

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> 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 and for the work of the Children's Society.

**Website:** <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7365>  
**Email:** [stjohn.churchwarden@gmail.com](mailto:stjohn.churchwarden@gmail.com)

**Facebook:** @wakefieldstjohns

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS NEWSLETTER COVERS THE PERIOD FROM SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER TO SATURDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> JANUARY 2026. THERE WILL BE NO WEEKLY MAILING ON SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2025.**

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2025 – The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Readings: Isaiah 7: 10-16

Matthew 1: 18-end

Special Prayer (Collect) for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

St John's Prayer for Growth

Eternal God,  
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,  
so we wait for his coming in glory;  
bring us through the birth pangs  
of this present age  
to see, with her, our great salvation  
In 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 21<sup>st</sup> December 2025**

St John's will be open today, Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December, at 10.00am for a communion service.

**'JJs' - St John's Juniors** – there will be *no* JJs meeting today, but there will be some *supervised* activities for children at the back of church.

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

### **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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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>

### **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2025 – 2.00pm – Christingle-making in church.**

All welcome.

### **Christmas Eve - Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Christmas Eve - Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2025 – 3.30pm and 5.00pm – Christingle Services**

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

### **Christmas Eve - Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2025 – 11.00pm – Midnight Communion**

This is a candlelit service to begin Christmas.

### **Christmas Day – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2025 – 10.00am - Christmas Day Family Communion**

### **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> December 2025 – 9.00am – 11.30am – *NO* 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 28<sup>th</sup> December – 10.00am – Communion Service in Church**

### **Christmas Presents for Marsh Way House**

We will be giving Christmas presents to the residents of Marsh Way House this year. Bridget has organised the purchase of the presents. If you would like to make a financial contribution towards the cost of the presents, there will be a basket at the back of Church during December.

### **The Joy of Christmas Meditations**

You can sign up to receive the Church of England 'Twelve Joys of Christmas: Meditations for Christmas and the New Year' via email or you can access the meditations via the Everyday Faith app. For details follow this link:

**[Advent and Christmas theme: The Joy of Christmas | The Church of England](#)**

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

Contributions to the Editor, Deidre Morris (email: [bandmorris@btinternet.com](mailto:bandmorris@btinternet.com)), by Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026, please.

## Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December 2025 – The Holy Innocents

Readings: 1 Corinthians 1: 26-29

Matthew 2: 13-18

Special Prayer (Collect) for Holy Innocents

St John's Prayer for Growth

Heavenly Father,  
whose children suffered at the hands of Herod,  
though they had done no wrong;  
by the suffering of your Son  
and by the innocence of our lives  
frustrate all evil designs  
And establish your reign of justice and peace;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. 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.

## Monday 29<sup>th</sup> December 2025 – 9.30am – NO Morning Prayer on Zoom

Morning Prayer on Zoom will resume on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026. 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>

## New Year's Eve – Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 – 11.00am – 1.00pm – 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.

### **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> December 2025 – 9.00am – 11.30am – *NO* 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.

### **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – 9.00am – 11.00am – Lego Breakfast**

### **Save the date ..... Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

