



ST. PETER'S  
— SHIPLEY —

# ST PETER'S



## SUNDAY SERVICES

### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March

11.15am Holy Communion  
3.30pm Messy Church  
6.30pm BREATHE @ St Paul's

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March

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

## 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

### Mothering Sunday

John 9

## THIS WEEK'S REFLECTION

The reading for this Sunday, is an interesting one. What jumps out to me is that we see the parents of the blind man, to fend for himself, when they see that there is a potential of them becoming excluded from the synagogue and their Jewish way of life. It's quite shocking to hear how the parents will negate their son. That the fear of losing something overrides their love and even parental duty for their child.

Fear is a current backdrop at the moment - there is the war in the Middle East which is having ongoing consequences for the whole world. There is fear for us in Shipley as we wonder what is going to happen as Brian and Emma move on. How will we manage?

Who is going to do what?

**"We know he is our son," the parents answered, "and we know he was born blind. <sup>21</sup> But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. *John 9:20-23***

Standing for what is right; good; generous; loving is a risky business. Is something the world doesn't put first. But this is what Jesus did. He could have walked past this blind man, because he would have known the trouble that healing him would cause, yet out of compassion, he reaches out and the man can see. Life it would seem doesn't become automatically easier, as he is rejected probably by his family as well as the Jewish orthodoxy, but by accepting the healing, he now has to live a different life as we do when we accept the forgiveness of sins, and love of God in our lives. Last week, we reflected on the hope that God gives us and how it has the power to ripple out. Fear does the same, but its power is negative. It is a way of churning us against one another, as we seek to protect self over others. I pray that when we feel fear, that we question it, and ask for God's help to show us how to see the world from his perspective of abundance. *Rev Natasha Thomas*

**Faith  
= OVER =  
Fear**

## Opportunities for Discussing the Future Relationships between Christchurch LEP, St Paul's and St Peter's

As many of you may know, Rev Brian Greenfield will be leaving at the end of April, and the three parishes have been asked to consider what our future might look like together and how we might work together in a more coherent way - do we become one parish or one benefice for instance?

We are therefore hosting a series of Q&A sessions throughout March after the following services:

- St Paul's - 15<sup>th</sup> March
- St Peter's - 22<sup>nd</sup> March

We have produced a Question and Answer sheet, which is a starting point for our discussions, but please do not hesitate in contacting me to discuss your thoughts, feelings, worries before or after this time. If for whatever reason you have missed this conversation, we will be facilitating some group sessions for conversation and prayer after Easter.



**Places are filling up!  
Don't be disappointed - book  
onto the Weekend Away!  
Rydal Hall (10th-12th July)**

Online booking forms available [here](#).

For those unable to complete the electronic form, paper copies are also available in church.

*(If, for whatever reason, you are unable to attend, but feel that you want to support others financially to be able to do so, please let Rev Natasha or our treasurer, Mike Moss, know. Thank you.)*

**Men's Curry Evening**  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April, 7pm at Shimla  
Spice, Shipley  
Come along, bring a friend!

**Coming Up at St Peter's...**

**Messy Church** - Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March, 3.30pm

**Lent Group** - Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm, Meeting Place

**Q&A Session** - Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March after 11.15am service,

**Funeral Service for the late Patricia Hornby** - Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2pm

**Funeral Service for the late Hazel Fawley** - Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March, 12.30pm

**Pete's Eats** - Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March after 11.15am service (No 9.30am service)

**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**

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

**BREATHE**

@ ST PAUL'S

A time to worship and pray together for Shipley

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March**  
**6.30pm**  
**St Paul's Church, Shipley**

3rd Sunday of the month, 6.30pm  
Rotating between  
St Paul's / Christchurch / St Peter's

Please check church noticeboards / websites / social media for details of which church will be hosting each month

John's funeral will be held at Shipley Baptist Church, BD18 3QY on Friday 27 March 2026 at 3pm.

The service will take place in the church upstairs, as well as being livestreamed downstairs and at nearby satellite venues - Christian Info Church and St Paul's Shipley (huge thanks to them). It will also be livestreamed on the Shipley Baptist YouTube Channel.

All welcome, no dress code. Please let us know if you are intending to come to help with planning - but if you can't let us know beforehand, don't let that stop you attending.

We will be holding a Zephaniah Celebration of John's life and legacy in due course and will share details of that event when they are available.

**Zephaniah**  
Trust

[www.zephaniah.org.uk](http://www.zephaniah.org.uk)



**Congratulations to Emma**

Emma who has been offered the position of Vicar of All Saints, Huthwaite in the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham.

**Church Warden Vacancy...**

We are looking for a new church warden. If you are interested in the role please contact Natasha or one of the existing wardens to discuss further.

**Loads of Cake Wanted!**

For two events -  
**Better Together Fun Day**  
**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April Fun Day 11-2pm**  
**Connecting Faith's Conversations**  
**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30pm**

**Wool Wanted!**

If you have any left over wool, this will be gratefully received for Mother's Union projects. Please contact Barbara Judd on 01274 584775.

christians  
against  
poverty

**CAP**

If you're interested, come along to an initial introductory taster session at St Peter's Church in the Meeting Place on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April, 7pm.**

**Prayers for Others**

Please pray for those who grieve the loss of Patricia Hornby. Her funeral will be held at St Peter's Church on **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 2pm.**

Please also pray for Martin Fawley as he grieves the loss of his mum Hazel. Her funeral will be held at St Peter's Church **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 12.30pm.**

Please also pray for those we know who are currently unwell or who are recovering from operations.

**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 14<sup>th</sup> March, 10am.**

<https://uso4web.zoom.us/j/74555501410?pwd=Tb826hjeWK9nF5qbwr5ov7aUnDZb8.1>

Meeting ID: 794 3078 2145

Passcode: hello