

21st February 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 21st February – Lent 1

Readings: Genesis 9:8-17

Mark 1:9-15

Special Prayer (Collect) for The First Sunday of Lent

Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers of darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and
prayer
that we may witness to your saving love
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 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 21st February 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/uAJg8u0FIEE> 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 and a colouring sheet for families to do together. These 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 local to us as it comes from St James the Great, Ryhill! The Revd Canon Paul Cartwright leads this online service for the First Sunday of Lent which 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 Fr Dermot Preston SJ of St Aloysius' RC Church, Glasgow and spirituality guide, Mary O'Duffin lead a service for the first Sunday of Lent entitled *Jesus and the Father: United*. At 11.00am on BBC1 the Revd Kate Bottley introduces the first in a series of services for the season of Lent. The service comes from St Cuthbert's Church in Preston and is led by the Revd Mark Bradford.

A video thank you message from Bishop Nick

Thank You for your Parish Share. [Click here](#) to hear a special thank you message from Nick Baines, Bishop of Leeds.



Sunday chat – A Message from Rob

As we cannot meet in person at the moment, I would like to invite you to a Zoom chat at 11am today and on the next few Sundays. Please click on the link below and Zoom should bring you into the room. (Please bring your own cup or mug).

Kind regards, Rob

Robert Harper is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Sunday chat

Time: Jan 31, 2021 11:00 AM London

Every week on Sun, until Mar 14, 2021, 7 occurrence(s)

Jan 31, 2021 11:00 AM

Feb 7, 2021 11:00 AM

Feb 14, 2021 11:00 AM

Feb 21, 2021 11:00 AM

Feb 28, 2021 11:00 AM

Mar 7, 2021 11:00 AM

Mar 14, 2021 11:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73898586833?pwd=MVJHeC8vczZpekRSZjRPcUIHNTdUdz09>

Meeting ID: 738 9858 6833

Passcode: 0KZN7y

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 28th February 2021 – The Second Sunday of Lent

We plan to record an online Communion service for Sunday 28th February 2021 during the week. The YouTube link will be in next week's newsletter.

Midweek opportunities for worship and prayer

Lent Course – Rhythm of Life – Starts this week - Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 24th February

There's still time to join one of the Lent groups which start this week! The diocese has produced the course based on the 'Rhythm of Life' initiative and we are running this in the parish via Zoom. Sessions will provide an opportunity to engage with the seven Rhythm of Life areas for deepening commitment (praying, encouraging, sharing, reflecting, celebrating, resting and creating). Each session will consist of video clips, Bible passages, discussion questions and prayer.

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 starts 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.

We will make the materials available to those who are not able to access the Lent Course via Zoom. Please contact Stephanie if you know of someone who would like to receive hard copies of the materials.

The Diocese of Leeds is also running two Lent course groups online via Zoom.

Wednesday Evenings 7.30pm - 9.00pm (Wednesday 24th February - Wednesday 31st March)

Thursday Mornings 10.30am - 12.00 noon (Thursday 25th February - Thursday 1st April)

To register a place, please visit the Eventbrite pages:

Wednesday Evening course [here](#)

Thursday Morning course [here](#)

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>

Lenten Meditation

Many of you will remember that Brian Morris was involved in an exhibition in Leicester a couple of years ago which brought poetry into conversation with artworks from the Methodist Modern Art Collection. Brian has very kindly recorded a meditation for us to use at the beginning of Lent based on art and poetry on the theme of the Annunciation. You can access the meditation by following this link <https://youtu.be/MrAwQu3fZAc> which is also available on the St John's Facebook page and on A Church Near You. Watch this space for more meditations soon!

A message from Bishop Tony for the Wakefield Episcopal Area



via ZOOM

MIDDAY PRAYER AND LENTEN REFLECTIONS

FRIDAYS at 12 noon

Friday 19th February
Friday 26th February
Friday 5th March
Friday 12th March
Friday 26th March

Please email Caroline caroline.asquith@leeds.anglican.org for the zoom details.

We hope to record these reflections for those who cannot join us at these times. They will be available afterwards at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvnxg6p0I5vUTWe9H-kIJpw>

Christian Aid *Count your Blessings*

Christian Aid's *Count your Blessings* prayer and action sheets should be available on Christian Aid's Facebook page. For more information about how to download them see [UK charity fighting global poverty - Christian Aid](#)

Church of England #LiveLent

This year's reflections come from #LiveLent – God's Story, Our Story by Stephen Hance (Church House Publishing) and explore the themes of the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2021, Living His Story by Hannah Steele (SPCK). Details of both publications as well as free online resources for study groups and for families can be found on the Church of England website at www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/livelent-gods-story-our-story-our-lent

There will be six reflections for each week and each reflection will include a short passage from the Bible, a brief exploration of the reading, and a prayer. Additionally, each week will have a unifying theme and a suggested action for the week.

Fairtrade Fortnight

Fairtrade fortnight starts on Monday 22nd February. For information about how you can get involved please go to <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get-involved/current-campaigns/fairtrade-fortnight/>

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. All welcome. If you would like to join in, please contact Stephanie stephanie.buchanan@btinternet.com for a Zoom invitation.

Archbishops' Call to Pray for the Nation during February 2021

In response to reaching the terrible milestone of 100,000 deaths from COVID-19, the Archbishops invite all to call on God in Prayer. In February we invite you to set aside time every evening to pray, particularly at 6pm each day. More than ever, this is a time when we need to love each other. Prayer is an expression of love.

For prayers (including the one below), please go to [Prayer for the nation | The Church of England](#)

Gracious God,
as we remember before you
the thousands who have died,
surround us and all who mourn
with your strong compassion.
Be gentle with us in our grief,
protect us from despair,
and give us grace to persevere
and face the future with hope
in Jesus Christ our risen Lord.
Amen.

Books to read during Lent

Rowan Williams, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, has written three short books which offer reflections on what it means to be human and what it means to be followers of Christ. Why not read one of them during Lent?

Being Christian, Rowan Williams, SPCK Publishing, 2014

Being Disciples, Rowan Williams, SPCK Publishing, 2016

Being Human, Rowan Williams, SPCK Publishing, 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.

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

Next meeting of the environment book club is 23rd March 7.15pm.

For more information go to <https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/course/environment-bookclub/>

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 April magazine is **SUNDAY 14th MARCH 2021**

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

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

