

ST PETER'S NEWS

What's happening and how to pray - Aug 2026

"Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while."

Words of Jesus - Gospel of Mark

When was the last time you took a real break? We live in a world that is always on the go - and that demands that we are always on the go too: Responding to calls, texts & emails; juggling responsibilities to family with work & other commitments; dealing with life admin. Even our downtime can be fuller than we realise - catching up with the news, with friends, caught in the infinite scroll... It is into this busy-ness that Jesus speaks: 'Come away... and rest a while.' A right rhythm of work and rest is central to all of the Abrahamic faiths - Judaism, Christianity & Islam. Baked right into the very fabric of creation, taking time to rest in God's goodness and all sufficiency (his "enoughness") is seen as part of what it is to be human; essential to our flourishing, & to the flourishing of all creation. Author, speaker & church leader Wayne Muller writes of our constant busy-ness - 'Because we do not rest, we lose our way. We miss the compass points that would show us where to go, we bypass the nourishment that would give us succour. We miss the quiet that would give us wisdom. We miss the joy and love born of effortless delight.' If we're not careful, this can become another thing to beat ourselves up about - but the intention of these words is not guilt-trip but invitation; and the invitation is to start small, to 'rest a while': Sitting quietly for 5 minutes with your morning coffee, rather than scrolling as you sip. Beginning your morning commute with the radio off. Taking a walk in your own company, just to enjoy the fresh air; Sitting for 5 minutes to soak up the view. It might not feel like much, but as we say 'yes', to the invitation of Jesus, to the wisdom of centuries, through these small commitments, we will begin to find our souls restored.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tues 11th August - 12pm - Community Lunch at the Jubilee Hall

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

August Open Choir Practice - date TBC

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 flyer for details).

We are taking a break from Key Club, House Group, Morning Prayer, Midweek Communion, Youth Club & our Fairtrade Stall in August. All of them will be back in September - along with the following:

Sun 13th Sept - Generosity Sunday

With a special focus in both services on God's generosity towards us, and how we can respond.

Sun 20th Sept - Fairtrade Fortnight begins

With a special focus in both services on God's heart for justice and how we can respond to his call to 'do justly & love mercy.'

Sat 26th Sept - Fairtrade Coffee Afternoon

Hot drinks, tasty Fairtrade treats and warm fellowship - all proceeds in support of the Fairtrade Foundation.

Sun 27th Sept - 10am - Joint Harvest Service

Give thanks, Give hope, Give 5 - a special harvest celebration for all the community, in support of local food charities.

DEANERY CONFIRMATIONS - SUN 18TH OCT

Deanery confirmations will be taking place at St. Chad's, Far Headingley, on Oct 18th at 4pm. Confirmation is an opportunity to make for yourself the promises that were made on your behalf when you were baptised; a statement that this Christian faith business is important to you and that you want to try and shape your life according to it. **Anyone who has been baptised can be confirmed - young or old, new to church or been in the pews for years.** If you would like to have a conversation about whether this might be for you, have a chat with Rachel, Carol or Linda. We will be using the Moving on course, below, to help people prepare for confirmation.

WORSHIP & SERVICES

Sundays at 9:30am - Sunday Worship

A more contemporary service, with communion once a month.

10:30am - Coffee for both congregations

Sundays at 11am - Holy Communion

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



A reminder that **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.

Moving On ►►

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 21st Sept at 7:30pm**, (please note the change in start date) in the St Peter's Room.

Healing Prayer

Did you know Healing Prayer is offered on the fourth Sunday of every month in both services? During the giving of communion, our small healing prayer team are available at the back of church, near the font, to pray for you or for someone known to you, in need of God's healing touch. The members of this team have received training in this ministry, and will never do or say anything to make you feel uncomfortable. They will simply ask, listen, and offer a simple prayer on your behalf, or behalf of the person on your heart or mind.

For your prayers

Please give thanks for:

For babies Henry & Alfie, christened at the start of July. Also, for good company, good food and funds raised at Peter & Debbie's garden party.

Please pray for:

Baby Elinor & her parents, Elizabeth & Alistair, who will be baptised in August.

For Sarah & Ben, who will be married in church on Sept 12th.

Church family members currently in hospital - for God's presence, peace and healing.

For all our plans for September - that God will use them to deepen our relationships with him and with one another; and that through them, we might reach out and bless our wider community.