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Do you know what really matters?

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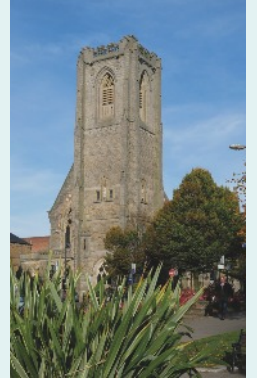
Details of all our  
**Advent and Christmas Services**

**Alpha**  
starting in January

## Advent 2019

**Welcome to THE NET** - the parish newsletter of St Peter's - the church in the centre of Harrogate. We've had a busy year - what with repairs to the South Aisle floor; an amazing performance of St Matthew Passion during Holy Week; the ordination of our curate; and running an exhibition and a café during the UCI World Cycling Championships; as well as all our usual services and activities.

All our Christmas and Advent services are listed inside with details of two extra special events - why not come and celebrate Christmas with us?



## Wanted: Wise Men (and Women)



How do you spot what really matters? How do you journey towards that goal without getting lost, or running into the sand on the way? The ability to see what's really important, and to live in the light of that insight, is essential to wisdom. Wisdom also has a lot to do with humility. The wise person knows that they don't everything; experience tells them that simple answers to complex questions are exceedingly rare. The challenge to be wise, therefore, is a big one – we need to see clearly while walking through the dark unknown.

The Wise Men who sought Jesus at Bethlehem were guided by a single point of light in a dark sky. No matter how challenging the terrain, or how uncomfortable their stopping places, this star gave them a means of orientating themselves and called them ever onward. They knew that the world was a complex place, and that answers to important questions don't come easily, but they also knew what really matters and kept it constantly in their sights. Eventually, they found the Light of the World – the one who shows us what God is like, and what it means to be truly human.

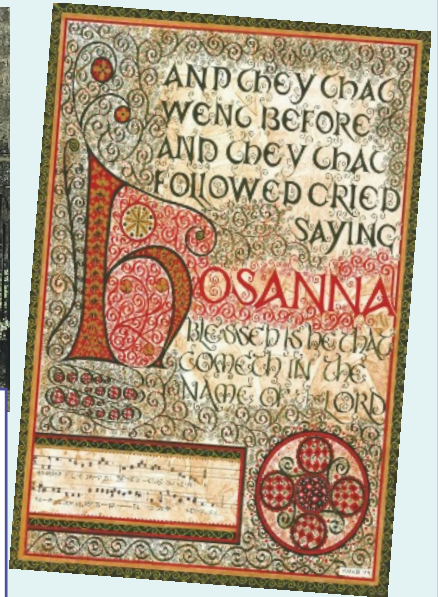
In this season of Christmas, which also happens to be a season of great uncertainty for our nation and our planet, please join us – as we seek to spot what really matters, and, together, to make that Light our goal.

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

THE NET

# A busy year at St Peter's

*What has been happening at our Church?*



*Clockwise from the above: the ordination of our Curate, Chris Clayton, in Ripon; one of the Bath Abbey Diptychs exhibited in September during the UCI Road World Championships; a rider from the USA passing St Peter's; our Curate takes a turn in the stocks at the Vicarage Garden Party; Willow and her owner Monica at our Animal Service; and the St Peter's Player's production of The Sound of Music!*



## Confirmed by the Bishop of Ripon at St Peter's



*The Bishop of Ripon, Helen-Ann Hartley, at the Confirmation service held at St Peter's in June 2019*

Each year at St Peter's we encourage people who want to be confirmed to attend a Confirmation course. We ask adults to attend the Alpha course - see more details on the back page.

For younger candidates of secondary school age there will be a separate course taking place on Sunday evenings as part of our youth group Sanctuary's meetings from 6:00 - 7:30 pm during term time. This course, starting on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2020, is designed to engage the participants in exploring the history of the Christian faith and how this faith is lived out today. For more information about please contact our Curate, the Revd Chris Clayton, at [chris.clayton@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:chris.clayton@leeds.anglican.org).

## 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.

## A Christmas Concert not to be missed

As part of this year's Christmas celebrations there will be a performance of Handel's **Messiah** at St Peter's on 17<sup>th</sup> December. Although the oratorio was originally written for Easter; telling the story of Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection; it has become something of a Christmas tradition. With special guest soloists: Heather Jane Taylor *soprano*, Lucy Morton *mezzo-soprano*, Toby Ward *tenor* and Andrew Greenan *bass*; and featuring St Peter's



Choir, Vocalis Chamber Choir (directed by Alex Kyle) and the Harrogate Handel Players (led by Fiona Love). All directed by our own Director of Music, John Longstaff. Tickets cost £12 and are available from St Peter's Parish Office or through [eventbrite.co.uk](http://eventbrite.co.uk) search for 'Messiah Harrogate'.

## Advent and Christmas 2019 at St Peter's

Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov	10:00 am - 4:00 pm	<b>St Peter's Christmas Fair</b> - festive food, stalls and fun!
<b>December</b>		
<b>St Peter's Christmas Tree Festival</b> runs from 7 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup> December, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm daily		
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>First Sunday in Advent</b> with our usual Sunday morning services 6:30 pm	<b>Advent Candle Service</b> with music by St Peter's Choir
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 pm	<b>Carols by Candlelight</b> in aid of Artizan International (doors open from 5:30 pm for complimentary mulled wine and mince pies)
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am - 4:00 pm	Refreshment Day in aid of <b>Amnesty International</b>
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Second Sunday in Advent</b> with all our usual Sunday Services	
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am - 4:00 pm	Refreshment Day held by <b>St Peter's Music Group</b>
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Third Sunday in Advent</b> with our usual Sunday Services 1:00 pm	Sunday Lunch Club at St Peter's
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	7:15 pm	<b>Performance of Handel's Messiah</b>
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 am	St Peter's School <b>Carol Service</b>
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Fourth Sunday in Advent</b> with our usual Sunday morning services 6:30 pm	<b>Service of Nine Lessons and Carols</b> - the traditional readings with carols and anthems led by St Peter's Choir
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am - 12:00 pm 3:00 and 4:30 pm	Shoppers' <b>Coffee and Carols</b> - relax and take a break
<i>Christmas Eve</i>	6:30 pm 11:30 pm	<b>Christingle Services</b> led by our Music Group <b>Carols for Christmas Eve</b> with St Peter's Choir <b>Midnight Mass</b> with St Peter's Choir
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	8:30 am	Holy Communion
<i>Christmas Day</i>	9:30 am 11:00 am	Family Communion Christmas Morning Service
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>The First Sunday of Christmas</b> with our usual Sunday services	
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup>	4:00 - 6:00 pm	<b>Pray for 2020:</b> light a candle and pray for our nation and the world
<i>New Year's Eve</i>	11:30 pm	<b>Watchnight Service:</b> bring in the New Year by candlelight

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

# Alpha starts here in January 2020



Wednesday is  
the new Friday

#TryAlpha



We believe that everyone should have the chance to explore the Christian faith, ask questions and share their point of view. **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. It runs in cafés, churches, universities, homes - you name it. No two **Alphas** look the same, but generally they have three things in common: food, a talk and good conversation.

**Alpha Harrogate** is a group of local churches working together to deliver the best **Alpha** courses we can. We are holding an **Alpha** launch event at St Peter's on 23<sup>rd</sup> January from 7:45 to 9:30 pm (with refreshments from 7:00 pm). Come and join us as Adrian Holloway, a best-selling author and gifted communicator, takes on one of the big questions of our time 'Hasn't science buried God?'.

The next **Alpha** course at St Peter's Church starts on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm, and runs for 10 weeks up until Easter. Each session will start with a meal, because it's a great way to build community and get to know each other. Then there's a talk, around 30 minutes long, exploring the big issues around faith and unpacking the basics of Christianity. Followed by the most important part of any **Alpha**: the chance to share thoughts and ideas on the topic, and simply discuss it in a small group. Sarah Martin (*pictured right*) is our team leader. Please contact Sarah on 0791 325 9490 before 8<sup>th</sup> January to find out more or visit [alphaharrogate.org](http://alphaharrogate.org).



## 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](mailto:stpeters.office@ntlbusiness.com) or visit our website: [www.stpetersharrogate.org.uk](http://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](mailto:alan.garrow@gmail.com)

**Parish Newsletter Editor:** Marian Chambers [marian.chambers41@gmail.com](mailto:marian.chambers41@gmail.com)

The next edition of THE NET will be coming out at the beginning of Lent, on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020.