



In this issue:

Never stop praying and serving

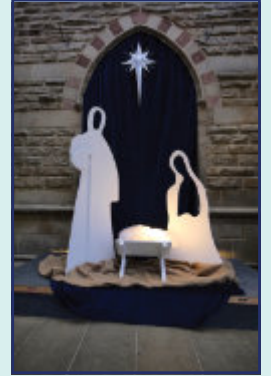
Feeding hungry people

Join us to celebrate Christmas

Your chance to ask questions

Advent 2021

Welcome to THE NET - the parish newsletter of St Peter's - the church in the centre of Harrogate. Since March 2020 we have been under many different levels of Government restrictions, including three long, dark periods when we were closed for public worship. But, we continued our mission to 'feed hungry people' by: learning to hold services and meetings online; caring for one another with phone calls and cards, as well as arranging deliveries to the housebound; and communicating in new ways from e-newsletters to good old snail mail. We are now cautiously returning to normal service - please join us!



THE NET

The Parish Newsletter for St Peter's Church, Harrogate

Never stop praying and serving



Lockdown no doubt asked some challenging questions for us as individuals; it certainly had that effect on us as a church. How can we be a place of worship if we can't gather in our building? How can we be a place of sanctuary if the doors remain locked? If the church can't continue a pattern of prayer and worship, if it can't be there for people in a crisis, then what on earth is it for?

As, at St Peter's, we asked ourselves these questions in March 2020 we identified two things we wanted to continue by whatever means possible. The first was a pattern of prayer and worship, online if not in person. (This has continued, see www.stpetersharrogate.org.uk, alongside the restoration, since July 2021, of our full pattern of in person worship.) The second was the continuation of our commitment to support people who are vulnerable. You can read on page two how our daily food ministry continued and grew – and still continues in an expanded form. And, with many other agencies across Harrogate, we discovered the resilience of our town's network of care.

This has been a bruising period for many of us, churches included. As we emerge to face the next set of challenges, we will continue to worship God and serve our neighbour. As St John says about Jesus:

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

Alan Garrow, Vicar of St Peter's Church

Feeding hungry people

St Peter's serves thousands of hot meals during lockdown



In March 2020 as the pandemic took hold and the country went into the first lockdown St Peter's Church building was closed and all our services moved online.

However, our food ministries - The Breakfast Club, Sunday Lunch and Food Parcels - were considered essential services and were exempt from the Government restrictions. Hannah Beck (*pictured here with her deputy Steve, and two of the volunteers Yvonne and Courtney*) not only continued but expanded this ministry and began serving hot,

takeaway food both in the morning and in the evenings too. This all started when Betty's Café was closed suddenly, and sent over all that day's beautifully prepared, fresh meals - but they had to be cooked and served hot that day! Other local businesses started to donate food, so the team of volunteers turned their donations into delicious, hot takeaway meals for all those who were hungry or in need. In that first lockdown alone over 4,000 takeaway meals were served from the West Door of our Church.

Now that the Church has re-opened, hot breakfast is served inside from Monday to Saturday from 8:20 - 8:45 am. A hot Sunday Lunch is served from 1:00 - 1:30 pm. And hot meals are available on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings from 4:00 - 5:00 pm. On Thursdays we hold a 'mini-supermarket' from 4:30 - 4:50 pm when bread, tinned and dried food, fruit and vegetables, toiletries and whatever else is available is given out.

All this relies on the tireless efforts of an incredibly hard-working team of volunteers to go shopping, collect and deliver produce, cook, pack, serve and keep the place clean and tidy. It also relies on the generosity and support of local businesses and our own congregation.

In April 2020 Finlay Cochrane, who comes to our Family Communion service, decided to complete his Personal Challenge Award at Scouts by organising a food collection in his neighbourhood for St Peter's Church. Finlay (*pictured right*) gave up his exercise time to leaflet 250 homes and collected the food using a wheelbarrow. As you can see the response was overwhelming with loads of donations and notes of support and encouragement left out for him.



Helen Harrison (*on the left in the picture below*) usually raises money for charity by walking the Isle of Man Parish Walk. For the past two years she has been unable to take part as it has been cancelled due to COVID-19. So in June 2020 she devised her own Parish Walk visiting churches in Harrogate and Knaresborough with a few friends to raise much-needed money through a JustGiving page for St Peter's Food Ministries - they raised £1,850. This year thirteen members of our congregation took up the challenge to walk all or part of the 14 mile route and they raised £1,430. The picture below shows the group that started their walk at St Peter's Church. They are already planning St Peter's Parish Walk 2022!



Come to our Christingle on Christmas Eve

Last year our Christingle service was held online, but this year there will be two Christingle services at St Peter's Church on Christmas Eve at 3:00 pm and 4:30 pm. For fifty years Christingle services have been held in the UK to raise vital funds for **The Children's Society**, who work with vulnerable and disadvantaged children. Bring the family to enjoy this joyous service and make a lasting difference to children all across the country.



St Peter's Christmas Tree Festival is back!

Come and see this wonderful display of decorated trees from 4th - 11th December (10:00 am - 4:00 pm daily) and then vote for your favourite. The winners will be announced at our Family Communion Service on 12th December. There will also be a Tree of Remembrance, for visitors to remember a loved one with a prayer or dedication hung on the tree. All the trees will remain on display until 30th December. Entry is free, but donations are always welcome.



Advent and Christmas 2021 at St Peter's

November

Saturday 27 th	10:00 am - 4:00 pm	Refreshment Day in aid of St Peter's Church
Sunday 28 th	First Sunday in Advent with our usual Sunday morning services 6:30 pm	Advent Candle Service with music by <i>St Peter's Choir</i>

December

St Peter's Christmas Tree Festival runs from 4th - 11th December, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm daily

Thursday 2 nd	6:00 pm	Carols by Candlelight in aid of <i>Artizan International</i> (doors open from 5:30 pm for complimentary mulled wine and mince pies)
Saturday 4 th	10:00 am - 4:00 pm	Refreshment Day held by Harrogate Operatic Singers
Sunday 5 th	Second Sunday in Advent with all our usual Sunday Services	
Saturday 11 th	10:00 am - 4:00 pm	Refreshment Day in aid of Amnesty International
Sunday 12 th	Third Sunday in Advent with our usual Sunday Services	
Thursday 16 th	9:30 am	St Peter's School Carol Service
Sunday 19 th	Fourth Sunday in Advent with our usual Sunday morning services 6:30 pm	Service of Nine Lessons and Carols - the traditional readings with carols and anthems led by <i>St Peter's Choir</i>
Friday 24 th	10:00 am - 12:00 pm 3:00 and 4:30 pm	Shoppers' Coffee and Carols relax and take a break Christingle Services led by our Music Group
<i>Christmas Eve</i>	6:30 pm 11:30 pm	Carols for Christmas Eve with <i>St Peter's Choir</i> Midnight Mass with <i>St Peter's Choir</i>
Saturday 25 th	8:30 am	Holy Communion
<i>Christmas Day</i>	9:30 am 11:00 am	Family Communion Christmas Morning Service
Sunday 26 th	St Stephen's Day (Boxing Day) with Holy Communion (BCP) at 9:30 am	
Friday 31 st	4:00 - 6:00 pm	Pray for 2022: light a candle and pray for our nation and the world
<i>New Year's Eve</i>	11:30 pm	Watchnight Service: bring in the New Year by candlelight

Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year from everyone at St Peter's Church!

Alpha starts here in January 2022



St Peter's Church
Wednesdays 6:00 - 8:30 pm
Starting 19th January 2022

Join us in 2022 #TryAlpha
Alpha.org/uk



We believe that everyone should have the chance to explore the Christian faith, ask questions and share their point of view. **Alpha** is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith. Each session looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation.

Alpha is run around the globe and everyone's welcome. It runs in cafés, churches, universities, homes - you name it. No two **Alphas** look the same, but generally they have three things in common: food, a talk and good conversation.

The next **Alpha** course at St Peter's Church starts on Wednesday 19th January 2022 from 6:00 – 8:30 pm. Each session will start with a meal, because it's a great way to build community and get to know each other. Then there's a talk, around 30 minutes long, exploring the big issues around faith and unpacking the basics of Christianity. Followed by the most important part of any **Alpha**: the chance to share thoughts and ideas on the topic, and simply discuss it in a small group.

Sarah Martin is our team leader. Please contact her on 0791 325 9490 to find out more, or visit alphaharrogate.org.

Daily Services at St Peter's

St Peter's Church is open for private prayer from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm every day except Sundays

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	Stepping Stones Service:	starting with refreshments, an informal 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
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Wednesdays

10:30 am	Café RefleXion:	coffee, cake and Bible reflections
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Thursdays

9:30 am	Parents and Toddlers:	stories, songs and prayers in Church, followed by time for coffee and play upstairs in the Hall
11:00 am	Holy Communion:	a traditional said service

Contact us:

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The next edition of THE NET will be coming out for the beginning of Lent, on Sunday 27th February 2022.