



Weekly News

17th December 2023

The Third Sunday of Advent

www.stpetersharrogate.org.uk

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

A chapter closes for St Peter's Afternoon Fellowship

Until last Monday the venue enjoyed by the Afternoon Fellowship was once part of a hospital. For the past ten years it has been the regular scene of the warmest and most healing hospitality. At the Afternoon Fellowship in Gillian Taylor's home, it has been possible to enjoy the company of others, a wide variety of talks, and a very splendid afternoon tea.



From the left: Gillian Taylor, Susan Cavestro and Stuart Heaton

Monday 11th December saw the final meeting of the Fellowship in its current venue, and we took the opportunity to thank Gillian for her remarkable generosity, and to also thank those who have ably assisted her and who have helped to provide transport for members.

As we give thanks for the past, we look forward to the future. The Fellowship is due to begin a new chapter in March 2024. From then it will meet on a Tuesday, rather than a Monday, and will take place in St Peter's Church. Full details will be posted in the *Weekly News*. In the meantime, thank you, Gillian!

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

St Peter's Christmas Tree Festival winners will be announced **TODAY!**



The Sunday Lunch Club meets today!

It is open to everyone and there's no need to book or bring anything – although donations towards the cost will, of course, be very welcome! Lunch today will be served at 1:00 pm. Please speak to Hannah Beck (07503 186 455) or Yvonne Dawes (07960 779 381) if you need to know more.

St Peter's Ladies who Lunch

The **Ladies who Lunch** are meeting again on **Friday 29th December** at a town centre café catering for all dietary requirements. If you would like to join them for food and fellowship, then please contact Sue Heapy (07540 355 305 or brynsusie@hotmail.com) before 24th December, so she can book a table.

Come and help to make Christingles

This year we have two Christingle Services both on Christmas Eve, one at 3:00 pm and one at 4:30 pm, both in aid of the **Children's Society**. We will be making hundreds of Christingles on the morning of Saturday 23rd December from 10:00 am onwards in Church. The oranges, red ribbons, candles and foil are here, we just need **YOU!** If you would like to help, please let one of the Clergy know.



**Christmas Lunch
will be served here on
Christmas Day**



1:00 pm

**Contact Hannah Beck
(07503 186 455)**

Join us this CHRISTMAS

St Peter's Christmas Fair
10:00 am – 4:00 pm 2nd December

Advent Candle Service
6:30 pm 3rd December

Saturday Shopper's Carols
4:00 pm 9th and 16th December
10:00 am – 12:00 pm 23rd December

St Peter's Christmas Tree Festival
9th – 16th December

Nine Lessons and Carols
6:30 pm 17th December

Christmas Eve
3:00 and 4:30 pm Christingle Services
6:30 pm Carols for Christmas Eve
11:30 pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day
8:30 am Holy Communion
9:30 am Family Communion
11:00 am Christmas Day Worship

New Year's Eve
4:00 – 6:00 pm Pray for 2024
11:30 pm Watchnight Service

Find all our services and events at www.stpetersharrogate.org.uk

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A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Join us for our traditional service of Nine Lessons and Carols at St Peter's tonight, Sunday 17th December, at 6:30 pm. The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short Bible readings. The readings are interspersed with Christmas carols and anthems sung by our wonderful choir.



Join us to bring in the New Year!

On New Year's Eve there are two special services at St Peter's: come and light a candle and **Pray for 2024** from 4:00 – 6:00 pm and then later our atmospheric, candlelit **Watchnight Service** starts at 11:30 pm.



Artizan International held a 'Carols by Candlelight' service

Susie, Andy and Rosie Hart had not long returned from Peru, yet here they are taking part in this enjoyable event. As you can see, Rosie hovered angel-like in the pulpit over the tableau whilst Helen Camm narrated the Christmas story. St Peter's Choir choir sang Gordon Langford's 'A Christmas Fantasy' with real inspiration. *Many thanks to Michael Bell for sending in the photo and the report.*



Today's Services: 17th December 2023

The Third Sunday of Advent

Today is **Gaudete Sunday**, so the rose candle on our Advent wreath will be lit

8:30 Holy Communion

9:30 Family Communion

There is Sunday Club for school age children today - please gather in the café area at the front of Church at the start of the service. Pre-schoolers and their parents are welcome to stay in this area, where there are Activity Bags to share.

Hymns **602** While shepherds watched; **739** Good news, good news to you we bring; **36** Away in a manger; **438** Once in royal David's city

Readings Isaiah 61 v 1 – 4 and v 8 to end
John 1 v 6 – 8 and v 19 - 28

Preacher: Chris Clayton

11:00 Choral Matins

Setting Sumsion in Bflat (Benedicite)

Hymns 607, 595, 38 (omit *verse)

Psalm 62

Readings Isaiah 61 v 1 – 4 and v 8 to end
John 1 v 6 – 8 and v 19 - 28

Anthem This is the record of John (*Gibbons*)

Preacher: Chris Clayton

4:15 pm Stepping Stones Service Crafternoon

Preacher: Ruth Thompson-Vear

6:30 The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols by candlelight

Please see separate order of service



Our Duty Wardens today are:

Mo Atkinson
and Paul Medforth

Prayer Ministry at the 9:30 am service

At the 9:30 Service we offer prayer with members of our Prayer Ministry Team. If you would appreciate prayer for any reason, please come to St Mary's Chapel after you have received Communion and wait in the pews there. The team members will introduce themselves, ask for your prayer request and pray with you.

Please pray for those who have asked for our prayers:

Pat Anderson, Beverley Cooper, Jane Crabtree, Tony Edwards, Louise Emrullahu, David Fisher, June Hemmings, Jean Houlden, Trevor Hughes, Jackie Kelly, Rachel Looby, Derek Mansfield, Steve Martin, Kim Okell, Sheila Pantin, Dora Ringrose, Richard Sadler, Michelle Simon and Richard Skidmore.

Also in our prayers this week:

- Mon** Those who live in danger of violence and oppression
Amnesty International
- Tues** Victims of domestic abuse
The Mothers' Union *RISE UP against domestic abuse* campaign
- Wed** Sarah Martin, Lay Reader
The COP28 pledge calling countries to transition away from fossil fuels
- Thurs** *ARTIZAN International UK*, giving opportunities to people with disabilities in the UK and overseas
Kate Blake, Safeguarding Officer
- Fri** Hannah Beck, Lay Reader
St Peter's Bellringers
- Sat** The traumatised and exhausted people of the Holy Land
Alan Garrow, Vicar of St Peter's

Daily Readings

Morning Prayer is at 8:00 am and Evening Prayer at 5:00 pm daily. Both services are livestreamed on Facebook and Zoom – join in by following the links on our website. These are the Bible readings we will be using each morning this week.

- Mon** Psalm 40
Isaiah 38 v 1 – 8, 21 - 22
Matthew 16 v 13 to end
- Tues** Psalm 146
Isaiah 38 v 9 - 20
Matthew 17 v 1 - 13
- Wed** Psalm 46
Isaiah 39
Matthew 17 v 14 - 21
- Thurs** ***Thomas the Apostle***
Psalm 121
Zephaniah 1 v 1 – 2 v 3
Matthew 17 v 22 to end
- Fri** Psalm 124
Zephaniah 3 v 1 - 13
Matthew 18 v 1 - 20
- Sat** Psalm 130
Zephaniah 3 v 14 to end
Matthew 18 v 21 to end

The Collect for The Third Sunday of Advent

(Common Worship)

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Collect for The Third Sunday in Advent (Book of Common Prayer)

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at thy first coming didst send thy messenger to prepare thy way before thee: Grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready thy way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at thy second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

What's on This Week

St Peter's Church is open to visitors from 9:30 am – 3:30 pm every day except Sundays. Come and see all the entries for St Peter's Christmas Tree Festival on display this week.

Mon 18th	2:00 pm The U3A Singing Folk group
Tues 19th	12:00 – 12:30 pm Healing Service
Wed 20th	10:30 – 11:00 am Café RefleXions
Thurs 21st	9:30 am St Peter's School Crib Service 9:30 – 11:00 am The Toddler Group at St Peter's 11:00 am Holy Communion
Fri 22nd	9:30 am AA meeting in the Music Room 10:00 am – 12:00 pm St Peter's Cleaning Team
Sat 23rd	10:00 am – 12:00 pm Shoppers' Carols 10:00 am – 12:00 pm Christingle making
Sun 24th	Christmas Eve 1:00 – 1:30 pm Sunday Lunch 7:30 – 8:30 pm AA meeting in the Brostoff Hall

Mary and Joseph bring in the crowds!



Our curate, the Revd Karin Shaw, and her husband, Graham, were sent out to the Christmas Fayre with leaflets to promote the Shoppers' Carol service last Saturday. They were very successful – over 100 people came!

Next Sunday 24th December *The Fourth Sunday of Advent* **Christmas Eve**

8:30	Holy Communion
9:30	Family Communion
11:00	Choral Matins
3:00	Christingle Service
4:30	Christingle Service
6:30	Carols for Christmas Eve
11:30	Midnight Mass

The Breakfast Club provides a free, hot breakfast from Monday to Saturday (8:15 – 8:45 am) for all those who are hungry or in need. A hot **Sunday lunch** is also served each week at 1:00 pm, except for the third Sunday of the month when it is *Sunday Lunch Club*.

Hot food is available 4:30 – 4:50 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Mini Supermarket is on Thursdays 4:30 – 4:50 pm.

The Boxing Day Pilgrimage to Fountains Abbey

The traditional Boxing Day Pilgrimage, from Ripon Cathedral to Fountains Abbey, will take place again this year. The celebration of Eucharist at the Cathedral begins at 9:30 am and then the pilgrims will walk the 4 miles to the Abbey where there'll be a service of carols and prayers from approximately 12:00 noon in the Cellarium. Fountains Abbey is owned and managed by the National Trust and you may need to provide either proof of membership or pay an entrance fee to enter.



A Prayer for the Holy Land

Sue and Bryn Heapy have sent in this prayer written by the retired Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Revd John Pritchard, originally for Premier Radio.

Gracious God,

we are stunned and aghast at what we see happening in Israel and Gaza.

This is your 'holy land' and there's nothing holy about the hatred and violence we see at the moment.

Your heart of love is being brutally attacked, and Jesus is once again flung on to a cross.

We continue to cry to you for help,

for the worst to be avoided,

for the men of violence to be held in check,

for the innocent to be protected

for the deep source of this conflict to be addressed,

and for justice and mercy to live again in this special place.

May the right of Israel to exist in peace,

and for Palestinians to have their land in security and with justice –

may these rights both be respected,

and may holiness be seen again in this Holy Land.

We pray this earnestly, in Jesus' name. **Amen.**



Refreshments are served after each of our Sunday morning services from the kitchen area at the front of Church. Please come and join us.



WE JUST WANT TO SAY... **THANK YOU!**

Thank you so much if you remembered to bring some groceries, toiletries, socks or gloves to put in the hamper today!

Gillian Taylor thanks all at *St Peter's Afternoon Fellowship* for the generous collection made for her favourite charity *Guide Dogs for the Blind* at last Monday's meeting.

The Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve editions of the *Weekly News*

The deadline for the next two editions of the *Weekly News* (24th and 31st December) will be noon on Wednesday 20th December. Please send any items (including photos) to **The Weekly News Editor**, Marian Chambers, or to Alan Garrow.

Welcome to St Peter's Church

You can join us online or in person



New to St Peter's? Please fill in one of the welcome cards in the pews and hand it to one of the Clergy.

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