



Lent  
2017

# THE NET

The Parish Newsletter for St Peter's Church, Harrogate

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Welcome to THE NET - the parish newsletter of St Peter's Church, which is right in the centre of Harrogate, on Cambridge Road, overlooking the War Memorial. We have had another busy Christmas, all our services were well attended. The three Christingle services were especially popular and our Christmas Fair raised £2,690, which has gone to six charities connected to St Peter's. This edition focuses on Food and Fellowship at St Peter's - there really is something for everyone - and you are very welcome to come and join us!



## Feeding hungry people

The sign outside the restaurant said 'Hungry?' It was an invitation to stop and think, 'Am I hungry?' and, if so, to notice that here is somewhere I could eat. But what if I saw a similar sign outside a church? Would it mean that it had turned



St Peter's Parent and Toddler Group

itself into a soup kitchen, or a pop-up restaurant, or might something else be going on?

The new strap-line for St Peter's is: **feeding hungry people**. It is designed to provoke the same question, 'Am I hungry?' - but with the understanding that it is possible to be hungry for many different things: for food, companionship, purpose, significance, justice, love and more. It is also possible to be spiritually hungry, which is to say, hungry for ultimate meaning and relationship with God.

Meeting all of these hungers is at the heart of the life of St Peter's. As you'll see from this edition of *The Net*, we are a community that often meets around food. We also gather to worship a God who chooses to meet us in broken bread and poured out wine - food that spells out a simple and powerful message: Jesus gave

himself for us completely, to meet our deepest hunger.

Are you hungry? Whatever form your hunger might take I hope you'll find that St Peter's is a place where, body and soul, you find the food you truly need.

Alan Garrow (Vicar)

# Food and Fellowship at St Peter's

*At St Peter's there are many opportunities to meet others to enjoy food and fellowship*

Every day at St Peter's starts quietly with **Morning Prayer** followed by the **Breakfast Club**, when anyone who is hungry or in need is welcome to share a free, hot breakfast with us. It is there for people who have nowhere else to go, they have often slept out all night in a doorway, in a car park or at the homeless hostel. There are our regulars and there are usually several each week who have just spent their first night on the streets - they come in lost and bewildered. They all come for the warmth, the welcome, the food and the friendship.

Then on Mondays there is the **Community Café** run by Stonham Homestay, a charity which supports vulnerable and elderly people with housing and money management advice. They serve light lunches and drinks from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm.

On Wednesdays for half an hour, starting at 10:30 am, there is **Café Reflexion**. This service combines reflective readings with coffee and cake in an informal and relaxed atmosphere.



Thursday is a busy day at St Peter's! Our **Parent and Toddler Group** meet in Church in the morning at 9:30 for a story and a prayer, followed by play and refreshments in the Brostoff Hall. Why not pop in - new parents and carers are always welcome. After that there's a short service of **Holy Communion** at 11:00 am with coffee served afterwards. Next comes **Lunchtime Reflexions** when a delicious light lunch is served along with prayers and reflections. If you haven't been to Lunchtime Reflexions before, do give it a try, it is a truly joyful and faith affirming experience!

Unless there is a special event - perhaps a wedding or concert - there is usually a **Refreshment Day** on Saturdays. Sometimes they are run by a community group or a charity like Amnesty International or Christian Aid; sometimes our own Parish Events Team holds one in aid of our Church funds. They are open from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm, so please come in for morning coffee, lunch or afternoon tea.

At the end of each day food parcels are given out to anyone in need - some have a home, some are on the streets - all of them are hungry with no money for food. Every day ends calmly with **Evening Prayer**.

We also have several fellowship groups that meet once a month. **St Peter's Evening Fellowship** meets in Church on the first Thursday to enjoy speakers such as local historian Malcolm Neesam; film nights – recently *The Lady in the Van* - and an annual dinner. The **Afternoon Fellowship** meets in Gillian Taylor's home on the second Monday – her afternoon teas are amazing! There's a **Men's Breakfast** every third Saturday morning, as well as **Ladies who Lunch**, who meet in a local café. A **Sunday Lunch Club** has just started and plans to meet on the third Sunday of each month.

There truly is something for everyone, please visit our website or pick up our Weekly News sheet for details of these and all our other services and events. We look forward to meeting you!



## The Nail

Our drama group, St Peter's Players, are performing a play written by a member of the group, Terry Knowles, during Holy Week. He has adapted a book by Bishop Stephen Cottrell called *The Nail - Being part of the Passion*, which was originally written as a Lent study course.



Characters involved in Christ's crucifixion take the nails used to crucify Christ as a starting point for their testimony. **The Nail** will be performed in three parts on Monday 10th, Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th April at 7:00 pm, followed by a short service of Compline. On Good Friday, starting at noon, the whole play will be performed. Moving, first person accounts from eye-witnesses and active participants place you right in the heart of events leading to the crucifixion and beyond.

## The Flowering Cross on Easter Sunday

As part of our Easter Sunday celebrations, members of St Peter's congregations are asked to bring a flower or some greenery to Church.



At the beginning of the day a large, bare cross stands at the front of Church beside the nave altar - a stark reminder of how Christ suffered and died for us. During each service everyone is invited to come forward and place their flower on the cross. Gradually, the empty cross is transformed into a beautiful, living, flowering cross - a dramatic visual representation of the New Life that we are celebrating, bearing witness to our faith:

**Alleluia. Christ is risen**

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

## Lent and Easter at St Peter's

### March

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> *Ash Wednesday* 7:30 pm

Holy Communion marking the beginning of Lent, which will include the tradition of Ashing (the marking of foreheads with ash).

During Lent there will be the opportunity to join evening and daytime groups following the **faith pictures** course - a new way of talking about things that matter. Find out more at [www.faithpictures.org](http://www.faithpictures.org). If you are interested in joining a group please contact the Parish Office.

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> *Mothering Sunday* with all our usual Sunday Services - a small posy of flowers, made by St Peter's Brownies and Guides, will be given with love to every mother attending our services.

### April

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> *Fifth Sunday in Lent* with our usual Sunday morning Services

6:30 pm

Confirmation Service with the Bishop of Ripon, James Bell. Our Music Group will lead the singing.

### Holy Week

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> *Palm Sunday* - during our services today everyone receives a palm cross to commemorate Christ's entry into Jerusalem and the Passion Narrative is read at Matins and Evensong.

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm

First part of **The Nail** followed by Compline.

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> 12:30 pm

Healing Service - with prayers and the laying on of hands

7:00 pm

Second part of **The Nail** followed by Compline.

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm

Third part of **The Nail** followed by Compline.

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> *Maundy Thursday* 11:00 am

Holy Communion - a traditional said service

7:30 pm

Choral Communion commemorating the Last Supper

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> *Good Friday* 10:00 am

Good Friday Family Service

12:00 pm

Full performance of **The Nail**.

2:00 pm

An Hour before the Cross - meditations and music on the crucifixion of Christ

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> *Easter Eve* 7:30 pm

Lighting of the New Fire

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> *Easter Day* with all our usual Sunday Services - celebrating with joy Christ's resurrection - don't forget to bring a flower to add to the Flowering Cross.

# What's happening in May and June?



Eastertide continues for seven weeks, lasting through most of May and into early June. The Paschal Candle lit at the beginning of Easter will continue to burn brightly in Church for all the Eastertide services. On the fortieth day the hale and hearty celebrate Christ's ascension at St Peter's by climbing up the Tower at dawn! The arrival of the promised gift of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost (4<sup>th</sup> June) completes and crowns Easter.

To celebrate the Tour de Yorkshire coming to Harrogate, there will be a Refreshment Day on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April featuring all

things Yorkshire. St Peter's will be holding a Flower Festival in Church in the first week of June. The theme this year will be *Sing it with Flowers* - so all the entries will be inspired by a song; perhaps from a musical, a film or a favourite hymn. The organisers, Sue Heapy and Helen Stalker, hope to put on some musical entertainment and refreshments each day. There will be a Vicarage Garden Party this year on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June. Featuring traditional English afternoon teas, stalls and games hosted by various Church groups and a BBQ, there will be fun for all the family - now we just need some warm, sunny weather!



Sue Pearce and Nigel McClea at the last Garden Party

## Worship through the week at St Peter's

*Morning Prayer is at 8:00 am and Evening Prayer at 5:00 pm daily*

### Sundays

- 8:30 am **Holy Communion** - a traditional said service held in the Choir stalls  
9:30 am **Family Communion** - a Common Worship service accompanied by our Music Group.  
There is a Sunday Club for children.  
11:00 am **Choral Matins** - a traditional service led by our Choir. On the first Sunday of the month this is Choral Communion.  
4:15 pm **Afternoon Church** - starting with refreshments, a service for all the family.  
6:30 pm **Choral Evensong** - a Cathedral style service led by our Choir. On the third Sunday of the month we have Choral Communion

### Tuesdays

- 12:30 pm **Healing Service** - includes prayers with laying on of hands

### Wednesdays

- 10:30 am **Café RefleXion** - coffee, cake and Bible reflections  
8:00 pm **The Hour** - silent prayer by candlelight, ending with Compline

### Thursdays

- 9:30 am **Parents and Toddlers** - stories, songs and prayers, followed by time for coffee and play  
11:00 am **Holy Communion** - a traditional said service  
11:30 onwards **Lunchtime RefleXion** - food for your body and soul: a delicious lunch with readings

**Website:** [www.stpetersharrogate.org.uk](http://www.stpetersharrogate.org.uk) **Facebook:** St Peter's Church, Harrogate **Twitter:** @stpetershgt

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The next edition of THE NET will be coming out in the Summer, on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2017.