hours per week, this means that the choir meets for just over six working weeks of the year!

In an age where there are so many pressures on our singers (both professional and domestic) it's an achievement that we can continue to provide as much music as we do and in recent months we have lost a tenor and a soprano, and so far replacements have not been forthcoming. We have the beginnings of a scholarship fund to attract to our choir teenagers who might wish to look for choral scholarships at University; this however needs active promotion, which none of us are in a position to do; if someone reading this report were able to offer some liaising work with local schools it would be much appreciated!

In Holy Week 2022 we offered a complete performance of Bach's St Matthew Passion in collaboration with Vocalis. Despite being the only performance of the piece in Yorkshire last Passiontide we failed to attract a large enough audience to cover our costs: this resulted in our concert funds being reduced almost to nothing. Fortunately thanks to incredible support and hard work, with Teresa Moss co-ordinating the catering for choir refreshment days and cream teas after my annual August Bank Holiday Monday organ recital, and Pam Brush's indefatigable home-made marmalade industry, and one or two other private donations, we have managed to raise over £2500 in the last year, most of which we still have after our successful Messiah performance last month which will enable us to finance something requiring greater professional resources in Holy Week next year.

While every member of the choir is vital to its quality, I must mention the invaluable contribution made by my brother Oliver. Not only is he our sole tenor 99% of the time, he is the Cantor for Choral Evensong virtually every week, and in the last few months where other professional work has taken





me away from our weekly choir practices he has continued to rehearse the choir with excellent results. Of course, he was my immediate predecessor as Director of Music, but the church is indeed blessed that his talents still remain available to us, not only to the choir, but taking a leading part in drama productions and directing the music for the 9.30 service as required.

To him, and indeed to every member of the choir go my sincere continued thanks.

*John Longstaff* – Director of Music

## St Peter's Players

A Christmas Carol was a great success in 2022, with Oliver Longstaff as Scrooge, Tony Robinson as Marley and Emma Robinson providing hilarity despite the darkness. The children stole the show as usual, including some new recruits who are already looking forward to this year's production. We managed without radio microphones and the feedback about the sound quality was better than that for any of the performances in recent years, so we hope to do the same in 2023.



This year we are hoping to do a musical version of The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe. We already have some new recruits and are hoping for more- please contact me if interested.

*John Hain* - Director

# Pastoral care and fellowship

## Pastoral Care and Home Communion

Pastoral care runs through the heart of the church, and is a missional activity which we are all called to wherever God places us.

Over the last year the Pastoral Care Team has remained busy and connected to those in the congregation who need our care and support. As Team Leader, I meet regularly with the Vicar to discuss difficulties facing members of the congregation, and how their needs might best be met. In order to provide pastoral care, team members are required to undertake relevant accreditation to meet the safeguarding standards of the Diocese, and they have risen to this challenge. All members have to do the basic safeguarding and Pastoral Conversations online course, and some have gone on to do the Foundation safeguarding, Domestic Abuse, Pastoral Assistants course, Dementia training, a Disability course, and the Bereavement Journey programme.

I am currently completing a 2-year Lay Pastoral Ministry course which has given me a much broader breadth of knowledge relating to pastoral care within the Anglican church. Members also have appropriate DBS checks relative to the type of pastoral care that they choose to give.

We are now in a healthy position for designated members to undertake such roles as: making regular telephone calls; visiting the housebound, lonely, the sick or in hospital; shopping for those who cannot get out; food rotas; collecting medication, providing lifts to the doctors, the hospital, Afternoon Fellowship and to church; and doing small domestic maintenance.



**Home communion** is a very important part of pastoral care and a privilege to serve. Members have been encouraged to undertake this role if they are trained Administrants, or offered training.



The elements are consecrated at church and then taken out to the communicants, who are either housebound, or in residential or care/nursing homes. Some are unable to communicate due to their varying degrees of illness, but the look of recognition when the wafer and wine are administered is a joy to behold.



*Jan Edwards* - Pastoral Team Leader

## Afternoon Fellowship

The Afternoon Fellowship normally meets the first Monday in the month, apart from August, at the home of Gillian Taylor. There is always a speaker followed by afternoon tea and the opportunity for a chat. There was one outing during the year to Horticap to enjoy cream teas. This year we have had a number of very interesting speakers with Paul Medforth giving us an illuminating talk on medieval stained glass windows. We were fortunate to welcome John Longstaff twice when he entertained us with superb piano playing and a Christmas meeting which included some carols.



In January, we met Dr Kate Hammond and her guide dog, Sheba. Kate made us all aware of the tremendous and wonderful change that Sheba had made to her life. The partnership she had with her dog had enabled her to regain much of her independence. In February, Harry Satloka, from Free Walking Tour Harrogate, introduced us to some of the past heroes and heroines of Harrogate. Other speakers were Keith Dale informing us about his life experiences and Terry Williams outlining details of the growth and development of Harrogate railway.

Membership has grown during the last year to 23.

*Gillian Taylor* – Leader

## Evening Fellowship

After a couple of years interrupted by the Covid pandemic it was delightful to be able to look back on an excellent year for the Evening Fellowship. We had a film night in April, the “Queen of the Desert” which told the story of Gertrude Bell and her adventures in the Middle East. In May Tony Wilson stood in at short notice and gave an excellent talk on “Parish Churches through the Ages”. In June we had an interesting talk by our members, Sue and Bryn Heapy, who told us of their visit to the Galilee. Patrick Wildgust followed in July with a talk on Laurence Sterne and Shandy Hall and he obviously has a great deal of knowledge on the subject. The speaker for August was Professor Joyce Hill who gave an interesting talk on Albania. The Chairman, Paul Medforth, gave a talk in September entitled the “Medieval Stained Glass in York”. He showed examples of the glass in various churches. In November Tony Lee described his walk from Knaresborough to Santiago de Compostela. The walk took several months and by the time Tony reached his destination we were all exhausted!

The Christmas party in December was held in the Brostoff Hall. We had refreshments, played “reindeer” drive and had a quiz hosted by our own Nigel McClea. After the January break we returned in February for another quiz hosted by Nigel McClea.

It was a terrific season and we hope that the forthcoming year will be even better! The meetings are informal and anyone wishing to attend will be given a warm welcome (and a cup of tea!) Please have a look at our leaflet which describes the events that are organised for the coming year.

*Paul Medforth – Chair*

## Ladies who Lunch

The ladies lunch group meet on alternate Wednesdays and Fridays of the month during the year at the ‘Palm Court’ café – above Farrah’s Toffee Shop on Montpellier Hill. The ‘Palm Court’ serve a great selection of sandwiches, wraps, toasties, other daily specials, cakes, scones, and a variety of drinks, all at reasonable prices. Gluten free, vegetarian diets etc., are accommodated.

Since resuming our meetings, numbers have not been as high as in the past, although good conversation is always enjoyed by those present.



Whilst the group emanated originally from St Peter's, it is not exclusively so, and if anyone wishes to bring along a friend with no connections to our community, even on an 'ad hoc' basis, they will always be made very welcome.



*Sue Heapy* – Organiser

## Men's Breakfast Group

Despite the trials and tribulations of the past few years, St Peter's Church Men's Breakfast group continues to thrive and prosper as a spiritual and practical source of fellowship and support for men of faith and those of little or no faith.

Now in our 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> year, our meetings are an informal social gathering of men, *many of whom may be of little or no faith – or not even of the Christian faith* – in a safe and friendly environment. From the outset, they have never been 'old school' Bible Study sessions or Prayer Meetings, neither are they lectures or seminars – they are simply an opportunity for men of faith to share their faith with other men – helping them to explore and find *their* faith, over a simple breakfast and friendly discussion.

**We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month**, with Morning Prayers at 8.00am for those who wish to take part, coffee from 8.15am, and breakfast from 8.30am to 9.00am – followed by an hour of informal discussion about where we are on our personal spiritual journey.

There are typically 10-15 men at each meeting, all with their own opinions, questions and testimonies. If this sounds like something you would like to be part of, then call or text Bryn Heapy on 07561 889076 to book in for our next meeting. We'd love to see you there.

*Bryn Heapy* - Leader

# Learning together

There has been a wide range of opportunities to learn together this year – outside of our regular worship. ‘Thinking About God’ has returned to Monday afternoons, and various other types of Home Group have been regathering or starting for the first time. This year we used the Start Course, in place of the Alpha Course, for the first time. It was great to see old-comers and new-comers sharing good food, varied experiences, and interesting ideas in this context.

Some excellent opportunities for learning have also been provided by Netmakers (formerly, the Harrogate Hub) in partnership with the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (LICC). Furthermore, the programme for the Harrogate School of Theology and Mission has continued to offer high quality content in the aftermath of the pandemic.

Learning together helps us to grow together and respond to God’s call in the situations in which he has placed us.

## Home Groups

This year we have seen real energy into the growth of Home Groups at St Peter’s. The number of groups meeting at people’s home and Church has grown from a tentative three to a regular and committed eight groups. With positive movement to more groups starting, including a day-time church based group. This meeting of congregational members has resulted in a deeper understanding of faith, scripture and a practical expression of this in our daily lives.

Groups have used a range of different teaching materials, such as ‘The Bible course’ by the Bible Society, ‘Fruitfulness on the Frontlines’ by LICC and we are about to start using ‘Twenty Questions Jesus Asked’ by Bishop John Pritchard. We are excited about this growth in numbers, commitment and understanding and we pray this continues into the new year.

*Alan Garrow and Chris Clayton*



# Caring for the church

## Friday Cleaning Team



Since the last writing the cleaning team has grown in numbers and has become a good and reliable team led by our leader Howard; there is always lots of banter and the coffee break is certainly enjoyed and often joined by others. As always new recruits are welcomed, and St Peter's always looks better after the team's endeavours..

*David Shelton – Team Member*

## The Caretaking Team



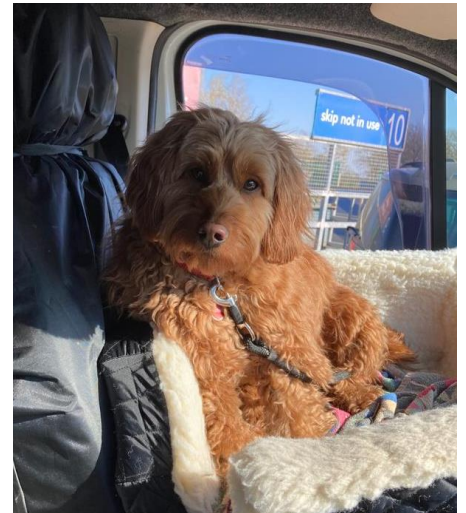
We are indebted to our caretaking team, Nigel and Asim for the professional approach to their work, much of which goes unseen.

Here they are re-fitting the glass doors at the West end which required urgent repair. The doors were removed in order to replace the hinge and closure plates embedded in the stone flooring. This was a task most tradespeople would shy away from, but was completed successfully in a great team effort.

Thanks to both of you for your continued commitment to help keep the building maintained,

the meeting rooms clean and prepared for use, staging built, as well as ensuring that all the regular checks requiring certification are carried out on time.

Thanks also to Roy and Roma for collecting all the recycling from church which is taken to the Council recycling centre on a regular basis. We are hugely grateful for your commitment as this is such an important contribution. Roma clearly enjoys the ride too!



*Carole Raw* – Parish Administrator

## The Flower Team

As I write this, it is Tuesday in Easter week, and I'm thinking back to Holy Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> April, when the Flower Team decorated our Church building for Easter. We welcomed Maureen Hague back from retirement, as a 'one off' because the team was a little depleted, owing to some of our number being away, or having other family commitments. God moves in mysterious ways, as I'd only seen Maureen in Asda the week previously, when she volunteered to come and help. Thank you again Maureen.



On Easter Sunday, many people brought flowers to place on the Flowering Cross – which was, in the words of one of the team, 'a triumph' – see photo – a floral depiction of Christ's triumph over death in His resurrection.

We are always appreciative of the many lovely comments we receive from members of our congregations about the displays we do. We also greatly value sponsorship of the flowers in celebration or remembrance.



Should anyone feel a desire to try their hand at arranging the flowers, we offer support for as long or short a time as is needed, until that person is ready to 'go solo'.

Grateful thanks from me to all the Flower Team for their hard work year round to keep St Peter's looking lovely, and for being so flexible, as well as understanding when it comes to filling the rota. St Peter's Flower Team members are: Veronica Ace, Jennifer Cornish, Meg Mackenzie, Claire Ribbon, Alice Thompson, and myself.

*Sue Heapy – Co-ordinator*

## Sacristans

The Sacristan Team comprises a group of six volunteers. We are responsible for setting up for services, preparing particularly for Holy Communion. We also look after the silver, linen and candles.

There have been no changes to the team over the past 12 months but if anyone is interested in joining the team, please contact me on 07876 653765 so that I can explain what is required. Full training is provided.



*Catherine Medforth – Sacristan*

# Fundraising

## Book Sales

This last financial year of the St Peters £1 book sale has been such a huge success raising £4293.08. Our team of volunteers is growing and the format of combining the sales with the church refreshments day has both parties benefiting from increased footfall.



None of this could have been possible without the book donations, the volunteers staffing the sales on the day, the breakfast club helping with the 'heavy lifting', the caretakers always having the tables ready for us, and the church administration.



The book sales are helping create a real social hub for the church and many people ask when the next sale will be and comment how beautiful the church is.

Looking ahead I think we should have some improved posters and an 'About the Booksale' information sign' so the public understand that 100% of the money raised goes to the church, with this we could combine a running total of the money raised which since we started in 2019 which has reached £8,100.

*Daniel Brewer – Organiser*



## Christmas Fair

The annual Christmas Fair returned this year after a two-year break and was enjoyed by many 100's of people. It coincided with the town centre's Christmas Market and so town was buzzing with buyers, browsers, and Christmas Spirit.

The stalls included those hired out to local individuals, raising their own funds (at a cost of £20 per table), they were selling a wonderful variety of homemade gifts, cards, and delicious brownies. We were delighted to have Artizan selling gifts made by differently-abled people in Peru, Ecuador and Yorkshire. Other stalls raised much needed funds directly for church and these included books, cards, toys (mountains of toys), tombola, Bric-a-brac, Guides & Brownies games and the most delicious refreshments and lunches.

Heartfelt thanks go to everyone involved in making the day a huge success in, not only raising a magnificent £2,663.00, but also in the interactions and connections we made with those who might not normally enter the building, and for making everyone feel welcome and at home.

## Refreshment (Parish Events) team

Since our last report for 2021 – 22, we have held six refreshment days raising in excess of £3,400 for church funds. This included providing refreshments for the Christmas Fair, which was particularly busy.

We have some very regular customers but also those who are visiting Harrogate and the feedback on the welcome and hospitality provided at St. Peters has been wonderful.

The team is also responsible for organising a variety of (non-fundraising) social events, such as the Harvest Supper in autumn 2022, and we now plan to make this an annual event due to its success.

The success of the refreshment team is completely dependent upon the enormous contribution by the many helpers, bakers and soup makers. Thanks to everyone involved. If anyone would like to volunteer to help or contribute by baking, please contact Sian Lockwood or Catherine Medforth.

*Sian Lockwood and Catherine Medforth - Organisers*