



ST PETER'S



WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday 26th April

9.30am All-In service
 11.15am Holy Communion
 6.30pm Thanksgiving Service @
 St Paul's for Brian & Emma

Sunday 3rd May

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

CONTACT US

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THEME

**“I am the Gate
 Whoever enters by me
 will be saved”.**

John 10

THIS WEEK'S REFLECTION



'I am the gate' is one of the 7 'I am' Jesus sayings from the Gospel of John. It feels a bit of a strange one for our day and age. Most of us don't actually want to be fenced in! But what Jesus is offering in this statement, is safety. He offers reassurance and protection. If we accept Him as Lord, this is what He can provide for us.

I remember as a teenager that Christianity felt to be something that was restrictive and prohibited fun and excitement. I had somehow missed the message of what Jesus is actually saying. That actually, it need not be about losing fun, following Christ can actually be tremendous fun, if a little precarious! If we turn to Him, and get to know Him, then the temptations of the world reduce because we no longer need them - our eyes are turned to Him and our desires are focused on how we please Him.

Even as I write this, I know this is not a constant place of being as much as I want it to be. I know I fall short and am tempted to do things that do not build His kingdom. But what I do know with confidence, is that I am safe. That I am protected. That I am within the loving arms of Jesus who loves me. We are sometimes tempted to believe that there are many ways to eternal life, but Jesus is very clear - He is the way, the truth and the life. If we know about Him and then reject Him, then we are like the thieves and the robbers. We are not safe from the protection that Jesus gives us, through His death on the cross and His resurrection for our sins.

There is a consequence to rejecting Jesus as God. It's a hard message. Not one that fits comfortably. It's interesting that at Wrestling Church I am giving a talk on Retribution - not my choice of topic, but it has made me think about it! We need to remember that God is our judge and that we do not get to decide who is in or out, the Bible gives us clear instructions as to how we should try to live - primarily with love for God, our neighbours and ourselves.

Jesus is the gate. He is the one who longs to protect and provide the opportunity for all people to know and follow Him. But we are given a choice. We can choose to come in or stay out. I pray that as you read this, you think about the ways that you can reflect your knowledge of the safety and confidence in knowing Jesus, so others may also know this truth.

IMPORTANT - Electoral Roll

Rev Natasha Thomas

In readiness for our APCM on **Sunday 17th May**, we are encouraging all those who have recently started to worship at St Peter's to join the church Electoral Roll. This entitles you to vote at the APCM when elections take place for churchwardens, PCC members etc... You should either reside in the parish OR have worshipped at St Peter's for six months or more. We ask church members to check that they are on the electoral roll prior to the APCM (a list of names is now displayed in church). If you don't see your name on the list and wish to be on it, please complete either an online or paper application form (available from the Welcome Desk) and leave it in the labelled folder or return to Zahida, so that your name can be added prior to the APCM. The deadline for completing forms will be this coming **Sunday 26th April**. You don't need to reapply if you are already on the roll.

Zahida Mallard - Electoral Roll Officer

Coming Up...

Wrestling Church - Friday 24th April, 6.30pm. *Please pray!*

Gardening Afternoon - Saturday 25th April, 2pm. BYO gardening gloves.

Joint Service of Thanksgiving for Brian & Emma - Sunday, 26th April, 6.30pm, St Paul's Church

Live@AvondaleClub - Sunday 26th April, 7.30-9.30pm, The Avondale Club. Gospel & Motown music with Rachel Modest. (Pay as you feel)

Congregation Event - Thursday 30th April, 6-8.30pm, St Peter's Church

Photography Exhibition: Hymns & Psalms @ St Peter's Church (Free)

- Saturday 2nd May, 10am-4pm
- Sunday 3rd May, 1-4pm
- Monday 4th May, 10am-4pm

Forest Church - Sunday 3rd May, 2pm, Hirst Wood

Ladies' Bring & Share Quiz Night - Friday 8th May, 7pm, St Paul's Church. Hosted by Quizmaster Emma. BYO drinks. Contact Louise Forbes or Anne Luxton to book.

Connecting Faith Conversations - Thursday 14th May, 7.30pm, Ihya College

BCCS Quiz Night - Friday 15th May, 7pm, St Matthew's Church

APCM - Sunday 17th May, 10.30am

Bradford Pentecost Festival - Sunday 24th May, 2-4pm, City Park

Fern Hill Open Morning - Saturday 6th June, 10am-12pm

Shipleigh Open Gardens - Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th June, 1-5pm. More info to follow. Please contact Jackie Loach if you are able to help on the day.

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

Help Shape Our Churches!

Get involved in shaping how we can serve Shipley as three churches together. You are invited to join in sharing your thoughts about what we love and perhaps are not so sure about our churches! Its aim is to give a voice to all members of the church and is based on Experienced Based Co-Design. Please contact Sophie at sophantonova@gmail.com if you would like to know more or want to get involved. Each meeting will be held at St Peter's Church:

Congregation Event: Thursday 30th April, 6 - 8:30pm

For members of all 3 congregations

Leadership Event: Sunday 12th May, 12.30-3pm

For ministers, wardens, PCC members & leaders of activities

Congregation & Leadership Gathering : Sunday 31st May, 12:30 - 4pm For all

Celebration Event: Sunday 28th June, 12:30 - 2pm

Connecting Faith Conversations

Join a Christian leader and an Iman as they discuss their perspectives on Prayer and Worship - **Thursday 14th May, 7.30pm, Ihya College** (Former Conservative Club on Otley Rd, Shipley)

Connecting Faith Conversations through Art

There will be two artists visiting St Peter's on Friday to discuss with any one who wants to share their thoughts about the important symbols of Christianity. A mosaic will be made using your ideas and if you want, your skills! Contact Natasha for more information.



BCCS Quiz Night

Register your team for our Quiz Night - **Friday 15th May, 7pm, St Matthew's Church**, Carbottom Road, Bankfoot, BD5 9AA. £7.50 pp, includes quiz and food. Book your place and meal choice by 8th May: info@bccsassist.org.uk / 01274 722422.

Shipleigh Open Gardens

A lovely community event in aid of the Children's Society and Hive. **13th & 14th June, 1-5pm**. Programmes - £4 per adult - available (from mid-May) from the Children's Society, Saltaire / Welcome Desk in church.

Bradford Pentecost Festival

A celebration for the whole city. Join churches from across Bradford for a joyful, family-friendly festival celebrating unity, diversity and the life-changing power of the Holy Spirit. Live worship, choirs, testimonies, creative arts, children's activities and face-painting. **Sunday 24th May 2026, 2-4pm, City Park, Bradford.**

Prayers for Others

Please pray for all those who grieve the loss of their loved ones. It is with great sadness that we inform you that Ann Mainman died last week. Her funeral will be on Friday 15th May at 1pm at St Peter's church. 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 25th April, 10am

<https://uso4web.zoom.us/j/76270283071?pwd=Yay8LTKTmbbg8ahoyjQ3kZWzirQA9Tt.1>

Meeting ID: 762 7028 3071

Passcode: hello