

Sunday 18th January 2026

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 all those devastated by the fire in Switzerland, especially those who have lost loved ones and those who have been injured. 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.

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

Facebook: @wakefieldstjohns

Email: stjohn.churchwarden@gmail.com

Sunday 18th January 2026 – Epiphany 2

Readings: Isaiah 49: 1-7 John 1: 29-42

Special Prayer (Collect) for The Second Sunday of Epiphany St John's Prayer for Growth

Eternal Lord,
our beginning and our end:
bring us with the whole creation
to your glory, hidden through past ages
and made known
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 18th January 2026

St John's will be open today, Sunday 11th January, 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

Sunday 18th January 2026 – 4.00pm – 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

Please be aware that we are unable to live stream the 10am service at the moment. We will let you know once we are able to re-introduce live streaming. 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 19th January 2026 – 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 20th January 2026 - 12.30pm – Wakefield Baptist Church - Lunchtime Service and Light Lunch for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Wakefield Baptist Church, Belle Isle Christian Centre WF1 5JY. All welcome.

Tuesday 20th January 2026 – 7.30pm – 9.30pm - PCC meeting in Church

Wednesday 21st January 2026 - 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 21st January 2026 - 12.30pm - St Austin's Catholic Church - Lunchtime Service and Light Lunch for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

St Austin's Church, 6 Wentworth Terrace WF1 3QN. All welcome.

Friday 23rd January 2026 – 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.

Saturday 24th January 2026 – 10.00am – 3.00pm – Making Sense of the Old Testament

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.

Sunday 25th January 2026 – 10.00am – Communion Service in Church

Sunday 25th January 2026 - 4.00pm – St Catherine's Church - Ecumenical Service at the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

St Catherine's Church, Doncaster Road WF1 5HL. All welcome.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Olivia and Kane Emerson on the birth of baby Charlotte. Charlotte was born on Wednesday 14th January. We are looking forward to meeting her soon.

Help needed at St John's

Can you help serve the coffee & tea after the Sunday Morning Service? Help needed to keep this going, no experience necessary. Have a word with Sally Jones or Wendy Smith after the service or contact Sally on 07712989714.

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 March magazine is **Sunday 8th February 2026**.

Contributions to the Editor, Deidre Morris (email: bandmorris@btinternet.com), by Sunday 8th February 2026, please.

Advance Notices

Are you interested in being confirmed?

We don't yet have an exact date for the Confirmation Service but will confirm this as soon as we can. It may be held at Easter on Saturday 4th April 2026.

If you are an adult or a young person (of secondary school age), and are interested in being confirmed, please contact Stephanie on (01924 371029 or stephanie.buchanan@btinternet.com). If you have not been baptized, there will be the opportunity to be baptized and confirmed in the confirmation service. At St John's we will be holding a series of confirmation preparation sessions. There will be one preparation groups for adults and another one for young people. The sessions will explore the key beliefs of the Christian faith with a focus on what it means to follow Jesus in practice. The sessions will include plenty of time for discussion, as well as the chance to learn from the Bible, the Christian tradition and the experience of Christians.

You are welcome to attend the confirmation preparation sessions, even if you are not sure whether confirmation is the right step for you at this stage. Please do contact Stephanie (01924 371029 or stephanie.buchanan@btinternet.com) if you are interested in knowing more.

The adult confirmation preparation sessions will be held from 7.30pm – 9.00pm at the Vicarage and the dates are as follows:

- Session 1 – Wednesday 21st January 2026
- Session 2 – Wednesday 4th February 2026
- Session 3 – Wednesday 4th March 2026
- Session 4 – Wednesday 25th March 2026
- Session 5 – Wednesday 15th April 2026
- Session 6 – Wednesday 29th April 2026

There is a sign-up sheet in church.

Thursday 28th January 2026 – 7.30pm – 9.00pm - Study Group – Pilgrim 5 – The Creeds – Session 1

From the earliest days of the Church, Christians developed short, simple summaries of the faith. These short statements became known as creeds. They have remained important to the Church and are regularly used in our worship today.

The six sessions will be held on Thursday evenings from 7.30pm – 9.00pm at the Vicarage. Further dates are as follows:

- Session 2 – Thursday 12th February 2026
- Session 3 – Thursday 19th February 2026
- Session 4 – Thursday 26th February 2026
- Session 5 – Thursday 5th March 2026
- Session 6 – Thursday 12th March 2026

If you are interested in knowing more, contact Stephanie on (01924 371029 or stephanie.buchanan@btinternet.com) There is a sign-up sheet in church.

Wednesday 4th February 2026 – 1.30pm – 2.45pm - Samaritan Room - Bible Study – *Acts for Everyone* – Session 1

In these six sessions we will explore the first half of the book of Acts. The sessions will take place on Wednesday afternoons from 1.30pm – 2.45pm in the Samaritan Room at Church.

Further dates are as follows:

Wednesday 11th February – Session 2

Wednesday 25th February – Session 3

Wednesday 11th March – Session 4

Wednesday 25th March – Session 5

Wednesday 15th April – Session 6

If you are interested in knowing more, contact Stephanie on (01924 371029 or stephanie.buchanan@btinternet.com) There is a sign-up sheet in church.

Saturday 21st February 2026 – 10.00am – 3.00pm – Mirfield Quiet Day



**Follow Me:
Wakefield
Episcopal
Area**

**Community of the
Resurrection,
Mirfield,
WF14 0BN**

Tea and coffee provided,
bring your own lunch
Suggested donation: £10
(bring on the day)

To book your place email
caroline.asquith
@leeds.anglican.org.

**AREA QUIET
DAY FOR LENT**

SATURDAY 21ST
FEBRUARY 2026,
10:00 -15:00

**"Praying the
Penitential Psalms"**

Led by Bishop Malcolm
Chamberlain

This will be a day for
refreshment and guided
reflection in the peaceful,
meditative surroundings of
Mirfield. All most welcome.

 **THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**
Diocese of Leeds

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.

