



ST PETER'S



SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday 14th December

11.15am Holy Communion
3.30pm Messy Christmas

Sunday 21st December

9.30am All-In Holy Communion
11.15am Holy Communion
6.30pm Christmas Carol Evening

CONTACT US

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THIS WEEK'S THEME

Advent - Wk 3

Isaiah 35:1-11
& Matthew 11:2-11

THIS WEEK'S REFLECTION

I think this passage is my favourite this year. It really taught me something about what Jesus means about his kingdom. I have always been a political person, looking to ways in which justice can be brought about through a political response - challenging those we perceive as in the wrong as the prophets did and John the Baptist did... (I still believe this!) But there is a challenge in this passage because Jesus' behaviour was to challenge those in authority through love and action. He still proclaimed judgement, but His focus was on being with the poor. His focus was not on the systems of life, rather it was beyond that, looking to ways that bring life to all people for eternity. John the Baptist (Jesus' cousin) was struggling to understand why Jesus was not challenging the hierarchy. But John's focus was only to consider what was necessary for earthly deliverance and so "When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?" (John 3) Was Jesus not who he said he was? The disappointment that John feels is clear. Perhaps we too feel this disappointment? Why doesn't God intervene?

Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: 5 The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy^[a] are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. 6 Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.

Matthew 11: 4-6



Jesus, who declares John as the greatest prophet, responds to John and describes what is happening because of what he is doing. Lives are being changed. Transformed. And the good news is reaching all people - including the excluded such as the beggars and the lepers. Life for people who felt that they had no hope, now have hope. The prophecies of old are being fulfilled. This is what Jesus came to do. He came to save all people for eternity, not for a time and a place. Not just for one community. His short time on earth was to set an example for how we are to follow him.

Despite the greatness of John, Jesus reminds us that we are in a more privileged position. As believing Christians, we have our place in the Kingdom of God! Amazing Grace. John understood that he was to prepare the way for the Saviour, and that he must become less as the Saviour becomes greater. But I wonder whether he had ever realised that his sacrifice was to be imprisoned and finally executed at the whim of a dancing girl? Do we recognise the sacrifices that perhaps we need to make in following Christ?

It can be so hard for us to step back, to make way for another. Jesus gave his life bringing the good news of life and hope. This good news is always about transformation, about community, about belonging and including. Not being exclusive. Rev Malcolm emailed his delight that at their new toy give away at Christchurch, 120 families in Windhill were helped, fewer loan sharks will be used to buy things. Toys at Christmas does not bring about transformation, but they do bring about a relationship between church and community. It brings about the opportunity to demonstrate that as people who follow Jesus, we offer generosity and love to all people, even people who feel that they are the least. How can we share this love with our neighbours? Our community? How do we share the hope we have?

Rev Natasha Thomas

Pastoral Care

We at St Peter's want to provide support by way of prayers, visits and Home Communion, to those who need them.

To find out more email:

pastoralsupport@stpetes.org.uk

or phone Keith and Carol on

01274 585242



Christmas Post Box Appeal

Every year we encourage members to donate the amount they spend on average on a Christmas present to our Christmas appeal. This year we are supporting Sri Lankan projects (eg education for street children) and Christians Against Poverty in Shipley.

Calling all Bakers!

We will be needing mince pies or similar Christmas goodies for our Welcome Space Christmas Party on Friday 19th December and for the Christmas Carol Evening on Sunday 21st December.



Coming Up at St Peter's...

Vicarage Christmas Party - Saturday 13th December: Open House from 2-4pm at the Vicarage, 2 Glenhurst Rd

Messy Christmas - Sunday 14th December, 3.30pm

The Jam Club - Tuesday 16th December, 3.30pm, Snooker Room

Beetle Drive - Wednesday 17th December, 6.30pm

Welcome Space Christmas Party - Friday 19th December, 11am - 2pm

Christingle Service - Friday 19th December, 4pm

Christmas Carol Evening - Sunday 21st December, 6.30pm

SAFEGUARDING

If you have any safeguarding concerns please contact our safeguarding officer:

Frances Vose -

safeguarding@stpetes.org.uk

PASTORAL SUPPORT

If you want prayer or support, please email pastoralsupport@stpetes.org.uk

Vicarage Christmas Party

Everyone is very warmly welcomed to come to the Vicarage for refreshments of mince pies, cake and mulled wine on

Saturday 13th December, 2-4pm

The vicarage, 2 Glenhurst Road, BD18 4DZ



The Beetle Drive returns!

Christmas would not be Christmas at St Peter's without a Beetle Drive! Fun for all the family! Please come and join Eric Parker as he leads us in another evening of fun together on **Wednesday 17th December, 6.30pm**

Voices of Hope:

Street Carol Singing for Gaza and the Middle East

Please join us on **Saturday 13th December, 10.30am** at the top of Wellcroft in Shipley (by the library), to raise awareness and funds for Christian Aid's work in Gaza and the Middle East.

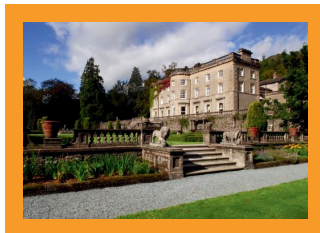
The Jam Club - Toast, Chill and Your After-School Fix

Tuesdays after school just got sweeter! Swing by for free toast, jam, chats, games and chill vibes on your way home.

For Secondary and 6th Form age; Tuesdays, 3.30-5pm in the Snooker Room. Volunteers needed - contact Joseph!

Join a Fellowship Group at St Peter's Church!

Meet regularly for Bible study, discussion, worship, prayer and support. Each group has its own unique character, evolving according to the needs of its members. For more information, or if you would like to join a group, please contact Linda Furze: fellowship@stpetes.org.uk



SAVE THE DATE!

The 3 Anglican BD18 Churches plan to go away to Rydal Hall in the Lakes together and we would love as many of us to go as possible - **10-12th July 2026**.

See Natasha or Frances for more info.

Prayers for People

Please pray for Rita Henning and her family as they come to terms with the loss of Albert. Many thanks to Rita for the flowers now in the Hope chapel.

As part of our Blue Christmas service, we have kept the tree up, so that anyone who wishes to bless a loved one who has died, can write their name on a star and place it on the tree, remembering them this Christmas time.

Saturday Prayers

Saturday online prayers will start again on **Saturday 10th January 2026** on Zoom, when all are welcome to join us as we pray for ourselves, the church, the community and the wider world. For more information or to pass on a prayer request, please contact gemma.richards@stpetes.org.uk.

SCT Christmas Lunch

The SCT Christmas lunch will take place at Shipley Baptist Church on **Thursday 25th December at 12.30pm.**



Can you help us mount this great adventure in faith, which last year served a good Christmas meal to 140 people in Shipley, Saltaire, Windhill, Heaton, Frizinghall and further afield?

Help needed with the following:

Now

Invite people likely to be on their own on Christmas Day to share a communal meal with others which will include a welcome non-alcoholic drink, turkey or vegetarian option, roast potatoes, seasonal vegetable, stuffing and sausages, vegetarian gravy, dessert, tea and coffee, cake and mince pies.

Christmas Eve

Set a festive table and decorations at Shipley Baptist Church, prep vegetables - carrots, sprouts etc...

Christmas Day

Welcome guests, serve the meal, wash up and some people willing to take out, by car, hot meals for shut-ins etc...

If you are able to help with any of the above or if you would like to make a contribution "in kind" or a financial gift to support this work, please let Keith Jones know - kdsaltaire@yahoo.co.uk.



Bradford North Foodbank
Together with Trussell

Winter appeal

This winter, many people in our local community are facing cold nights and empty cupboards.

But with your help, we can provide essential food and hope to those struggling through the season.

Shopping list

- Christmas cake
- Selection box
- Biscuits
- Tinned meat
- Custard
- Tinned fruit

Donate food



Can you donate an item or two from our shopping list to help feed people in your community?

Donate money



Can you help ensure food reaches those in urgent need - as well as supporting sustainable projects?



Scan to donate

01274 292 256

bradfordnorth.foodbank.org.uk

Registered charity number 1160080 | Registered Charity in England & Wales

Inn Churches - Volunteers Needed!

Shipley Baptist Church is hosting the Inn Churches Winter Shelter from **Monday 19th - 26th January.**

For the shelter to run smoothly, we require a team of volunteers each evening/night for the following teams:

Befrienders
Dinner Team
Overnight Team
Breakfast Team

If you would like to volunteer, please click [here](#).

A training session for all volunteers will take place at Shipley Baptist Church on Monday 12th January, 7.30pm.

For further information on the volunteer roles or if you have any questions, please contact:
catherinefroud@hotmail.com

TakeTime - Advent Series

Enter in to the Christmas story in a meditative, prayerful way, just 20 minutes.

Wednesdays, 8.30pm on 26th Nov, 3rd Dec, 17th Dec.

On Zoom - Meeting ID: 545 396 6983
 Email Helen Scott for a weekly reminder:
helsplatt@hotmail.com

Christmas Services



ST PETER'S CHURCH, SHIPLEY

02
DECEMBER

Blue Christmas
6.30pm
A reflective service for those who find this time of year challenging

07
DECEMBER

Angel Service
6.30pm
A short interactive service for all ages to reflect on the announcement of the coming King

14
DECEMBER

Messy Christmas
3.30pm
Creative Christmas-themed fun for all ages with food provided

19
DECEMBER

Christingle Service
4pm (refreshments served from 3.30pm)
Make a Christingle, enjoy mulled wine and mince pies

21
DECEMBER

Christmas Carol Evening
6.30pm
Sing along to classic carols by candlelight

24
DECEMBER

Crib Service - 4pm
A fun, festive nativity service for families
Midnight Mass - 11.30pm
Our first Communion of Christmas

25
DECEMBER

All-In Christmas Communion
10.30am
Christmas celebration service with Holy Communion



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