

14<sup>th</sup> March 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](mailto:stjohn.churchwarden@gmail.com)

**SUNDAY 14<sup>th</sup> March – Mothering Sunday**

Readings: Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2:33-35

*Special Prayer (Collect) for Mothering Sunday*

God of love, passionate and strong,  
tender and careful:  
watch over us and hold us  
all the days of our life;  
through 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.**

St John's PCC met on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021 to review the decision taken in January to close St John's for public worship. The PCC was encouraged that COVID levels in the country are going down. However, it was agreed that we need to be cautious as the situation is still very uncertain. St John's will, therefore, not re-open for public worship for the time being. This decision will be reviewed at a PCC meeting on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021. In the meantime, PCC members would like to open St John's for a one-off service on Easter Sunday (4<sup>th</sup> April 2021), if this can be done safely. The PCC will decide whether to hold a service on Easter Sunday or not by Palm Sunday. There will be an update about Easter Sunday in the newsletter on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

We can't meet together in church at the moment, but we can join together in a Family Communion Service for 14<sup>th</sup> March 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/7vnKEvgRk3k> 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 and an activity sheet for families to do together. These are taken from Roots © ROOTS for Churches Ltd ([www.rootsontheweb.com](http://www.rootsontheweb.com)) 2002-2020 and reproduced with permission. You will also find a Mothering Sunday crafts sheet.

This week's Church of England online service comes from Gloucester Cathedral and is led by the Bishop of Gloucester, the Right Revd Rachel Treweek. The service also features Pam Rhodes and real-life stories of mothering. The service will be available on the Church of England website from 9am on Sunday morning [www.churchofengland.org/news-and-media/church-online](http://www.churchofengland.org/news-and-media/church-online) At 8.10am on Radio 4 the Revd Cheryl Meban and Helen Warnock lead a service for the Fourth Sunday of Lent. At 11.15am on BBC1 the Revd Kate Bottley introduces a service for Mothering Sunday from St Cuthbert's Church in Preston.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:shlawson0@gmail.com)) know so that she can forward it to you.

### **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021 – Lent 5**

We plan to record an online Communion service for Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021 during the week. The YouTube link will be in next week's newsletter.

### **Census**

As you know, next Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021, is Census Day. We are encouraged to complete the census online this time. However, the Government is keen to support those who do not have access to the internet. If you know family members, friends or neighbours in this situation, please encourage them to request a paper copy of the form. Telephone advice is available and there is a census support area in Wakefield One if people need help completing the form.

## Midweek opportunities for worship and prayer

### Praying for the parish

We are planning a prayer walk around the boundary of the parish when we can do this safely. Details will be in the newsletter in due course. In the meantime, as you walk around the streets of the parish, please pray for the people who live and work here.

Martyn is creating a video of a walk around the boundary which includes prayers at various places along the way. The link to the video will be in the newsletter soon. Martyn is also creating a DVD of this video so that those who do not have access to the internet can follow the walk. This will help us to feel connected to each other and to the whole parish. If you would like to order the DVD, please let Susan Lawson know ([shlawson0@gmail.com](mailto:shlawson0@gmail.com) or 01924 378101).

### Lent Course – Rhythm of Life

It's not too late to join one of the Lent groups! 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 is 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 started on **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021**. It lasts for six weeks and will finish in Holy Week (on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March). If you would like to join one of the groups, please let Stephanie know [stephanie.buchanan@btinternet.com](mailto: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.

### 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 Meditations

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 some meditations for us to use during Lent based on art and poetry.

You can access the third meditation on the theme of the washing of the feet by following this link <https://youtu.be/GBwG8v4Y7L8> which is also available on the St John's Facebook page and on A Church Near You. The first meditation is still available to view at <https://youtu.be/MrAwQu3fZAc> and you can access the second meditation by following this link <https://youtu.be/Whfq9WZTT5c>

The fourth meditation will be available on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March. Martyn Lawson has produced a DVD of all four meditations. If you would like to order a copy, please contact Martyn on [stjohn.churchwarden@gmail.com](mailto:stjohn.churchwarden@gmail.com) Hard copies of the meditations are available from Stephanie [stephanie.buchanan@btinternet.com](mailto:stephanie.buchanan@btinternet.com)

### 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](#)

## A message from Bishop Tony for the Wakefield Episcopal Area



via ZOOM  
**MIDDAY PRAYER AND LENTEN REFLECTIONS**

**FRIDAYS at 12 noon**  
**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March**

Please email Caroline [caroline.asquith@leeds.anglican.org](mailto: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>

### **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](http://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.

### **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](mailto:stephanie.buchanan@btinternet.com) for a Zoom invitation.

### **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

### **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](mailto: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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 14<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2021 (TODAY!)**

Contributions to the Editor, Deidre Morris (email:

[bandmorris@btinternet.com](mailto:bandmorris@btinternet.com)) by Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021, please.

Please send items for the Newsletter to Stephanie

([stephanie.buchanan@btinternet.com](mailto:stephanie.buchanan@btinternet.com)) no later than the preceding Thursday.

