

20th December 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 20th DECEMBER 2020 – The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Readings: 2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16

Luke 1: 26-38

Special Prayer (Collect) for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age
to see with her, our great salvation
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 for a Communion Service at 10.00am. The doors will open at 9.45am.

For families with children, please note that Christingle bags for children will be available to collect from St John's **TODAY Sunday 20th December 2020** from **11.00am – 12.30pm**. You will need to provide your own oranges. A short video showing how to make a Christingle may be accessed at <https://youtu.be/fDkNXJEOwes>. On Christmas Eve an online Mini-Christingle service, Christingle Light, will be available from 3.30pm on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/RgJH3zR9slw> The link will also be available on our Facebook page and A Church Near You.

There will be a Carols by Candlelight Service at 6.00pm in church today. The doors will open at 5.45pm. There is also an online Carols by Candlelight Service from St John's which you can access here <https://youtu.be/VPWiCBPeb8g>

There will be a Family Communion service in St John's on Christmas Day at 10am. Please note that this service will not be recorded.

For full details of the Christmas services please go to <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7365>

If you are planning to attend any of the Christmas services at St John's, please let Susan Lawson know (01924 378101 or shlawson0@gmail.com)

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

You may also like to bring a warm coat as the weather gets colder. We need to keep some doors open to allow air to circulate in the building.

The 10am service in church today will be recorded as it happens. **You will be sent a link to the video of the service later this afternoon or this evening, once it has been uploaded onto YouTube.** The link will also be available on Facebook and 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 may like to print it off and bring it to church with you. Otherwise, you may wish to follow the service on your phone during the church service. You will also find a 'live your faith' sheet, an activity sheet, a colouring sheet and an Advent Family Time activity 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 is organised jointly with Marie Curie. It is introduced by the Revd Kate Bottley and pays tribute to those suffering from illness, bereavement and mental health setbacks. The service will be available on the Church of England website from 9am on Sunday morning. At 8.10am on Radio 4 you can follow the fourth service in the Advent series 'Cities of Promise'. This service for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, from the UK's smallest city: St David's. It is led by Canon Leigh Richardson, with an address by the Very Reverend Dr Sarah Rowland Jones. At 11.00am on BBC1 the Revd Canon Roland Riem leads the morning worship from Winchester Cathedral, with carols from the Songs of Praise archives and a special performance from the boys choir, Libera.

Missing newsletters!

We know that some people are not receiving their weekly newsletter from St John's as it is going into their spam. There is nothing that we can do about this when we send the newsletter out. It means that you need to check your spam folder to see if the newsletter is there. If it is, it is a case of changing the spam settings on your device so that your newsletter finds its way into your inbox each week! If you need any assistance with this, please contact Nick Fox via the email stjohn.churchwarden@gmail.com

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

Sunday 27th December 2020 – St John the Evangelist

There will be a Communion service at St John's at 10am on Sunday 27th December 2020 with baptisms. The service will be recorded as it happens in church and then made available online later in the day via email, A Church Near You and Facebook. The newsletter will be sent out at 8am as usual.

If you are intending to come to the 10am Service on Sunday 27th December, it would help us with our planning if you could let Susan Lawson know (01924 378101 or shlawson0@gmail.com)

A Message from Bishop Tony

Leaders in Wakefield from Baptist, Methodist, Anglican, Nigerian and Assemblies of God churches have been working together on a joint Christmas initiative. Our aim is to encourage the people in our city this Christmas and engender hope. We have posted Christmas cards to all households in WF1, WF2, WF4 and part of WF3.

Besides the Christmas card we have also arranged the following:

- A Christmas website – this went live on Monday 7th December 2020 www.visionwakefield.co.uk
- An online service - this will go on the website at 6pm on Sunday 20th December. It will be available to watch all over the Christmas period
- A drive-in service at Trinity Rugby ground
- A dedicated telephone line to take messages for prayer requests and good news stories will be available from Monday 7th December [01924 371802](tel:01924371802)
- Two digital vans displaying the animated Christmas card for 9 days.

May I thank you in advance for your help with this initiative and wish you a very Happy and Blessed Christmas.

Christmas messages from your friends at St John's church, Wakefield.

A Happy Christmas to everyone at St. John's. I miss you all. Joyce Ogden.

Much love at Christmas and a Happy, Healthy 2021 Liz Oldroyd & family x

Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. With love from Stephanie

Sending Christmas blessing to you all. Lots of love Martyn and Susan xx

Wishing you all love hope and peace this Christmas love Sue Slaven

Happy Christmas and seasonal greetings from Rob, Beth, Ben and Susie.

Peace, comfort and joy to all! Merry Christmas from Nick & Jane Shields

May you enjoy this Christmas in simplicity and peace. With love from Lindsey.

May love, joy and peace be yours this Christmastide. Best wishes from Deidre and Brian

God bless you all have a wonderful day. Love Sue and Mick.

Happy Christmas to all at St John's with love from Sally, Bruce, Charlotte and Jennifer.

Wishing all our friends every blessing this Christmas with love from Bridget and Geoffrey Lockyer.

Christmas 'Tree' Greetings to friends at St John's

We can't have a tree for your Christmas cards this year, but you can still send a Christmas message to everyone. Here is the first page of Christmas messages. We will include messages received this week in next week's newsletter. Messages must be *a maximum* of 15 words long. Rob Harper is organising this. Please either e-mail your message to him at rob.harper@leeds.anglican.org (mark your email "Christmas message for all.") or phone it to him on 07702875014. Paper copies of all the messages will be sent out by post with the January magazine to those who are not on email. Our charity this year is our link village of Tarani in Mara. There will be a basket at the back of church for donations. If you prefer to write a cheque, please make it payable to "St John's Wakefield PCC" and make it clear that it is a donation for Mara. Thank you. Rob

St John's Poetry competition winners

Thank you to all who wrote and submitted a poem and a big thank you to Brian Morris who judged them without knowing who wrote them.

The five winning entries were written by: Rebekah Taylor and James Ramsden, Phil Javens, Cath Fox, Isabella Taylor and Joyce Ogden. Congratulations to you all. The winning poems are below:

I wonder, in lockdown have you
Found activities different and new?
Have you taken up mowing, or yoga, or sewing,
Or a musical instrument, or two?

I dug out an acoustic guitar
Unplayed for many a year.
Despite effort, improving
To make music soothing,
My progress has been slow so far.

Perhaps it's a product of age
That the notes, resolute on the page,
By poor coordination
Get quite lost in translation,
And the sound stays elusively vague.

Yet convinced that with forthright resilience
In the end I shall gain from my diligence,
Bach's E minor Bouree
I'll perform at a soiree
And delight everyone with my brilliance.

So if you have commenced a new project
Remember that practice makes perfect.
Keep on going my friend,
You'll get there in the end,
The results I am sure will be worth it.

By Martyn Lawson

There was a young man from St Johns
who weighed up the pro's and the con's
and with much concentration
on pronunciation
preferred to say 'scones' and not 'scons'

By Phil Javens

Hiding

Coming, ready or not... Oh gosh! Quick, hide, Yikes! Too obvious? Keep calm, Crikey,
Can they see me? Be still...
Oh gosh, Slow, hide, Breathe, Push away, be quiet, Ignore,
Don't be seen, Be still...
You found me, Yes... Please find me...

By Cath Fox

The Old Lady's Pets

In her bedroom she kept

10 flies that few around
9 moths that were attracted to the light
8 frogs leaping about
7 mice sprinting under the bed
6 cute pugs who lazily slept all day
5 tabby cats who were getting chased by the dogs
4 cows mooing their heads off
3 snakes slithering around
2 horses trip trapping
AND ONE Guess what?

By Isabella Taylor (Based on the poem Peter's Pets by David Orme)

Rev. Rob Harper A little rhyme just for fun

"The Church stood waiting, empty, still
Waiting patiently to fill
"Where have all the people gone?"
Asked our Curate, Rev. Ron.
They're all in "lockdown" the Vicar said,
Disappointed, turning red.
"What are we supposed to do?"
She asked, glancing at an empty pew.
Suddenly her face lit up, And glancing at her empty cup,
She told the Curate not to fret,
But would he fetch his Lego set?
Ron set off at great speed, Wondering where this would lead.
On Ron's return he gazed in awe
Very surprised at what he saw!
The Church was filled with Mums and Dads
Aunts and Uncles, lasses, lads,
As all the children gathered round
Their laughter made a happy sound,
On Ron's return they gave a cheer,
A sound that Ron was pleased to hear.
God's presence filled the very air
Something for them all to share.
The building now was full of people
Both in the crypt and in the steeple.
Laughing, praying, having fun
In the presence of God' son.

By Joyce Ogden

A Message from Bridget Lockyer

Bridget would like to thank everyone very much for their cards, flowers, support and prayers on the death of her mother, Helen Noyes.

Midweek opportunities for worship and prayer

Morning Prayer on Mondays at 9.30am

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.

Comfort and Joy - Advent and Christmas Resources from the Church of England

A new Advent and Christmas theme for 2020, to reflect the current Covid context, has been released by the Church of England. Building on the success of #FollowTheStar, **Comfort and Joy** will better enable us to reflect where the country is and will be by the end of this year. Follow this link to access the resources available <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/preparing-advent-christmas-2020-comfort-and-joy>

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**.

Training opportunities

Diocesan Environment and Literature Book Club started 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 February magazine is **SUNDAY 10th JANUARY 2021**

Contributions to the Editor, Deidre Morris (email:

bandmorris@btinternet.com) by Sunday 10th January 2021, please.

Please send items for the Newsletter to Brian Morris:

(bandmorris@btinternet.com) no later than the preceding Thursday.

