

24th January 2021

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 24th JANUARY 2021 – The Third Sunday of Epiphany

Readings: Revelation 19:6-10

John 2:1-11

Special Prayer (Collect) for The Third Sunday of Epiphany

God of all mercy,
your Son proclaimed good news to the poor,
release to the captives,
and freedom to the oppressed:
anoint us with your Holy Spirit
and set all your people free
to praise you in 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 not be open for worship or private prayer today. It will remain closed over the next few weeks, but Sunday services will still be available to view online.

Given the current COVID situation, St John's PCC (Church Council) decided on Tuesday 12th January 2021 that St John's should remain closed during the current lockdown. This decision will be reviewed on 9th March 2021 and we will keep you updated about any developments.

We can't meet together in church at the moment, but we can join together in a Communion Service for 24th January 2021. This service was recorded in church earlier this week. You can access the video of the service by following this link https://youtu.be/tw_eBP5pD4 You can also access it 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 will also find a 'Roots at home' sheet, an activity sheet, an extra activity sheet on the Wedding at Cana and a 'Water into wine' sheet for families to do together. These are all taken from Roots © ROOTS for Churches Ltd (www.rootsontheweb.com) 2002-2020 and reproduced with permission.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18-25th January 2021

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ends today, **Sunday 24th January**, with a special service at **4pm**. To access this streamed service, go to: <https://northwakefield.benefice.uk>

The material for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has been prepared by the Ecumenical Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland on the theme of 'Abiding in Christ.' For more Information, please go to <https://ctbi.org.uk/>

This week's Church of England online service focuses on the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. It is led by the Revd Charles Hadley and the Revd Dr Paul Goodliff with contributions from the Chemin Neuf Community. The service will be available on the Church of England website from 9am on Sunday morning www.churchofengland.org/news-and-media/church-online At 8.10am on Radio 4 the Archbishop of Canterbury's Special Adviser for Reconciliation, Canon Sarah Snyder and the Revd Julia Hedley, Chaplain to the Rose Castle Foundation, mark Holocaust Memorial Day. In Songs of Praise at 1.15pm on BBC 2 Aled Jones and Pam Rhodes mark Songs of Praise's 60th year as they recall special moments, including the Queen's celebrated appearance on the programme in 2018.

St John's Christmas Services DVD

We thought that some of you might like a copy of the three main services from our Christmas season that were available on YouTube. We have made a DVD of the Nativity Service from the 13th December recorded in Church, the Carols by Candlelight Service broadcast on the 20th December and the Christingle Service broadcast on the 24th December, along with the Christingle-making workshop run by Paul and Rob. If you would like a copy of this DVD, either for yourself, or to give to someone else, then please contact Martyn Lawson on stjohn.churchwarden@gmail.com and he will produce a disc for you.

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 31st January 2021 – The Presentation of Christ

We plan to record an online service for Sunday 31st January 2021 during the week. The YouTube link will be in next week's newsletter.

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.

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>

Rhythm of Life Lent Course

The diocese has produced a Lent Course based on the 'Rhythm of Life' initiative and we are planning to run this in the parish via Zoom. There will be a Tuesday afternoon group (1.30-3.00pm), a Wednesday afternoon group (1.30-3.00pm) and a Wednesday evening group (7.30-9.00pm). The course will start on Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 24th February 2021. It lasts for six weeks and will finish in Holy Week (on Tuesday 30th and Wednesday 31st March). If you would like to join one of the groups, please let Stephanie know stephanie.buchanan@btinternet.com or 01924 371029. If possible, we will make the materials available to those who are not able to access the Lent Course via Zoom.

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

The Diocesan Environment and Literature Book Club meets bi-monthly via Zoom. The next meeting is on Tuesday 9th February 2021 at 7:15pm. For more details, please search for the club in the courses area on the Environment Page of the Diocesan Learning Platform <https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/community/environment/>

Local News

Lorraine Hanson

We are very sad to learn of the death of Lorraine Hanson, long-standing member of St John's Church, former Headteacher of St John's School and much-loved friend. Lorraine Hanson's funeral will take place at Wakefield Crematorium on Monday 8th February 2021 at 11.45am. As numbers at the Crematorium are very limited, Lorraine's husband, John, has arranged for the service to be livestreamed. If you would like to join Lorraine's funeral service via the livestream, please contact Stephanie stephanie.buchanan@btinternet.com so that she can send you the link.

Collection for the Children's Society

We usually collect donations for the Children's Society through our schools and at the Christingle services in church. We would like to thank those who made a cash donation to the Children's Society when they collected their Christingle bags. £50.00 was raised which has been sent to the Children's Society. We would also like to thank all those who gave to the Children's Society online.

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 Geoff Lockyer geoff@geofflockyer.co.uk for the PGS code for St John's.*

The Parish Giving Scheme is also able to receive postal forms for new members. Please contact Geoff Lockyer geoff@geofflockyer.co.uk 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 March magazine is **SUNDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2021**

Contributions to the Editor, Deidre Morris (email: bandmorris@btinternet.com) by Sunday 14th February 2021, please.

Please send items for the Newsletter to Stephanie (stephanie.buchanan@btinternet.com) no later than the preceding Thursday.

