



# Weekly News

## 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025

*The First Sunday of Advent*

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

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

### The Season to be open, generous and jolly!

Advent and Christmas ... what an amazing opportunity to offer God's open, generous invitation to worship, refreshment, and celebration.

Soon we will be surrounded by the town's Christmas Fayre (on the outside) and filled with wonderful and varied Christmas Trees (on the inside). The Fayre runs from 5<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> December (you may wish to be aware of traffic restrictions during this period), while our Christmas Tree Festival runs from 6<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> December (with the trees remaining on display longer, of course).

This is the period where, in previous years, we have run a Christmas Market of our own. This year, instead, we will be running Refreshment Days on 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> December from 10:00am – 2:00pm (13<sup>th</sup> December will be an *Amnesty International* Refreshment Day) followed by 20-minute Shoppers' Carols at 3:00pm and 4:00pm on both Saturdays. If you've ever been to our Shoppers' Carols, you'll know they are full of joy – why not invite a friend, family member or neighbour to come for coffee and stay for carols?

St Peter's is always, at every time of year, a place where extraordinary numbers of volunteers give generously of their time and gifts to communicate God's open and generous welcome. All the more so at Christmas. A heartfelt 'thank you' to everyone who makes this possible. And, if you'd would like to lend an extra hand over this season, just let one of the Clergy or Churchwardens know!

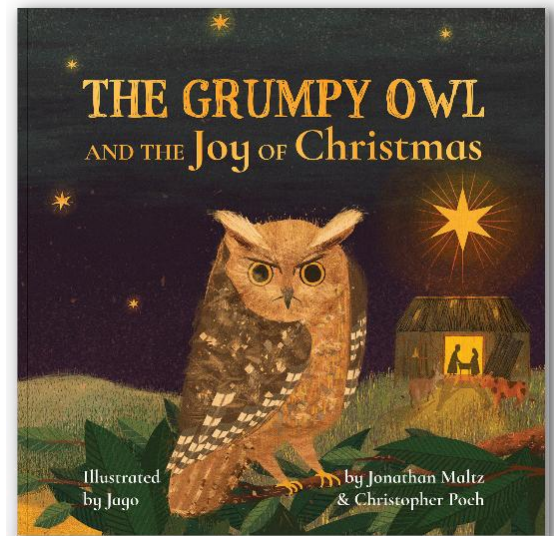
Alan Garrow,  
Vicar of St Peter's Church



You are invited to an evening of **Carols by Candlelight** to celebrate the work of *Artizan International* at St Peter's Church on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 7:00 pm, with mince pies and mulled wine served from 6:30 pm. Everyone is welcome!

## The Grumpy Owl and the Joy of Christmas

This heart-warming retelling of the Christmas story, **The Grumpy Owl and the Joy of Christmas**, will be a major focus for the Church of England's 2025 Christmas campaign and is available from [Church House Publishing](#), [Amazon](#) or [Eden](#). Something wonderful is about to happen in the old, lonely, empty barn. A very special baby is going to be born. But the grumpy owl who lives there just wants to be left alone. Can any of the other animals help him change his mind? Or will he miss out on the amazing joy of the first Christmas?



## Bakers needed for St Peter's Fundraising Refreshment Day



Please let Catherine Medforth (07876 653 765) or Siân Lockwood (07889 616 755) know if you are willing to bake a cake for the next fundraiser on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December. Food supplied, sold or provided at charity or community events, such as fundraisers, must comply with food laws. So that those with food intolerances or allergies can make safe choices we ask that cakes are

brought in a clean container with a list of ingredients attached. Thank you!

## Come to The Market Day Café next Thursday

The *Market Day Café* is on the second Thursday of each month. The next one is next week on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 11:30 am after the Holy Communion service. They will be serving hot drinks, homemade soups, fresh sandwiches, scones and delicious cakes!



## The Mothers' Union in Harrogate

The next meeting of the Mothers' Union in Harrogate will be on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 2:00 pm at St Mark's Church on the Leeds Road. We will be making Christmas crafts. All welcome.

## Pregnancy Loss Training with Reflect

At *Reflect* we offer free one-to-one support for those dealing with pregnancy or baby loss. In 2026 we will be training volunteers to meet the increased demand for our support. The course runs from 10<sup>th</sup> January – 18<sup>th</sup> April 2026 with both in-person and online sessions. For further details visit our website: [reflectsupport.co.uk](https://reflectsupport.co.uk).





## 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.



## **Advent Walk on Saturday – a walk of reflection, hope and preparation**



Helen Harrison will be organising a *St Peter's Advent Prayer Walk* on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December starting at 11:00 am at St Peter's. We will be following a circular route to Ripley Church, where we will stop for lunch, and return to Church by 3:00 or 4:00 pm for Shoppers' Carols. As always you can choose how far you want to walk and pick up/drop off points will be arranged. As we walk, we will pause to reflect upon poems, prayers and songs that help us, amongst all our busy Christmas preparations, to open our ears and our eyes to the Advent message of hope and true meaning of Christmas. Please speak to Helen or contact her on: [hfhudy5@gmail.com](mailto:hfhudy5@gmail.com) if you would like to join us on this *Advent Walk*.



## Join us this **CHRISTMAS**

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

**Artisan'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**

ST PETER'S CHURCH HARROGATE  
G F Handel

## Messiah

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> 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)



# Today's Services: 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025

*The First Sunday of Advent*

*Common Worship Year A begins*

**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**            **646** All I once held dear; **1030** The Lord's my Shepherd; **762**  
Here is bread; **897** Lord I lift Your name on high

**Readings**        Romans 10 v 12 - 18  
John 1 v 34 - 42

**Preacher:**        Alan Garrow

**11:00 Choral Matins**

**Setting**           Jackson in G (Benedicite)

**Hymns**           26, 93, 29

**Psalm**            44

**Readings**        Isaiah 2 v 1 - 5  
John 1 v 34 - 42

**Anthem**          The Angel Gabriel (Jack Longstaff)

**Preacher:**        Alan Garrow

**4:15 pm Stepping Stones Service**    *Special Service*

**Preacher:**        Karin Shaw

**6:30 Advent Candle Service**

*Please see separate order of service*

**Our Duty Wardens today are:**

Siân Lockwood  
and Mike Davies



## 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, 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>	Catharine Davies, Licensed Lay Minister St Peter's Evening Fellowship
<b>Tues</b>	All who work in and use foodbanks Karin Shaw, Curate
<b>Wed</b>	St Peter's mini supermarket Nigel and Asim, our caretakers
<b>Thurs</b>	Social care workers, helping people to live independently and with dignity All who lead the prayers at our services
<b>Fri</b>	Hannah Beck, Lay Reader Café RefleXions
<b>Sat</b>	Steve Gibbin, Curate St Peter's <i>Ladies who Lunch</i>

**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>	<b><i>Andrew the Apostle</i></b> Psalm 47 Ezekiel 47 v 1 - 12 John 12 v 20 - 32
<b>Tues</b>	Psalm 80 Isaiah 26 v 1 - 13 Matthew 12 v 22 - 37
<b>Wed</b>	<i>Francis Xavier, Missionary, 1552</i> Psalm 7 Isaiah 28 v 1 - 13 Matthew 12 v 38 to end
<b>Thurs</b>	Psalm 42 Isaiah 28 v 14 to end Matthew 13 v 1 - 23
<b>Fri</b>	Psalm 25 Isaiah 29 v 1 - 14 Matthew 13 v 24 - 43
<b>Sat</b>	<i>Nicolas, Bishop of Myra</i> Psalm 9 Isaiah 29 v 15 to end Matthew 13 v 44 to end

**The Collect for the First Sunday of Advent**

(Common Worship)

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**The Collect for the First Sunday in Advent**

(Book of Common Prayer)

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever.



# What's on This Week

*The Fairtrade Christmas Shop is open in the Old Baptistery.*

*Entries for **St Peter's Christmas Tree Festival** are being set up in Church this week.*

*The Christmas Market is being set up from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December. It starts on Friday 5<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.*

<b>Mon 1<sup>st</sup></b>	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 in the Undercroft 2:00 pm The U3A Singing Folk group
<b>Tues 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>12:00 – 12:30 pm Healing Service</b> 2:00 – 4:00 pm St Peter's Afternoon Fellowship's Christmas Party
<b>Wed 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>10:30 – 11:00 am Café RefleXions</b> 2:00 – 3:30 pm Art Class for Adults with Helena 7:30 pm Harrogate Harmony Men's Chorus
<b>Thurs 4<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30 – 11:00 am The Toddler Group at St Peter's <b>11:00 am Holy Communion</b> 7:30 pm St Peter's Choir Practice <b>7:00 pm Artizan's Carols by Candlelight</b> with mince pies and mulled wine from 6:30 pm
<b>Fri 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b><i>The Christmas Market starts</i></b> 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
<b>Sat 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b><i>First day of St Peter's Christmas Tree Festival</i></b> 10:00 am – 2:00 pm - St Peter's Fundraising Refreshment Day <b>11:00 am – 4:00 pm St Peter's Advent Prayer Walk</b> <b>3:00 pm and 4:00 pm Shoppers' Carols</b> - <i>these services will be 20 minutes long, with three classic carols, a reading, a prayer and a talk.</i>
<b>Sun 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b><i>The Second Sunday of Advent</i></b> 5:30 – 7:00 pm <b>Sanctuary</b> are in the Brostoff Hall for a Quiz Night 7:30 – 8:30 pm AA meeting in the Brostoff Hall

## Next Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2025

### ***The Second Sunday of Advent***

8:30	Holy Communion
9:30	Family Communion
11:00	Choral Communion
4:15	Stepping Stones Service – <i>Celtic Worship</i>
6:30	Choral Evensong

**Happy  
Birthday!**

**Hannah  
Beck  
celebrates  
a special  
birthday  
today!**



## Today marks the start of the new Christian year

From earliest times the Church has gathered on Sundays to celebrate the good news of Jesus Christ. Over time an annual cycle of Christian memory-making has also developed, which allows us to remember his life, death, and resurrection; to celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit; and to recall the ministry of the holy people who have spread the Christian faith over the centuries.

The liturgical or Church year is divided into several seasons. It begins with **Advent**, which looks forward to **Christmas**. The visit of the wise men to Jesus is remembered at **Epiphany**, after which there is a period of 'ordinary time'. The six weeks of **Lent** prepare us for **Easter**, which celebrates Jesus's resurrection, leading forward to his Ascension and the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church at **Pentecost**. Then 'ordinary time' resumes until the end of the year.

A lectionary is a table of readings from Scripture appointed for Christian worship on a given day or occasion. At St Peter's we use the Common Worship Calendar and Lectionary at our 9:30 am Family Communion Service and the Book of Common Prayer Lectionary for the 11 o'clock service and Evensong, both authorised for use in the Church of England.

The Common Worship Lectionary is arranged in two cycles, one for Sundays and one for weekdays. The Sunday cycle is divided into three years - A, B, and C. The weekday cycle is divided into two years, Year 1 and Year 2. Today we start Sunday Lectionary Year A and on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, we start Weekday Lectionary Year 2.



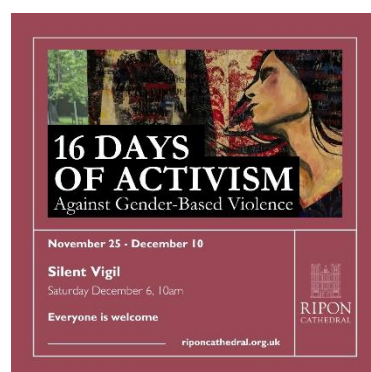
### Harrogate School of Theology & Mission

***The words we use for worship* – a seminar led by Andrew Brown, local Methodist preacher and hymnwriter**

This is on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December at Woodlands Methodist Church on Wetherby Road, starting with breakfast at 9:30 am, followed by the seminar and time for discussion. Tickets cost £8, under 18s are free. Booking in advance via Eventbrite, visit [hstm.org.uk/events](http://hstm.org.uk/events) for further details.

### 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence

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 and a silent vigil from 10:00 am on 6<sup>th</sup> December followed by a *Service of Lament and Hope*. All are welcome.

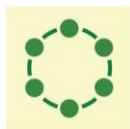


Refreshments  
are served after  
each of our  
Sunday morning  
services from



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 (7<sup>th</sup> December) will  
be noon on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</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:

The Revd Dr Alan Garrow,  
St Peter's Vicarage, 13 Beech Grove,  
Harrogate, HG2 0ET.  
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[alan.garrow@gmail.com](mailto:alan.garrow@gmail.com)

#### Associate Vicar:

The Revd Chris Clayton,  
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#### Curates

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