



Weekly News

3rd December 2023

The First Sunday of Advent

www.stpetersharrogate.org.uk

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

Christmas Fayre Shoppers' Carols

One of the brilliant things about St Peter's town-centre location is all sorts of things can, and frequently do, happen here. We rejoice to be part of the bustle and busyness of the town centre – and that atmosphere is about to become even more lively with the start of the new, expanded, Christmas Fayre.



In response to this opportunity, we are going to hold two extra Shoppers' Carols services – at 4.00 pm on Saturday 9th and Saturday 16th December – as well as the usual one at 10:00 am – 12:00 pm on Saturday 23rd December. These extra services will be just twenty minutes long, with three classic carols, a reading, a prayer and a talk. Where this has been tried in other similar locations these events have grown to become something of a local institution and a treasured part of many people's Christmas calendars.

As we try these services for the first time, it will be great to have your support. Please pray for the events, tell neighbours who you think might be interested, and, if you're able to walk the final stretch into town, do come along yourself.

Alan Garrow, Vicar of St Peter's Church

The first day of Advent and of a new church year



Today is the first day of Advent and the beginning of the new Liturgical year – Year B in the three-year cycle of readings. We will be lighting the first candle on our Advent wreath, which is purple and symbolizes **HOPE**. Three of the candles are purple, because it is the liturgical colour for Advent that signifies a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice. The rose candle signifies **JOY** and will be lit on the third Sunday. Our Advent Candle Service starts at 6:30 pm tonight.

St Peter's Afternoon Fellowship

The next Afternoon Fellowship is on Monday 11th December, from 2:00 – 4:00 pm, when John Longstaff, our Director of Music, will play the piano and lead some carol singing. There will be a delicious afternoon tea as usual. Please call Gillian on 01423 500482 if you would like to come.



Harrogate School of Theology & Mission



Amos and Justice – a live seminar by the Revd Leah Thompson, a curate in Bradford, followed by a group discussion

This is on Saturday 9th December, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm with breakfast available from 9:30 am, at Christ Church, Harrogate. Tickets cost £5, under 18s are free. Booking in advance via [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com).

St Peter's Evening Fellowship Christmas Dinner

Just to remind all those who have booked, our Christmas Dinner is at the Harrogate Club, 36 Victoria Avenue, HG1 5PR on Thursday 7th December, 6:30 for 7:00 pm. John Frearson, our treasurer, who is a member of the Harrogate Club, will be giving a short presentation prior to the meal. For further details contact Richard Bion (07966 073 867 or richardbion9@gmail.com).

Donations for the Christmas flowers

St Peter's Flower Team will be decorating the Church for Christmas and if you would like to sponsor the Christmas flowers, please give the names and any money directly to Sue Heapy (07540 355 305) before Sunday 17th December. Please do not put it in the Donations box as Sue may not receive it in time. Thank you!



St Peter's Strollers

Meet at the Library on Victoria Avenue at 10:30 am on 12th December for a stroll across the Stray and Valley Gardens culminating in coffee and mince pies (alternatives will be available) at a local hostelry. This is a sociable occasion for all who would like a gentle walk of approximately 1½ miles.

Getting ready for St Peter's Christmas Tree Festival!



At the last *Crafternoon Service* some candy canes were made - including a human one! The canes are to decorate the Stepping Stones Service's entry for the Christmas Tree Festival, which is on daily from Saturday 9th to Saturday 16th December. The winners will be announced at the 9:30 am Family Communion Service on Sunday 17th December. Don't forget to vote for your favourites!



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 14th December at 11:30 am after the Holy Communion service. They will be serving hot drinks, homemade soups, fresh sandwiches, scones and delicious cakes!



Join us this CHRISTMAS

St Peter's Christmas Fair
10:00 am – 4:00 pm 2nd December

Advent Candle Service
6:30 pm 3rd December

Saturday Shopper's Carols
4:00 pm 9th and 16th December
10:00 am – 12:00 pm 23rd December

St Peter's Christmas Tree Festival
9th – 16th December

Nine Lessons and Carols
6:30 pm 17th 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 2024
11:30 pm Watchnight Service

Find all our services and events at www.stpetersharrogate.org.uk

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

Carols by Candlelight

At St Peter's Church, Harrogate town centre
Thursday 7th December at 7pm

Doors open at 6.30pm for
mulled wine & mince pies.

FREE ENTRY

Retiring collection in aid of
Artizan International.

Late night shopping to follow
at Artizan with free gifts.



www.artizaninternational.org

registered charity no. 1160494

Today's Services: 3rd December 2023

The First Sunday of Advent

8:30 **Holy Communion**

9:30 **Family Communion led by *Sanctuary*, our Youth Group**

*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 **315** Jubilate everybody; **43** Bind us together (v1 and 3); Candle in the window; **314** Joy to the world

Reading Mark 13 v 24 to end

Preacher: Steve Gibbin

11:00 **Choral Communion**

Setting Day in B flat

Hymns 9, 36, 26, 362

Readings 1 Corinthians 1 v 3 - 9

Mark 13 v 24 to end

Anthem The Truth from above (*Vaughan Williams*)

Preacher: Hannah Beck

4:15 pm **Stepping Stones Service** *Celtic Worship*

Preacher: Sarah Martin

6:30 **Advent Candle Service**

Please see separate order of service

Readings Isaiah 1 v 1 - 20

Matthew 21 v 1 – 13



Our Duty Wardens today are:

Kate Blake and

Carrie Brown

Candlelight Service



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, Beverley Cooper, Jane Crabtree, Tony Edwards, Louise Emrullahu, David Fisher, June Hemmings, Jean Houlden, Trevor Hughes, Jackie Kelly, Rachel Looby, Derek Mansfield, Steve Martin, Kim Okell, Sheila Pantin, Dora Ringrose, Richard Sadler, Michelle Simon and Richard Skidmore.

RIP: Christine McManus, Billy Morton and Marjorie Mills

Also in our prayers this week:

Mon	St Aidan's CE High School Sanctuary , St Peter's Youth Group
Tues	All those providing care or help to a vulnerable person St Peter's Pastoral Support Team
Wed	Carole Raw, Parish Administrator Delivery drivers and postal workers
Thurs	All emergency service workers Those whose time is spent caring for others
Fri	Mo Atkinson, Churchwarden St Peter's Home Groups
Sat	<i>Wellspring Therapy & Training</i> All those suffering from anxiety and depression

Daily Readings

Morning Prayer is at 8:00 am and Evening Prayer at 5:00 pm daily. Both services are livestreamed on Facebook and Zoom – join in by following the links on our website. These are the Bible readings we will be using each morning this week.

Mon	Psalms 50 Isaiah 25 v 1 - 9 Matthew 12 v 1 - 21
Tues	Psalms 80 Isaiah 26 v 1 - 13 Matthew 12 v 22 - 37
Wed	<i>Nicholas, Bishop of Myra</i> Psalms 7 Isaiah 28 v 1 - 13 Matthew 12 v 38 to end
Thurs	<i>Ambrose, Bishop of Milan</i> Psalms 42 Isaiah 28 v 14 to end Matthew 13 v 1 - 23
Fri	<i>The conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> Psalms 25 Isaiah 29 v 1 - 14 Matthew 13 v 24 - 43
Sat	Psalms 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

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

St Peter's Christmas Tree Festival is on from 9th – 16th December

Mon 4th	1:30 – 3:00 pm The <i>Thinking about God</i> group meets in the Undercroft 2:00 pm The U3A Singing Folk group
Tues 5th	9:30 am – 2:30 pm <i>The Christmas Tree Festival</i> is being set up 12:00 – 12:30 pm Healing Service
Wed 6th	9:30 am – 2:30 pm <i>The Christmas Tree Festival</i> is being set up 10:30 – 11:00 am Café RefleXions 7:30 pm Harrogate Harmony Men's Chorus
Thurs 7th	9:30 – 11:00 am The Toddler Group at St Peter's 11:00 am Holy Communion 7:00 pm Artizan International Carols by Candlelight led by St Peter's Choir– <i>mulled wine and mince pies from 6:30 pm.</i> 6:30 for 7:00 pm St Peter's Evening Fellowship Annual Dinner
Fri 8th	9:30 am AA meeting in the Music Room 9:30 am – 2:30 pm The Christmas Tree Festival is being set up 10:00 am – 12:00 pm St Peter's Cleaning Team
Sat 9th	10:00 am – 3:30 pm <i>Amnesty International UK</i> are holding a Refreshment Day and a WRITE FOR RIGHTS 2023 event in Church 4:00 pm Shopper's Carols
Sun 10th	<i>International Human Rights Day</i> <i>The Second Sunday of Advent</i> 1:00 – 1:30 pm Sunday Lunch 5:30 – 7:00 pm <i>Sanctuary</i> , our youth group are on a Night Walk from Harlow Carr – torches and wellies at the ready! 7:30 – 8:30 pm AA meeting in the Brostoff Hall

Next Sunday 10th December

The Second Sunday of Advent

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

The Breakfast Club provides a free, hot breakfast from Monday to Saturday (8:15 – 8:45 am) for all those who are hungry or in need. A hot **Sunday lunch** is also served each week at 1:00 pm, except for the third Sunday of the month when it is *Sunday Lunch Club*. **Hot food** is available 4:30 – 4:50 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. **Our mini Supermarket** is on Thursdays 4:30 – 4:50 pm.

Thank you for your wonderful response to St Peter's Christmas Appeal



A huge thank you from Jan Edwards and Carole Raw to everyone who took part in St Peter's Christmas Appeal this year - for returning the bags on time, and for your generosity which is much appreciated. *And thank you, Carole and Jan, for all your hard work, too!*

Strength for today and hope for tomorrow: *Firm Roots Cancer Support*

Firm Roots Cancer Support is a small Christian network offering prayer and spiritual support for people affected by cancer in the UK. The organisation was founded by Helen Jones, a curate at Holy Trinity Church, Huddersfield, after her own cancer diagnosis in 2010. Their motto is 'strength for today and hope for tomorrow.' The ministry of *Firm Roots* involves running ecumenical Cancer Prayer Support Groups around the country, as well as Christian retreat days for people affected by cancer, either as a patient or family member supporting them.

Firm Roots are holding a national online Christmas Service on Wednesday 13th December from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Why not join the *Firm Roots* groups around the country for carols, reflection and prayers for people affected by cancer? Everyone is welcome. Please contact Helen Jones (Helen.Jones@firmroots.co.uk or 07936 186 028) for an invite or visit www.firmroots.org.uk.

***The Mothers' Union* says 'RISE UP against domestic abuse'**

The Mothers' Union has launched their new campaign RISE UP Against Domestic Abuse. Through its 40,000 strong membership across Britain and Ireland, Mothers' Union aims to play its part in combating domestic abuse through awareness raising, resources, and support for those affected by domestic abuse, as well as fostering a culture of empathy and empowerment within our churches and communities.



RISE UP is an acronym for **R**espond, **I**nforn, **S**upport, **E**mpower, **U**nite and **P**ray.

The next meeting of the Mothers' Union in Harrogate will take place on Tuesday 5th December at St Mark's Church on Leeds Road, at 2:00 pm, when there will be Christmas crafts and Christmas tree decorating. Why not go along to find out more?

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



Your words have power



Pick up a copy of the 2023 booklet from St Peter's Church. It contains information about the campaign as well as letter writing tips to help you maximise your impact. The local branch of *Amnesty International* will be here writing letters on Saturday 9th December, 10:00 am – 3:30 pm.

Next Week's Deadline

The deadline for the next edition of the Weekly News (10th December) will be noon on Wednesday 6th December. Please send any items (including photos) to **The Weekly News Editor**, Marian Chambers, or to the Vicar, Alan Garrow.

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