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Welcome to THE NET - the parish newsletter of St Peter's - the church in the centre of Harrogate right beside the War Memorial. Our youth club has had a make-over and the brand new Youth Alpha starts in 2019 - find out more inside. All our Christmas and Advent services are listed, with details of two family-friendly events - why not celebrate Christmas with us?



THE NET

The Parish Newsletter for St Peter's Church, Harrogate

Join us this Christmas



I was talking to a friend recently who told me that her town had doubled in size, in quite a short period of time, while the population had stayed almost exactly the same! How is that possible? The answer is that the number of dwellings had doubled, but each dwelling was now occupied by about half the number of people compared with previously. We are living in a time when there is a tendency to grow further and further apart from one another, when we spend less and less time with the people we live closest to. Christmas is an opportunity to reverse that trend. It gives us the chance to take stock and notice what we really value – which, for many people, includes spending time with our families and neighbours in shared community celebration.

At St Peter's we rejoice in being a meeting place between people, and people and God, every day of the week, every day of the year. Over the Christmas period there will be a vast number of opportunities to join with others in giving thanks for the gift of community life – as we also give thanks for a God who, when we turn away does not reject us, but comes to meet us in his Son!

In this edition of THE NET you'll find details of all our Christmas services, as well as information about exciting developments for children and young people. Come and join us – you will be truly welcome!

Alan Garrow (*Vicar of St Peter's Church*)

Sanctuary youth

How do we make families with young children and older teenagers welcome?

Our new curate, the Revd Chris Clayton, joined St Peter's on 1st July, having been ordained a deacon the day before at Ripon Cathedral. Chris studied at Ripon College Cuddesdon in Oxford and was welcomed to St Peter's with a Parish Lunch, along with his wife, Samantha, and their two sons - Alexander and Daniel.



Sanctuary is our new youth group, led by Chris Clayton, that welcomes all children from the local area who attend secondary school. Chris says, "We aim to offer a sanctuary away from the pressures of school, exams and social media. A place for friendship, fun and spiritual feeding. Sanctuary has a relaxed atmosphere so that everyone can slow down, chill out and build lasting friendships. There are various activities - PS4, table football, an assortment of board games, a chill out area and music - as well as snacks and drinks. Club night sessions also include a time to get together to consider some of the big questions of life. Each term we will also run special events."

The photo above shows them at Clue HQ Harrogate: the Live Escape Game - a physical adventure game in which two teams were given a set time to escape from the top security Cell Block C, by solving a series of puzzles and riddles. The next special event will be a **Sanctuary Advent Special** on Sunday 9th December from 6:00 to 8:30 pm at St Peter's Vicarage - young people who are Year 7 or above are invited to come.

Sanctuary meets on Sunday evenings in the Brostoff Hall at St Peter's Church from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. Check out the website for details of club nights and any special events or contact Chris at chris.clayton@leeds.anglican.

Although families are welcome at all our services, every Sunday there are two services that are especially family friendly. At 9:30 am we have our **Family Communion Service** with accessible language and a mixture of modern songs of worship and traditional hymns. As the service starts the school age children gather in the café area at the front of Church and go off to **Sunday Club**, pre-schoolers and their parents stay in this area, where there are toys and activities for them to share. At the end of the service a box of percussion instruments is opened and the children join in the last hymn with great gusto! On the first Sunday of the month we have an all-age service - the children read from the Bible, lead the prayers, help with the collection and carry the bread and wine to the altar. Then every Sunday afternoon we have **Afternoon Church**, starting at 4:15 pm with refreshments and then either an informal service with everyone gathered around the altar or, on the third Sunday of the month, *Craftersnoon Church* with stories, crafts and activities based on a Gospel theme. On 16th December we'll be making Nativity figures to help us tell the story of Jesus' birth and special stars to take home. You are welcome to join us.



Four younger members of St Peter's enjoying the Family Pie Party at the Vicarage recently!

Come to Christingle on Christmas Eve

This year there will be two Christingle Services at St Peter's Church on Christmas Eve at 3:00 pm and 4:30 pm. For fifty years Christingle services have been held in the UK to raise vital funds for **The Children's Society**, who have worked with more



than a million vulnerable and disadvantaged children in that time - but unfortunately a million more still urgently need the care and support this charity offers. So bring the family to enjoy this joyous service and make a lasting difference to children all across the country.

St Peter's Christmas Tree Festival

Our Christmas Tree Festival runs from 8th - 15th December! It's free to enter, you can download an entry form from the website, but you'll have to be quick as these need to be returned to the Parish Office by 30th November. On the 8th local shops, families, clubs, groups and businesses will bring their decorated Christmas trees to display in Church. Visitors to the festival are invited to vote for their favourites for a small donation.



The winners will be announced during the 9:30 am Family Communion Service on Sunday 16th December. There will also be a Tree of Remembrance, for visitors to remember a loved one with a prayer or dedication hung on the tree. All the trees will remain in Church until the end of December.

Advent and Christmas at St Peter's - December 2018

St Peter's Christmas Tree Festival runs from 8th - 15th December, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm daily

Saturday 1 st	7:30 pm	Concert with the Fisher Singers and Harrogate Band
Sunday 2 nd	First Sunday in Advent with our usual Sunday morning services	Advent Candle Service with music by St Peter's Choir
	6:30 pm	Carols by Candlelight in aid of <i>Craft Aid International</i> (doors open from 5:30 pm for complimentary mulled wine and mince pies)
Friday 7 th	6:00 pm	Refreshment Day in aid of Amnesty International
Saturday 8 th	10:00 am - 4:00 pm	Sanctuary Advent Special youth group at the Vicarage
Sunday 9 th	Second Sunday in Advent with all our usual Sunday Services	Brackenfield School Carol Service
	6:00 - 8:30 pm	Refreshment Day held by Dementia Forward
Wednesday 12 th	6:30 pm	Sanctuary Advent Special youth group at the Vicarage
Saturday 15 th	10:00 am - 4:00 pm	Brackenfield School Carol Service
Sunday 16 th	Third Sunday in Advent with our usual Sunday Services	Refreshment Day held by Dementia Forward
	1:00 pm	Sunday Lunch Club at St Peter's
	7:00 pm	Sanctuary youth group
Thursday 20 th	9:30 am	St Peter's School Carol Service
Sunday 23 rd	Fourth Sunday in Advent with our usual Sunday morning services	
	6:30 pm	Service of Nine Lessons and Carols - the traditional readings with carols and anthems led by St Peter's Choir
Monday 24th	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Shoppers' Coffee and Carols - relax and take a break.
	3:00 and 4:30 pm	Christingle Services led by our Music Group
Christmas Eve	6:30 pm	Carols for Christmas Eve with St Peter's Choir
	11:30 pm	Midnight Mass - led by St Peter's Choir
Tuesday 25th	8:30 am	Holy Communion
Christmas Day	9:30 am	Family Communion
	11:00 am	Christmas Morning Service
Sunday 30 th	The First Sunday of Christmas with our usual Sunday services	
Monday 31st	11:30 pm	Watchnight Service: bring in the New Year by candlelight
New Year's Eve		

Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year from everyone at St Peter's Church!

Alpha starts here in January 2019



Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith. Each session looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. **Alpha** is run around the globe and everyone's welcome. No two **Alphas** look the same, but generally they have three things in common: food, a talk and good conversation.

If you would like to try **Alpha**, come to St Peter's Church, Wednesdays 6:00 – 8:00 pm, starting 9th January 2019. Each session will start with a meal, because it's a great way to get to know each other, then there's a talk, around 30 minutes long, followed by the most important part - a discussion. There's no obligation to say anything and there's nothing you can't say. Visit alphaharrogate.org or contact Sarah Martin 0791 325 9490 to find out more.

The **Alpha Youth** Series is a brand new, interactive course from **Alpha**. The series explores life, faith and meaning. Each session looks at a different question around faith and includes food, fun, a video and discussion. It's for all young people, not just those with a Christian or church background.

The course is on Sundays from 6:00 - 7:00 pm at St Peter's Church starting 13th January 2019. So if you are at secondary school and would like to try **Alpha Youth**, contact the Revd Chris Clayton chris.clayton@leeds.anglican.org. If you think you would like to be baptised or confirmed, **Alpha Youth** is a great way to prepare for that commitment.



Daily Services at St Peter's

Morning Prayer is at 8:00 am and Evening Prayer at 5:00 pm Monday to Saturday

Sundays

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

Tuesdays

- 12:30 pm **Healing Service** - includes prayers with laying on of hands

Wednesdays

- 10:30 am **Café RefleXion** - coffee, cake and Bible reflections

Thursdays

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

Contact us:

Parish Office: Tel: 568218, email: stpeters.office@ntlbusiness.com or visit our website: www.stpetersharrogate.org.uk

Vicar: The Revd Dr Alan Garrow, St Peter's Vicarage, 13 Beech Grove, Harrogate, HG2 0ET. Tel: 526454
alan.garrow@gmail.com

Parish Newsletter Editor: Marian Chambers marian.chambers41@gmail.com

The next edition of THE NET will be coming out at the beginning of Lent, on Sunday 3rd March 2019