

ST PETER'S NEWS

What's happening and how to pray - July 2026

The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed...Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches."

Words from the Bible - Gospel of Matthew

At our PCC+ Vision Day last month, we allowed these words of Jesus (along with some other beautiful verses from the bible) to remind us that the church is called to be a community with deep roots and wide branches. Or to put it another way, we are called to be people who have deep relationships with God and with one another: Relationships that enable us to reach out & welcome in, to love, serve and bless the wider community. When Jesus spoke these words, he was trying to explain to his friends and followers what God's reign in the world looks like. It starts with the small things, he says - like a mustard seed. Or a teacher from a backwater northern town and a rag-tag bunch of unlikely apprentices travelling around, bringing hope, healing and freedom through their words and actions (that's Jesus and his disciples btw). Like an average kind of church, in a fairly normal town, with all the usual challenges that churches face (that's us). But, with those deep roots, deep relationships, it becomes something bigger than the sum of its parts. Something beautiful. Something that offers people a glimpse of heaven on earth, and draws them in to being part of the 'heaven-on earth' movement that God-in-Jesus started and that God will one day complete. This is what the church, at its best, is all about. This is what we are about. May God keep us rooted in that truth, in Him and in ever deeper relationship with one another.

With every blessing as always,

Rachel

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sun 5th July, 10:30 to 11am - Fairly Traded Stall

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

Fri 10th July - 7 to 8:30pm - Youth Club

End of term BBQ!

Tues 14th July - 12pm - Community Lunch at the Jubilee Hall

*Book your place by emailing
rawdoncommunitylunch@gmail.com*

Sat 18th July - 2 to 4:30pm - Garden Party

*At Peter & Debbie's on Layton Lane.
All welcome, see over for details.*

Wed 29th Jul - 6:30pm - Open Choir Practice

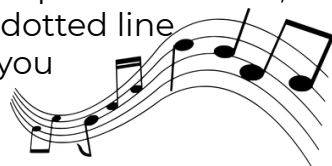
A chance to learn some of the new songs we are using in our 9:30 services - and to sing some of your favourites.

Sun 30th Aug, 4pm - Blessing of the Backpacks

A special service for the start of the school year - all ages & all kinds of bag welcome (see over for details).

Sing & make music

There is an open invitation to **come along and enjoy a good sing**, as well as a good laugh, **with members of the choir on the last Wednesday of each month**. They will be singing through music for our 9:30 services in the month ahead - so some familiar songs and some new ones. No musical knowledge or expertise needed, and no signing on the dotted line required! Come when you can make it and enjoy!



Moving On ▶▶

For those taking the next steps in their faith journey

Faith is a journey, and whether you've been on it for years or are just starting out, Moving on is **a fantastic 7-week course** to take you deeper. **Starting on Mon 7th Sept at 7:30pm**, in the St Peter's Room.

NEWS ROUND UP

The numbers are in from Christian Aid week. Envelope donations and giving at our Christian Aid Coffee afternoon totaled £375, with the Aireborough Churches Christian Aid group raising £4313.10. Wow!



Did someone mention Christmas?! **Our Christmas Tree festival** planning is well underway, and the **team need large planks of wood** to make wide shelves **and Christmassy fabric** to cover the shelves with. If you can help, please speak to Marian Smith. **If anyone is**

interested in helping with the next stages of planning, the team meet next on 30th July at 7:30pm in the St Peter's Room.

WORSHIP & SERVICES

Sundays at 9:30am - Sunday Worship

A more contemporary service, with communion once 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.

Tuesdays at 9:30am - Morning Prayer

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

Midweek Communion Service - 10am

Every other Wednesday at Billing View. Confirmed dates: 7th, 15th & 29th July.



For your prayers

Please give thanks for:

A really encouraging and fruitful Vision Day - God is good!

Please pray for:

Children and adults who will be baptised in church in July & August: Babies Henry, Alfie, Elicora & Wilder, as well as Elicora's parents, Elizabeth & Alistair.

For Holly & Dan who will be married in church at the end of July.

For the crises we see on the news - and those that have disappeared from our headlines - thinking especially of the Ebola outbreak in central Africa and the recent earthquake in Venezuela.