

ST PETER'S NEWS

What's happening and how to pray - May 2026

"They all joined together constantly in prayer"
Words from the Bible - Book of Acts

Lindt bunny, Kinder bunny, Creme egg, mini eggs, Hamish the dairy-free chocolate cow... I could go on... This is the list of just some of the chocolate from Easter that we are still working our way through in our house.

Easter bank holiday weekend is a distant memory, but the work of Easter (or at least the demolition of the remaining eggs) is not yet done. Nor are we done with Easter in church. Not many people know it, but Easter season lasts for 50 days, stretching all the way from Easter Day to Pentecost (celebrated this year on 24th May). I like this - because it reflects the reality of that first Easter much better than a single, joyous day of celebration (don't get me wrong - I love that too). Jesus' friends and followers didn't suddenly leap from grief & fear to joy, hope and boldness: It took time. Their first reactions to the resurrected Jesus included unrecognition, shock, fear, doubt & confusion. How could this possibly be, and what on earth could it mean? They were still working it through, working it out, after Jesus had ascended back to his Father - and as they did so, we hear in the book of Acts, 'they all joined together in constant prayer.'

This, it strikes me, is great advice for what to do in times of sadness, uncertainty, confusion...

Join together - don't go it alone. Find some trusted friends who can journey with you.

And pray - Not polite thank yous, but real, 'this hurts and I don't know what to do about it.

What now Lord?' And do it however works for you... sitting quietly, writing it down, walking, saying it out loud. Using your own words or someone else's. This is the real work of Easter. Eating the eggs is yummy... but when we join and pray together, sharing one another's uncertainty, doubts and fears, then hope & healing, renewal and resurrection suddenly start to become real in ways we never expected.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sun 3rd May, 10:30 to 11am - Fairly Traded Stall

Our monthly Fairly Traded stall is back - don't forget to bring your purse!

Fri 8th May, 7 - 9:30pm

Variety Night at Rawdon Library

This social-fundraiser has got it all - Quiz, sketches, auction, raffle! Tickets £7.50 (see over for details).

**Fri 15th May - 6:30pm - Youth Club Extra
7 to 8:30pm - Youth Club**

30 mins of life, faith & big questions, followed by our usual Youth Club for yrs 5 - 9.

**Sat 16th May - 2 til 4pm - Christian Aid
Coffee Afternoon**

Pop down for a cuppa, a chat and some home baking, all for a great cause.

**Sun 17th May - 10am - Joint Communion
Service**

We are coming together to surround the business of our Annual Church Meeting (APCM) with praise & prayer.

Vision Day

On **Sat 27th June, we will be holding a 'PCC plus' Vision Day**, 10am - 2pm, at the Grove Church, Horsforth.

This is for PCC members, for those involved in leadership in any area of church life - and **for anyone who is passionate about seeing our church growing and flourishing**, so that we can be a real blessing to the community of Rawdon. Watch this space for more details and a sign up sheet!

NEWS ROUND UP

Thank you to everyone who supported our Start course - through baking, praying or coming along. A group of 10 - 12 of us (plus one baby!) met for six Mondays in March/April, exploring the journey of life; God; Jesus; the cross - and what it all means for us today. It was a time of growing friendship, fellowship and faith.

Our first Billing View Communion on 22nd April was also a special time of fellowship and faith. 8 of us gathered - two from church, plus 6 new faces - for a simple but meaningful act of worship.

Our Annual Church meeting this year will be conducted as part of a joint communion service on May 17th at 10am

We will be looking back on 2025 with thanksgiving; surrounding the appointment of our churchwardens and PCC members with prayer; and trusting God for the opportunities and challenges that 2026 brings us. Key Club will run as usual, teas and coffees will be served after the service.

From 14th to 24th May, Ascension to Pentecost, **we will be joining in with 'Thy Kingdom Come'** - nine days of prayer that unites over 1 million Christians across 172 countries and more than 85 denominations and traditions. **Collect your TKC prayer booklet in church from this Sunday** (suggested donation £2).

For your prayers

Please pray for:

Our local councillors and elected representatives, during this election season.

Young people & staff at Benton Park school, as they enter into exam season.

Our Church wardens and PCC members - for wisdom and equipping in their service.

For all those suffering due to conflict in the Middle East.

stpetersparishchurch@btconnect.com

WORSHIP & SERVICES

Sundays at 9:30am - Sunday Worship

A more contemporary service, with communion twice a month. Key Club runs in this service.

10:30am - Coffee for both congregations

Sundays at 11am - Holy Communion

A traditional communion service, with organ & piano accompaniment to our sung worship.

Sunday 17th May

Joint Communion Service at 10am

Tuesdays at 9:30am - Morning Prayer

Short, simple and good for the soul. Around 20 mins.

BILLING VIEW COMMUNION SERVICE EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY, 10-11 AM

Everyone is welcome at this simple, said communion service. Billing View is a warm, welcoming and accessible space.

Confirmed service dates:
6th & 20th May; 3rd & 17th June
1st, 15th & 29th July.



VARIETY NIGHT... AND AN AFTERNOON OF MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT

Tickets for our Variety Night on 8th May

(see over for details) can be purchased from Marian or Martin in church, or by scanning the QR code. And make sure

you save the date for **an afternoon with the Fairfax Singers on Sat 13th June.**



Tel: 0113 250 3231