



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

St John's Church, Whorlton February 2026

A Message from Reverend Bob

### *A Lenten Journey for Everyone?*

Lent offers each of us the opportunity to consider our own lives and relationships: particularly our relationships with those around us, whether within our families, our local communities, the whole World, and indeed, with God, while also perhaps reassessing and altering our own personal thoughts and behaviours towards a better future for all.

Lent is a period during which many of us both emulate the trials of Christ during his forty days of temptation in the wilderness, and undertake a time of abstention and preparation for both the trials and sacrifice of Good Friday, but also for the joy and celebration of Easter. It is also a time when people give up something they enjoy, such as chocolate, beer, or anything else that might be a bit of a treat, and put the money saved aside for donation towards charity – whether that be the church itself, or some other good cause. These activities can be wrapped up in what are often termed the three pillars of Lent, which are activities targeted towards generating greater levels of justice towards others within our lives. These are:

1. Justice towards God - through prayer and contemplation
2. Justice towards ourselves - through fasting and self-denial
3. Justice towards our neighbours, both local and distant - through almsgiving, care, and consideration.

These processes, or concepts, lend themselves towards a process of self-assessment and realignment that can be beneficial to everyone, no matter how deep their faith, or indeed what their religious beliefs are, and signifies that this period shouldn't just focus on material abstention and diversion of money from one way of spending to another, essential though this is, but should also cover our attitudes to others – to the lost, the least and the last in our world.

Finally, may the perspectives I offer give you food for thought, and an opportunity for personal enrichment to the good of yourself and the World around us, whatever your core beliefs. But, and by the way, while I'm encouraging us all to take a deeper look at our inner selves, please do continue to give something up, and give the money to charity!

Bob

Parish Office: [stjohnswhorltonchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnswhorltonchurchoffice@gmail.com) or 0191 271 2992

St John's Church, Whorlton Communications: [stjohnswhorlton1866@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnswhorlton1866@gmail.com)

Website: [www.stjohnswhorlton.co.uk](http://www.stjohnswhorlton.co.uk) Facebook: St John's Church, Whorlton, Westerhope

## DIARY DATES

11am-1pm, Sat. 21st March: Coffee Morning  
5-8pm, Sat. 18th April: St George's Night  
2-4pm, Sat. 16th May: Spring Fayre  
2-4pm, Sat. 13th June: Afternoon Tea  
1pm, Sat. 4th July: Tynemouth Walking Tour - led by Martin Stait  
5pm, Sat. 15th August: Meal at the Engine Inn  
5-7pm, Sat. 12th Sept.: Pub Quiz with Pie and Peas supper  
12 noon, Sun. 4th Oct.: Harvest Lunch  
2-4pm, Sat. 21st Nov.: Christmas Fayre  
6:30pm, Sun. 13th Dec.: Christmas Carols by Candlelight

*As we set out our plans for 2026 we want to thank everyone who supports our church from those putting on the events to those that attend and help make them a success. We look forward to another enjoyable year of gathering in friendship and fundraising.*

*Mothers' Union meets on the last Monday of the month – programme to be confirmed.*

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

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

*Messy Church is at 3pm on the first Sunday of the month in the Hall.*

*Friday Bible Study group -please speak to Rev'd Bob if you are interested in joining this group.*

## SUNDAY SERVICES AND BIBLE READINGS FOR THE MONTH

1 <sup>st</sup> Feb	Malachi 3: 1-5; Hebrews 2:14-end; Luke 2: 22-40
8 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Genesis 1: 1-23; Romans 8: 18-25; Matthew 6: 53-end
15 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Exodus 24: 12-end; 2 Peter 1: 16-end; Matthew 17: 1-9
22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17; 2 Corinthians 5: 20b-6.10, Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

### Defibrillator maintenance

We have now installed our defibrillator in the car park at St John's church. The defibrillator is accessible from Stamfordham Road and is available to all who require assistance in the event of a cardiac emergency. We have kept the just giving page open to allow organisations and individuals to donate to the annual maintenance.

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

**In addition tubes of smarties will be handed out in February to be returned full of coins at Easter to use as funds toward the defibrillator maintenance.**

If you are new to St John's Whorlton and wish to register your contact details temporarily until the next electoral roll revision please collect a form from the back of church and give to Martin or Lesley (church wardens).

## 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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