



# Weekly News

7<sup>th</sup> December 2025

*The Second Sunday of Advent*

[www.stpetersharrogate.org.uk](http://www.stpetersharrogate.org.uk)

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

## A vision that informs action

What is the vision of St Peter's Church? If a friend or neighbour asked this question, how would you answer? It is notoriously difficult to communicate a vision that is short enough to be memorable and detailed enough to be meaningful. That is why, over the past two months, we've been working on a vision statement that is more detailed than just 'feeding hungry people' and simpler than the full statement on our [website](http://www.stpetersharrogate.org.uk).

### Our vision:

Feeding hungry people  
around God's open, generous table

Jesus' ministry was full of invitation and grace.  
He removed barriers and created connections  
between people and with God.

Our vision is to build community as Jesus did  
as we gather around his table.

How do you respond to this statement? Does it say things that feel true for you as a member of St Peter's? Does it describe a future of which you would like to be a part? Is it faithful to what it means to be a Christian church at the centre of our town? It would be very helpful to know your answers to these questions.

The point of having a vision is to guide action – including the way we use our building. As we prepare for major roof repairs, the Parochial Church Council are launching a consultation alongside the development of this vision. Alongside repairing the roof, what other small or large changes could we make to our building to enable the better fulfilment of our vision? Please pick up a questionnaire today – or look out for the online questionnaire I will circulate by e-news email this week. It would be great to have your responses by 21<sup>st</sup> December. Thank you.

Alan Garrow, Vicar of St Peter's Church

## St Peter's Christmas Tree Festival: 6<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Our annual Christmas Tree Festival started yesterday and continues until next Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December. During the Festival visitors will be invited to vote for their three favourite trees and the winners will be announced at the 9:30 am Family Communion service next Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December. Don't forget to vote!

## Local group of *Amnesty International UK* marks Human Rights Day

World Human Rights Day is observed on 10<sup>th</sup> December to commemorate the anniversary of the UN's adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.



The Harrogate and Knaresborough Group of *Amnesty International UK* are holding a Fundraising Refreshment Day on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm together with a **Write for Rights** session here in Church. Come and enjoy some excellent food and take action to help prisoners of conscience, around the world, who are illegally detained for their religious or political beliefs. Please call Judith Simpson (01423 564842) if you can help on the day or could bake a cake to sell.

## Welcome to God's open, generous table

Starting in January 2026 our Curate, Karin Shaw, is proposing to run courses on Thursdays, one in the morning and one in the evening, for those who wish to explore their faith with others who are also thinking about baptism or confirmation. Please speak to Karin if you would like to come along.

ST PETER'S CHURCH HARROGATE  
G F Handel

# Messiah

Friday 19th December 2025 7:15 pm  
Choirs of St Peter's and St Wilfrid's Churches  
Harrogate Voices  
Harrogate Handel Players (leader Fiona Love)



Adoration of the Shepherds by Gerard van Honthorst

|                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Jenny Stafford     | soprano       |
| Emma Carrington    | mezzo-soprano |
| Alexander Grainger | tenor         |
| Andrew Greenan     | bass          |
| Anthony Gray       | organ         |
| John Longstaff     | director      |



Tickets £18 from Eventbrite (no booking fee),  
St Peter's Parish Office (cash or cheques only) by calling 07425 161 425,  
or on the door (credit card payments accepted)



## Join us this CHRISTMAS

**Advent Candle Service**  
6:30 pm 30<sup>th</sup> November

**Artizan's Carols by Candlelight**  
7:00 pm 4<sup>th</sup> December

**St Peter's Christmas Tree Festival**  
6<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> December

**St Peter's Church Refreshment Day**  
10:00 am – 2:00 pm 6<sup>th</sup> December

**20 minute Shoppers' Carols**  
3:00 pm and 4:00 pm 6<sup>th</sup> December  
3:00 pm and 4:00 pm 13<sup>th</sup> December

**Amnesty International Refreshment Day**  
10:00 am – 2:00 pm 13<sup>th</sup> December

**Performance of Handel's Messiah**  
7:15 pm 19<sup>th</sup> December

**Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols**  
6:30 pm 21<sup>st</sup> 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 2026  
11:30 pm Watchnight service

Find all our services and events at [www.stpetersharrogate.org.uk](http://www.stpetersharrogate.org.uk)

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



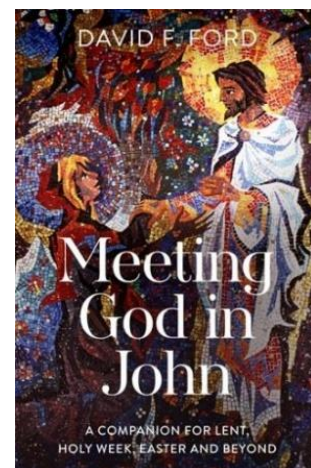
## Shaeron Caton Rose is raising money for SHINE, West Bowling



Shaeron, who is a trustee of SHINE, will be taking part in the Lyme Lunge on New Year's Day 2026. This annual fancy dress dip in the freezing balmy waters of Lyme Bay is organised by the Rotary Club of Lyme Regis to raise money for local and national charities. As you may know, SHINE is based at St Stephen's Church, West Bowling, and delivers a range of community services to one of the UK's most deprived neighbourhoods. Shaeron has opened a [Just Giving page](#) for donations.

## Lent Course at St Peter's 2026

We hope to run a Lent Course at St Peter's Church exploring the book *Meeting God in John: A companion for Lent, Holy Week, Easter and beyond* by David F Ford. Whether you are completely new to John's Gospel or have read it many times before, *Meeting God in John* will help you see the Fourth Gospel with fresh eyes and gain a deeper understanding of its essential meaning and purpose. Please speak to the Vicar, Alan Garrow, if you would be interested in attending (or leading a small group at) such a course.



## Encouraging Lay Ministry with Harrogate Deanery

As Christmas approaches and we celebrate the gift of Jesus, let us reflect on the unique gifts God has given each of us. Lay ministry is vital to the life of our churches and we are all called to share Christ's light. Looking ahead to 2026, may we embrace new opportunities for growth and maybe be part of the upcoming learning sessions!

**Leading a Lenten Journey:** exploring *Meeting God in John* 10<sup>th</sup> January

by David F Ford – explore one chapter of this book and try out a variety study approaches, in preparation for guiding your own small group.  
(St Peter's aims to use this book for their own Lent Course in 2026)

**Mix, match and marvel:** leading children and youth groups 7<sup>th</sup> February

For those who run Sunday morning and church-based groups.

**Worship for Everyone:** creating engaging all age worship 7<sup>th</sup> March

For those involved in leading or developing all age worship

**Eat. Play. Pray:** feeding faith in children and families ministry date tbc

For those involved in creative, family-focused church outreach.

**Preparing to Preach;** developing reflective practice date tbc

For those involved in preaching.

For further information please contact Gayle Bryon [gaylebryonelm@gmail.com](mailto:gaylebryonelm@gmail.com)

These *Encouraging Lay Ministry* sessions are on Saturday mornings,  
10:00 am – 12:00 pm, at St Andrew's Church in Starbeck

# Today's Services: 7<sup>th</sup> December 2025

## *The Second Sunday of Advent*

**8:30 Holy Communion**

**9:30 Family Communion**

*As it is the first Sunday of the month, there is **no** Sunday Club for school age children today, but all children and their parents are welcome to gather in the café area, where there are toys and activities to share during our Family Communion Service.*

**Hymns**            **1418** Light of the world; **1383** Jesus, God's righteousness; Christ be our light; This little light of mine

**Reading**        John 1 v 1 - 14

**Preacher:**        Alan Garrow

**Our Duty Wardens today are:**

Kate Blake and  
Paul Medforth

**11:00 Choral Communion**

**Setting**            Day in B flat

**Hymns**            9, 36, 325, 362

**Readings**        Philippians 2 v 5 - 11

John 1 v 1 - 14

**Anthem**            The Truth from above (*Vaughan Williams*)

**Preacher:**        Hannah Beck

**4:15 pm Stepping Stones Service**    *Celtic Worship*  
*(arrivals and refreshments 3:45 pm)*

**Preacher:**        Karin Shaw

**6:30 Choral Evensong by candlelight**

**Setting**            Byrd (Second Service)

**Hymns**            24, 40, 608

**Psalm**            11

**Readings**        1 Kings 18 v 17 - 39

John 1 v 19 - 28

**Anthem**            Ascribe unto the Lord (*S S Wesley*)

**Preacher:**        Tony Shepherd



## **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, Ian Birt, Ann Campbell, Graham Cornish, Jane Crabtree, Tony Edwards, Margaret Farrar, Jenny Gardiner, Nigel 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:**

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| <b>Mon</b>   | Support and teaching staff in our schools<br>The Toddler Group at St Peter's   |
| <b>Tues</b>  | Those feeling lost, lonely and isolated<br>St Peter's Welcomers Team   |
| <b>Wed</b>   | All those killed, injured or still missing in the fires in Hong Kong<br>All the stallholders at the Christmas Market |
| <b>Thurs</b> | The volunteers at Harrogate Hospital<br>Hospital Chaplaincy Teams  |
| <b>Fri</b>   | David Skaith, Mayor for York and North Yorkshire<br>The economic wellbeing of the country                            |
| <b>Sat</b>   | All who are recently bereaved<br>Those supporting people coping with grief and loss                                  |

**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:*

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| <b>Mon</b>   | <i>The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i><br>Psalm 44<br>Isaiah 30 v 1 - 18<br>Matthew 14 v 1 - 12 |
| <b>Tues</b>  | Psalm 56<br>Isaiah 30 v 19 to end<br>Matthew 14 v 13 to end   |
| <b>Wed</b>   | Psalm 62<br>Isaiah 31<br>Matthew 15 v 1 - 20  |
| <b>Thurs</b> | Psalm 54<br>Isaiah 32<br>Matthew 15 v 21 - 28   |
| <b>Fri</b>   | Psalm 86<br>Isaiah 33 v 1 - 22<br>Matthew 15 v 29 to end  |
| <b>Sat</b>   | <i>Lucy, Martyr at Syracuse</i><br>Psalm 42<br>Isaiah 35<br>Matthew 16 v 1 - 12                           |

**The Collect for The Second Sunday of Advent**

(Common Worship)

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God.

**The Collect for The Second Sunday in Advent**

(Book of Common Prayer)

Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:

Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

# What's on This Week

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

*The Christmas Market is on until 14<sup>th</sup> December with no access to Cambridge Road from 10:00 am until 8:00 pm on Mondays – Saturdays and from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm on Sundays.*

- Mon 8<sup>th</sup>**      11:00 am – 1:00 pm *Sit-n-Knit* in Church  
1:30 – 3:00 pm The *Thinking about God* group are meeting in the Undercroft  
2:00 pm The U3A Singing Folk group
- Tues 9<sup>th</sup>**      **12:00 – 12:30 pm Healing Service**
- Wed 10<sup>th</sup>**      **10:30 – 11:00 am Café RefleXions**  
2:00 – 3:30 pm Art Class for Adults with Helena
- Thurs 11<sup>th</sup>**      9:30 – 11:00 am The Toddler Group at St Peter's  
**11:00 am Holy Communion**  
NB the Market Day Café has been cancelled  
7:30 pm St Peter's Choir Practice
- Fri 12<sup>th</sup>**      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 13<sup>th</sup>**      ***Last day of St Peter's Christmas Tree Festival – please vote for your favourites!***  
10:00 am – 2:00 pm *Amnesty International UK* are holding a Refreshment Day in Church  
**3:00 pm and 4:00 pm Shoppers' Carols**  
*These services will be just twenty minutes long, with three classic carols, a reading, a prayer and a talk.*
- Sun 14<sup>th</sup>**      ***The Third Sunday of Advent***  
5:30 – 7:00 pm **Sanctuary**, our Youth Group, are meeting in the Brostoff Hall for their Christmas Party  
7:30 – 8:30 pm AA meeting in the Brostoff Hall

## Next Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2025

### ***The Third Sunday of Advent***

- 8:30      Holy Communion  
9:30      Family Communion  
11:00      Choral Matins  
4:15      Stepping Stones Service  
            – *Holy Communion*  
6:30      Choral Evensong

## 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.





## Having a Christmas break?

If your group is taking a Christmas break in the next few weeks, then please let me know before the deadline for both the Christmas and New Year Weekly News editions – **noon on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December**. I would also like to take this opportunity to wish all our readers and contributors a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Marian Chambers, *Weekly News Editor*

## Last chance to see **16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Exhibition**

From 25<sup>th</sup> November to 10<sup>th</sup> December, Ripon Cathedral will mark the international *16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence* campaign, with a series of events to raise awareness and inspire change. These include a powerful art exhibition featuring pieces commissioned by White Ribbon UK. The exhibition will remain open until this Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December.

## Say it with Flowers

Why not mark a special occasion, such as an anniversary, a new baby or a birthday, by making a donation towards the flowers in Church? The St Peter's Flower Team will make an arrangement on the pedestal to the right of the altar, and you will also receive a mention in the Weekly News. Please speak directly to Sue Heapy for further details (07540 355 305).



HANDEL  
**MESSIAH**  
BY CANDLELIGHT

HARROGATE  
CHORAL  
SOCIETY

National Festival Orchestra  
Conducted by David Lawrence

**13 December 2025, 4pm**  
St Wilfrid's Church, Harrogate

**Tickets £18**  
Students and U16s £5  
Box Office 01423 502116 - also on the door  
Or book online at  
**www.harrogatetheatre.co.uk**

Charity No 1164776



Ripon  
Choral Society

Saturday 13 December  
2025, 7.30pm  
Ripon Cathedral

**Handel  
Messiah**

John Dunford - conductor • Orchestra D'Amici  
Eleonore Cockerham - soprano • Kanchana Jaishankar - alto  
James Micklethwaite - tenor • Terence Ayebare - bass

Tickets: £26 reserved; £24 unreserved (student concessions £10)  
Book online at **riponchoralsociety.org.uk**  
• on the door at each concert • by email: **info@riponchoralsociety.org.uk**

Refreshments  
are served after  
each of our  
Sunday morning  
services from



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

### Join the Parish Giving Scheme



PARISHGIVINGSCHEME

If you would like to support St  
Peter's financially, the simplest and  
most tax efficient way to do so is via  
the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS). You  
can join using their website  
[www.parishgiving.org.uk](http://www.parishgiving.org.uk) or give  
them a call on 0333 002 1260.  
St Peter's PGS number is: **460646304**

### Next Week's Deadline

The deadline for the next edition of  
the Weekly News (14<sup>th</sup> December)  
will be noon on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>  
December. 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.

### Key Contacts

#### Vicar:

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