



St John's, Whorlton. Your Church. Here for You.

St John's Church, Whorlton December 2025

A Message from Rev'd Bob

Dear Friends,

As we approach the Festive Season of Advent and Christmas, I realise that my mind always brings me back to certain readings, activities and thoughts, which I might be tempted to admit have become something of a ritual for me. Things that I do every year at this time, and things, which if I don't do them, result in Christmas just not being quite Christmas for me.

For example, if I don't find the time to reread "A Christmas Carol", certain extracts from "A Child's Christmas in Wales", Chapter five of "Wind in the Willows" and of course John 1:1-14, mean that my preparation for Christmas just isn't right! And the shopping, cards and mince pies simply don't matter compared to these 'essentials'.

For those who don't remember it, Chapter 5 of Wind in the Willows tells the story of Mole rediscovering his old home after having left it, without a thought, during the onrush of spring and going off to enjoy many adventures with his newfound, and often more wealthy friends. And Mole's dawning realisation on rediscovering his home on Christmas Eve, that, while it was never going to be the poshest, or the grandest of places, it was his home, he loved it, and above all he always felt safe there. And doesn't everyone, no matter who or what they are, deserve to feel safe and secure in whatever and wherever they are? Because God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit think they should – it's one of the reasons Christmas happened.

And Mole's feelings of safety and security become intensified, when he suddenly hears the carolling mice at his door, singing of the comprehensive and unfettered love that comes into the world on Christmas morning. For they sing: "joy shall be yours in the morning", whoever and wherever you are, and every day, not just on one morning, it shall be Mary's joy too, and animals all, whoever and whatever they are (including all humans of all races) shall receive joy in the morning, simply through the birth of our Lord. And everlasting joy at that.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all!

Bob

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DIARY DATES

6:30pm, Sun. 14th Dec.: Carol Service with Refreshments

5pm Christmas Eve: Family Carols

11:30pm Christmas Eve: Midnight Mass

Mothers' Union meets on first Monday of the month at 2pm in the Hall.

The Women's Group meets 8pm, first Tuesday of the month at The Chapel Park.

Writing Group generally meets on the first Friday of the month at 2pm, venue TBC.

Men's Breakfast meets at Dobbies at 10am on the first Saturday of the month.

Messy Church is taking a break and will be back in February 2026.

SUNDAY SERVICES AND BIBLE READINGS FOR THE MONTH

Advent 2, 7 th December	Isaiah 11: 1-10, Romans 15: 4-13; Matthew 3: 1-12
Advent 3, 14 th December	Isaiah 35: 1-10; James 5: 7-10; Matthew 11: 2-11
Advent 4, 21 st December	Isaiah 7: 10-16; Romans 1: 1-7; Matthew 1: 18-end
Midnight mass, 24 th December	Isaiah 52: 7-10; Hebrews 1:1-4; John 1: 1-14
Christmas 1, 28 th December	Jeremiah 31: 15-17; 1 Corinthians 1: 26-29; Matthew 2: 13-18

CHRISTMAS FAYRE THANK YOU

We raised £888.65, thanks for your support!

Festive Flowers: If anyone would like a window decorated in memory of a loved one for Christmas please speak to Lesley (cash or cheques can be given directly to Lesly or Janice for the Flower Fund).

Friday Bible Study: Please speak to Rev'd Bob if you are interested in joining this group.

Defibrillator fundraising – for maintenance.

Plans are progressing to install a defibrillator in the car park at St John's church. The defibrillator will be accessible from Stamfordham Road and be available to all who require assistance in the event of a cardiac emergency. The just giving page is to support the maintenance and will allow organisations and individuals to donate.

<https://www.aeddonate.org.uk/community-projects/25-072/>



HALL BOOKINGS

We're open to taking new bookings: do get in touch with the parish office for details or with any enquiries (whether for a regular booking or one-off event): 0191 271 2992.

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