

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER
"SHARING CHRIST IN THE COMMUNITY"

For our prayers this week:

For all those suffering from COVID-19; for the NHS and all who are caring for those who are ill. For our community as we seek to support one another through the current crisis.

Website: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7365>
Email: stjohn.churchwarden@gmail.com

Facebook: @wakefieldstjohns

SUNDAY 3rd MAY – THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Readings: Acts 2:42-end John 10:1-10

Special Prayer (Collect) for Easter 3

Risen Christ,
faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:
teach us to hear your voice
and to follow your command,
that all your people may be gathered into one flock,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

St John's Prayer for Growth

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 this Sunday

This Sunday we can join together in a Communion Service for 3rd May 2020 recorded in Stephanie's study. You can access the video of the service by following this link <https://youtu.be/BrYcDDrvuHA> You can also access it via the Services and Events page on A Church Near You. The order of service (in word and pdf format) is attached to the email containing this newsletter. You will also find an activity sheet and a colouring sheet for families to do together and an awareness walk which are taken from Roots © ROOTS for Churches Ltd (www.rootsontheweb.com) 2002-2020 and reproduced with permission. For more material for families and children and adults, please go to <https://www.rootsontheweb.com/i-am-looking-for/public-copies/worshipathome3may>.

To mark Vocations Sunday, a service led by Paula Gooder will be available on the Church of England website from 9am on Sunday. In the service NHS paramedic, Matt, will speak about his vocation and sense of hope and Tak Muriro, a recent graduate who has begun his vocation journey with the Ministry Experience Scheme, will lead the prayers. At 8.10am on Radio 4 The Bishop of Salisbury, Nicholas Holtam, marks the 800th anniversary of Salisbury Cathedral in a service entitled *Unless the Lord builds the house*. The Very Rev Kathy Jones leads a service from Bangor Cathedral at 10.45am on BBC1.

Midweek opportunities for worship and prayer

From Easter Day until Ascension Day The Archbishop of Canterbury invites us all to join him in a forty-day focus on the Lord's Prayer through daily Bible readings, reflections and prayers. You can access the readings and reflections by following this link:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/living-out-our-faith/lent-holy-week-and-easter/easterpilgrim-lords-prayer> If you know someone who can't access this resource electronically and would like a hard copy of the booklet, please email Stephanie at stephanie.buchanan@btinternet.com so that she can order some copies.

Daily Hope Phone Line - The Church of England has just launched its Daily Hope Phone Line. Calls are free to **0800 804 8044**. You can listen to a message from the Archbishop of Canterbury or to *Hymns we Love* – a series of short talks based on well-loved hymns or a prayer line or the Church of England weekly Sunday service and Morning and Evening Prayer. Please pass this information on to anyone you know who does not have internet access and would appreciate access to worship and prayer by phone.

While you are spending more time at home, why not learn more about your faith? There are lots of online resources open to all at <https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/>

Churches Together in Wakefield

CTW now has a new website: www.churcheswakefield.com

Local Support

If you want to support residents in the St John's area who need help with groceries or just need someone to check in on them, go to the website nextdoor.com. Nichola, a member of our congregation, has started a WhatsApp group which people can join if they would like to. Please call Nichola on 07723 816658 if you are interested in joining.

St John's also has a team of volunteers who are able to do shopping and collect prescriptions. Contact Susan Lawson on 01924 378101 if you need support or would like to offer your help.

Spiritual Support

If you would like to talk to someone or to receive prayer please call The Revd Paul Ellis on 01924 367976, our Reader, Brian Morris on 01924 369437 or our Trainee Vicar, Lindsey Fox on 07861 710945.

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.

Thy Kingdom Come - Ascension to Pentecost - 21st - 31st May 2020

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement. Christians around the world are invited to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus.

Plans for a **Wakefield 24/7 Wave of Prayer from Ascension to Pentecost** are being made now. Bishop Tony will introduce it with a video from Sandal Castle on Ascension Day morning. It will soon be possible for individuals to sign up to pray for an hour at home during the Wave of Prayer. See next week's newsletter for further details.

Prayer Resources for Thy Kingdom Come are available from the website

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>

- The free **Thy Kingdom Come App** has daily videos, Bible readings, reflections and podcasts from N. T. Wright (Tom Wright). This will be available on the Thy Kingdom Come website soon.
- **The Prayer Journal** is already available on the website. (If you would like to order a hard copy of the booklet, please let Stephanie know)
- **The Family Prayer Adventure Map** is available to download now and an app to go with it will be available soon.

Foodbank Donations

Paul and Pat Ellis are happy to accept donations for St Catherine's foodbank in their empty recycling bin which will be by their gate (98 Bradford Road) between Friday and Wednesday each week. You can still contribute using the collecting boxes at all major supermarkets. St Catherine's foodbank is also very grateful for financial contributions. You can give by bank transfer and, if you would like the account details, please contact Brian (bandmorris@btinternet.com)

Giving to St John's

A big thank you to members of the envelope scheme who have made contributions to St John's by cheque during the lockdown. So far, Brian has received over £950 in donations which is a great boost to our church finances.

If you feel able to give, you can support St John's financially in the following ways:

The Parish Giving Scheme – LATEST UPDATE - If you pay tax you can join the Parish Giving Scheme. If you wish to join, this will help our cash flow over the coming weeks.

A message from the Parish Giving Scheme:

The PGS is delighted to announce the launch of a new telephone service, designed to enable prospective donors to set up a regular Direct Debit donation to your parish **over the phone**.

How will it work?

The service operates on weekdays between 9am and 5pm.

Call **0333 002 1271** and one of our administrators will take you through the sign up process – this normally takes around 15 minutes. You will need to have the following information to hand:

- Personal bank account details
- The name of the parish you wish to donate to
- You will need to confirm if you want to increase your gift in line with inflation each year
- Confirm if you are eligible for Gift Aid
- The PGS code for your parish (usually 9 digits in length) *

* Please contact Brian bandmorris@btinternet.com for the PGS code for St John's.

The Parish Giving Scheme is also able to receive postal forms for new members. Please contact Brian (bandmorris@btinternet.com) for more details.

Standing Orders - will continue as before.

Gift Aid Envelopes - If you give using the gift envelopes you can save up your envelopes until you are able to come back to church.

Our QR code at the foot of the page can be used to make donations to St John's.

Sunday 10th May 2020 – Easter 5

We are planning to video a Family Service for Sunday 10th May 2020. A link to this video will be on next week's newsletter.

Newsletter

We intend to send out this newsletter each week by email. 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>).

Copy date for the June magazine is **SUNDAY 10th MAY 2020 (next Sunday)**

Contributions to the Editor, Deidre Morris (email: bandmorris@btinternet.com) by Sunday 10th May, please.

Please send items for the Newsletter to Brian Morris: (bandmorris@btinternet.com) no later than the preceding Thursday.

