



Weekly News

29th November 2020

The First Sunday of Advent

www.stpetersharrogate.org.uk

St Peter's Church, Cambridge Road, Harrogate, HG1 1PB



Will you get involved with *#thelightshines* this season and flood our town with light, love and hope and invite others to join with us?

To be a part of *#thelightshines* all you need to do is decorate one of the windows in your house, flat or workplace and the leave the lights on and curtains open each evening so people can see your display. Your design can be anything you like, but please include the words *#thelightshines* **John 1:5** somewhere in it.

The big light up is 18th – 31st December and registration closes on 11th December.

Visit theharrogatehub/thelightshines for everything you need:

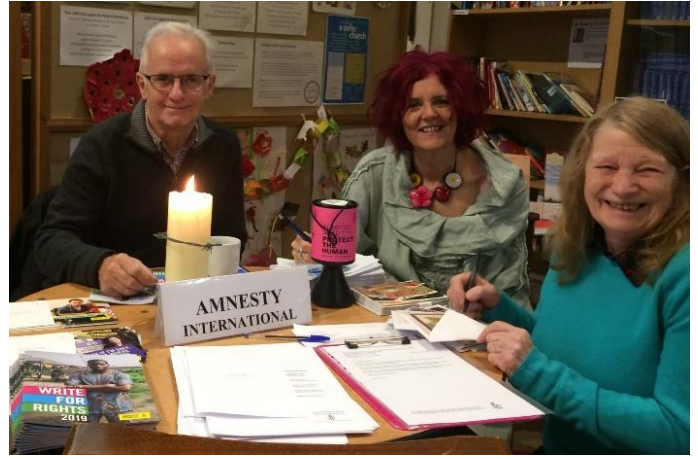
1. A short introductory video.
2. Ideas and inspiration to help with your design.
3. The online registration form (up 'til 11th December).
4. The trail map to go and find all the designs (from 18th – 31st December).

And look out for the transformation of the St Peter's Glass Foyer window in the next couple of weeks.

Alan Garrow, *Vicar of St Peter's Church*

Write for Rights Amnesty campaign: 1st November – 31st December

It only takes a few minutes to write a letter or a card, send an email or sign a petition. But, for a prisoner of conscience, an activist facing threats and changes, or a family member separated from their loved ones, a message of support is a powerful reminder that they are not alone.



Your message – combined with those of so many people around the world – can give them the strength to continue their fight for human rights. Your actions can also put pressure on the people in authority to stop human rights violations. Appeals to presidents, governors, justice ministers and other decision-makers show them that you and a great many others care – and that the world is watching.

This winter, you can stand in solidarity with **10 individuals at risk**. Your messages of support and appeals to the authorities have real impact - **pick up a booklet from the Welcomer's Desk** - all you have to do is explained inside. **Thank you!**

Helping others: our six partner charities

Traditionally, all the money raised at St Peter's Christmas Fair would be shared between our six partner charities. Supporting these small charities is important, as Coronavirus has restricted their activities as well as their fundraising. But sadly our Christmas Fair cannot take place this year, so we are asking for your help.

Our three overseas charities are: St Andrew's Children's Home in Peru, Mission Possible UK and Artizan International. The three local ones are: Time Together, Harrogate, Martin House Children's Hospice and Youth at Wellspring.

COVID-19 has had such an impact on all these charities' incomes, but we hope that you can still help us support their valuable work! Our target is to raise at least £3,000 to share between the six charities. Please visit our [JustGiving page](#) and give as much as you can. **Thank you!**

Harrogate School of Theology & Mission

The Revd Dr Malcolm Guite speaks on: *Christ and the Poetic Imagination*



Malcolm Guite is an English poet, singer-songwriter, Anglican priest and academic. He is the author of five books of poetry, as well as several books on Christian faith and theology. His research interests include the intersection of religion and the arts, and the works of JRR Tolkien, CS Lewis, Owen Barfield and Samuel Taylor Coleridge. This lecture will be live-streamed on Zoom on Saturday 5th December from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Full details at hstm.org.uk.

Trying Times cartoons are now available as a book



Jim Godfrey, a Verger at Christ Church Oxford, has been drawing these cartoons ever since the first lockdown began in March and, after I wrote to him, has been kindly sending them to me each week to put in our Weekly News.

Now over 30 of his cartoons have been published in a book which is being sold with all profits going to [Action for Children](#) - this Methodist charity protects and supports children and young people, providing them with practical and emotional support.

A copy costs £5 (*including P&P*) and can be delivered to you or an address of your choice with a message from you and marked 'Do not open until Christmas Day' – order forms can be downloaded [here at our website](#).

Christmas Stamp appeal

RNIB
See Christmas differently



Collect your used stamps and help RNIB Open Christmas so blind and partially people feel more included.

Order your pre-paid envelopes and boxes today!

 rnib.org.uk/stamps

 0303 123 9999

 rnibstamps@rnib.org.uk



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Comfort and Joy

#ComfortAndJoy is the Church of England's 2020 Advent and Christmas campaign

Find out more and explore free online services, reflections and other resources at:

churchofengland.org/ComfortAndJoy

Today's Services: 29th November 2020

The First Sunday of Advent

Today's theme: *Waiting in the dark*

9:30 Family Communion

Readings Isaiah 64 v 1 – 9
Mark 13 v 24 to end

Preacher: Chris Clayton

11:00 Choral Matins

Setting Dyson in F (Benedicite)

Hymns 26, 36, 277

Psalm 44

Readings Isaiah 64 v 1 – 9
Mark 13 v 24 to end

Anthem The Angel Gabriel (*arr Jack Longstaff*)

Preacher: Chris Clayton

6:30 **Advent Candle Service** - Webinar ID: 848 0601 934 Passcode: 651444



This week's worship online

As churches in England are closed for public worship until 2nd December, we are continuing to live-stream all our services in this coming week. To join in follow the links here: [9:30 am Holy Communion](#) and [11:00 am Matins or Holy Communion \(BCP\)](#). Tonight's [Advent Candle Service](#) is also available via Zoom. [Morning and Evening Prayer](#) are at 8:00 am and 5:00 pm from Monday to Saturday and will be live-streamed on Facebook and Zoom.

The Prayer for the Nation

The prayer for week 4 of this lockdown (30th November – 6th December):

Loving God, your Son Jesus Christ
came that we might have life and have
it abundantly;

pour out your blessing upon our
nation;

where there is illness,

bring your healing touch;

where there is fear,

strengthen us with the knowledge of

your presence;

where there is uncertainty,
build us up in faith;

where there is dishonesty,
lead us into truth;

where there is discord,

may we know the harmony of your
love;

this we ask in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Please pray for those who have asked for our prayers:

Pat Anderson, Ruth Bowes, Diana Braithwaite, Mary Burcher, Louise Emrullahu, Pam Gardiner, Vicky Harrison, Keith Helsby, Caroline Kelly, Charlie Martineau, Sheila Pantin, Michele Roszak, Frances Roxby-Proud and Colin Sinclair.

Also in our prayers this week:

Mon	Schools and colleges, children and young people Western Primary School
Tues	The elderly, isolated and vulnerable Victims of domestic abuse
Wed	Businesses, the workplace and economic well being Local businesses who are struggling in these uncertain times
Thurs	The NHS and other key workers Ambulance drivers and paramedics
Fri	National and Local Government Harrogate Borough Council
Sat	Those grieving, or suffering with physical and mental ill-health All who are sick in hospital or at home

Daily Readings

Morning Prayer is at 8:00 am and Evening Prayer at 5:00 pm daily. These are the Bible readings we will be using in Church each morning this week. Why not read them at home if you are unable to come to the service?

Mon	<i>Andrew the Apostle</i> Psalm 47 Ezekiel 47 v 1 - 12 John 12 v 20 - 32
Tues	<i>Charles de Foucauld, Hermit</i> Psalm 80 Isaiah 43 v 1 - 13 Revelation 20
Wed	Psalm 7 Isaiah 43 v 14 to end Revelation 21 v 1 - 8
Thurs	<i>Francis Xavier, Missionary</i> Psalm 42 Isaiah 44 v 1 - 8 Revelation 21 v 9 - 21
Fri	Psalm 25 Isaiah 44 v 9 - 23 Revelation 21 v 22 – 22 v 5
Sat	Psalm 9 Isaiah 44 v 24 – 45 v 13 Revelation 22 v 6 to end

The Collect for the First Sunday of Advent

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

or

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

What's on This Week

The Breakfast Club provides a free, hot breakfast from Monday to Saturday (8:20 – 8:45 am) for all those who are hungry or in need.

St Peter's Church is open for private prayer from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm every day except Sundays.

Mon 30th	St Andrew's Day 4:30 - 4:50 pm hot food to take-away
Tues 1st	4:30 - 4:50 pm food parcels available
Wed 2nd	4:30 - 4:50 pm hot food
Thurs 3rd	4:30 - 4:50 pm food parcels available
Fri 4th	4:30 - 4:50 pm hot food
Sat 5th	4:30 - 4:50 pm food parcels available

Sun 6th The Second Sunday of Advent

To check availability and to book a pew at this morning's services contact our Parish Administrator, Carole Raw, at stpeterschurchhgtooffice@gmail.com by 5:00 pm on Thursday 3rd December. To book a place at Afternoon Church contact Chris Clayton, (07407 258733 or chris.clayton@leeds.anglican.org)

9:30 am Family Communion

11:00 am Choral Communion

1:00 – 1:30 pm Sunday Lunch

4:15 pm Afternoon Church

6:00 – 7:00 pm Sanctuary's [Drop-in Zoom Session](#)

Meeting ID: 961 0203 4812 Passcode: 706435

Harrogate Fair Trade Shop goes online



Vicky Wild from Harrogate Fair Trade Shop

Last Friday the Fair Trade Shop at St Peter's went online for the first time. Taking responsibility for the online selling will be students from Henshaws Specialist College, which offers further education for young people with a range of learning difficulties and disabilities. To shop online for fair trade products for delivery in the Harrogate and Knaresborough area or to click & collect go to: harrogatefairtradeshop.selz.com

Countdown to Christmas



There's something very special about the Advent Sundays leading up to when Jesus was born. Join in with these activities as we prepare for and celebrate Christmas – and as we remember the Comfort and Joy that Jesus brings to us all.



Date	What brings joy today?	Who needs comfort today?
29th Nov, the First Sunday of Advent	<p>Counting down with excitement</p> <p>Look at your Advent Calendar – just 2 days until you can open the first door! Give a jump for joy or fist bump your family at the excitement of looking forward.</p>	<p>Those who are anxious about Christmas</p> <p>Look at the floor. Some people are anxious about Christmas. Ask God to be close to them in the coming days.</p>
6th Dec, the Second Sunday of Advent	<p>Being able to give presents to others</p> <p>Christians sometimes call Jesus 'God's gift to us' – that's why we give gifts to each other at Christmas. Make a list of the people your family will give gifts to this Christmas. Thank God for each person.</p>	<p>Those worried about money</p> <p>Christmas can be expensive. Some people are worried that they do not have enough money for gifts or food. Could your family help by giving a gift to your local foodbank?</p>
13th Dec, the Third Sunday of Advent	<p>Access to water</p> <p>Count the number of taps in your home. Pour yourself a glass of water and give thanks for access to clean water for washing, cooking, drinking, and cleaning.</p>	<p>Children of the world</p> <p>Pour a glass of water. Add a teaspoon of mud to it, stir and place it in your kitchen. In some parts of the world children only have access to water like this. Each time you see your glass today, pray for agencies like Water Aid, trying to bring clean water to children across the world.</p>
20th Dec, the Fourth Sunday of Advent	<p>Health and people who care</p> <p>Draw a rainbow. Around it write the names of your local doctors, hospitals and pharmacies. Colour a heart by each one to show you are thankful for them.</p>	<p>People who are feeling sad</p> <p>Find a sticking plaster. Draw a sad face on it. Stick the plaster onto your bathroom mirror to remind you to pray for people who are sick or sad.</p>

An update from *Compassion* in Rwanda: October 2020

Many of us at St Peter's sponsor a child through the charity *Compassion*. Clare Nelson, their Regional Partnerships Manager has sent an update on the projects:

Rwanda has been recording more COVID-19 recoveries than new cases each day since 14th September. The country has recorded only 29 related deaths as of 7th October. Some shops and schools have reopened, but a night-time curfew remains in place.

At this point, all Compassion projects in Rwanda are closed in order to abide by local guidelines. Staff members are still calling and checking in on families; and because of the generous support of sponsors and donors they have been able to distribute 74,964 food packs and 255,953 hygiene kits to the children and their families.

The majority of letters are delayed in Rwanda, which means it may take longer for you to receive letters from your child. But that doesn't mean you shouldn't write! We encourage you to continue sending your sponsored child letters of encouragement and hope. What a joyful day it will be when those letters are delivered!

Click [here](#) for a video from *Compassion* in Rwanda, showing the impact of COVID-19.

T H A N K Y O U

St Peter's gives out food every day to those in need. Thank you so much if you remembered to bring some groceries or toiletries to put in the hamper recently.



Here is a prayer to say as the first candle on your Advent wreath is lit:

We light this first candle to pray for hope.

We pray for ourselves and for everyone.

We ask that our hope will be fixed on God and that God will inspire us to hope for good things.

We pray for everyone who feels that their hope has gone. May they find a new hope that shines like this candle flame.

All: Lord Jesus Christ, hope of our hearts and hope for the world, come close to us this Advent. Amen

Welcome to St Peter's Church



***You can still
join us
online***

The building may be closed for public worship, but the Church is still here! We are open for private prayer and our daily food ministry continues. The Weekly News is available on the website and our daily services are all available online.

Next Week's Deadline

The deadline for the next edition of the Weekly News (6th December) will be noon on Wednesday 2nd December. Please send any items (including photos) to Alan Garrow or to Marian Chambers (addresses below).

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