



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

St John's Church, Whorlton November 2026

A Message from Reverend Bob

Dear Friends

I find myself writing this message on a grey morning and wondering 'Just what am I going to say'. And in the greyness, I remember a holiday cruise Sue and I had that was full of sunshine from the climate, but also filled with sunshine in our hearts from a very unexpected experience.

We were visiting the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela at a time when mass was being celebrated by the bishop. This was a completely fortuitous and unplanned coincidence, especially as during the service we witnessed the famous Botafumeiro incense burner in use. Seeing this wonderful incense burner flying through the crowded cathedral at over 40 miles-per-hour was a truly magnificent and wonderful sight. A potential 'bucket list' item, perhaps.

However, wonderful as that was, it wasn't the most awe-inspiring moment within the service. That moment occurred when the very large congregation shared the Peace. 'The Peace', is that part of the service when we share the Peace of God with everyone present, usually with a handshake or wave to immediate neighbours and mentally with those more distant. It is a time to lay down antipathies, differences of opinion, etc., and be reconciled with the whole of humanity – it is a very special act in our process of preparation for communion with Christ.

So, there I found myself, in a very full cathedral holding about 1,200 people listening to a service in Spanish (which I was able to follow only because I kind of know what comes next in English, not because I can speak Spanish), and I found myself shaking hands and saying 'Peace be with you' to scores of people of many different nationalities, and while the spoken words, the sounds, were different – the intent was very, very universal and genuine. The joy was almost palpable and we were all grinning with the wonder of it, because there was that amazing moment of recognition, that, whoever we are, whatever we are, regardless of nationality, colour, whatever, all humanity are children of God and God wants us to love one-another – ceaselessly – and we were all sharing God's peace without reservation.

Now, this heightened awareness and joy at the universality of God's love for us, formed a stark contrast with some of the emotions engendered by our visits a few days earlier to the Flanders Field Museum, the Menin Gate and Tynecot Cemetery. Visits where the waste of hate is amplified almost beyond belief, yet the individual love of comrade for comrade in support of what is believed to be right and proper, feels beyond reproach.

Consequently, for me, the special month of November, this season of Remembrance, this time of acknowledging the many millions who have laid down, and are sadly still laying down their 'todays for our tomorrows' should take on an even more poignant, and more urgent perspective in our desire to see peace breakout throughout the world. Therefore, please let us remember the fallen with respect, and with dignity, but let us also turn our hearts towards loving our neighbours as we love ourselves, and, above all else: Let the peace of the Lord be always with you, and everyone else!

Parish Office: stjohnswhorltonchurchoffice@gmail.com or 0191 271 2992

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DIARY DATES

Monday 2nd November 6pm All Souls Service.

2-4pm, Sat. 21st Nov.: Christmas Fayre

6:30pm, Sun. 13th Dec.: Christmas Carols by Candlelight

Christmas Eve 5pm, Family Service

Christmas Eve 8pm, Christmas mass

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 MONTH OF NOVEMBER

1st Nov Revelation 7: 9-end; 1 John 3: 1-3; Matthew 5: 1-12

8th Nov Wisdom 6: 12-16; 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-end; Matthew 25: 1-13

15th Nov Zephaniah 1: 7, 12-end; 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11; Matthew 25: 14-30

22nd Nov Ezekiel 34; 11-16, 20-24; Ephesians 1: 15-end; Matthew 25: 31-end

Christmas Fayre: Saturday 21st November 2-4pm

We need donations for the toy stall, bottle stall, tombola, and raffle and goods for the hamper and chocolate hamper please.

Invite as many people as you can to come and support.

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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