

15th November 2020

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>

Facebook: @wakefieldstjohns

Email: stjohn.churchwarden@gmail.com

SUNDAY 15th NOVEMBER – The Second Sunday before Advent

Readings: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25: 14-30

Special Prayer (Collect) for The Second Sunday before Advent

Heavenly Lord,
you long for the world's salvation:
stir us from apathy,
restrain us from excess
and revive in us new hope
that all creation will one day be healed
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
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

St John's Church will be open today from 10.00am – 11.30am for individual private prayer.

Please note that everyone needs to wear a face covering while they are in church. Do bring one with you, if possible.

This Sunday, 15th November, we can join together in a communion service recorded in St John's Church. The preacher is the Revd Rob Harper. You can access the video of the service by following this link <https://youtu.be/dMAncTNVbA> You can also access it via the Services and Events page on A Church Near You and on our Facebook page. The order of service (in word and pdf format) is attached to the email containing this newsletter. You will also find a 'live your faith' sheet, an activity sheet, and a colouring sheet for families to do together which are taken from Roots © ROOTS for Churches Ltd (www.rootsontheweb.com) 2002-2020 and reproduced with permission.

This week's Church of England online service celebrates friendships which cross continents and is led by Bishop Anthony Poggio. In her sermon, Sheran Harper, President of the Mothers' Union, reflects on how communities in different parts of the world support one another in both good and hard times. The service will be available on the Church of England website from 9am on Sunday morning. At 8.10am on Radio 4 the Revd Dr Doug Gay, Principal of Trinity College, Glasgow and the Revd Dr Carolyn Kelly, Chaplain to Glasgow University explore the mixed feelings experienced when faith has to reckon with the complexities of life. In Songs of Praise at 1.15pm on BBC1 Aled Jones takes a journey exploring how his faith has shaped his life and his singing.

Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoeboxes Appeal

St John's Church will be supporting Christmas Shoeboxes this November.

The best way to support the children this year is to give a donation if you are able.

There will be a collection basket at the back of church during November.

You can give to the Shoebox Appeal when St John's is open for prayer from 10am – 11.30am on Sunday 15th, 22nd and 29th November.

If you would like to do this, you can donate directly via their website: www.samaritans-purse.org.uk

Sunday 22nd November 2020 – Christ the King

St John's will be open from 10.00am – 11.30am for individual private prayer.

We are planning to record a Holy Communion service for Sunday 22nd November 2020 during the week. The link will be available on next week's newsletter and on A Church Near You and Facebook.

If you ever don't receive the St John's Newsletter email, please let Susan (01924 378101 or shlawson0@gmail.com) know so that she can forward it to you.

Midweek opportunities for worship and prayer

National Seven-day Prayer Cycle during November 2020

Throughout the month of November, Christians are encouraged to pray daily for a specific area of national concern, wherever they are, culminating in a collective moment of prayer at 6pm each evening, with cathedrals and churches across the country invited to ring a bell at this time.

To access the [simple seven-day prayer cycle](https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/call-prayer-nation) which encourages us to pray for a specific area each day including the NHS and frontline workers, the bereaved, and those struggling with physical and mental ill-health, and for children and young people, please follow this link

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/call-prayer-nation> Prayers and other resources will also be shared on social media with the hashtag #PrayerForTheNation.

Morning Prayer on Mondays at 9.30am

The Monday Morning Prayer at 9.30am takes place via Zoom. The service lasts about twenty minutes and consists of a Psalm, a Bible reading and some prayers. All welcome. If you would like to join in, please contact Stephanie stephanie.buchanan@btinternet.com for a Zoom invitation.

Rhythm of Life

During the Covid 19 crisis, we've had to adjust to very different rhythms. As Christians, we believe Jesus should be at the heart of our rhythms of life, whatever our circumstances. You may have read about the diocesan 'Rhythm of Life' initiative in the November magazine. You can find out more by going to

<https://www.leeds.anglican.org/news/invitation-join-rhythm-life-venture>

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 at this anxious time. Calls are free to **0800 804 8044**.

St John's Online Advent Course via Zoom

Advent Bible Study on the book of Revelation.

Have you ever wondered what the book of Revelation is all about?

Does it have anything to say to us about the Coronavirus pandemic?

Why don't you join us for our online Advent Bible Study and find out?

We will explore the key themes of the book together.

Sessions will be held on Wednesdays at 1.30 – 3pm and/or 7.30 – 9pm starting on Wednesday 2nd December with a break for Christmas. The final session will be held on Wednesday 13th January 2021. Please contact Lindsey Lindseyfox24@gmail.com for more information or to sign up for the course.

Looking forward to seeing you!

Virtual Quiz Night

Something to look forward to during Lockdown#2 and to give the grey matter a gentle workout.

Everyone is invited to join us for a Virtual Quiz Night to be held via zoom, on Saturday 21st November 2020, starting at 7pm. Anagrams, emojis, a little general knowledge and quizzes from the youth group, plus lots more.

If you would like to join us for the quiz night please contact Cath Fox on cath.s.fox@outlook.com or 01924 386422 so that she can send you the zoom invitation. If you can't attend, we can send out the quizzes after the evening – just let Cath know.

St John's Church Poetry (including limericks) Lockdown Competition

If you have a bit of spare time you might want to enter our new competition. The top five entries will be printed in the January or February magazine. The poem can be on any topic, serious or humorous.

All you need to do is write an original poem and either hand it to me in person, send it to me to my email address rob.harper@leeds.anglican.org or post it to my home address: 39 Redbarn Close, Leeds LS10 4SZ by 13 December. Please ensure your full name is on your entry. Our very own Brian Morris will be the judge. The winners will be announced in December.

Happy writing.

Rob Harper

Local News

Calendars for Sale

Over lockdown Michael has made 50 colour sketches. He has chosen 12 of them and had a calendar printed to raise money for the hospice. Each calendar costs £10 (for 12 originals) so Michael hopes to make £500 in total. He's already sold 10 calendars! If you would like to buy a calendar, please contact Michael on 01924 364268.

Pre-order Hyacinth Baskets

Sam has already potted up over 100 hyacinth bulbs to sell, as usual, towards Church funds. It would not be Christmas without his lovely hyacinth baskets. However, it seems unlikely that we will be able to hold our Christmas Fayre, due to the pandemic. So, if you would like to pre-order one or more of Sam's hyacinth baskets for Christmas, please could you let him or Mona have your name, phone number and how many baskets you'd like. Either speak to them at church, if you are coming to church, or ring them on 01924 378310. Or you can let Susan Lawson know.

Hand knits for Care Leavers

Liz Oldroyd is involved with a project to provide deliveries of food and gifts to young care leavers (of foster and care homes) aged 18-25, who often spend Christmas Day alone. If you are interested in knitting hat and scarf sets as gifts for these young people, please contact Liz on Elizabeth.oldroyd@tiscali.co.uk for more details.

Training opportunities

The Bible and Ecology course - Seven-session course facilitated by Rev Ruth Newton, Tuesdays 7.30pm. Places still available.

Diocesan Environment and Literature Book Club starting Tuesday 17th November 2020

For more details, please see the Environment Page of the Diocesan Learning Platform <https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/community/environment/>

Wakefield District City of Sanctuary Update

Wakefield District City of Sanctuary has a **Clothing and Food Store – 88 Kirkgate, WF1 1TE** (please note that it is no longer number 86 Kirkgate!) which is open for asylum seekers and refugees at the following times:

Foodbank and resources – Monday, Wednesday and Friday 1pm – 3pm

Asylum Seekers Support Fund - Wednesdays 10am – 12pm

Local asylum seekers are also welcome to contact WDCoS by text or phone **07800 605397** or email linda@wdcos.org.uk

If you would like to donate to **Wakefield District City of Sanctuary ASSF (Asylum Seekers Support Fund)**, the details are as follows:

Sort Code 30-99-01 Account Number 17824568

Your gifts are appreciated as tokens of friendship, welcome and humanitarian concern.

Giving to St John's

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.

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>).

Magazine

Copy date for the December magazine is **SUNDAY 15th NOVEMBER 2020 (TODAY!)**

Contributions to the Editor, Deidre Morris (email: bandmorris@btinternet.com) by Sunday 15th November, please.

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

