

Sunday 14th December 2025

ST JOHN'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER
"SHARING CHRIST IN THE COMMUNITY"

For our prayers

We continue to pray for peace throughout the world, remembering all whose lives are torn apart through war in Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan and in other conflict zones. We pray for the Right Revd and Right Honourable Dame Sarah Mullally DBE as she prepares to take up her appointment as the next Archbishop of Canterbury. We pray for the residents of Marsh Way House.

Website: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7365>

Facebook: [@wakefieldstjohns](#)

Email: stjohn.churchwarden@gmail.com

Sunday 14th December 2025 – The Third Sunday of Advent

Readings: Isaiah 35: 1-10

Matthew 11: 2-11

Special Prayer (Collect) for the Third Sunday of Advent

St John's Prayer for Growth

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way
of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

God of mission,
you give fresh life to St John's.
send your Holy Spirit to give:
vision to our planning,
wisdom to our activities
and power to our witness,
that we may grow
in love and commitment to you, in number of
disciples and in loving service to our neighbours
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Opportunities for worship on Sunday 14th December 2025

St John's will be open today, Sunday 14th December, at 10.00am for a communion service.

Also, at 10.00am - '**JJs**' - **St John's Juniors** will be meeting in the Samaritan Room. All children between 4 and 11 years old are welcome to this Sunday morning group. Join us for story, prayer and activities. A fun place to learn and grow in faith. For more information contact Cath Fox on cath.s.fox@outlook.com

If you would like to help decorate the Christmas tree and Church, we will be doing this after the morning service today.

Sunday 14th December 2025 – 6.00pm - Carols in the Square

Traditional carol singing in St John's Square accompanied by members of the Yorkshire volunteers Band.

Live Stream of 10.00am Services

We will live stream the 10am services if we can. All services that we have been able to livestream are available on our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDyIQ-Vbrv-5bikSlpgV2QQ> just click on the link and select the service from the range of videos in the live tab on the channel. The link is also available on Facebook and via the Services and Events page on A Church Near You.

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7365> . The order of service (in pdf format) is attached to the email containing this newsletter and by 'viewing the attachment' on ACNY, on the service detail.

This Week

Monday 15th December 2025 – 9.30am – Morning Prayer on Zoom

The service lasts about twenty minutes and consists of a Psalm, a Bible reading and some prayers. All welcome. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81143465385?pwd=NGsybHdEZEZ5UFUzdXNYMjJmZDhwUT09>

Wednesday 17th December 2025 – 11.00am – 1.00pm – St John's Weekly Drop-in

St John's will be open from 11.00am – 1.00pm for a 'Drop-in'. Friendship, free refreshments (coffee and tea) and local information will be available. Do come along and stay for as long or short a time as you wish.

Wednesday 17th December 2025 – 7.00pm – Carols by Candlelight

A traditional service of readings and carols.

Thursday 18th December 2025 – 6.00pm – 7.00pm

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WAKEFIELD

CAROL SINGING

**THURSDAY DECEMBER 18TH
6.00PM-7.00PM**

Sainsbury's main entrance in Trinity Walk

Please come and join in this joyful and
community event

PARKING IS FREE FROM 3.00

Friday 19th December 2025 – 9.00am – 11.30am – Toddler and Baby Playgroup

St John's Toddler and Baby Playgroup meets on Fridays, during term time, from 9.00am – 11.30am. If you would like more information about the Toddler and Baby Playgroup, please contact Katy on 07484 775414 or Julie on 07784 733584.

Sunday 21st December 2025 – 10.00am – Holy Communion Service

Sunday 21st December 2025 – 4.00pm – Christmas Tea-Time Service

Tea-Time Services are very relaxed and include songs, activities, readings and prayers. We try lots of different ways to praise God, learn, pray, and share fellowship with each other. These services are for everyone: families of all shapes and sizes, children, adults, young and old. Why not come along? Drinks and biscuits will be available before the service, and there may even be cake from time to time.

Christmas Fayre – A BIG thank you

A BIG thank you to everyone who joined us for St John's Church Christmas Fayre on 29th November 2025 despite the rainy weather. The total amount raised for Church at the Christmas Fayre was £1,650. Over a hundred visitors enjoyed bacon sandwiches, coffee and cakes, not to mention home-made preserves and samosas. The tombola was a hit as usual and the other games and stalls were a success. Children and adults enjoyed a visit to Santa and the Elves. The event wouldn't happen without willing volunteers from Church members and friends serving refreshments and running the stalls and games, not to mention everyone who donated and came along to enjoy the morning. Thank you to The Spar and Graham Eyes Butchers for their continued support. Save the date for next year's Christmas Fayre - 28 November 2026!

Help needed at St John's

Would anyone be able to join the welcomers and coffee team? If you can help with this, please let Sally know on stjohn.churchwarden@gmail.com If you prefer not to do welcoming, it is fine just to help with coffee. Thank you.

Prayer Chain

The Church email prayer chain provides prayer support for individuals. If you, or someone you know, needs urgent prayer, please contact Glenys on drandgmwhite-cooper@talktalk.net If you ask for prayer for someone else, please get their permission before you add them to the prayer chain.

Daily Hope Phone Line - The Church of England Daily Hope Phone Line is still available as a source of comfort. Calls are free to **0800 804 8044**.

Magazine

Copy date for the February magazine is **Sunday 11th January 2026**

Contributions to the Editor, Deidre Morris (email: bandmorris@btinternet.com), by Sunday 11th January 2026, please.

Advance Notices

Christmas Eve – Wednesday 24th December 2025 – 11.00am – 1.00pm – Drop in

Christmas Eve - Wednesday 24th December 2025 – 3.30pm and 5.00pm – Christingle Services

There will be two services so that we can fit everyone in!

Christmas Eve - Wednesday 24th December 2025 – 11.00pm – Midnight Communion

This is a candlelit service to begin Christmas.

Christmas Day – Thursday 25th December 2025 – 10.00am - Christmas Day Family Communion

New Year's Eve – Wednesday 31st December 2025 – 11.00am – 1.00pm – Drop in

Save the date Saturday 24th January 2026 – 10.00am – 3.00pm

Have you ever wondered how to make sense of the Old Testament? This is a day at St John's for everyone. No previous knowledge of the Old Testament is assumed. This is a chance to get an overview of the Old Testament, to see why it is important and how it is relevant to our lives today. Bring your own lunch – coffee and tea and cake will be provided. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of church.

Newsletter

If you know anyone else who would like to receive the email, please email stjohn.churchwarden@gmail.com. The newsletter will also be available on St John's Church Facebook page (@wakefieldstjohns) and A Church Near You website: (<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7365>). Please send items for the newsletter to Stephanie stephanie.buchanan@btinternet.com no later than the preceding Wednesday evening.

Giving to St John's

If you feel able to give, you can support St John's financially in the following ways:

Church Services - We do not take up a collection during services, but there is a box at the back of church for cash donations. Gift Aid envelopes are available so that we can recover Gift Aid on 'one-off' donations. There is also a card reader at the back of church.

Online donations can be made at <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/wakefield-st-john-the-baptist-wakefield/> or via the QR code below.

Standing Orders – will continue as before.

Stewardship Envelopes – We have weekly or monthly envelopes for giving by cash or cheque. If you pay tax, we can recover Gift Aid on your giving. Please see Geoff Lockyer.

The Parish Giving Scheme – This is like a standing order, but the regular payments from your bank account go to PGS, who pass it on to the church. For taxpayers, they also recover the Gift Aid, so it reduces our admin and improves our cashflow.

A further advantage of the PGS is that you can opt to have your regular gift increased annually in line with inflation, which can help it keep up with increasing costs without having to keep changing your standing order, calculating an annual top-up or putting an extra coin in your envelope every week.

The Parish Giving Scheme can now be joined online at <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/wakefield-st-john-the-baptist-wakefield/> by calling 0333 002 1271 or by completing a form which our treasurer, Geoff Lockyer, can give you. You will need our PGS Parish Code, which is 460646605. Please have a word with Geoff if you have any questions or need any assistance. His email address is geoff@geofflockyer.co.uk.

Notice for Parish Giving Scheme users

The new PGS platform is now live and contains lots of useful information.

Easyfundraising

Use **easyfundraising** to help raise funds for St John's Church whilst you do your shopping online. Click this link, or type into your browser, to see a video and sign up <https://tinyurl.com/367nkkd2>

We have been notified by **easyfundraising** that the total raised for St John's Church since we joined the scheme has passed £300. This might not be a huge sum over the years covered, but it has been a useful source of additional income for very little trouble. Thanks to all those who have helped to raise this at no cost through their online purchases. If this is something you could also do, please have a word with Geoff Lockyer.

Please note that it is possible to support more than one charity through easyfundraising. Simply go into your account and click on 'change the cause you support' and select the different cause. This can be changed each time you shop.

Our QR code, here, can also be used to make donations to St John's.

