

11th April 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 11th April – The Second Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 4:32-35 John 20:19-end

Special Prayer (Collect) for the Second Sunday of Easter

Risen Christ,
from whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:
open the doors of our hearts,
that we may seek the good of others
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,
to the praise of God the Father.
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.

The Death of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

It is with great sadness that we have learned of the death of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Queen and her family and with all those who are grieving at this time. This week's online service was recorded on Thursday 8th April before Prince Philip's death on Friday 9th April. However, we have added a special prayer of thanksgiving for the life of the Duke of Edinburgh and prayer for the Queen and the Royal Family at the end of the service which can be accessed by following this link: <https://youtu.be/EtfREp3gOf4>.

As you know, St John's is not open at the moment, but the Cathedral is open for individual prayer at this time. If you would like to write a message of condolence, online books of condolence are available on [The Church of England](#) and www.royal.uk websites.

Bishop Nick has recorded a reflection on the life of Prince Philip which is available on the [The Diocese of Leeds](#) website. You can also read reflections by the [Archbishop of Canterbury](#) available on The Diocese of Leeds website and the [Archbishop of York](#) has issued a statement on the death of His Royal Highness Prince Philip on his website.

A Prayer on the Death of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh

God of our lives,
we give thanks for the life of Prince Philip,
for his love of our country,
and for his devotion to duty.
We entrust him now to your love and mercy,
through our Redeemer Jesus Christ. Amen.

Opportunities for worship this Sunday

St John's Church will not be open for worship or private prayer today. Please see below for the link to the online service.

St John's PCC met on Tuesday 9th 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. Over the next few Sundays St John's will not be open for public worship. This decision will be reviewed at a PCC meeting on Tuesday 11th May 2021.

We can't meet together in church at the moment, but we can join together in a Communion Service for Sunday 11th April 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/EtfREp3gOf4>. 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. We have also attached a Roots at Home sheet, an activity sheet and a colouring/game sheet for families to do together. These are taken from Roots © ROOTS for Churches Ltd (www.rootsontheweb.com) 2002-2020 and reproduced with permission.

In this week's Church Of England online service we are invited to join a service of prayer, remembrance and hope. Following the death of HRH Prince Philip, the Archbishop of Canterbury leads this service from the chapel at Lambeth Palace. The service will be available on the Church of England website from 9am on Sunday morning www.churchofengland.org/news-and-media/church-online – click on the Watch Now box to access the list of services. At 8.10am on Radio 4 there is a service of morning prayer in thanksgiving for the life of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, recorded in Westminster Abbey. At 1.15pm on BBC1 there is a special Songs of Praise which pays tribute to and remembers His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. Aled Jones looks back at the Duke's long life, and the role faith played in it.

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. Please use the weblink or meeting information below to join in. As always, please bring your own cup or mug.

Kind regards,
Rob

Robert Harper is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Sunday Zoom Coffee Chat

Date/Time: Sun Apr 11, 2021 11:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74879838863?pwd=ck5Cd0lWeHppRGVISTVTV0NhOE12dz09>

Meeting ID: 748 7983 8863

Passcode: Sw0pVt

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 18th April 2021 – The Third Sunday of Easter

We plan to record an online Communion service for Sunday 18th April 2021 during the week. The YouTube link will be in next week's newsletter.

Messy Easter: A Journey Through Holy Week

The [YouTube](#) video which premiered on Easter Sunday is still available on the [Bradford Cathedral](#) website. There is an Easter Service video for families together with links supporting resources. The service features dramatisations, readings and images of the key events of Holy Week, with music and worship.

Midweek opportunities for worship and prayer

Reflective Services for Holy Week

If you missed any of the short reflective services with meditations for each day of Holy Week, they are still available to view. The links are as follows:

Monday of Holy Week	https://youtu.be/EbCI2QxB8K0
Tuesday of Holy Week	https://youtu.be/Xj562oYDK7o
Wednesday of Holy Week	https://youtu.be/enMf83i5q0U
Maundy Thursday	https://youtu.be/DGFA4qJnbhI
Good Friday	https://youtu.be/A7sYwosogRs

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.

All four meditations are available on the St John's Facebook page and on A Church Near You. You can also access them using the following links:

- Meditation 1 - The Annunciation <https://youtu.be/MrAwQu3fZAc>
- Meditation 2 - The Five Thousand <https://youtu.be/Whfq9WZTT5c>
- Meditation 3 - The Washing of the Feet <https://youtu.be/GBwG8v4Y7L8>
- Meditation 4 - The Empty Tomb <https://youtu.be/s64WTJjj7Yw>

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. Hard copies of the meditations are available from Stephanie stephanie.buchanan@btinternet.com

Praying for the parish - video available

Martyn has created a video of a walk around the boundary which includes prayers at various places along the way. Here is the link to the video <https://youtu.be/qKhcFisLH-Q>. 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 or 01924 378101).

We are planning a live 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.

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>

Vision Wakefield

Vision Wakefield which is made up of Christians of different denominations in Wakefield and supported by Bishop Tony, has launched a plan to collect stories of answered prayer and share them as good news for our city. You can find more details by following this link: www.visionwakefield.co.uk/learn-more.

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

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**.

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 the [A Church Near You](#) website.

Magazine

Copy date for the May magazine is **SUNDAY 11th APRIL 2021 (TODAY!)**

Contributions to the Editor, Deidre Morris (email: bandmorris@btinternet.com) by Sunday 11th April 2021, please.

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

