



Weekly News

23rd November 2025

Christ the King

www.stpetersharrogate.org.uk

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

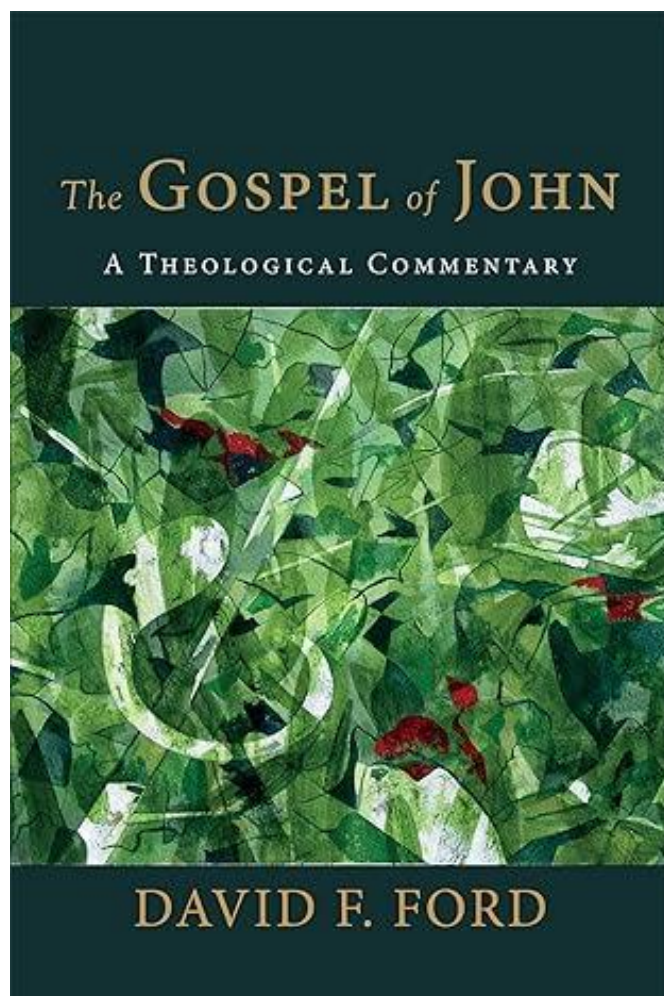
2025 - 2026 – The Year of John

Have you ever noticed how often (or how seldom) readings from John's Gospel crop up in our Sunday worship? The pattern of readings used by the Church of England since 2000 uses a three-year cycle: The Year of Matthew, The Year of Mark, and The Year of Luke (which is where we are currently), and then back to Matthew. John's Gospel does crop up, often around festivals, but it doesn't provide the underlying narrative.

John's Gospel tells the same basic story as the other three Gospels, but it does so in a very different way. Some individual episodes overlap but many others do not. It's style, tone and theology are also distinctively different. There is something to be said, therefore, for seeing what happens when we give attention to following Jesus through the eyes of John's Gospel.

This is why, starting from Advent 2025, we will be following a pattern of Bible readings that focusses on a John's-eye-view. There will also be other John-related events in 2026, such as a performance, in Holy Week, of Bach's St John Passion; the publication, in June, of a newly recovered Johannine text; and, in February, a *Harrogate School of Theology and Mission* Seminar introducing the remarkable commentary that has

inspired this experimental 'Year of John': David Ford's, *The Gospel of John: A Theological Commentary* (Baker Academic, 2021).



Alan Garrow, Vicar of St Peter's Church

Harrogate Christmas Fayre 2025: Friday 5th – Sunday 14th December

This year the Christmas Fayre will be on for ten days in the town centre. According to the North Yorkshire Council's website Cambridge Road and Cambridge Crescent will be closed at 7:00 pm on 3rd December until 8:00 am on 4th December 2025 while the Fayre is being set up. Then each day from 5th December until 14th December 2025 when the Fayre is open (*see table below for times*). There will be further road closures from 7:00 pm on 15th December until 8:00 am on 17th December.

Days	Fayre opening times	Road closure times
Mondays - Saturdays	10:00 – 19:00	10:00 – 20:00
Sundays	11:00 – 16:30	11:00 – 18:00

St Peter's Christmas Appeal 2025



This year we are helping 35 families in the care of *North Yorkshire Children and Families Service*, and 30 individuals living at home or in residential care, by providing 'Christmas Gift Bags' of food and treats. **TODAY** you can collect a gift bag and card after the morning services (and again on 30th November). On the cards there is a list of items to purchase - appropriate for the different groups we are supporting. The filled bags should be returned on the dates shown on the card (15th and 16th December) - what a great way to share the spirit of Christmas with those in need! For more information, please call Carole Raw on 07425 161 425 or email stpeterschurchhqtooffice@gmail.com. Thank you!

St Peter's Evening Fellowship Christmas Dinner – BOOK NOW

St Peter's Evening Fellowship Christmas Dinner will take place on 4th December 2025, 6:30 for 7:00 pm, at the Ascot House Hotel, 53 Kings Road, Harrogate, HG1 5HJ. The evening will commence with a short talk from Steve Gibbin, Curate at St Peter's. **Bookings only.** For further details contact Paul Medforth on 07710 195 834 or at pamedforth@gmail.com.

Have your say on Harrogate's future

North Yorkshire Council is developing Town Investment Plans to guide future investment and boost economic growth across the county. To ensure these plans reflect local priorities, they're inviting residents, businesses, and visitors to share their views at a **Drop-in Virtual Reality Engagement Event** on **Friday 28th and Saturday 29th November** from 9:30 am – 3:30 pm at St Peter's Church.

What do you love about Harrogate? What could make it better? How do you see it evolving over the next 5 – 15 years? Join us in person or complete the survey online: northyorks.gov.uk/consultations. **Survey closes on Sunday 21st December 2025.**

Harrogate Outfall Safari by Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust

Discover what Harrogate's first Outfall Safari revealed about pollution in local rivers, including Oak Beck and Bilton Beck, on 26th November 6:00 – 8:00 pm in the Brostoff Hall. Free tickets available at [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk) or email sarah.lonsdale@ydrtr.co.uk.

Bakers needed for two St Peter's Fundraising Refreshment Days



Please let Catherine Medforth (07876 653 765) or Siân Lockwood (07889 616 755) know if you are willing to bake a cake for one or both of our next two fundraisers on Saturday 29th November and Saturday 6th December. Food supplied, sold or provided at charity or community events, such as fundraisers, must comply with food laws. So that those with food intolerances or allergies

can make safe choices we ask that cakes are brought in a clean container with a list of ingredients attached. Thank you.

St Peter's Advent Walk 2005 – a walk of reflection, hope and preparation

Helen Harrison will be organising a *St Peter's Advent Prayer Walk* on Saturday 6th December. The intention is to follow a circular walk to Ripley Church, starting and finishing at St Peter's. As there will be a Refreshment Day taking place, you are invited to meet at 11:00 am for drinks before we set off. We will stop for lunch in Ripley and return to Church by 3:00 or 4:00 pm for Shoppers' Carols. As always you can choose how far you want to walk and pick up/drop off points will be arranged. As we walk, we will pause to reflect upon poems, prayers and songs that help us, amongst all our busy Christmas preparations, to open our ears and our eyes to the Advent message of hope and true meaning of Christmas. Please speak to Helen or contact her on: hfhudy5@gmail.com if you would like to join us on this walk.

St Peter's Eco Church Group celebrates National Tree Week

We celebrate National Tree Week from 22nd - 30th November this year with our inaugural planting at 'St Peter's Copse'. The generous donation (by a member of St Peter's congregation) of an acre of land in Yorkshire for the purpose of planting several hundred trees and creating 'St Peter's Copse', has led to this inaugural planting. An oak sapling, gifted by a member of our congregation in memory of her husband, was planted by Rob Daulby (*pictured*), a representative of The *Woodland Trust*, on 5th November. The *Woodland Trust* is going to provide advice and trees to continue our planting programme in the Spring. We will update everyone on how they can contribute to this exciting project in the New Year.



Next year, we hope to run a '*My Favourite Tree Photo Competition*' to identify the most popular tree in Harrogate. Start taking photos of your favourite tree at different times of the year, in order to enter our competition next Autumn.

Heather Swarbrick, *St Peter's Eco Church Group*

Today's Services: 23rd November 2025

Christ the King

The Sunday next before Advent (BCP)

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 **1407** King of the ages; **1575** Wait for the Lord; **1383** Jesus, God's righteousness revealed; **1229** Father, hear the prayer we offer

Readings Colossians 1 v 11 - 20
 Luke 23 v 33 - 43

Preacher: Pete Hallam

Our Duty Wardens today are:

Eve Hawkins
and Ian Birt

11:00 Choral Matins

Setting Vaughan Williams in G (Te Deum)

Hymns Hail Redeemer, King Divine; 164, 546

Psalm 29

Readings Jeremiah 23 v 1 - 6
 Luke 23 v 33 - 43

Anthem Lift up your heart (*John Longstaff*)

Preacher: Pete Hallam

4:15 pm Stepping Stones Service *Service of the Word*

Preacher: Sarah Martin

6:30 Choral Evensong by candlelight

Setting Smart in B flat

Hymns 172, 556, 398

Psalm 72

Readings 1 Samuel 8 v 4 - 20
 John 18 v 33 - 37

Anthem O how glorious (*Harwood*)

Preacher: Hannah Beck



Stir Up Sunday

Today is Stir Up Sunday – so called because it's the traditional day for making Christmas puddings, said to be inspired by the BCP collect for the day (*see page 5*) that begins: *Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people.* So, if you are making your puddings today – happy stirring!

Please pray for those who have asked for our prayers:

Pat Anderson, Ann Campbell, Marian Chambers, Graham Cornish, Jane Crabtree, Tony Edwards, Margaret Farrar, Jenny Gardiner, Tim Harrison, June Hemmings, Jean Hopper, Trevor Hughes, Joan Kelly, Kim Okell, Sheila Pantin, Celia Preston, Richard Sadler and Michelle Simon.

Also in our prayers this week:

Mon	Those who live in danger of violence, persecution and oppression <i>Amnesty International</i> , standing up for human rights
Tues	Victims of domestic abuse Harrogate Women's Refuge
Wed	Sarah Martin, Lay Reader All those working in agriculture and food production
Thurs	<i>NETMAKERS</i> , Local Churches for Mission Wendy Lewis, Safeguarding Officer
Fri	Leigh Thompson, PCC secretary The Friday Cleaning Team
Sat	St Peter's Music Group Alan Garrow, Vicar of St Peter's

Daily Readings

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

Mon	Psalm 96 Isaiah 14 v 3 - 20 Matthew 9 v 18 - 34
Tues	<i>Catherine of Alexandria, Martyr, 4th Century</i> Psalm 97 Isaiah 17 Matthew 9 v 35 – 10 v 15
Wed	Psalm 112 Isaiah 19 Matthew 10 v 16 - 33
Thurs	Psalm 125 Isaiah 21 v 1 - 12 Matthew 10 v 34 – 11 v 1
Fri	Psalm 51 Isaiah 22 v 1 - 14 Matthew 11 v 2 - 19
Sat	Psalm 145 Isaiah 24 Matthew 11 v 20 to end

The Collect for Christ the King

(Common Worship)

God the Father, help us to hear the call of Christ the King and to follow in his service,
whose kingdom has no end;
for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, one glory.

The Collect for The Sunday next before Advent (Book of Common Prayer)

Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

What's on This Week

St Peter's Church is open to visitors from 9:30 am – 3:30 pm every day except Sundays.

Mon 24th	11:00 am – 1:00 pm <i>Sit-n-Knit</i> in Church 1:30 – 3:00 pm The <i>Thinking about God</i> group are meeting in the Undercroft 2:00 pm The U3A Singing Folk group
Tues 25th	12:00 – 12:30 pm Healing Service
Wed 26th	10:30 – 11:00 am Café RefleXions 2:00 – 3:30 pm Art Class for Adults with Helena 6:00 – 8:00 pm 'Harrogate Outfall Safari: Results & Update' in the Brostoff Hall with <i>Yorkshire Dales River Trust</i> 7:00 – 9:00 pm Harrogate <i>Bipolar UK</i> peer support group are meeting in the Music Room 7:30 pm Harrogate Harmony Men's Chorus
Thurs 27th	9:30 – 11:00 am The Toddler Group at St Peter's 11:00 am Holy Communion 7:30 pm St Peter's Choir Practice
Fri 28th	9:30 am – 3:30 pm Harrogate Town Investment Consultation 9:30 am AA meeting in the Music Room 10:00 am – 12:00 pm St Peter's Cleaning Team 7:00 – 8:15 pm Bellringing Practice at St Peter's
Sat 29th	Sanctuary , our Youth Group, are having a sleep-over in Church 9:30 am – 3:30 pm Harrogate Town Investment Consultation 10:00 am – 3:30 pm - St Peter's Fundraising Refreshment Day
Sun 30th	<i>The First Sunday of Advent</i> 7:30 – 8:30 pm AA meeting in the Brostoff Hall



Next Sunday 30th November 2025

The First Sunday of Advent

8:30	Holy Communion
9:30	Family Communion
11:00	Choral Matins
4:15	Stepping Stones Service – <i>Special Service</i>
6:30	Advent Candle Service

St Peter's Food Ministry:

The Breakfast Club provides a free, hot breakfast every morning from Monday to Saturday (8:15 – 8:45 am) for all those who are hungry or in need.

Our mini-supermarket is on Thursdays from 4:20 – 4:40 pm – an opportunity to stock up on tinned, preserved and dried food and toiletries.

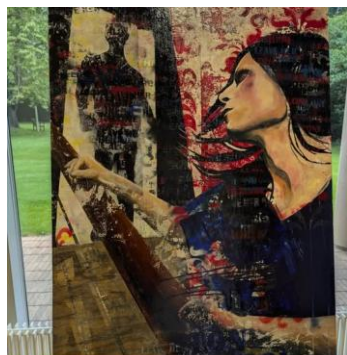
Harrogate School of Theology & Mission

The words we use for worship – a seminar led by **Andrew Brown**, local Methodist preacher and hymnwriter

This is on Saturday 6th December at Woodlands Methodist Church on Wetherby Road, starting with breakfast at 9:30 am, followed by the seminar and time for discussion. Tickets cost £8, under 18s are free. Booking in advance via *Eventbrite*, visit hstm.org.uk/events for further details.

Advent Candle Service

Next Sunday, 30th November, is the first Sunday in Advent, so please join us for our Advent Candle Service starting at 6:30 pm. St Peter's will be filled with beautiful words, music and candlelight, as we prepare for the coming of Christ into the world.



**16 DAYS
OF ACTIVISM**
Against Gender-Based Violence
RIPON
CATHEDRAL

16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence

From 25th November to 10th December, Ripon Cathedral will mark the international *16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence* campaign. Working with *White Ribbon UK*, *New Beginnings* and *The Mothers' Union*, the Cathedral will host a series of events to raise awareness and inspire change. These include an art exhibition launch on 25th November and a silent vigil from 10:00 am on 6th December followed by a *Service of Lament and Hope*. All are welcome to come and show support.

Weaving Stories - a Bradford 2025 Project

Shaeron Caton Rose is working on a heritage project with Bradford Cathedral and *SHINE*, one of our partner charities. Two tapestry looms have been set up, one at the Cathedral (*seen here*) and one at St Stephen's Church, West Bowling, where *SHINE* is based. Bradford Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers have spun and dyed local wool using local natural dyes, which is being used to create the tapestry. Anyone is welcome to weave a few lines of weft onto which felted imagery will be sewn reflecting the lives of the people of Bradford. The finished piece will be unveiled on St Blaise's Day - the patron saint of wool weavers – 3rd February 2026 at the Cathedral. The *SHINE* loom has suffered from technical problems and has had to be completely re-warped. With the deadline for completion looming (excuse the pun!), Shaeron is looking for willing volunteers to help to complete this tapestry. Would you have the time to travel to St Stephen's in Bradford and help? Instructions are provided, and there are staff there to help you. If you need to know more email Shaeron at shaeron@mac.com.



Refreshments
are served after
each of our
Sunday morning
services from



the kitchen area at the front of
Church. Please come and join us.

St Peter's Canine Code



- Well-behaved dogs are welcome.
- Please keep your dog in one place throughout the service.
- Please do not bring your dog to the communion rail.

Next Week's Deadline

The deadline for the next edition of the Weekly News (30th November) will be noon on Wednesday 26th November. Please send any items (including photos) to **The Weekly News Editor**, Marian Chambers, or to **the Vicar**, 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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