

Sunday 22nd March 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 the Middle East, Ukraine, Sudan and in other conflict zones. We pray for all those who are preparing for baptism and confirmation. We pray for the appointment of the new Bishop of Leeds.

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

Facebook: [@wakefieldstjohns](#)

Email: stjohn.churchwarden@gmail.com

Sunday 22nd March 2026 – The Fifth Sunday of Lent

Readings:

Ezekiel 37: 1-14

John 11: 1-45

Special Prayer (Collect) for the Fifth Sunday of Lent

St John's Prayer for Growth

Gracious Father,
you gave up your Son
out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,
that we may know eternal peace
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,
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 March 2026

St John's will be open today, Sunday 22nd March 2026, 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

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.

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.

This Week

Monday 23rd March 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 March 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.

Friday 27th March 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 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 is a sign-up sheet in Church.

Thanks Sally

Sunday 29th March 2026 – 10.00am – Holy Communion Service for Palm Sunday

A reminder that the clocks go forward today!

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 May magazine is **Sunday 12th April 2026**

Contributions to the Editor, Deidre Morris (email: bandmorris@btinternet.com), by Sunday 12th April 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

Full details of the services during Holy Week and on Easter Sunday can be found on the attached Easter Card. Please print the card and then fold it. The dates are also listed below:

Holy Week and Easter Services

Sunday 29th March 2026 – 10.00am – Palm Sunday Service

Monday 30th March 2026 – 7.00pm – Reflective Evening Service

Tuesday 31st March 2026 – 7.00pm – Reflective Evening Service

Wednesday 1st April 2026 – 7.00pm – Reflective Evening Service

Thursday 2nd April 2026 – Maundy Thursday - 7.00pm – Maundy Thursday Holy Communion Service

Friday 3rd April 2026 – Good Friday – 9.45am – Churches Together Walk of Witness
Meet at the West Door of Wakefield Cathedral for a silent Walk of Witness through the centre of Wakefield. The walk will be followed by a Good Friday service in the Cathedral at 10.30am.

Friday 3rd April 2026 – Good Friday - 7.00pm – Reflective Evening Service – Stations of the Cross

Sunday 5th April 2026 – Easter Sunday - 6.15am – Easter Dawn Service
This will be followed by a light breakfast

Sunday 5th April 2026 - Easter Sunday – 10.00am – Holy Communion Service for Easter Day

Thursday 16th April 2026 – 7.30pm – 9.00pm – Wakefield Cathedral – Follow Me

Wakefield Cathedral invites you to Follow Me

The latest session in the series of evenings on faith and discipleship, led by Bishop Malcolm Chamberlain

Session Running Order:
(Optional) Supper: 19:30
Talk and time for questions: 19:45-21:00

To **book supper**, please contact Caroline Asquith by no later than **1st April** :-
Email: caroline.asquith@leeds.anglican.org
Tel: **07776 963653**

FOLLOWING CHRIST WITH THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

WITH A GUEST SPEAKER FROM THE CHRISTIAN CHARITY - OPEN DOORS

THURSDAY 16 APRIL 2026

388 million Christians worldwide live in contexts where they face extreme discrimination of persecution for following Christ. That's 1 in 7 of our brothers and sisters. This evening will give us the opportunity to hear some of their stories, pray with them, and be encouraged and challenged in our own walk of faith and witness.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Leeds

Sunday 19th April 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.

Sunday 3rd May 2026 – 10.00am – Megan's Leaving Service

As you know, Megan has been on placement with us for the past two years during her training for ordination at St Hild College. She will be officially finishing her placement at St John's on Sunday 3rd May, so do put this date in your diaries. Megan will be preaching at the service, and it will be followed by a bring-and-share lunch.

Sunday 10th May 2026 – 10.00am – Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in Church.

This year's APCM – Annual Parochial Church Meeting – will be held on Sunday 10th May 2026 as part of the 10.00am service.

At the meeting there will be elections for churchwardens (two vacancies) and PCC members (three vacancies for a three-year term of office, one vacancy for a two-year term of office and two vacancies for a one-year term of office). There will also be elections to Deanery Synod. Nomination forms for Churchwardens, Deanery Synod members and PCC members are available at the back of church. Please note that we are only able to accept nominations with handwritten signatures – this means you need to return hard copies or scan in the signed forms and email them to Stephanie stephanie.buchanan@btinternet.com

Our Electoral Roll Officer, Sue Slaven, will be revising the Electoral Roll (list of the members of St John's congregation). Forms are available at the back of church. Please return application forms to Sue at church by **Saturday 18th April 2026**. If you joined the Electoral Roll last year, you do not need to re-apply. The revised Electoral Roll (names only) will be put up in church for the two weeks leading up to the APCM.

Sunday 17th May 2026 – 3.30pm - Confirmation Service in Wakefield Cathedral with Bishop Toby, Acting Bishop of Leeds

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.

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.

