



ST. PETER'S
— SHIPLEY —

ST PETER'S



SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday 19th October

11.15am Holy Communion
3.30pm Messy Church
6.30pm BREATHE on Tour @ CLC

Sunday 26th October

11.15am All-In Morning Worship
Followed by Pete's Easts
6.30pm Celtic Communion

CONTACT US

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THIS WEEK'S THEME

Practicing the Way: Fasting

Isaiah 58: 1-9

THIS WEEK'S REFLECTION

This week's practice is one of the ones I have wondered why I have not actually done it as part of my spiritual life. John Mark Comer would argue that fasting is one of the most essential and powerful of all the practices of Jesus and, yet probably, the single most neglected one in the modern, Western church. On reflecting why I haven't fasted, I think I have feared the disruption it might cause my family, because we like to sit and eat together, so if I wasn't eating it would feel strange...but I can see that this is perhaps an excuse that doesn't hold so much now my girls have left home! It also feels daunting. What if I get 'H-Angry' which I am prone to do if I am left too long without food? And then wondering whether I would really get that much out of the effort? But how can I know without trying?

One of the challenges from the Practicing the Way is the reminder that Jesus' apostles fasted 2 or 3 times a week with the ultimate aim of fasting being to get in touch with our hunger for God. When we fast, we awaken our bodies and souls to their deep yearning for life with the Father. We become able to say with Jesus, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about." (John 4v32).

But what is so important to remember and what we are reminded of in the passage from Isaiah, is that anything we do in following Jesus is done with a heart that is seeking God, rather than following because of duty, or a sense of obligation. Doing any of these practices are not a mark of how good we are as Christians. In the end, what will mark us out as Christians is how we reflect love - love of God and love of each other. All the disciplines we are thinking about need to be directed by love. The practice of Sabbath, Prayer, Solitude, Fasting, Witness, Community, Scripture, Hospitality and Service are all to be considered in the light of how we can become more open to be more like Jesus. Shining as His stars. As Paul tells the Philippians 2:15 "Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world that is broken". So the challenge is for me, to try the practice of Fasting! I shall let you know how I get on - let me know how you do!

Rev Natasha Thomas



Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:

to loose the chains of injustice
and untie the cords of the yoke,
to set the oppressed free
and break every yoke?

Is it not to share your food with
the hungry
and to provide the poor
wanderer with shelter—

Then your light will break forth like
the dawn,

and your healing will quickly
appear;

then your righteousness^[a] will go
before you,
and the glory of the Lord will be
your rear guard.

Then you will call, and the Lord
will answer;
you will cry for help, and he will
say: Here am I.

Isaiah 58: 7-9

Sessional Caretaker Role

We are looking to appoint a sessional caretaker to support Martin, particularly on weekends. If you would like to find out more information, please speak to Karen Parkinson or Natasha.

Fellowship Group

For the next couple of months we are running a discipleship course called **Practicing the Way**. This takes place on **Mondays from 9.30-10.30am, in the Meeting Place**. Please join us if you can.

All Souls' Service

A short service to remember our loved ones who have gone to glory
Sunday 2nd November at 4pm

Ladies Night

Friday 7th November, 7.30pm, Rossini's Italian Restaurant, Bingley Road, Shipley.
Please contact Louise Forbes (07794 809256 / louisemforbes.lf@gmail.com) to book your place.

Coming Up...

Knit & Natter - EVERY Wednesday, 10.30am, The Meeting Place

The Big Sing - Saturday 18th October, Saltaire United Reformed Church
Free music throughout the afternoon from 12 noon. Join The Big Sing at 7pm.

Messy Church - Sunday 19th October, 3.30pm, Church

Debt Centre Celebration - Sunday 19th October, 6.30pm, Christian Life Church

Following Jesus, Fellowship Group - Monday 20th October, 9.30am, The Meeting Place

SAFEGUARDING:

If you have any safeguarding concerns please contact our safeguarding officer:
Frances Vose - safeguarding@stpetes.org.uk

There's A LOT Happening this WEEKEND!!!

THE BIG SING - Saturday 18th October, 12-9pm

Christian songs sung through the ages at the URC in Saltaire.

Join us to say that we believe in Love and Not Hate

We are gathering outside the **URC in Saltaire from 11.30am - 12pm on Saturday 18th October** to reflect that we as a Christian community have another narrative to the one that feels like it is the prevalent one of today's culture. Please note, that I am not encouraging people to join the organisation Hope not Hate, but rather we are making the most of the opportunity to raise awareness for different voices of love and peace rather than division and exclusion.

Debt Centre Celebration

Sunday 19th October, 6.30pm, Christian Life Church

Part of BREATHE on Tour -

Celebrate 5 years of the Shipley Debt Centre and help plan the next 5 years!



PETE'S EATS

SUNDAY 26th October

All are welcome to come and share food - we will be providing jacket potatoes, but please bring some other food to eat and to share so we can share fellowship, and chew over some of the things that we think God is saying.



On Sunday 19th October, Chris Beard will be running the York Marathon (26 miles) for Macmillan Cancer Support. He does this every year in memory of his brother Matt. Prayers and donations would be welcome.

Eco Tips

Instead of raking and disposing of all your leaves, leave some to decompose naturally, enriching your soil, and providing habitats for insects and small creatures. You can also mulch leaves to create natural fertilizer for your lawn.

Shipley Christians Together (SCT) Members Needed

Please contact Natasha for more information if you would like to join this group that brings all the local churches together to see how we share our love of God across Shipley.

3 PCC's Away Day

We had a really productive time last weekend, and we therefore anticipate that over the coming weeks we will establish a notice board that highlights the services and activities that take place in our sister churches of St Paul's and Christchurch. Notes from the away day are available.

Prayers for People

Please pray for those who have left to go on a pilgrimage to Sri Lanka. Pray for those who are not well at the moment and who are struggling to join us due to ill health and frailty. Please get in touch if you would like to have a home visit.

Saturday Prayers

All are welcome to join us for half an hour of prayer on Zoom as we pray for each other, St Peter's and the wider world on **Saturday 18th October, 10am**.

<https://uso4web.zoom.us/j/7864791357?pwd=loDFfD3xHZBUlZmweJv1ejQkwXlosB.1>

Meeting ID: 786 479 1357

Password: U3Y3jH