



ST. PETER'S

— SHIPLEY —



# St Peter's

## Weekly Newsletter

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2024

The vision of St Peter's Church is to see the town of Shipley changed by the power of God. We want to see this happen through a Church which is filled with the power of the Holy Spirit and committed to the Word of God, which serves others in order to bring God's Kingdom. We want St Peter's to become a key transforming community bringing about this change, as a church alive with the joy of knowing and worshipping Jesus Christ.



*"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace."* Colossians 3:15

Email: [office@stpetes.org.uk](mailto:office@stpetes.org.uk) Tel: 01274 400381

Website: [www.stpetes.org.uk](http://www.stpetes.org.uk)

Rev. Natasha Thomas

Email: [natasha.thomas@stpetes.org.uk](mailto:natasha.thomas@stpetes.org.uk)

Tel: 07887 707221

**Following Jesus – Making Disciples – Serving Others**

## This weeks reflection from Rev Natasha Thomas

### Christmas is coming and so is Wrestling church!!!

We are now into the second week of Advent – a time of reflecting and anticipating God’s arrival as a baby and his return as the Prince of Peace. At the same time I am also preparing for Friday’s wrestling match! I would never have thought I would be bringing those two things together or that wrestling might become part of my ministry, but God has an amazing way of doing things that are always surprising!



You may know that Kingdom Wrestling has caught the attention of the media recently, especially after it was in the Times a few weeks ago, it has then been on different news programmes and then ‘Have I got News for You’. This Friday, the wrestling will be filmed by French and Japanese TV

companies, and then later in the week Look North want to come and interview Gareth and myself...what an opportunity to share God’s love and hope with people who perhaps are more surprised to find God in the wrestling ring than me!

Advent is a time to remember that we are walking with Jesus who is the light, even when the world is still a place that can feel and be quite dark and difficult. It is a time to reflect on the difficulties and look to see where we might find the light and how we might share that light. Wrestling, I have come to discover, is all about the story and drama of life, and it is in these stories that we realise that the good guys do not always win. That even though we want our heroes to win out-right, we find that through devious means the ‘baddies’ triumph. They may be betrayed by an ally or let down by a team player. Those who we feel to be the most deserving are the ones who lose out. It doesn’t feel fair. And so we shout and boo at the baddies and call out to the ref’s to make it right.

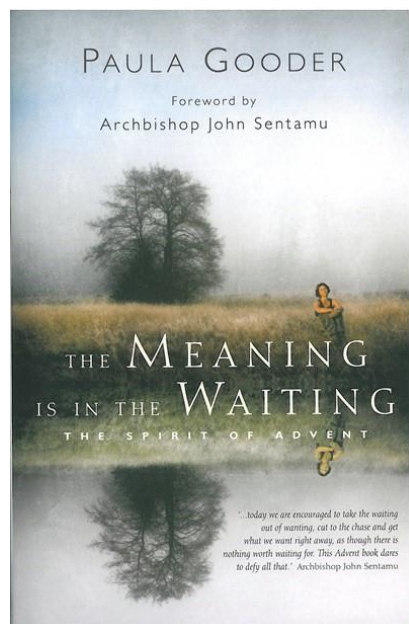
And so it is in ‘real life’ when we cry out to God when we see and feel the pain in our world. When we watch with horror the things that are going on in our world and long for justice and peace to reign. So please pray for Friday night, pray that people can see the hope that is proclaimed through the gospel. That through the fun of wrestling they can understand that Jesus shows us a radical way of doing things, a way that does not involve squashing someone (quite literally in wrestling!) but rather is all about building them up. That the light of Jesus will always conquer the darkness in this world – because the light shines in the darkness and the darkness will not overcome it.



## RED LETTER BOX APPEAL

Starting this Sunday, all monies raised will go to GAZA

### Advent Recommended daily reads...and post Christmas Booklets



#### Daily Readings and Reflections for Advent...

This is the first in a series of books commissioned in consultation with John Sentamu. It can be described as "The Archbishop of York's Advent book". Its theme is overtly an Advent one, yet subsequent books will range over other biblical and seasonal topics.

Paula Gooder provides a profoundly biblical guide to the season of Advent and we explore its central theme of waiting (something we are not good at in our modern culture) in the company of the biblical characters who feature prominently in the lectionary readings for the season: Abraham and Sarah who waited for a child, Isaiah and the prophets who waited for judgement and redemption, John the

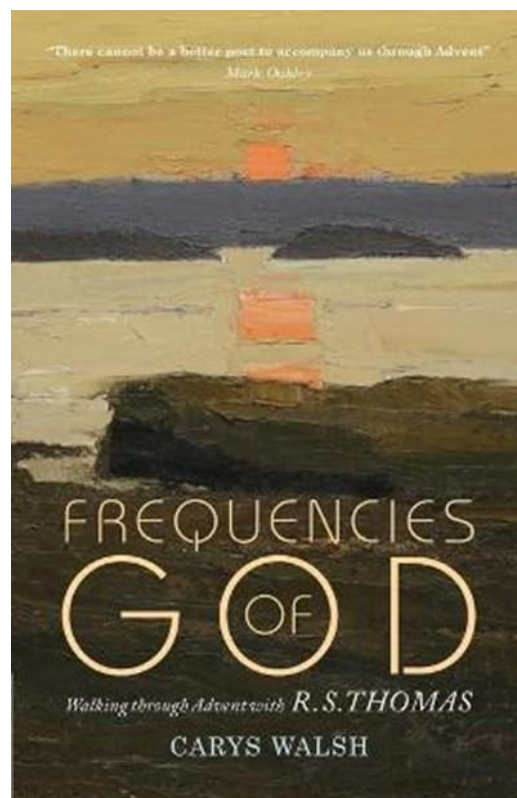
Baptist whose role was to wait in the wilderness until the prophecies he foretold were realised, Mary whose waiting began in pregnancy and continued as she stood at the foot of the cross.

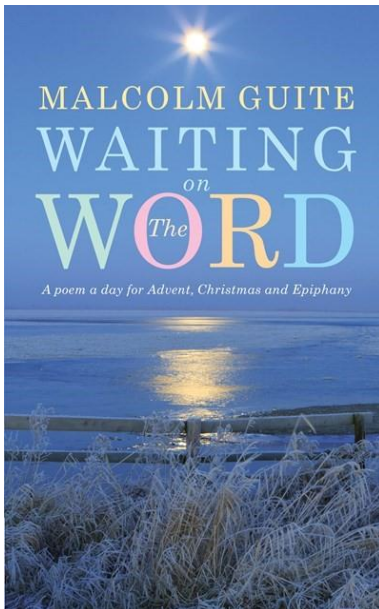
Arranged for daily reading, this offers an exquisite meditation on the spirituality of waiting - the active doing of nothing - as a way of enhancing our lives and bringing us closer to God.

With the season of Advent, the coming of Christ is imminent, and following the contours of the season leads through a rich time of preparation for God-with-us in the Incarnation.

R. S. Thomas, a poet of waiting and anticipation, can be a profound guide for this season. His spiritual and poetic trajectory of discovering the presence of God - divine 'frequencies' - even in apparent absence, can help lead us into an Advent landscape of surrender, open-hearted discovery, epiphany and encounter.

This collection of 28 reflections on Thomas's poetry travels through the season, and follows one of the traditional patterns of themes explored in each Sunday of Advent: a Carmelite pattern of waiting, accepting, journeying and birthing.



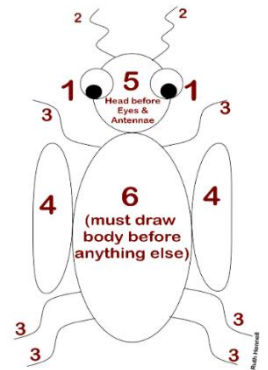


Advent is a season of waiting and anticipation in which the waiting itself is strangely rich and fulfilling. Poetry can help us fathom the depths of Advent's many paradoxes: dark and light, emptiness and fulfilment, ancient and ever new. For every day from Advent Sunday to Christmas Day and beyond, the bestselling poet Malcolm Guite chooses a favourite poem from across the Christian spiritual and English literary traditions and offers incisive seasonal reflections on it. In the spirit of the season, he blends the familiar and the new, ranging from spiritual classics such as Edmund Spenser, John Donne, George Herbert and Christina Rossetti, to contemporary voices Luci Shaw and Scott Cairns. His own acclaimed sequence of sonnets for the great Advent antiphons are also included.

## Can you help?

**The Beetle is back** On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December we are throwing a Christmas party to all the St Peter's family so please come with your competitive hats on, as there will be prizes to win!

Please note that the gaming will **start at 7 pm – 9 pm** and **not between 6-8pm** as previously advertised, please bring nibbles and drinks to share!



### Volunteers to help with the Alpha course due to run in January...

Thank you so much for those who have offered to help run Alpha, and those who have offered to help cook, please contact Viv if you want to cook. It would be wonderful if I could have a couple more offers for meals, so that the burden is spread across different people

Lastly PLEASE PLEASE be PRAYING and thinking about asking people to attend. If you would like a couple of fliers there are plenty in the office or at the back of church. Thanks. Please get in touch with Natasha if you want to know about the course on 07887707221.

### Evening and Weekend Caretaker Position

We are looking for someone to help with caretaking, particularly on a weekend or for later in the evening slots. This would be a paid role. If you are interested, please contact Natasha ([natasha.thomas@stpetes.org.uk](mailto:natasha.thomas@stpetes.org.uk)) to discuss further.

## **Children and Youth tasks you can do at home!.. please!**

We have a few tasks we need help with that you can do whilst watching tv!! We need help preparing craft activities, cleaning equipment and much more. If you're willing to help please speak to Jessica ([jessica.criddle@stpetes.org.uk](mailto:jessica.criddle@stpetes.org.uk)) or see the Welcome Desk and take a 'Children and Youth Task' home with you. Thank you very much!

## **The Immanuel Project – Christmas Appeal**

The Immanuel Project serves homeless and vulnerable adults in Bradford city centre. Every year we give out 120 goody bags at our Christmas celebration and would like donations of the following:

- Chocolate
- Socks (mens and ladies)
- Hats
- Scarves
- Toothbrushes and paste

Please leave donated items in the box at the back of church.

We are also hoping to buy a flask for each guest - if you would like to donate money towards this you can find our appeal here: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/hotdrinksflaskchristmas>

Thank you so much - our guests really appreciate your support. Mandy Thorlby

## **ShIPLEY Baptist Church is hosting the Inn Churches Winter Shelter from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January - Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January.**

For the shelter to run smoothly we require a team of volunteers each evening/night. There will be a team leader overseeing the shelter each night.

Volunteers are needed to cover the following:

**Befrienders** – to socialise with our guests. Make conversation, play games etc.

**Dinner Team** – to prepare and cook a 2-course hot dinner for guests and volunteers (up to 20 people). Tidy and wash up after.

**Overnight Team** – to supervise the shelter overnight.

**Breakfast Team** – to prepare and cook hot or cold breakfast.

If you would like to sign up to volunteer, please follow this link (It's good to have a mixture of females and males for each shift):

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/11zoN-3uAwpibtGwNzMyjv-bqqkYhMikNbnVtwseOQzk/edit?usp=sharing>

(If you are unable to click into this link, please paste it into your browser)

Inn Churches are holding a training session for volunteers at Shaw House on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November. It would be great if you are able to attend this. I will also hold some training at Shipley Baptist Church in January, before our hosting week. I will confirm the date and time for this.

If you could forward this round to more people in your church who might like to volunteer, I would be really grateful.

For further information on the volunteer roles or if you have any questions, please get in touch, by email [catherinefroud@hotmail.com](mailto:catherinefroud@hotmail.com), or feel free to give me a call on 07756 675029.

Many thanks, Cath Hardy

## Help needed

Katharine needs to take some time off over the next few weeks whilst Nigel is in hospital and Martin could do with some help keeping the church and the halls clean in her absence. If you can help with this, please contact either Martin or the church office for a list of what needs to be done.

Thank you to those who have already stepped in to help with the cleaning and caretaking of the church.

Any help that can be offered would be very much appreciated by Martin, Katharine and the staff team. Thank you.

## Prayer and support

### December Prayer Calendar

Please take a copy of our '[December Prayer Calendar](#)' at the back of the church. These are things for you to pray about over the month of December.

### Saturday Prayers

All are welcome to join online Zoom prayers at 10 am on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December for half an hour or so of prayers for ourselves, church, community, and wider world.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7864791357?pwd=I0DFfD3xHZBUIZmweJv1ejQkwxlosB.1>

Meeting ID: 786 479 1357

Passcode: U3Y3jH

### Just in case

As a church community, we have a responsibility to support you in times of need and, if it is helpful, to let your chosen next of kin know what's happening with you. To do this we would like to collect some information about who you would like us to contact if the need arises. This is for anyone who would like us to hold this information for you, but especially those whose closest family and friends do not live locally or have an association with St Peter's. Your personal information will be safely stored under our strict GDPR policy. There are some printed forms on the Welcome Desk, alternatively please fill in the online '[Contact Form](#)' for more information please speak to a member of the staff team. Thank you

### Prayer requests

Pray for those who are ill or have other needs, especially members of St. Peter's family: David Hartley and his sons as they grieve the passing of Lorna. Barbara Arkley, Dave Atkin, Lis Bals, Alison Barnard, Maureen Bragg, Hazel Fawley, Albert and Rita Henning, Ian Hearne, Rowena and Keith Hodgson, Pat Hornby, Barbara Lehane, Ursula Moore, Pam and John Crapper; Joyce Taylor and the Wontner-Smith family. Please also continue to pray for Keith Scott and the families of Val Ross, Rita Stoney, Glenys Gillow







## Mission and Outreach

### Sudan 2025 Calendars

At the back of the church are some copies of the '2025 Calendar from the Diocese Sudan Link'. Each copy costs £2.50 (if you would like to donate more, please do!). The details to pay for them are displayed at the back of the church next to the calendars. Alternatively please contact the Church Office. Thank you.

## Generosity and giving

### A Helping Hand

We operate a Helping Hands Fund for any member of our congregation struggling financially. This is there to help with short term one - off needs. You can pick up a leaflet with more information from the 'Welcome Desk' or 'Church Office' or contact Mandy Thorlby ([mandythorlby@gmail.com](mailto:mandythorlby@gmail.com), or 07801 138180). If you'd like to donate to the Helping Hands Fund, please contact Andy Thorlby [thorlbya@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:thorlbya@yahoo.co.uk) or 01274 510951 or make a donation in the usual way into the church, clearly identified as "Helping Hands Fund".



### Giving at St Peter's

Just to remind those wishing to give to St Peter's we have multiple options. For more information, please look for the 'Giving to St Peter's Shipley' print out on the 'Welcome Desk', alternatively please speak to a member of the staff team. **Don't forget** we claim '[Gift Aid](#)', so please fill in a form if you pay income tax! Or Scan the QR code on the left to donate to St Peter's!

## Upcoming events

### Welcome Space Christmas Party

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December we are hosting our annual Welcome Space Christmas party with food kindly donated by Northcliffe Garage.

Doors open from 11am and we will stop serving at 2pm (when we run out of food!!)

Please feel free to come and enjoy a lovely space welcome to all. All donations are greatly appreciated to keep this service going.

Thank you to John and his team at the Orange Grove for their generosity over this past year to keep this service going. John you're a star!

If you are able to donate a tub of chocolates or some mince pies to share with our guests we would be very grateful. Thank you, The Welcome Space Team

### Welcome Space dates

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Party – Wear a fun hat!

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> – Closed TBA

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> - Closed

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Closed

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> – We're back! Come along and join us





# Christmas

At St Peter's, Shipley

**CHRISTINGLE SERVICE**

SUNDAY 8TH DECEMBER, 4PM

**WELCOME SPACE CHRISTMAS PARTY**

FRIDAY 13TH DECEMBER, 11AM - 2PM

**CHRISTMAS MESSY CHURCH**

SUNDAY 15TH DECEMBER, 3.30PM

**CHURCH THANK YOU PARTY**

WEDNESDAY 18TH DECEMBER, 7PM - 9PM

 **ST PETER'S & ST PAUL'S CAROL SERVICE** 

WITH ST PETER'S UNIFORM GROUPS

SUNDAY 22ND DECEMBER, 6.30PM.

**CRIB SERVICE**

TUESDAY 24TH DECEMBER, 4.00PM.

**MIDNIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE**


TUESDAY 24TH DECEMBER, 11.30PM

**CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP**

WITH A SHORT COMMUNION

WEDNESDAY 25TH DECEMBER, 10:30AM

St Peter's Church, Moorhead Lane,  
Shipley, BD18 4JH





# CELEBRATE CHRISTINGLE WITH US!

HELPING GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE A BRIGHTER FUTURE

FIND OUT HOW AN ORANGE, A CANDLE  
AND SOME SWEETS TALK ABOUT THE  
LOVE OF GOD.



## 8TH DECEMBER, 4PM

### ST PETER'S CHURCH, SHIPLEY

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO  
CONTACT REV. NATASHA

[natasha.thomas@stpetes.org.uk](mailto:natasha.thomas@stpetes.org.uk) 07887 707221

The  
Children's  
Society



# Welcome Space



ST. PETER'S  
— SHIPLEY —


**Every Friday  
11am - 2pm  
St Peter's Church,  
Moorhead Lane**


---


**A place just to come and be.**


**Hot drinks, cake, a light lunch, a  
warm welcome and a chat  
available every Friday.**

**Open to all - just drop in!**

01274 400381 

stpetes.org.uk 

office@stpetes.org.uk 

Moorhead Lane, Shipley, 

BD18 4JH



## Services For This Week & Next

### Services on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December

#### Advent 2

<b>9.30 am</b>	<b>All Age Worship</b> Listening to the prophets Luke 3:1-6 (Natasha Thomas)	<b>11.15 am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> Listening to the prophets Luke 3:1-6 Philippians 1: 3-11 (Natasha Thomas)	<b>4 pm</b>	<b>Christingle</b> (Natasha Thomas & Jessica Criddle)	<b>6.30 pm</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> Isaiah 40: 1-11 Luke 1: 1-25 (Viv Brearly)
----------------	---	-----------------	---	-------------	--	----------------	---

### Services on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December

#### Advent 3

<b>11:15 am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3: 7-18 (Viv Brealey)	<b>3.30 pm</b>	<b>Christmas Messy Church</b> Lots of fun things to see and hear and a wonderful meal afterwards! (Jessica Criddle)
-----------------	---	----------------	---

### Daily Prayer and Readings

Online Morning Prayer will be taking place on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9am (ish) on the St Peter's page on Facebook – you can join live or watch the recording later. The set readings for the week are as follows. You can find the liturgy for prayers on our website [here](#)

### Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Morning Prayer</b>					
Ps. 44 Isa. 45. 14 - end Thess 1	Ps. 56 Isa. 46 Thess 2. 1-12	Ps. 62 Isa. 47 Thess 2. 13- end	Ps. 54 Isa. 48.1 - 11 Thess 3	Ps. 86 Isa. 48. 12 - end Thess 4. 1-12	Ps. 145 Isa. 49. 1-13 Thess 4. 13-end
<b>Evening Prayer</b>					
Ps. 144 Matt. 14. 1-12	Ps. 11 Matt 14. 13- end	Ps. 10 Matt 15. 1-20	Ps. 73 Matt. 15. 21 - 28	Ps. 90 Matt. 15. 29 - end	Ps. 94 Matt 16. 1-12