

St. Peter's Church meeting in Brigade Hall, Bryn Road

Our Local Missional Leader is Eth Yates

'Give peace in our time , O Lord, because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou O God. O God, make clean our hearts within us.' (Book of Common Prayer)

Our Services for January 2026 Epiphany and New Year

Sunday 4th January – Morning Prayer

Monday 5th January – Communion Service in Garswood House 11 a.m.

Sunday 11th January – Morning Service and Parade 10.30 a.m.

Sunday 18th January – Holy Communion 10.30 a.m.

Sunday 25th January – Morning Prayer 10.30 a.m.

A New Year message from Eth.

By the time you read this Christmas will have been and gone and we will be packing things up ready for next year. But we at St. Peter's have never packed away the joy that Christmas brings us; we may put away the decorations and the material things that come with Christmas, but we don't pack away that joy that living with Christ brings us. That thankfulness that Our Lord was born for us, that God loves us so very much that He sent Jesus to be part of the world and to spread the gospel of peace and joy, and most of all love.

We have many changes and challenges facing the churches in the South Hub this coming year; we will look to the future to see what God is asking of us as a church, also of us as individuals. So let's start the year by praying for guidance for what God is asking of us as his children. Once we have worked out what we as individuals are being asked to do then we can look at what we as a church need to do. We need to be right with God, to be confident in Him and His love for us, to know that He has our backs and that He will always be there.

So happy New Year to you all, let's look to 2026 with excitement and expectation.

God Bless, Eth. P.S. Please keep Andrew our new head in your prayers as he starts work at St Peters School.

Our Organisations (All in Brigade Hall – termtime only)

Mondays Girls' Brigade – 6.30 p.m.

Tuesdays Boys' Brigade – 6 p.m.

Wednesdays Knit and Chat – 1-3 p.m. Women's Fellowship – 7.30-9.p.m.



Women's Fellowship and Knit and Chat

These groups will restart on Wednesday 7th January. Thank you everyone who contributed to the food table at our joint Christmas party in December – a great time was enjoyed by us all.



Brigades



Boys' Brigade start back on Tuesday 6th January and Girls' Brigade are back on Monday 12th January. Good news, the ever popular Christmas Bingo raised over £400 for Brigade funds and a good time was had by all. Well done everyone.

St. Peter's School



A very warm welcome to **Andrew McConnell** our new Head Teacher. We hope he settles in quickly and happily; we look forward to meeting him soon.

News from last month.

Over 60s Christmas Dinner

Who can forget the lovely Christmas dinner for the **Over 60s** laid on for us by the **Boys' and Girls' Brigades** in December. Catherine, Rebekah and Kim cooked a hot tasty 3-course meal served up by a team of the Girls and Boys from Brigade. How they managed to get everything hot and ready on time in our little kitchen was amazing – they must eat like kings on camp each year! The men took over to clear up the kitchen and wash up, a great team effort from our officers. Carl was the Master of Ceremonies and entertained us with music, a quiz and a game of bingo. Our thanks to them all.



There was also a colourful array of Christmas jumpers on display!



Women's Fellowship and Knit and Chat Christmas Party

More Christmas jumpers!



Alan Smith

We were saddened to hear news of the death of our friend **Alan Smith** last month, and whose funeral was held at St. Aiden's just before Christmas. Many of us remember the years he worshipped with us at St. Peter's in the 1970s, and 90s, before he moved on to Cave-Browne Chapel in Ashton (now Hope Church). Alan was a quiet, principled Bible believing Christian man, well loved and known to many in Downall Green where he lived, and in and around Bryn and Ashton, now with his Lord and Saviour.

Harry and Eth

If you wondered why Harry and Eth 'went missing' for a couple of weeks in December, it was to celebrate their **Golden Wedding Anniversary** on a holiday in Goa. Our congratulations to Harry and Eth. We look forward to hearing all about it and some photos please! At the time of writing the celebrations are continuing!

Our Prayers

Our world this year is in a greater need of **peace** than ever. Peace begins with us, God's peace in our hearts, our homes and our communities. Let us share the good news of Jesus and pray that **peace** will spread throughout our nation, to world leaders and war-torn countries this year.

In our prayers we remember the victims of war, the homeless and hungry, those who are bound up in addiction and crime, and for our families and friends who need hope, healing or a helping hand. We pray that we can play our part in bringing peace, reconciliation and practical help.

We pray for our school, for Andrew his staff and pupils, and for our Brigades and organisations, all starting a new term this month. We pray for Eth, Lesley and Gaynor and helpers as they lead our Sunday worship into a New Year; also for our friends in Garswood House and the teams that take communion to them.

January Birthdays

We have a bumper crop of birthdays this month! **Happy birthday** to:

3rd John Sudworth, 5th Joyce Armstrong, 7th Lesley-Ann Carpenter, 19th Gill Ping, 20th Betty Jenkins,

20th Peter Smith, 24th Alice Card, 25th Kim Sankey, 26th Joe Hobson.

And to everyone at St. Peter's God's blessing and a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.



This seems to be an appropriate reminder of our Christmas celebrations! Knitters take note!

A reflection taken from **Everyday Faith from the Church of England App** 29th December
Written by Nicholas Papadopoulos, Dean of Salisbury

Psalm 139 v.12-13

*For you yourself created my inmost parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I thank you that I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
marvellous are your works, my soul knows well.*

Christmas jumpers are unavoidable. They have landscapes of antlers, snowflakes, and fir trees. They feature puddings, stars, penguins, snowmen and even dinosaurs. They have jingling bells and flashing lights. They sparkle and flash. They come in the most lurid colours and questionable fabrics imaginable.

But what on earth does an item of knitwear bearing the words 'Believe In Your Elf' and decorated with unicorns, sleigh rides, and shiny baubles have to do with what Christians celebrate at Christmas? Well, let me tell you. It has everything.

You see, Christmas jumpers are tasteless. And here's the thing. God is tasteless, too. That's actually the heart of the Good News. God is without a shred of cultural or aesthetic judgement. That must be so. It must be because God is a knitter too! The psalm presents God as carefully weaving us into being, knowing our every stitch and our every knot – knowing our depths and knowing our darkness and yet still being born among us in Jesus, still loving us. God has no taste. God does not discriminate. God does not exclude.

So wear that jumper with pride. You are fearfully and wonderfully made ...

Prayer

Holy God, in Mary's child you entered the world.
You know us, yet you come to us – as one of us.
You choose the least. You embrace the worst.
And all for love of us. Amen.