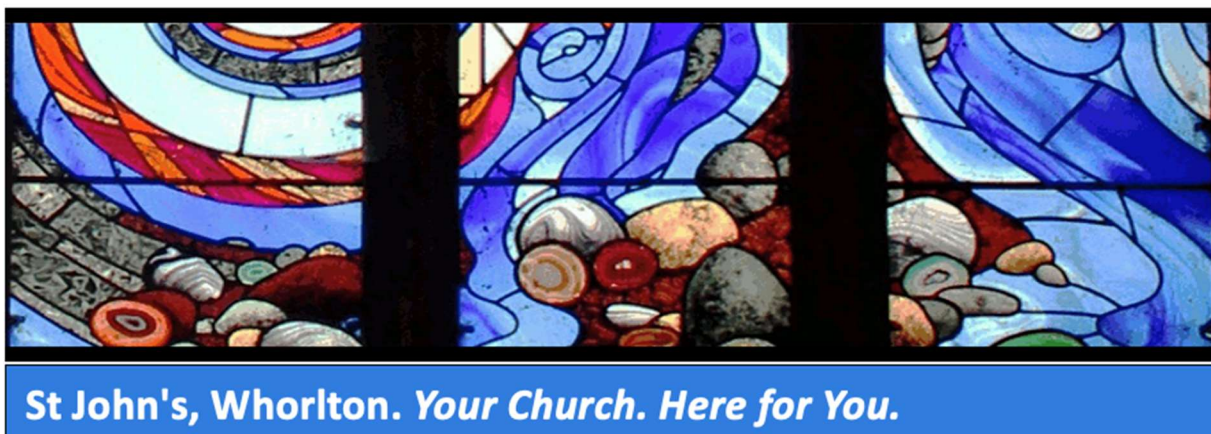




St John's, Whorlton. *Your Church. Here for You.*

St John's Church, Whorlton July/August 2026

A Message from Reverend Bob

July/August... Summer?

"Summertime, and the living is easy. Fish are jumping, and the cotton is high..." sang Ella Fitzgerald back in 1959, when some of us were at school, and many of us weren't even twinkles in our parent's eyes. Yet this song still conjures up what many of us imagine summer is all about, but is it?

Summer, with its warmer weather and longer days, offers opportunities for more recreation, outdoor leisure, and for Holidays. And, interestingly, the whole concept of 'Holiday' originates from the church's Holy Days and Festivals, which created space and time for rest from work.

Today's patterns of busyness and rest from work are a continual battle, not just for those in full time paid work but also, for those who are 'retired'. A lot of our answers seem to be about travel, holidays and resting. Yet our lives, even for many of our young people can feel exhaustingly busy and pressured.

But rest is not only about the absence of work. St. Augustine famously said: "Our hearts are restless until they find their rest in God ". While Jesus said, "come to me all who are heavy laden and I will give you rest" (Matt 11:28) and our Bibles begin with Genesis 2 reminding us that on the seventh day God rested.

And here, it is fair to ask, what rest did our omnipotent, all-powerful God need? Rest is enabled by the absence of work. It is the opportunity for physical, mental and spiritual recovery, but it is also about realigning and recalibrating ourselves as created and redeemed people with God.

The first question of the Westminster Shorter Catechism asks: What is the Chief purpose of humanity? i.e. what is our primary purpose in life? And the answer is that: The chief purpose of humanity is to worship God, and to enjoy him forever. Which I think is great, because to truly rest, and to truly work, is to enjoy God forever.

I pray that over this summertime you may all find time to rest, to enjoy God's presence in your life, and to experience the re-creation of God's Holy-Days.

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Facebook: St John's Church, Whorlton, Westerhope

DIARY DATES

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

Mothers' Union meets on the last Monday of the month.

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.

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 MONTHS OF JULY AND AUGUST

5 th July	Genesis 24: 34-38,42-49; or Zachariah 9: 9-12; Romans 7: 15-25a; Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-end
12 th July	Genesis 25: 19-end or Isaiah 55: 10-13; Romans 8: 1-11; Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23
19 th July	Genesis 28: 10-19a or Wisdom 12: 13, 16-19; Romans 8: 12-25; Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43
26 th July	Genesis 29: 15-28 or Kings 3: 5-12; Romans 8: 26-end; Matthew 13: 31-33
2 nd August	Genesis 32: 22-31 or Isaiah 55: 1-5; Romans 9: 1-5; Matthew 14: 13-21
9 th August	Genesis 37: 1-4, 12-28 or Kings 19: 9-18; Romans 10: 5-15; Matthew 14: 22-33
16 th August	Genesis 45: 1-15 or Isaiah 56: 1, 6-8; Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15: 21-28
23 rd August	Exodus 1.8-2.10 or Isaiah 51: 1-6; Romans 12: 1-8; Matthew 16: 13-20
30 th August	Exodus 3: 1-15 or Jeremiah 15: 15-21; Romans 12: 9-end; Matthew 16: 21-end

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/>

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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