



Weekly News

11th January 2026

The First Sunday of Epiphany

www.stpetersharrogate.org.uk

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

Where does the time go?

It feels like only yesterday that I walked into St Peter's, looked up at its beauty and at the bishops' heads, and thought, *'There is no way I can work here.'* Then I watched Alan cheerfully pack children into the pulpit during the sermon and, as they nearly toppled out, I knew I was in exactly the right place!

Seven and a half years later, it is time for us to say goodbye as I leave to become the Vicar of St Margaret's Church, Horsforth.

My time here has been filled with special moments, difficult changes, wonderful people, and a growing shared love for God. Your warm embrace of me and my family meant we always felt welcome and secure as we lived and worked among you.

I have to say a massive thank you to Alan, who trained me and helped me become the best version of myself. His patience and wisdom have given me the confidence to take this next step in my vocation.

Over these years we have faced many challenges together. But we have also seen our services grow, especially Stepping Stones and Sanctuary, and our food ministry is now busier than ever. There is so much I could write about, but please know how deeply I thank each one of you for your support, your kind words, and your encouragement. Church only works when we do it together, united in Christ. What we will miss most are the people. Though we all express our faith differently, with different passions and priorities, we are united in Jesus. Together we share God's generous love with all who enter, and that is St Peter's greatest strength.

As difficult as it is to move on, we know St Peter's will continue to do great things because you are great people, united in Christ. You will remain in our prayers. Thank you for loving us. We will miss you!



Chris, Sam, Alexander and Daniel Clayton

Men's Breakfast at St Peter's: Saturday 17th January 2026

MEN'S BREAKFAST



every 3rd Saturday of the month

Beginning with Morning Prayers at 8:00 am for those who wish to take part, and breakfast from 8:30 to 9:00 am, followed by an informal discussion session in The Gallery for perhaps 30 minutes or so. Please text Bryn Heapy on 07561 889 076 if you are planning to come or email him at brynsusie@hotmail.com.

Chris Clayton's Farewell Lunch and Leaving Gift

Chris Clayton, our Associate Vicar, is leaving us to take up his new post at St Margaret's, Horsforth, Leeds. His last Sunday at St Peter's will be 18th January – with a Parish Lunch at 1:00 pm – you will find the sign-up sheet on the Welcome Desk if you would like to come. We are asking for donations of money to cover the cost of the food and drink, but donations of cakes would also be welcome – if you are willing to bake, please let Catherine Medforth (07876 653 765) know. If you would like to contribute to Chris' leaving gift, there are three ways to do this:

- **by card** at the Donation Station press the '*Gift for Chris Clayton*' button and follow the prompts;
- **online** just follow this [JustGiving link](#) and you can leave a message there, too;
- **in cash** in an envelope marked **Chris Clayton** in the Perspex Donation Box.

Chris will be licensed in his new role at 7:00pm on 25th February at St Margaret's.



Plough Sunday Service

Sunday 11th January 2026

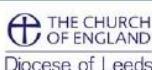
in Ripon Cathedral

Service led by the Very Rev'd John Dobson,
Dean of Ripon

Preacher : The Most Revd & Rt Hon
Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York

Refreshments, including hot pork rolls, cake,
tea & coffee served from 2.30pm.

Service starts at 3.30pm



ST CECILIA ORCHESTRA
Est. Ripon 1995

Winter Concert

'The Vienna Connection'

MOZART
Marriage of Figaro Overture
Jupiter Symphony

R STRAUSS
Horn Concerto 2
Overture & Dance Scene

Conductor - Xenophon Kelsey MBE
Horn - Phil Taylor

Sat 31st Jan - 7.30 pm
HOLY TRINITY, RIPON
www.st-cecilia.org.uk

Tickets: £20 for Adults; FREE for Under 18s
Available online from the orchestra website, Little Ripon Bookshop, Harrogate Theatre, on the door, or by phone: 01423 531062. ALL SEATS UNRESERVED



Harrogate School of Theology & Mission

The Revd Prebendary Dr Isabelle Hamley, Principal of Radley Hall, formerly a Probation Officer, a university chaplain, a theology tutor, a parish priest, chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury and theological adviser to the House of Bishops, speaks on: *Happy are those: happiness, wellbeing and the life of faith in the Psalms.*

As well as academic work, she loves writing to make Scripture accessible and inspiring in everyday life, and writes regularly for BRF, LICC and Church House Publishing. Isabelle is a regular public speaker at various events, and a contributor to Radio 4's *Thought for the Day* and *The Daily Service*.

This live lecture is at St Mark's Church on Saturday 24th January, starting with breakfast served from 9:30 am, then the lecture from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. Tickets cost £10 (students £7 per and under 18s free) including breakfast and refreshments. Zoom live stream is £5 per person and must be purchased online in advance. Visit <https://hstm.org.uk> to book.

New Pilates class for beginners starts this week!



A new five week Pilates course is starting at St Peter's Church on Thursday 15th January from 11:30 am – 12:30 pm in the Brostoff Hall and is designed for people that are completely new to Pilates. If you would like to join, please contact the teacher, Julie Downes, by messaging her on instagram *classicalpilates_harrogate* or email her at classicalpilatesharrogate@gmail.com. The classes cost £38.

RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch: 23rd – 25th January 2026

'You have to believe in happiness, or happiness never comes.

Ah, that's the reason a bird can sing – on his darkest day he believes in spring.'

Douglas Malloch 1877 - 1938



Birds are important to our appreciation of the natural world and Creation; who cannot be cheered by the intricate song of a robin in the gloom of a winter's morning; or the chatter of a blackbird as it scuttles across the garden, seeking out food; or the haunting call of the tawny owl at dusk?

We have lost 38 million birds from UK skies in the last 60 years (RSPB) and in an effort to raise awareness and understanding of bird life in the UK, the RSPB holds 'The Big Garden Birdwatch' each year. The dates for 2026 are 23rd – 25th January. Please try to take part and learn more about the birds we love. Details can be found at [rspb.org.uk](https://www.rspb.org.uk)

Heather Swarbrick, St Peter's Eco Church Group

Today's Services: 11th January 2026

The First Sunday of Epiphany

The Baptism of Christ

The First Sunday after the Epiphany (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 **1541** There is a higher throne; **1630** Wonderful grace; **1188**

Befriended; **1407** King of the ages

Readings 1 Corinthians 1 v 1 - 9

John 1 v 35 - 42

Preacher: Alan Garrow

Our Duty Wardens today are:

Kate Blake and

Rachel Fell

11:00 Choral Matins

Setting Ireland in F (Jubilate)

Hymns 5, 233, 93

Psalm 89 v 20 - 30

Readings Isaiah 42 v 1 - 9

John 1 v 35 - 42

Anthem Lo, star-led chiefs (*Crotch*)

Preacher: Alan Garrow

4:15 pm Stepping Stones Service Holy Communion
(arrivals and refreshments 3:45 pm)

Preacher: Chris Clayton

6:30 Choral Evensong by candlelight

Setting Dyson in F

Hymns 84, 487, 86 (omit * verse)

Psalm 46

Readings Joshua 3 v 1 - 8 and v 14 - 17

Luke 3 v 15 - 22

Anthem The three Kings (*Peter Cornelius*)

Preacher: Alan Garrow

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, Richard Couzens, Jane Crabtree, Tony Edwards, Margaret Farrar, Jenny Gardiner, Tim Harrison, June Hemmings, Jean Hopper, Trevor Hughes, Joan Kelly, Kim Okell, Sheila Pantin, Sue Pearce, Celia Preston, Richard Sadler, Michelle Simon and Sally Sneddon.

Also in our prayers this week:

Mon	Chris Clayton, our Associate Vicar, preparing to leave St Peter's Church Our Lay Baptism Team
Tues	Harrogate <i>Bipolar UK</i> Support Group Men's Breakfast at St Peter's
Wed	Siân Lockwood, Churchwarden All our Duty Wardens and Sidespeople
Thurs	Our armed forces serving at home and overseas The Royal Navy
Fri	St Peter's PCC Our Deanery Representatives
Sat	St Peter's Choir John Longstaff, Director of Music

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	<i>Aelred of Hexham, Abbot of Rievaulx, 1167</i> Psalm 2 Genesis 1 v 1 - 19 Matthew 21 v 1 - 17
Tues	<i>Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers, Teacher, 367</i> Psalm 9 Genesis 1 v 20 – 2 v 3 Matthew 21 v 18 - 32
Wed	Psalm 20 Genesis 2 v 4 to end Matthew 21 v 33 to end
Thurs	Psalm 21 Genesis 3 Matthew 22 v 1 - 14
Fri	Psalm 67 Genesis 4 v 1 – 16 and v 25 - 26 Matthew 22 v 15 - 33
Sat	<i>Antony of Egypt, Hermit, Abbot, 356</i> Psalm 33 Genesis 6 v 1 - 10 Matthew 22 v 34 to end

The Collect for *The First Sunday of Epiphany* (Common Worship)

Heavenly Father, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son: may we recognize him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

The Collect for *The First Sunday after the Epiphany* (Book of Common Prayer)

O Lord, we beseech thee mercifully to receive the prayers of thy people which call upon thee; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 12 th	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 is meeting in the Undercroft 2:00 pm The U3A Singing Folk group
Tues 13 th	12:00 – 12:30 pm Healing Service
Wed 14 th	10:30 – 11:00 am Café RefleXions 2:00 – 3:30 pm Art Class for Adults with Helena 7:30 pm Harrogate Harmony Men's Chorus
Thurs 15 th	9:30 – 11:00 am The Toddler Group at St Peter's 9:30 – 10:45 am <i>Welcome to the Table</i> - group exploring baptism and confirmation - Session 1 11:00 am Holy Communion 11:30 am – 1:00 pm <i>Amnesty International UK</i> are holding a <i>Write for Rights</i> session in Church 11:30 am – 12:30 pm Classical Pilates Class in the Brostoff Hall 6:00 – 7:15 pm <i>Welcome to the Table</i> - Session 1 7:30 pm St Peter's Choir Practice
Fri 16 th	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 17 th	8:00 am Men's Breakfast at St Peter's
Sun 18 th	<i>The Second Sunday of Epiphany</i> 1:00 pm Farewell Lunch for the Clayton Family 5:30 – 7:00 pm Sanctuary , our youth group, is meeting in the Brostoff Hall for a social evening 7:30 – 8:30 pm AA meeting in the Brostoff Hall

Next Sunday 18th January 2026

The Second Sunday of Epiphany

8:30	Holy Communion
9:30	Family Communion
11:00	Choral Matins
4:15	Stepping Stones Service – <i>Crafternoon Church</i>
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.

Alan Garrow is to be installed as an Honorary Canon of Ripon Cathedral on Sunday 25th January at 3:30 pm at a Festal Evensong, with the Bishop of Bradford preaching.

St Peter's Food Ministry needs your help!

The Thursday Supermarket needs these items:

- teabags and jars of instant coffee
- packets of biscuits and breakfast cereals
- tins of soup
- tins of vegetables, tomatoes or baked beans
- tins of meat or fish
- tins of fruit and rice pudding
- small bottles of washing-up liquid
- toiletries (toothpaste/brushes; shower gel, toilet rolls)



All donations gratefully received



The flowers in Church today are in
memory of
Paul Nigel Gardiner
1955 - 2025

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



On 15th January our local group are holding a **Write for Rights** session from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm in St Peter's Church.

The Lounge cafe 
AT ST MARK'S

OPEN SEPT

CAKE COFFEE
CONVERSATION
LUNCH COMMUNITY

NEW CAFE
NOW OPEN

THURS & FRI
10AM - 1:30PM

AT ST MARK'S CHURCH, LEEDS ROAD, HG2 8AY
Serving speciality coffee, tea, cakes and light lunches
Open to the whole community

smch.org.uk/theloungecafe

Part of the Chatty Cafe Scheme





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



Welcome to the Table



St Peter's Church
Thursday 15th January 2026
9:30 – 10:45 am and 6:00 – 7:15 pm
Contact our Curate, Karin Shaw,
karinmshaw@googlemail.com.

The Next Deadline

The deadline for the next edition of the Weekly News (18th January) will be noon on Wednesday 14th January. Please send any items (including photos) to **The Weekly News Editor**, Marian Chambers, or to **the Vicar**, Alan Garrow.



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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