

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:stjohn.churchwarden@gmail.com)

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – Mothering Sunday**

Readings: Colossians 3: 12-17

Luke 2: 33-35

Special Prayer (Collect) for Mothering Sunday

St John's Prayer for Growth

God of love, passionate and strong,  
tender and careful:  
watch over us and hold us  
all the days of our life;  
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 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

St John's will be open today, Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026, at 10.00am for a Family Communion Service for Mothering Sunday.

'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.

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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 16<sup>th</sup> 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>

### **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March – 4.00pm – St John’s Churchyard – Burial of Peter Webster’s ashes**

If you knew Peter and Nancy Webster, you are very welcome to attend this short service in the Churchyard.

### **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – 3.30pm – 5.30pm – Messy Church**

You are warmly invited to Messy Church on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:cath.s.fox@outlook.com) If anyone would like to help with Messy Church, please also contact Cath.

### **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – 7.30pm – 9.00pm – Youth Group at Church** for young people aged 11+ (Year 7 and above).

### **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> March 2026 – 3.00pm – 5.00pm – Youth Confirmation Group**

The Youth Confirmation Group will meet at the Vicarage.

### **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026 – 10.00am – Holy Communion Service for the Fifth Sunday of Lent**

## **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 May magazine is **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

Contributions to the Editor, Deidre Morris (email: [bandmorris@btinternet.com](mailto:bandmorris@btinternet.com)), by Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2026, please.

## 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.

## Advance Notices

### Are you interested in being confirmed?

There will be a Confirmation Service in Wakefield Cathedral with Bishop Toby, Acting Bishop of Leeds, on **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May at 3.30pm.**

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](mailto: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](mailto:stephanie.buchanan@btinternet.com)) if you are interested in knowing more.

### **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – 1.30pm – 2.45pm - Samaritan Room - Bible Study – Acts for Everyone – Session 5**

In these six sessions we are exploring the first half of the book of Acts. The sessions are on Wednesday afternoons from 1.30pm – 2.45pm in the Samaritan Room at Church. Session 6 will take place on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – 7.30pm – 9.00pm – Confirmation Preparation – Session 4**

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

Session 5 – Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Session 6 – Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2026

### **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – 11.00am – 3.00pm – Church Spring Clean for Easter**

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

Thanks Sally

## **Holy Week and Easter Services**

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – 10.00am – Palm Sunday Service**

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – 7.00pm – Reflective Evening Service**

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 – 7.00pm – Reflective Evening Service**

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026 – 7.00pm – Reflective Evening Service**

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026 – Maundy Thursday - 7.00pm – Maundy Thursday Holy Communion Service**

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2026 – Good Friday - 7.00pm – Reflective Evening Service – Stations of the Cross**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2026 – Easter Sunday - 6.15am – Easter Dawn Service**

This will be followed by a light breakfast

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2026 - Easter Sunday – 10.00am – Family Communion Service**

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> May 2026 – 10.00am – Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in Church.**

This year’s APCM – Annual Parochial Church Meeting – will be held on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> 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 attached with this email and are also 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](mailto: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). The application form is attached to this week’s mailing and forms are available at the back of church. Please return application forms to Sue at church by **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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).

### **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.

