



ST. PETER'S
— SHIPLEY —



St Peter's

Monthly Newsletter

February 2025 Edition

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.



"Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture." Psalm 37:3

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Rev. Natasha Thomas

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Following Jesus – making disciples – serving others

This weeks reflection from Rev Natasha Thomas

The Trinity and Imago Dei, Sin; Addiction and Romans 6; Apologetics on talking about God! These were the three subjects that we reflected on at Bishop's Study Day. And to be honest, I felt that these all might feel a little highbrow and a bit disconnected from our day to day living. So, was feeling a little ambivalent at having to give my day up for such reflections! How wrong I was! They were inspiring and encouraging. But it got me thinking!

These titles, communicated something to me that was so wrong about what the substance of what it was that they were trying to communicate. The titles hid the gems of what it was they were trying to communicate about the work and power of God that comes through understanding the significance of relationship; the understanding of what we mean by sin and being enslaved; and the power of story. If I had judged purely on the titles (and if I had a choice about attending – I might not have done!) - but I would have missed so much.



And it made me think about how hard it is for people who know nothing about God - about Jesus to have the opportunity to start asking questions and thinking about God without being swamped with words and jargon. We get so used to using phrases and words in our everyday that we forget that these words might not mean anything to anyone who hasn't been part of the church for a number of years! We have created a language for our 'church land'. We expect people to understand us, when we use words such as 'God is love'; 'Father, son and holy spirit'; 'Grace'; 'Freedom in God'; 'alive in Christ'; Trinity.

And this is why I love Alpha, because we spend time unpacking some of these words and phrases and exploring what they might mean to us, how we can find the truth in ourselves about our beliefs and understanding of a creator God who loves each one of us so much that he wants us all to keep growing in Him all our lives and to keep bearing fruit.

And this is why we need to keep thinking about how we do church – how we welcome people, how we think about the language we use, and how we reach out to people who know nothing about God. Because God gives us the great commission – to make disciples of all nations – how are we to do that if they do not understand our language? If they are put off, as I could have been, by misunderstanding what is being presented.

Alive in Christ - Resource

This week we consider how we come to be alive in Christ, despite the temptations of life. How we come to ask God to protect us with His armour and the Holy Spirit.

[Alive in Christ — Resourcing Renewal](#)

[Alive in Christ Participant's Guide v2 \(Pages\).pdf](#)

Can you help?

Bradford North Foodbank – Shipley

Thank you for your continued donations - January and February often see lower food donations but more people coming to us needing support. In our last two sessions alone at Shipley, we've fed 93 people - half of whom were children.



At this time we especially continue to need: UHT fruit juice, UHT milk, 2-in-1 shampoo/shower gel, tinned fruit and tin openers.

We heard from Mayme at the Shipley CAP Debt Centre last month about the work CAP do in our local area. Debt was a factor in 25% of recent foodbank referrals at Shipley.

Please pray for those experiencing debt and its consequences on wellbeing - missed meals, reliance on friends and family, dreading a knock on the door. Please also pray for those working to relieve this burden - CAP, the foodbank, our financial inclusion advisors and many others.

Thank you

Anthea, Pete, Stuart and Sue



Collective Clear Out Day!

Clear up Saturday for 1st February 10.30am, A time to make the church and its buildings feel truly welcoming to our guests. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Prayer and support

Saturday Prayers

All are welcome to join an online prayer meeting on Saturday 25 January /01 February at 10 am for half an hour or so of prayers on Zoom as we pray for the church, community, and wider world. For further information please contact

gemmarichards15@hotmail.com Password if needed is hello Meeting ID: 793 0065 5912

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79300655912?pwd=zwatTeFSGOFGgquBd8HJtcdHVHmPQ4.1>

Prayer requests

Please pray for Prue Price's family and friends as they come to terms with the loss of their mother, sister or friend. We ask for blessing and comfort for them. Please pray for Sukheil, as he continues to suffer with pain from his fall that he had earlier in the year and he is now struggling to be able to speak.

Please pray for David Hartley who is having breathing

problems, and is awaiting results from a scan. Please pray for blessings on him as it is also

his 90th birthday this coming week. Please pray for ongoing healing for Viv, and that her energy and breathing is fully restored.



Please also pray for the Bible Exhibition that will be on this week in church, hosted by the Zephania Trust. The church will be open on Wednesday afternoon for anyone who would like to pop in and explore the wonder of our 'Living word' and how it came to be brought about. Please pray that the children from St Walburga's and Shipley primary learn something amazing about the bible.

Thank you from the Leech's

Thank you to everyone for their prayers, love and support during the past few months. It's been a big help, and it's meant a lot. The Leech Family.

A message from Viv

A big thank you to everyone for all your prayers, messages, cards and offers of help while I have been ill with pneumonia - they are all deeply appreciated. I am pleased to say I am improving at last and will be making a gradual phased return both to my actual job and to my work at church over the next couple of weeks! I am very aware I need to take this slowly so will be around in the evenings to start with - but hope to see you all soon. Huge thanks to Natasha, the staff team and all those who have provided cover for the things I usually do for all their love and support, as well as to all of you - St Peter's is a fantastic family to be part of and it never hurts to be reminded of that!

Prayer Ministry Team

We can all be helped by talking and prayer with others from time to time. This does not just have to be limited to times when we are ill, although prayer for physical healing is very powerful and important. The Prayer Ministry Team are there for anyone, during Communion, at 11.15am services. Please do go and see them in the Hope Chapel.

News and updates

Welcome Space



Where has January gone..... there is only one month of Winter left and then we will start seeing Crocuses, Snowdrops and Daffodils again yay. Roll on the warmer months and hopefully the garden will get a look at this year (last year was rather wet). If you are free on a Friday between 11.00am until 2.00pm the Welcome Space team would love, you to drop-in where you can enjoy a lovely warm bowl of homemade soup and cakes made by our lovely volunteer bakers. 😊 If you see one of those hints of spring mentioned above, please let me know when you pop into Welcome Space. Welcome Space is so beneficial to all ages to either keep warm and dry, break their isolation, chat, and get something to eat and drink, in these increasingly tough times. Our ongoing needs are; more Volunteers and splendid cake makers. We desperately need volunteers from 12.30pm, as well as those who fancy helping throughout the session (you are wonderful, if you do), we would love your help. Please sign up on the sheets at the back of the church on the Welcome desk! We need help, in the kitchen, help to talk/pray with those popping in (so important for people's mental and spiritual wellbeing), welcome people into the building, bake yummy cakes, clear and wipe down tables, wash up - which is ongoing, as well as towards the end or even give donations to help keep this valuable service going!



♥ Please Scan the QR Code above, if you would like to help us out with a donation, every little bit helps, thank you.

If you would like to volunteer or contribute in any way, please chat to Annabel (annabel.rigby@stpetes.org.uk; welcome.space@stpetes.org.uk) or Karen Parkinson (karen.parkinson@stpetes.org.uk) for more information.

On the back of the soup menu each week, is an activity (crossword/word search) which follows one of the previous Sundays Bible readings, please feel free to take a copy and challenge yourself or take it home to complete while you are sitting down with a cup of tea.

Thank you so much to Shipleys true blessing John, at the Orange Grove and his lovely hard-working assistants, Holly & Eve, for all your delicious fruit & donations of veg, we receive each week, to make the soups and fruit salads, and the bakers at Melvyn Davis for their kind bread donations. Without their kind support, Welcome Space would really struggle.

If you are not able to make it in, please help us by praying for the session and let us know if you need prayer, soup & some cake too.

Thank you all for all your ongoing help and support, may February be filled full of God's love and wonderful blessings, please keep safe and warm and roll on Spring xx

The Wonderful Warm Welcome Space team! 😊 😊 😊 😊 😊 😊

Children & Youth update

Could you help make meals at Messy Church happen? The meal is a vital part of the service, but we need to expand our team to look after our current volunteers. We are looking for people who can plan meals, buy ingredients or come along and cook for us. If you think this is something you could do to serve our families, please speak to Jessica.

Mission & Outreach

Wanted for JOY

JOY hope to send another container to Yemen in April: Wheelchairs, commodes, incontinence pads, trainers wanted, 5kg bags rice or pasta

Medical supplies of any sort to send to Ukraine in the monthly delivery.

We need another trustee; if anyone feels the Lord nudging them in this direction, we would be very grateful. Kathy



News about Bishop Ezekiel

If you would like to hear the latest news from Bishop Ezekiel, there's a copy of the latest update on the 'Welcome Desk'. Or please look at the copy on our website. Thank you!

Eco-church and sustainability

February eco tips.

February is Show the Love month, in eco terms as well as St Valentine's Day! Use green hearts on social media to share what you love about nature; write to your local politicians about important eco issues; This link has more including what is going on in our local area eco-wise to get involved in <https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/show-the-love>

If you want to get involved in helping conserve our local area Hirst Wood regeneration group - responsible for such things as the Lock Garden, and nature reserve at Hirst Wood locks email secretary@hirstwoodrg.co.uk The Woodland Trust also gives details of woodland on our doorstep <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/woods/hirst-wood/>

If February weather or personal circumstance prevents much getting out, consider a head start on Spring cleaning? Donate or pass on items you no longer use, and recycle or upcycle what you can.

Listen to this, Job; stop and consider God's wonders, Do you know how God controls the clouds and makes his lightning flash Do you know how the clouds hang poised, those wonders of him who has perfect knowledge? (Job 37:14-16)

Generosity and giving



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!

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, or 07801 138180). If you'd like to donate to the Helping Hands Fund, please contact Andy Thorlby thorlbya@yahoo.co.uk or 01274 510951 or make a donation in the usual way into the church, clearly identified as "Helping Hands Fund".

Upcoming events

Gordon Dey & Mervyn's Sri Lanka Trip

Dear Pilgrim Friends,

We're making steady progress with plans for our Pilgrimage to Sri Lanka. We hope to have a solid plan that we can share with you sometime next week.

In the meantime we can confirm the following: DATES: September 19th - Oct 3rd - Qatar Airways flight from Manchester via Doha to Colombo with similar return.

PREPARATION MEETINGS:

- Saturday February 8th, 2.00 pm at St. Peter's Church Shipley BD18 4JH. We're confident we'll have most of the logistics of the trip sorted by then. We hope to update those who were at the first meeting, and also hope to welcome people who were not able to attend our first meeting, and others who have come on board more recently.
- Saturday March 15th, 2.00 pm , also at St Peters for a follow up meeting to finalise the arrangements.

We'll continue our preparation by beginning to explore the background story to Sri Lanka and its peoples.

(Please therefore cancel the plan we provisionally made to meet on March 8th)

Kind regards

Mervyn Silva and Gordon Dey

Safeguarding Training – Basic Awareness

Thank you to those of you who volunteer here at St Peter's. We wouldn't be able to do what we do without you.

To continue with our work, we need anyone and everyone who volunteers with us to undertake 'Basic Awareness Training'. If you're unable to complete the training online we are holding an in-person session on **Sunday 9th February after the 11.15am service (12.15pm)**.

Mens Group - Curry Night

Friday 7th February 7pm at Shimla Spice Shipley, please sign up on sheet on welcome desk or email martinforbes@gmail.com by Sunday 2nd, remember if you like a alcoholic drink to take your own. Thanks, Martin

Ladies Night – 28th February

We are holding another ladies night along with St Peter's and Christchurch on Friday 28th February (7.15pm)

We intend to book Sambuca on Leeds Road. It's very reasonably priced and very good. We would love to see you there. We can offer lifts if people have difficulties getting there. For more information and booking please contact Anne Luxton 07547 187624 or Louise Forbes 07794 809256.

Please let us know as soon as possible if you would like to join us as numbers may be limited. For those who don't have mobile phones you can contact Louise on louisemforbes.lf@gmail.com Or home number 01274 035671.

Zephaniah's Bible Exhibition

We will be hosting St Walburga's primary school and Shipley primary school this week in church as they come to explore the bible. The church will be open for anyone to come and explore on Wednesday afternoon.

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.

Daily Prayer and Readings for this week

Morning Prayer takes place on Tuesdays & 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](#)

| 3rd February 2025 – 8th February 2025 | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|---|--|
| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| Morning Prayer | | | | | |
| Ps. 1 Mala. 1. 1, 6 - end John 13. 1 - 11 | Ps. 5 Mala. 2. 1 - 16 John 13. 12 - 20 | Ps. 119. 1 - 32 Mala. 2.17 -3.12 John 13. 21 - 30 | Ps. 15 Mala. 3.13 -end of 4 John 13.31 - end | Ps. 19 Nahum 1 John 14. 1 - 14 | Ps. 23 Obadiah John 14. 15 -end |
| Evening Prayer | | | | | |
| Ps. 4 Phili 1. 1 -11 | Ps. 9 Phili. 1. 12- end | Ps. 11 Phili. 2.1 - 30 | Ps. 18 Phili. 2. 14 -end | Ps. 22 Phili. 3.1 - 4.1 | Ps. 24 Phili. 4. 2 - end |

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

| CONTACT ST. PETER'S | | | Day off |
|---|---|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Vicar | Natasha Thomas | 07887 707221 | Monday |
| Associate Priest | Brian Greenfield | 01274 788345 | Friday or Saturday |
| Licensed Lay Minister | Viv Brealey | 07519 552231 | |
| Treasurer | Mike Moss | 07758 575653 | |
| Churchwardens | Alan Armitage Gemma Richards | 07541 044266 07743 122828 | |
| Children & Youth Work | Children's work Co-ordinator: Jessica Criddle jessica.criddle@stpetes.org.uk or via the office Children's & Youth Administrator: Jenni Reid 01274 400381 or office@stpetes.org.uk | | |
| Pastoral Co-ordinators | Carol Brown Keith Brown | 01274 585242 | |
| Church Office | Jenni Reid Kerry Milwain | 01274 400381 | Saturday & Sunday |
|  | office@stpetes.org.uk | | |
|  | www.stpetes.org.uk | | |
|  | St. Peter's Church Shipley | | |

This Church operates a Safeguarding Policy in line with national and diocesan guidelines.

Our Safeguarding Officer is Frances Vose,

T: 07972647427, E: safeguarding@stpetes.org.uk

ChildLine can be contacted on 0800 1111

Services for this month

Services on Sunday 2nd February

Presentation of Christ in the Temple/ Candlemas

| | | | | | |
|----------------|--|-----------------|---|----------------|---|
| 9.30 am | All Age Worship Alive in Christ – Responding to Temptation Luke 4:1-15 (Jessica Criddle) | 11.15 am | Holy Communion Alive in Christ – Responding to Temptation Luke 4:1-15 Hebrews 2:14 – end (Jessica Criddle) | 6.30 pm | Evening Worship Reset Presentation of Christ in the temple Hebrews 2:14 – end Luke 2:22-40 (Natasha Thomas) |
|----------------|--|-----------------|---|----------------|---|

Services on Sunday 9th February

4 Before Lent

| | | | | | |
|----------------|--|-----------------|---|----------------|---|
| 9.30 am | All Age Holy Communion Alive in Christ – Forgiven & Forgiving Colossians 3:1-17 (David Slaney) | 11.15 am | Morning Worship Alive in Christ – Forgiven & Forgiving Colossians 3:1-17 Luke 5:1-11 (Natasha Thomas) | 6.30 pm | Holy Communion Putting your faith in God Psalms 3 & 4 Acts 3: 1-10 (Natasha Thomas) |
|----------------|--|-----------------|---|----------------|---|

Services on Sunday 16th February

3 Before Lent

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|---|----------------|--|----------------|---|
| 11.15 am | Holy Communion Alive in Christ – Transformed for Service Romans 12: 1-8 John: 15:16 (Natasha Thomas) | 3.30 pm | Messy Church Lots of fun and exciting things to do learning about Jesus, followed by a meal. (Jessica Criddle) | 6.30 pm | Holy Communion Breathe Service <i>@ St Paul's</i> (Brian Greenfield) |
|-----------------|---|----------------|--|----------------|---|

Services on Sunday 23rd February

2 before Lent

| | | | | | |
|----------------|--|-----------------|---|----------------|--|
| 9.30 am | All Age Holy Communion Trusting in God's direction Luke 8: 22-23 (Frances Vose) | 11:15 am | Morning Worship Trusting in God's direction Luke 8: 22-23 Gen 2.4b, 15-end (Joe Batt) | 6.30 pm | Holy Communion TBC Job 28:1-11 Acts 14: 8-17 (Gemma Richards) |
|----------------|--|-----------------|---|----------------|--|