



# ST PETER'S



## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

### Sunday 21st December

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

### Christmas Eve 24th December

4pm Crib Service  
11.30pm Midnight Mass

### Christmas Day 25th December

10.30am All-In Christmas Communion

### Sunday 28th December

10am Joint Holy Communion Service  
at St Paul's Church

## CONTACT US

### Office

office@stpetes.org.uk  
Tel: 01274 400 381  
**Rev Natasha Thomas**  
natasha.thomas@stpetes.org.uk  
Tel: 07887 707221

## THIS WEEK'S THEME

### Advent - Wk 4

Isaiah 7:10-16  
& Matthew 1:8-end

## THIS WEEK'S REFLECTION

Only 6 Sleeps until Christmas morning! Not long now! Are your cards sent? Food planned? Presents wrapped? Tree up? Visits to friends and family scheduled? "The thing about Christmas" someone said to me the other day "Is all these lovely things happen at once. We could do with spreading them out across the year!" Its so true. So much of what we try to do is to make it really special and it is an excuse to gather together with people we haven't seen for a while.

But somethings perhaps have got out of kilter, perhaps with expectations and anticipations that have taken us down a road that takes us away from joy and celebration to stress and anxiety as we worry whether the food is right. Whether the presents are the right ones. Whether the person who has got socks for us again, really cares about us at all...so much of these things run deeper, that have the potential to hurt relationships, for anger to bubble out of the stress...

Joseph, trusted the angel and married a pregnant girl, much against his instincts and together they travelled 70miles (about 3 days walking) to register themselves under the Roman census so that they could be counted and taxed - they had to do it even though Mary was so very heavily pregnant. They went and on their own Jesus was born. There was none of the paraphernalia. It was rough and ready. Not anything that we would want to copy. And I do not think Jesus would want us to. But I do wonder whether he would question how we celebrate his birth. I suppose the question we need to ask ourselves with regard to all that we do, is does it bring joy to you and those we are doing it for? Or does everyone get stressed by the stress we put on ourselves? Are we joyful in all that we are doing? Giving? Sharing? Are we remembering the reason or the season?

Remember Jesus praised Mary for sitting and listening at his feet and challenged Martha who complained she was not helping. I am sure everyone was very happy to eat and be prepared for by Martha, but that was not what Jesus' time was about, and Martha was resentful rather than joyful.

As we prepare in the count down to Christmas I pray that all of us feel that joy, that sense of anticipation of a great party, of a time where with your family and friends you remember the wonder of what Christmas is really about. The wonder of the baby born to two very ordinary human beings who trusted God enough to risk all the gossip and the antagonisms to say yes to bringing him into the world and to seek to protect him as best they could. Christmas requires effort. Worshiping God requires effort, but sometimes that effort is to slow down and sit with God, and other times it is about going all out, to enable others to feel loved and spoiled. But either way, we need to do these things with joy and know that we are doing it to honour and love God.

Rev Natasha Thomas

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (means "God with us").

Matthew 1: 22-23



## 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](mailto:pastoralsupport@stpetes.org.uk)

or phone Keith and Carol on

01274 585242



## Inn Churches

### Volunteers Needed!

Shingley 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**

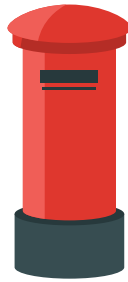
**Breakfast Team**

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

For further information or to volunteer, please contact:  
[catherinefroud@hotmail.com](mailto:catherinefroud@hotmail.com)

## PLEASE NOTE:

**No Sunday Service at St Peter's on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> Dec!**  
**There will be a Sunday Service at St Paul's Shipley at 10am**



## DON'T FORGET! 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.

## 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 - **10-12<sup>th</sup> July 2026.**  
See Natasha or Frances for more info.



## SCT Christmas Lunch

The SCT Christmas lunch will take place at Shingley Baptist Church on **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December at 12.30pm.**

If you know of anybody who is likely to be on their own on Christmas Day and would like to attend, please let Keith Jones know. Also if you would like to help or gift financially to support this work:

[kdsaltire@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kdsaltire@yahoo.co.uk)



**Shipley  
Christians  
Together**

**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.

**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?

01274 292 256  
[bradfordnorth.foodbank.org.uk](http://bradfordnorth.foodbank.org.uk)

Registered charity number 1180805 (Registered Charity in England & Wales)

**Shopping list**

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

Scan to donate

## Coming Up at St Peter's in January...

### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January

9.30am - All-In Service  
11.15am - Communion  
6.30pm - Reset: Evening Worship

### Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January

9.30am - See & Know  
11am - Welcome Space  
7.15pm - Rewired

### SAFEGUARDING

If you have any safeguarding concerns please contact our safeguarding officer:  
Frances Vose -

[safeguarding@stpetes.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@stpetes.org.uk)

### PASTORAL SUPPORT

If you want prayer or support, please email  
[pastoralsupport@stpetes.org.uk](mailto:pastoralsupport@stpetes.org.uk)

## 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](mailto:fellowship@stpetes.org.uk)

## Prayers for People

Please pray for Mandy's parents, Helen & Mark, after Helen had a stroke and is currently in hospital. Pray also 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:gemma.richards@stpetes.org.uk).