

Sunday 22nd February 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 the Right Revd and Right Honourable Dame Sarah Mullally DBE, Archbishop of Canterbury. We pray for Etienne as he is baptized today.

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

Facebook: @wakefieldstjohns

Email: stjohn.churchwarden@gmail.com

Sunday 22nd February 2026 – The First Sunday of Lent

Readings: Genesis 2: 15-17, 3: 1-7

Matthew 5: 1-16

Special Prayer (Collect) for The First Sunday of Lent

St John's Prayer for Growth

Almighty God,
by the prayer and discipline of Lent
may we enter into the mystery of
Christ's sufferings,
and by following in his Way
come to share in his glory;
through 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 22nd February 2026

St John's will be open today, Sunday 22nd February 2026, at 10.00am for a communion service with the baptism of Etienne Walsh.

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

Collection for WaterAid during Lent

As usual, we will have a collection for WaterAid during Lent. There is a large plastic bottle at the back of church for donations.

Live Stream of 10.00am Services

We are now able to live stream the 10.00am service again so today's service will be live streamed. 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 23rd February 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>

Wednesday 25th February 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 25th February 2026 – 1.30pm – 2.45pm - Samaritan Room - Bible Study – Acts for Everyone – Session 3

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 March – Session 4
- Wednesday 25th March – Session 5
- Wednesday 15th April – Session 6

Thursday 26th February 2026 – 7.30pm – 9.00pm - Study Group – Pilgrim 5 – The Creeds – Session 4

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 are on Thursday evenings from 7.30pm – 9.00pm at the Vicarage. Further dates are as follows:

- Session 5 – Thursday 5th March 2026
- Session 6 – Thursday 12th March 2026

Friday 27th February 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 28th February 2026 – 3.00pm – 5.00pm – Youth Confirmation Group

The Youth Confirmation Group will meet at the Vicarage.

Sunday 1st March February 2026 – 10.00am – Communion Service in Church

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 April magazine is **Sunday 8th March 2026**

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

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.

Advance Notices

Are you interested in being confirmed?

We don't yet have an exact date for the Confirmation Service in Wakefield Cathedral 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 are holding a series of confirmation preparation sessions 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.

Sunday 15th March 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.

Wednesday 18th March 2026 – 3.30pm – 5.30pm – Messy Church

You are warmly invited to Messy Church on Wednesday 18th March 2026 from 3.30pm to 5.30pm in church. There will be lots of activities including craft, games and things to explore as well as a time of celebration and worship. There is food for parents or carers or grandparents and children to enjoy together. All children need to be accompanied by an adult. For further information please contact: Cath Fox cath.s.fox@outlook.com If anyone would like to help with Messy Church, please also contact Cath.

Saturday 28th March 2026 – 11.00am – 3.00pm – Church Spring Clean for Easter

The date for the Church Spring Clean before Easter will be Saturday 28th March 2026 from 11.00am until 3.00pm. All welcome, there will be sign up sheet in Church.

Thanks Sally

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.

