



ST PETER'S



SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday 22nd February

9.30am All-In Service
11.15am Morning Worship
6.30pm Holy Communion

Sunday 1st March

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

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

The Beginning of Lent ...facing temptations

THIS WEEK'S REFLECTION

We have now entered the season of Lent. A time for self-reflection, penitence, fasting...a time to prepare for Easter morning, recognising who we are in relation to God our creator. What is also interesting is that this is also the beginning of Ramadan. A time when our Muslim brothers and sisters fast and pray. For both our communities this is a particularly holy time. A time where we are to forfeit ourselves and think more about our relationship with God and how we serve others.

It was really lovely therefore, to be able to host a time with 5 Imams from different Masjids and other Christian leaders to begin thinking about how we can start to address some of the divisions that have been experienced in our town. I know, I find the Muslim approach to fasting and abstinence a real challenge to me as to how I can be more disciplined and focused on God. I really could not imagine what it must be like to give up food and drink for such long periods every day.

We need to remember that Lent is bigger than giving up chocolate. It's about letting go of what weighs us down and being open to what lifts us up. Giving up chocolate or wine or scrolling less on your phone might help us to focus on God more, because every time we think about what we have given up we are reminded about God, but I also wonder does it just become a challenge to us, rather than helping to change our hearts. In the end, that is all that God wants from us. To work towards having a purer heart, a heart that loves and worships God above all things, letting go of the things that get in our way.

Lent is a time for more discipline. More focused Bible reading and prayer time. It can also mean more abstinence from things, but not necessarily. Lent starts with Ash Wednesday, which is one of those solemn services, that reminds us that we are dust and that we will return to dust, and during our time here on earth we are to turn away from sin and to be faithful to Christ. Our lives, get so full of doings, that sometimes we forget that this is all that we are. Remembering this is something that puts God back in charge, and reminds us of who and why we do these things.



The 'ashing' of a cross on our foreheads is the symbol that reminds us that it is only because of Jesus dying for us and His grace that we get eternal life. There is nothing that we can do that can make us good enough to receive eternal life, because we can never be perfect!

Do consider joining us on Thursday evening for our Lent group where we will be using material from Embrace the Middle East - Acts of Hope or use the Lectio 365 materials for daily reading about the stories of inspiration from the early Christian Desert Fathers and Mothers. (<https://lectio365.com>) to help you grow in your Christian journey this Lent time.



St Peter's Mission

We are proud at St Peter's to support various mission groups both abroad and locally. The organisations that we are supporting this year are:

Wycliffe Bible Translators

Sudan Link

Sri Lanka

CAP - Christians Against Poverty

Zephaniah Trust

Bradford North Food Bank

Christian Aid (Christian Aid Week)

The Children's Society (Christingle)

Would you be willing to be the contact person for one of these amazing missions that are focused on spreading God's love? If so, please speak to Natasha.

If anyone would like more information about Garry Ion and his work in Cumbria please contact Eric Parker.

Coming Up at St Peter's...

The Bereavement Journey - Tuesday 24th February, Meeting Place

Alpha Course - Thursday 26th February, 6.30pm, Hope Chapel

Lent Group - Thursday 26th February, 7pm, Meeting Place

Wresting Church - Friday 27th February, 6.30pm

Forest Church - Sunday 1st March, 2pm, Hirst Wood

Messy Church - Sunday 15th March, 3.30pm

SAFEGUARDING

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

PASTORAL SUPPORT

For prayer or support, please email: pastoralsupport@stpetes.org.uk

Lent Group: Thursdays, 7pm, Meeting Place

A time to pray, reflect and prepare for the resurrection of Jesus. Using material based on stories from Gaza, we will study the book of Acts to encourage us. As the Palestinian theologian Munther Isaac said "Hope is not waiting for something. We create hope through our actions."

A PRAYER FOR LENT

Wonderful God, as we enter the season Lent, this time of preparation for the mystery of Easter help us to ready ourselves, so that we can journey with Jesus through the wilderness, to meet with him in resurrection joy.

Make us ready to fast from criticism and feast on the good we see in others.

Make us ready to fast from inactivity and feast on action for justice.

Make us ready to fast from greed and feast on giving.

Make us ready to fast from conflict and feast on peace-making.

Make us ready to fast from selfishness and feast on Christ likeness

So that we might be changed to become more like your Son. Amen.

Take Time Meditation Series for Early Lent

20 mins of peace, from the comfort of your own home, on Zoom.

Enter into a story from the Bible with a guided meditation. No pressure to show your video or speak. Wednesdays, 8:30pm - 18th, 25th February, 4th, 11th March.

Zoom Meeting ID: 545 396 6983 - Helen Scott (helsplatt@hotmail.com)


The Bereavement Journey
a place to talk
Please contact the office to book your place

The Bereavement Journey

A seven-week course that gently guides people living in the Shipley area who have been bereaved at any time, through the most common aspects of grief and bereavement, enabling them to process the implications for themselves and discern next steps.

Starts Tuesday 24th February, 7pm

St Peter's Church, Moorhead Lane, Shipley, BD18 4JH
Email: office@stpetes.org.uk / Phone: 01274 400381



Churches Weekend Away - Rydal Hall (10th-12th July 2026)

Booking forms for our Churches Weekend Away will be available from **Sunday 1st March**. A link to the booking form will be emailed out to everyone on our mailing list at 9am on Sunday 1st March. For those unable to complete the electronic form, paper copies will also be available in church on this date.

Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis, so please complete and return your booking form promptly!

Saturday Prayers

All are welcome to join us for half an hour of online prayers on Zoom as we pray for ourselves, the church, the community and the wider world - **Saturday 21st February, 10am.**

<https://uso4web.zoom.us/j/79453061549?pwd=oG4Jlpu7SoEkokijKaZETzAdgumiHM.1>
Meeting ID: 794 5306 1549 **Passcode: hello**