



Weekly News

14th December 2025

The Third Sunday of Advent

www.stpetersharrogate.org.uk

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

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

Emma Carrington

Alexander Grainger

Andrew Greenan

Anthony Gray

John Longstaff

soprano

mezzo-soprano

tenor

bass

organ

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)

Men's Breakfast at St Peter's: Saturday 20th December 2025

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.

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Join us for our traditional service of *A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols* at St Peter's next Sunday 21st December, at 6:30 pm. The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short Bible readings. The readings are interspersed with Christmas carols and anthems sung by our wonderful choir.



Come and help to make Christingles

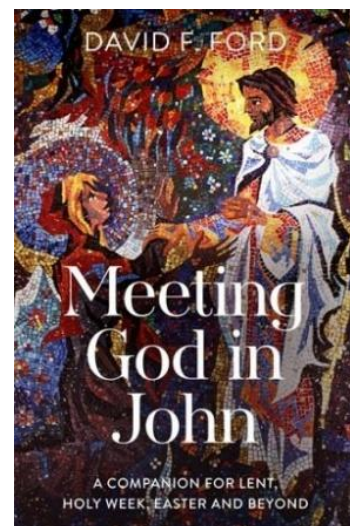
This year we have two Christingle Services on Christmas Eve, one at 3:00 pm and one at 4:30 pm, both in aid of the **Children's Society**. We will be making hundreds of Christingles on the morning of Wednesday 24th December from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm in Church. The oranges, red ribbons, candles and foil are here; we just need **YOU!** If you would like to help, please let Kate Blake (07931 382 756 or kateblakefamily@gmail.com) know.

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.

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.



The Fundraising Refreshment Day held at St Peter's on Saturday 6th December during the Harrogate Fayre raised an amazing £1,080.85. Thank you to Catherine Medforth and everyone involved for all your hard work!

Gaudete Sunday – Rejoice in the Lord always!



The Advent Wreath in St Peter's Church has a white candle in the centre surrounded by four candles; three are purple, the liturgical colour for Advent, and one is rose pink - it will be lit today.

In medieval times, Advent was observed as a fast of forty days before Christmas. This

'Refreshment Sunday' was a welcome splash of colour in the restrained atmosphere of Advent, a break in the fast. The readings and liturgy for today speak of joy; we are urged to: *Gaudete in Domino semper* - Rejoice in the Lord always. So, today became known as Gaudete or Rose Sunday.

Write for Rights: take action and change a life

Every year, Amnesty International's *Write for Rights* campaign brings people from around the world together to fight for justice and dignity and to build a shared future. The Harrogate and Knaresborough group of Amnesty International UK hold a *Write for Rights* session on the third Thursday of every month from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm in St Peter's Church. The next session is this week on Thursday 18th December.



Collection dates for 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. If you took a gift bag and card last month to fill, they should be returned to Church on the dates shown on the card (15th and 16th December). For more information, please call Carole Raw on 07425 161 425 or email stpeterschurchhgtoffice@gmail.com. Thank you!

The Boxing Day Pilgrimage to Fountains Abbey



The traditional Boxing Day Pilgrimage, from Ripon Cathedral to Fountains Abbey, takes place again this year. The celebration of the Eucharist at the Cathedral begins at 9:30 am and then the pilgrims will walk the 4 miles to the Abbey where there'll be a Carol Service with Stray Brass from approximately 12:00 pm in the Cellarium. Entrance to Fountains Abbey is usually free until noon if you are joining the pilgrimage.

Today's Services: 14th December 2025

The Third Sunday of Advent

Today is **Gaudete Sunday**, so the rose candle on our Advent wreath will be lit

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 God whose love is everywhere; **243** In the bleak midwinter: **251**
It came upon a midnight clear; **314** Joy to the world

Readings Isaiah 40 v 3 - 5
John 1 v 6 – 8, 15 and 19 - 24

Preacher: Stewart Davies

11:00 Choral Matins

Setting Dyson in F (Benedicite)
Hymns 607, 595, 38 (omit *verse)

Psalm 68 v 1 - 19

Readings Isaiah 40 v 3 - 5
John 1 v 6 – 8, 15 and 19 - 24

Anthem This is the record of John (*Gibbons*)

Preacher: Stewart Davies

Our Duty Wardens today are:

Leigh Thompson
and Rachel Fell

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

Preacher: Chris Clayton

6:30 Choral Evensong by candlelight

Setting Purcell in G minor

Hymns 25, 37, 33

Psalm 12

Readings Isaiah 5 v 8 to end
Acts 13 v 13 - 41

Anthem Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace (*S S Wesley*)

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, 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:

Mon	Vulnerable children with safeguarding and welfare needs <i>St Andrew's Evangelical Mission</i> , in Chosica, Peru
Tues	Staff and residents of care homes Jan Edwards, Lay Pastoral Minister
Wed	Those working in low-wage jobs yet remaining trapped in poverty Those struggling to pay food and energy bills
Thurs	GP surgeries and health centres All attending our Healing Service
Fri	His Majesty, King Charles III <i>The King's Trust</i> , providing life-changing support to young people
Sat	All who are sick in body, mind or spirit

Addiction Support Agencies

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 40 Isaiah 38 v 1 – 8, 21 - 22 Matthew 16 v 13 to end
Tues	Psalm 70 Isaiah 38 v 9 - 20 Matthew 17 v 1 - 13
Wed	Psalm 75 Isaiah 39 Matthew 17 v 14 - 21
Thurs	Psalm 76 Zephaniah 1 v 1 – 2 v 3 Matthew 17 v 22 to end
Fri	Psalm 146 Zephaniah 3 v 1 - 13 Matthew 18 v 1 - 20
Sat	Psalm 46 Zephaniah 3 v 14 to end Matthew 18 v 21 to end

The Collect for The Third Sunday of Advent

(Common Worship)

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Collect for The Third Sunday in Advent (Book of Common Prayer)

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at thy first coming didst send thy messenger to prepare thy way before thee: Grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready thy way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at thy second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

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 being dismantled from 15th – 17th December.*

Mon 15th	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 7:00 pm St Peter's Choir singing at Carol Service at Rudding Park
Tues 16th	12:00 – 12:30 pm Healing Service 7:30 pm Messiah rehearsal in Church
Wed 17th	10:30 – 11:00 am Café RefleXions 2:00 – 3:30 pm Art Class for Adults with Helena
Thurs 18th	9:30 am St Peter's CE Primary School Christmas Service 9:30 – 11:00 am The Toddler Group at St Peter's 11:00 am Holy Communion 11:30 am – 1:00 pm <i>Write for Rights</i> session with local group of Amnesty International UK 7:30 pm St Peter's Choir Practice
Fri 19th	9:30 am AA meeting in the Music Room 10:00 am – 12:00 pm St Peter's Cleaning Team 7:15 pm Performance of Handel's Messiah
Sat 20th	8:00 am Men's Breakfast
Sun 21st	<i>Winter Solstice</i> <i>The Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> 7:30 – 8:30 pm AA meeting in the Brostoff Hall

Next Sunday 21st December 2025

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30	Holy Communion
9:30	Family Communion
11:00	Choral Matins
4:15	Stepping Stones Service – <i>Crafternoon Church</i>
6:30	Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

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.

St Peter's Food Ministry

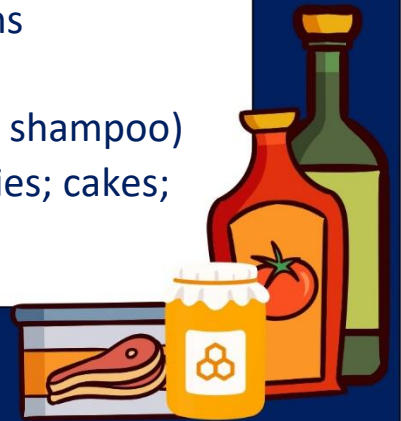
needs your help!

The *Thursday Supermarket* needs these items:

- tins of **meat** or fish
- teabags and jars of instant coffee
- packets of biscuits and breakfast cereals
- tins of vegetables, tomatoes or baked beans
- tins of fruit and rice pudding
- toiletries (toothpaste/brushes; shower gel, shampoo)
- **Christmas treats:** selection boxes; mince pies; cakes; sweets or a bar of chocolate!



All donations gratefully received



Pregnancy Loss Training with *Reflect*

Reflect is the initiative of local churches working together across Harrogate and North Yorkshire to provide free support to individuals and couples who are suffering after experiencing pregnancy or baby loss.

To increase the support that we are able to offer in Harrogate we are running a training course starting in January 2026. The course will cover listening skills,

reflective practice, Christian ethics and the skills and knowledge needed to support a client through our structured, support programme 'Reflections: Walking through loss.' If you're interested in finding out more please visit our website: <https://reflectsupport.co.uk> or email us at info@reflectsupport.co.uk.

Shaeron Caton Rose is raising money for SHINE, West Bowling

Shaeron, who is a trustee of SHINE, is taking part in the Lyme Lunge on New Year's Day 2026. This annual fancy dress dip in the sea at Lyme Bay is organised by the Rotary Club of Lyme Regis to raise money for 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 areas. Shaeron will be bringing a sponsor form to Church on 21st December. She has also opened a [Just Giving page](#) for donations or email her at shaeron@mac.com to get the link.



Refreshments
are served after
each of our
Sunday morning
services from



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

Safe Spaces



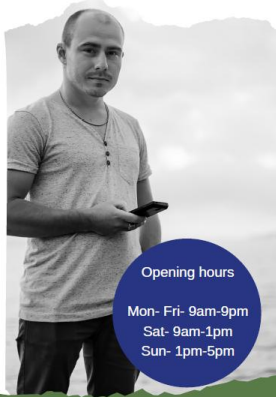
is an **independent** and **confidential**
support service for adults who have
been abused by someone in
the Church.

If you have been affected,
however long ago, **Safe
Spaces** can support you.

Call our **free** helpline

 **0300 303 1056**

 **safespaces@firstlight.org.uk**



www.safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk

The Christmas and New Year's editions of the *Weekly News*

The deadline for the next two editions
of the Weekly News (21st and 28th
December) will be noon on Wednesday
17th 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:

The Revd Dr Alan Garrow,
St Peter's Vicarage, 13 Beech Grove,
Harrogate, HG2 0ET.

tel: 07761 017 658

alan.garrow@gmail.com

Associate Vicar:

The Revd Chris Clayton,

tel: 07407 258 733

chris.clayton@leeds.anglican.org

Curates

The Revd Karin Shaw

karinmshaw@googlemail.com

The Revd Steve Gibbin

steve.gibbin@leeds.anglican.org

Lay Pastoral Minister:

Jan Edwards

stppastoralcareteam@gmail.com

Parish Administrator:

Carole Raw,

tel: 07425 161 425

stpeterschurchhgtoffice@gmail.com

Churchwardens:

Mike Davies

tel: 07740 173 951

mikej.mjd@gmail.com

Siân Lockwood OBE

tel: 07889 616 755

sian.lockwood54@gmail.com

Parish Safeguarding Officer:

Wendy Lewis

tel: 07564 806 738

wendylewis943@btinternet.com

The Weekly News Editor:

Marian Chambers

marian.chambers41@gmail.com