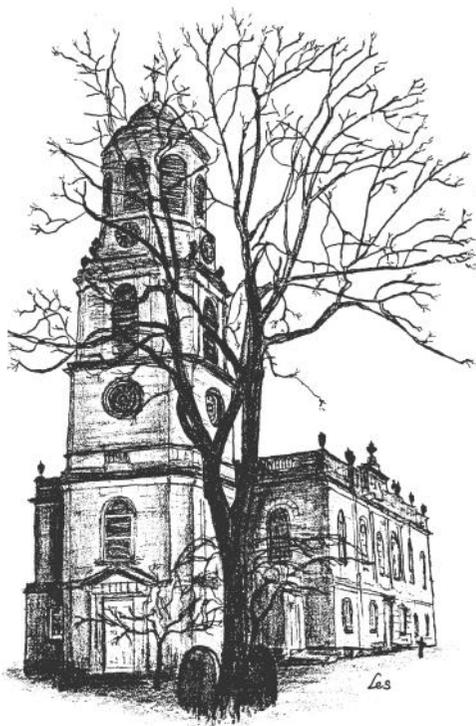


St. John's Church

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September 2021 Price 50p

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We Can Make a Difference

September is the month when, for most people, the holiday season ends, and life settles back to normal. But, writing this in early August, I wonder what 'normal' will look like by the time you're reading this. Will schools be back as usual? Will hospitals be running smoothly? Will services at church have hymns and hugs – and coffee afterwards? Or will we be in another time of lockdown restrictions?

Someone said, 'In 20 years' time, we'll remember this as the 'good old days'. A bit like the Israelites during their 40 year journey in the wilderness, after Moses led them out of slavery in Egypt. They looked back on the 'old days' of their captivity, and muttered, 'Well at least we got fed decently, we weren't walking 15 miles a day in this heat, worrying where the next pitcher of water was coming from! And our houses, not tents, did keep the worst of the dust storms out. Why don't we just go back?'

This month we'll have two opportunities to reflect on matters which will affect how we look back on 2021. In mid-September we're all being asked to consider our stewardship – how we use the gifts God has entrusted to us to help build His kingdom. This may be within the Church; but may equally be what we do within our local community. How can our time and skills enable other people to grow in their faith? Also, how does our giving of money, time and skills provide the resources we will need to sustain growth at St John's?

At the end of the month, we look towards Climate Sunday on 3rd October. Recently the news has shown 'unseasonable weather':

flooding in Germany, Belgium and Holland, and in China and India; extremes of heat, often causing fires, in Canada, Australia, America and the



eastern Mediterranean. These events make our unusual summer storms seem almost insignificant. Scientists say that climate change is not something that may happen in the future; it is already happening now.

It has also happened before. The last time was 70 million years ago when, at the end of the Cretaceous period, the fossil records show that over 70% of species died out.

Experts think the cause was atmospheric pollution from major volcanic eruptions over several million years. How does man-made atmospheric pollution compare to that? In less than 300 years, pollution due to the industrial revolution is causing ice-sheets to melt, deserts to grow, and extremes of weather to develop.

Climate change is an area where our actions can have a significant adverse effect, particularly on people in low lying coastal areas, and places where life is already marginal. This could have some surprising results. A 10 metre rise in sea level would mean that instead of going



We have a 10.00am service of Holy Communion each Sunday

The congregation are asked to wear face masks and to observe some social distancing. We are now allowed to sing (wearing masks). There will be a candle prayer station in the side chapel, limited to 3 people at a time.

We can still only offer bread at the communion, but hope to be able to offer refreshments after the service.

The 10am service is now live streamed and available from 10am onwards on the St John's YouTube Channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDyIQ-Vbrv-5bikSlpgV2QQ>

Just click on the link and select the service for today from the range of videos on the channel.

If you are on email you can receive the weekly newsletter this way. Please let Stephanie know if you

*to the seaside at Bridlington, you'd go to Knottingley!
And as you sat there, watching the waves break around
the ruins of Drax power station, you could talk about the
'good old days'.*

Brian Morris

Tea-Time Service

On 17th October we will hold our first Sunday Tea-Time Service at 4.00pm. These services will then be held on the third Sunday each month.

The Tea-Time service will be very relaxed, with songs, activities, readings and prayers. We will try lots of different ways to praise God, learn, pray and share fellowship with each other.

These services are for everyone: families of all shapes and sizes, children, adults, young and old. Why not come along?

Drinks and biscuits will be available before and after the service, and there may even be cake from time to time.

If you would like more information please contact:

Cath (stjohnsyouthteam@gmail.com) or

Rob (rob.harper@leeds.anglican.org).

Also look out for further details on the noticeboard, newsletter and in October's magazine.



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



Come along to our next

LEGO BREAKFAST

Saturday 4 September

9.00am - 11.00am

St John's Church, WF1 2QU
(parking in St John's Square)

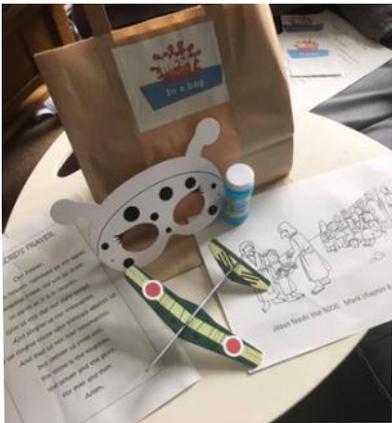
Come and enjoy playing a variety of games with your children, grand-children, nieces, nephews etc. All children must bring an adult.

Besides lots of Lego and Duplo we have table football, large scale Connect 4 and Jenga, a target game and a whole range of board games.

Tea, coffee and squash are available plus Bacon Butties!

Free admission (no unaccompanied children)

Voluntary donation of £1 for a bacon sandwich / drink.



Messy Church in a bag

This is just to say Thank You to all who came and collected our Messy Church bags on 11th and 15th July. We handed out a total of 48 bags! The photo shows the items we put in the bag.

We hope that Messy Church will be back in church in the autumn - more news on that in the coming weeks.

If anyone has taken photos of their Messy Church in a bag fun, please share them on our Facebook page.



Generosity Week 12-19 September

The Church of England has set aside time this month to think about generosity:

“Generosity is at the heart of our faith. We believe in a generous God and our own generosity is a testament and hallmark of our faith in action. Every day we see generosity in our churches and Christian communities, reflecting the generous God we believe in. It takes time, support and, above all, prayer to grow a generous culture. This Harvest, we are launching Generosity Week to give us the time and space to reflect on and celebrate God’s generosity within our church’s ministry and mission. We invite you to explore God’s generosity through eight days of *service and worship materials, as well as* (worship, prayer and) stories from our churches of God’s generosity in action. We hope that by the end of Generosity Week you’ll have a deeper understanding of God’s generosity towards us and how we can live more generously in our daily lives.”

St John’s will be thinking about generosity between 12 and 19 September, particularly in our Sunday services. We have so much to be thankful for in the way God has given us the strength and resources to get through the last 18 months and it is a good time to think about this. Having taken over as treasurer during that time, I am particularly conscious of the wonderful way our regular givers have kept up their support, whether through accumulated envelopes when returning to church or cheques arriving through my door or Brian’s.

This meant that there was only a fairly small reduction in our planned giving in 2020. However, we received very little income from loose cash collections, church lettings and fundraising and the reduction in running costs was relatively

modest, as the church building still needed to be heated, insured, etc.

Regular giving can be done through the weekly and monthly envelope scheme or via standing order. However, I would ask you to consider joining, or switching to, the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS). This is similar to a standing order, but the regular payments from your bank account go to PGS, who pass it on to the church. For taxpayers, the PGS also recovers the Gift Aid every month and passes it on to the church, so it reduces our admin and improves our cashflow.

A further advantage of the PGS is that you can opt to have your regular gift increased annually in line with inflation. This can help it keep up with increasing costs without you having to keep changing your standing order, calculating an annual top-up or putting an extra coin in your envelope every week.

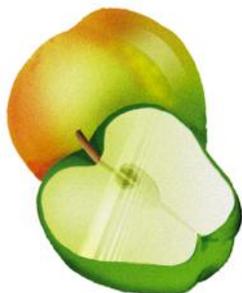
The Parish Giving Scheme can now be joined
online at <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/home/>,
by calling 0333 002 1271
or by completing a form which I can give you.

Our PGS Parish Code is 460646605 and our church name is listed as St John the Baptist, Wakefield, in the diocese of Leeds.

Please have a word with me if you have any questions or need any assistance.

Geoff Lockyer

Jam and Marmalade



Deidre Morris (details on back cover or speak in church) has jams (blackcurrant; blackberry & apple; bramble jelly; gooseberry) and marmalade (Seville orange; dark Oxford; orange and grapefruit) for sale.

If you would like any, please get in touch with her. All proceeds to church funds.



From little acorns grow mighty trees (in time)

It is almost two years since I first came to a service at St John's and I was presented with a plastic pot from Junior Church as they had been planting acorns.

On the pot were these words "A little faith can work wonders."

This photo shows two seasons of growth of that same little acorn. Last year it had 3 leaves. Now it has 37 leaves. Who knows, next

year there may be too many leaves to count.

This is a great example of how faith can grow when it is given a little bit of care, a new pot, and time to develop.

Rob Harper

Seeds to Sow and Grow

This year's Seed Gathering Campaign, organised by the Tree Council, begins on 22 September and runs until 23 October. Everyone is invited to gather seed, fruit and nuts that can be nurtured and grown into trees for the future.

There is a lot of information and advice at <https://treecouncil.org.uk/take-action/seasonal-campaigns/seed-gathering-season/>

You will be able to download some useful information sheets on common UK trees - English Oak, Field Maple, Hazel, Hornbeam, Beech, Common Lime, Holly, Hawthorn, Rowan, Scots Pine, Common Alder and Silver Birch. You will also find helpful health and safety advice plus tips relating to the ownership of the fruit and seed you gather, where to collect them, places to avoid, and advice about which fruit, nuts and seed are edible

Early Autumn Study Course 'Brief Encounters'

Starting in September, we are offering a Bible study course based on a selection of 'Brief Encounters' from Mark's Gospel. Using these brief encounters we will explore aspects of Discipleship by looking at Forgiveness, the Challenge of Discipleship, Family, Discovering Jesus, Jesus' Suffering and Faith.

This course has something for anyone wanting to explore what it is to be a disciple. Using Mark's Gospel enables us to know a little more of who Jesus was and get a better understanding of discipleship.

There will be two sessions each week, to offer people a choice of time and day. The sessions will be on Monday evening (7.30-9.00pm) or Wednesday afternoon (1.30-3.00pm).

Meetings will be in church or can be joined via zoom if you prefer. Sessions will run each week for six weeks, starting on Monday 20th September and Wednesday 22nd September. Each session can be enjoyed individually, so if you have to miss one it should not be a problem.

To join in, in person or on-line, please either sign up on the sheet in church, or let Cath know by e-mailing her at cath.s.fox@outlook.com



Say it with flowers?

Many thanks to Sam Megaw for another donation of £100 to church funds. This is from the sale of jams he made and flowers he has grown.

Sam's contribution just after Christmas, the profits from all his hyacinth baskets etc., paid for several items of the church silver to be repaired.

Readings at the 10.00am Communion Service

Date	Day	1 st Reading	2 nd Reading
5 Sept.	Trinity 14	James 2: 1-10, 14-17	Mark 7: 24-end
12 Sept.	Trinity 15	1 Timothy 6:11-19;	Matthew 6:19-33
19 Sept.	Trinity 16	Colossians 3:12-17;	Luke 17:11-19
26 Sept.	Trinity 17	James 5: 13-end	Mark 9: 38-end
3 Oct.	Trinity 18	Hebrews 1:1-4; 2: 5-12	Mark 10: 2-16

*The views expressed in this Magazine
are those of each writer and are not necessarily held
by the Editor, Vicar or PCC.*

Magazine Contributions

The Editor is always pleased to receive news of events, to come or which have taken place; reports of church activities; original articles, stories, etc. We cannot guarantee that they will be included, and they may be edited before inclusion.

**Please send contributions for the
October 2021 issue**

by 12 September 2021

All copy should be sent to the editor:

Deidre Morris at
263 Park Lodge Lane, Wakefield WF1 4HY
Or e-mail to: **bandmorris@btinternet.com**

Let Jesus Christ Find You

We come to church regularly to meet God. But actually, God comes to meet us. He comes to us personally though His Word. In Holy Communion, Jesus arrives under cover of bread and wine, saying ‘this is My body; this is My blood’.

The whole Bible is the story of God searching for us, not the other way round. It begins with Adam and Eve running away and hiding, and that’s how it continues to this day. But it ends with a dramatic vision of reunion.

In the meantime, humanity is invited to stop, turn round, and face God who is in pursuit. ‘Turning round’ is what the word ‘repentance’ means.

Becoming a Christian is letting Christ find us.

Being a Christian is becoming an apprentice in His workforce.

Not long before His crucifixion, Jesus taught His apprentices about His death – and theirs. “I’m going to prepare a place for you, and I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also.”

When we contemplate dying, it may seem like a journey into the dark. But we will not go alone. Never alone. As we reach out into the darkness, Christ is reaching out to us. Just as He has been reaching out to us throughout our lives, so He is there to grasp us as we breathe our last. “I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.”



For the disciple, death is a union – a reunion with Christ. It’s the most natural thing in the world. So, we pray that at our end, we may reach out into the darkness, to find we are grasped by the One who has already prepared a place for us.

John Barton

DIARY DATES for SEPTEMBER 2021

(see page 12 for details of the Sunday Bible readings)

Sat 4 9.00-11.00am LEGO BREAKFAST

Sunday 5

Trinity 14

10.00am Holy Communion and Baptisms

Mon 6 9.30am Morning Prayer via zoom

Fri 10 9.15am Coffee morning for parents of new pupils at St John's School

9.15-11.30am Toddler & Baby group

Sat. 11 1.00-4.00pm Heritage Open Afternoon

Sunday 12

Trinity 15 Start of Generosity Week

10.00am Holy Communion

Mon 13 9.30am Morning Prayer via zoom

Tues. 14 7.30 pm PCC meeting in church

Fri 17 9.15am Toddler & Baby group

Sunday 19

Trinity 16

10.00am Holy Communion

Mon 20 9.30am Morning Prayer via zoom

Fri 24 9.15am Toddler & Baby group

Sat. 25 3.30pm Marriage: Clare Swift & Martin Mason

Sunday 26

Trinity 17

10.00am Holy Communion

Mon 27 9.30am Morning Prayer via zoom

Tues 28 7.45pm Julian Meeting for Contemplative Prayer

Fri 1 Oct 9.15am Toddler & Baby group

Morning Prayer on Mondays at 9.30am via zoom

This lasts about 20 minutes with a Psalm, a Bible reading and some prayers. All welcome. If you'd like to join the Zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81143465385?pwd=NGsybHdEZEZ5UFUzdXNYMjJmZDhwUT09>

Sunday Services at St John's during COVID19 restrictions

EVERY SUNDAY

10.00am Parish Communion

Please wear a mask while in church, including while singing.

There will be a candle prayer station in the side chapel, limited to 3 people at a time
Some chairs have notices asking for them not to be used, to allow for social distancing.

3rd SUNDAY EACH MONTH (*from October 17*)

4.00pm Tea-Time Service

For all the family, young and older, single and in groups.

A relaxed service, with songs, activities, readings and prayers, and refreshments.

All family members, of any age, are welcome at all our services.

We have toys and books in the café area for young ones, but parents are asked to supervise them at all times..

The entrance door to the church is on the city centre / High School side of St John's Square. There is a ramp access for wheelchairs and pushchairs up to this door.

There is a fully accessible toilet at the church, and a baby-change facility.

There is an induction loop for those who use a hearing aid.

Mission Statement

St John's is here to be a living, loving and serving witness to Christ; worshipping, learning and growing in our faith together, reaching out to share God's love in the community and bringing His Word to all

PARISH ACTIVITIES / ORGANISATIONS

Parish Morning Prayer Mondays at 9.30am on Zoom
A Psalm, a Bible reading and some prayers. All welcome. The Zoom link if you would like to join in is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89866690323?pwd=NHZXaEc2TkJEcFBXbmtpOE5WTepadz09>

Toddler & Baby Playgroup 9.15-11.30am Friday in church
(during term time)
A time for babies, toddlers and their carers to play and share.

Julian Meeting Fourth Tuesday each month
7.45pm in Church
All are welcome to share in Christian contemplative prayer.

UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS

Purposeful activity in a structured, fun environment.

25th Wakefield Scout Group For boys and girls, held in the Scout Hut by St. John's Parish Centre.

Details: Group Scout Leader Laura Stephenson 07772869561

Girl Guiding UK www.girlguiding.org.uk

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides.

Contact: Rachel Gibbs www.girlguiding.org.uk/registeryourinterest

Notes from the PCC Meeting on July 13 2021

(held via zoom)

The first part of the meeting was a presentation on Stewardship given by Becky Nicholson, from the Diocesan Office. She presented the Generosity materials available for use in parishes, which can aid the growth of a generous church, and the building of a generous culture.

Our bid to the Bishop's Development Fund was successful: we now have the money for a new data projector and screen.

A proposal to authorise YourParkingSpace, a car parking company, to manage parking at the Parish Centre on our behalf over the next year had been approved on-line in June.

It was agreed that some more church activities could begin: Cath and Rob are to lead the first Messy Church.

Lego Breakfast to re-start on September 4th and will run termly, on the Saturday before term starts.

From October to have a monthly tea-time service, geared for families.

On Friday September 10th Sue Slaven will hold the usual coffee morning for parents of new starters in Reception.

The Annual Accounts for 2020, in a revised format, were accepted by the PCC. Overall total income was down by £18,000, with total expenditure only slightly reduced.

A revised Lettings Policy had been circulated. Various points of clarification were discussed, which mainly relate to one-off events. The basic content was approved, so that it can be provided to regular users.

Fabric update: A bid has gone to the Diocese about work needed on the urns on the roof. The insurers will pay for repairing the plasterwork. The external doors need to be sanded and sealed. Martyn will get a quote for this, which needs to be done before the winter.

Next PCC Meeting: Tuesday September 14th at 7.30pm

Celebrating our Environment

The church celebrates Creation-tide from 1 September to 4 October this year. I hope we can pray for God's creation every Sunday during this time.

As a church we will look at ways that we can engage with our environment, looking at everything we do.

We can do this in 5 ways

- 1 worship and teaching
- 2 management of church buildings
- 3 management of churchyards
- 4 community and global engagement
- 5 our lifestyle

We will look at these issues and hopefully some people from church will go on the courses available on various topics.

These are issues for everyone, young and old - creation is the responsibility of us all.

Mary Macqueen

Our Top Ten Eco-Tips

- 1 Buy the single bananas in supermarkets or shops: everyone else leaves them alone and they get thrown away.
- 2 Rather than buy slug pellets, wash and dry eggshells, crush them and use them to surround the tender plants that slugs and snails love.
- 3 Wash out plastic take-away containers: they can be used to store leftovers, as extra packed lunch boxes or for storing anything small.
- 4 Make small holes in the neck of a plastic bottle, fill the bottle with water and replace the cap. Turn upside down and 'plant' in flower containers or borders to drip feed water to your plants.

5 When a “Nutella” or other chocolate spread jar is empty, half fill the jar with milk, ensuring all the foil is removed from the jar. Microwave for 30 seconds - 1 minute. Use an oven glove to remove and put the lid on tightly. Shake vigorously and you have a hot chocolate.

6 You can recycle tablet foil packets at some Superdrug shops, such as the one in the Ridings.

7 You can still bring your milk carton tops to church, for charity use.

8 You can still bring used stamps to church, for the Leprosy Mission.

9 Try and buy fair-trade goods. If your supermarket or shop does not stock fair-trade, ask the manager if they can start stocking what you want to buy.

10 When we can, please car-share for journeys. If you can, leave the car at home and come to church on alternative transport.

Extra Eco-Thoughts:

Solar panels

Could we investigate whether solar panels could be installed on the church roof - they would be hidden behind the stone parapet? Could solar panels also be installed at the vicarage?

In the churchyard.

Could we develop some wildflower areas, in the parts less accessible to the council mowers?

Could we provide anything to enhance the area for wildlife? eg squirrel-proof nest boxes for birds / a bird bath / drinking water bowl(s) for birds and small mammals (and dogs!). Is there anything else that you could suggest?

If you have any eco-ideas please get in touch with Rob Harper or Mary Mcqueen, who take a lead on this.

News of Conversation Café

Conversation café started at St John's church 9 years ago. It was part of City of Sanctuary's way of welcoming people to our city and providing a place for them to meet and to learn English. At first this was the main priority. We managed to recruit some volunteers to be there to help with the teaching – but no real qualifications were needed, just a smile and an ability to chat.

The cafe was always a surprise, as it was a drop in and we never knew who would drop in! We had weeks when only 'the teachers' were there and we would have time to chat and learn about each other and worry about how to encourage more people to come.

Then we would have weeks when there wasn't enough space for all the people who had turned up and we'd be worried about the noise and the toddlers running around. The one thing everyone had in common was that they wanted to learn English and to learn more about living in Wakefield.

Long term or short stay

Some of the people had settled permanently in Wakefield, but even after many years they did not feel confident in speaking English. Some were people new to the country and 'passing through' Wakefield . Some were staying at Urban House for a few weeks, or being housed in Wakefield, while their claims for asylum were heard.

We taught at all levels, from basic English to helping with a masters degree. Help with the driving theory test was always popular, as well as discussions about the citizen test.

Fun with the children

We were very busy for a year or so when the Syrian families arrived in Wakefield. We ended up having a children's group while the adults were receiving help from the refugee council.

Before we had to close due to the pandemic we had quite a

large group of mothers and toddlers attending . Jane and I had lots of fun teaching the mothers some action rhymes- I'm not sure who enjoyed it more.

Time to move on

Sadly, together with City of Sanctuary, we have decided it is not viable to re-start the café. We could not guarantee the safety of volunteers or of people attending on a drop in basis. And City of Sanctuary has moved to a new base at St Michael's church. Like many other things, it is time to rethink and move on in maybe a different direction. Jane and I are now teaching English on-line, along with a group of about 8 teachers.

We have no idea of how many people came to conversation café. We have no idea how much we helped them or what a difference we made to their lives. But I'm sure we did.



Welcome for all

People are still arriving in our city from all over the world.

We don't need to ask why they have come.

What we do need to do is to offer help and friendship.

It might just be a smile and hello but that can make all the difference.

Many thanks

Thank you to St Johns church for facilitating the cafe and for their prayers during all the years.

Thank you to all the volunteers, and especially Jane Shields, for all their commitment.

I will miss my Monday mornings of multicultural conversation but I'm waiting to see what happens next

Sue Slaven

Learning Lessons From a Graveyard

If you're looking for a quiet oasis away from the bustle and busyness of everyday life, there's a place where nature, heritage and the life histories of local people are on peaceful display.

Take a walk in your local cemetery.

The chances are it's a place where nature abounds, where socially-distant peace can be found, and you can meditate on the deeper issues of life.

It's true that graveyards are rarely most people's favourite places to visit. Many find them morbid, reminding them of their own mortality. They can prompt memories of loved ones no longer with us, and our sadness overcomes happy memories of the life we shared together. Others just rush past cemeteries or graveyards, without even noticing that they are there.

But walk among the gravestones, read the inscriptions and you find the stories of people's lives.

Samuel Ryder, the Hertfordshire seed merchant who devised the United States v Europe Ryder Cup golf tournament, is buried in the cemetery by the church where I minister. When I visited recently, someone had left golf balls on his grave.

In the same cemetery, there are more than 200 plain white graves of local and Commonwealth service people who died during the two world wars, and a memorial to the many local soldiers who died in the First World War.

To wander around any cemetery or graveyard is to enter into the lives of generations of families. To see the grave of the still-born baby close to the child who died in infancy, both near to the grandmother who died in her nineties. The husband and wife who died within months of each other, are alongside the wife who outlived her spouse by decades.



I'm always struck by how people are described. Most are defined by their family relationships – beloved grandfather, grandmother, father, mother, wife, husband, son or daughter.

Others are described by their roles in life – actress, golf professional or for the war graves, by their ranks. How long had the young men and women been in uniform before meeting their deaths – and being remembered ever after as soldiers? In some cases, it may have been just a few months.

What, I ask myself, would I want written on my gravestone? How would each of us like to be remembered? How can long lives be summed up in the few words that fit on a gravestone?

And what is it that we are doing in life that will be of lasting value? Cemeteries are places that can make you consider your own life and think about what is important in it.

Many Christian funerals begin with the words of Jesus Christ, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.'

It is a promise I hold to as I walk the paths around the graves.

Revd Peter Crumpler
Associate Minister, St Paul's Church, Fleetville, St Albans.

Many of the gravestones in St John's churchyard are getting grassed over and unreadable. But the memorial tablets on the interior walls of the church are easy to read. Have you taken the time to read any? There is so much history on some of them! Including the plaque for Joseph Aspdin, who invented Portland Cement.

Many of the memorials are so florid in their sentiments, one almost wonders how genuine they were. But one near the vestry door has this very simple commendation to Ann, wife of John Stephenson, who died aged 21 years in 1804:

"She was an affectionate wife, a sincere friend and a real Christian."

How a stranger from the past might view us?

I was reading 'How to be Both' by Ali Smith. One character is from the 15th century, but (as a ghost? By some other means?) is seeing modern day people through his eyes and from his medieval perspective. I was struck by this passage:

".....the boy sits up, holds his holy votive tablet up in both hands as if to heaven, up at the level of his head like a priest raising the bread..... this place is full of people who have eyes and choose to see nothing, who all talk into their hands as they peripatate all carry these votives, some the size of a hand, some the size of a face or a whole head, dedicated to saints perhaps, or holy folk.... They look at or talk to or pray to these tablets or icons all the while by holding them next to their heads or stroking them with fingers and staring only at them, signifying they must be heavy in their despairs to be so consistently looking away from their world and so devoted to their icons. "

Deidre Morris



"Mike composes all his sermons on his iPhone – he uses something called Predictable Text..."

A man went to a drop-in medical centre where the diagnosis was done by a computer. He keyed in his symptoms. The machine whirred and buzzed for a few seconds and then presented its findings on the screen. It said simply: "There's a lot of it about."

What does it mean when all the socks in your laundry match, with none left over? You're now losing them in pairs!

'Everybody Out'!

The air horn sounded, stewards donned their hi-vis jackets, the wheelchair was put into action... and less than 3 minutes later the building had been cleared, checked and we were all stood, or sat, in the sunshine of a lovely Sunday morning on St John's square.

As required by our fire risk assessment, we have completed the evacuation practice to test the plan we had created - hurrah!

We embarked on the practice with some trepidation, whilst knowing that it was essential. But with the sunshine helping and the congregation being so efficient, our worries proved unfounded and all went smoothly.

We have learned a number of lessons which we will now incorporate into the plan. But above all we - the Health and Safety Officer, Churchwardens and Vicar - offer our thanks to those present on the day for helping to make the practice an efficient, effective and, dare I say it, enjoyable, experience.

Thank you

Cath Fox (HSO)

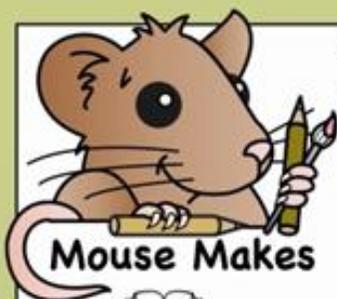
Heritage Open Afternoon



As part of the national Heritage Open Days St John's will be open to the public from 1.00pm - 4.00pm on Saturday 11th September

There will be various items of memorabilia on display, relating to the history of the church and the parish.

Everyone is Welcome



Mouse Makes



Read this story in
1 Kings 17:7-16

The bowl of flour and the jar of oil

It had not rained for months and months, there was a drought in the land.

God sent His prophet **Elijah** to the town of Zarephath. At the town gate he saw a widow gathering firewood.

"Please bring me a drink of water and some bread." he asked her.



She answered "All I have is a handful of flour and a drop of oil in a jar, it is our last meal."

"Do not worry." Elijah said, "Make the meal and make a small loaf for me."

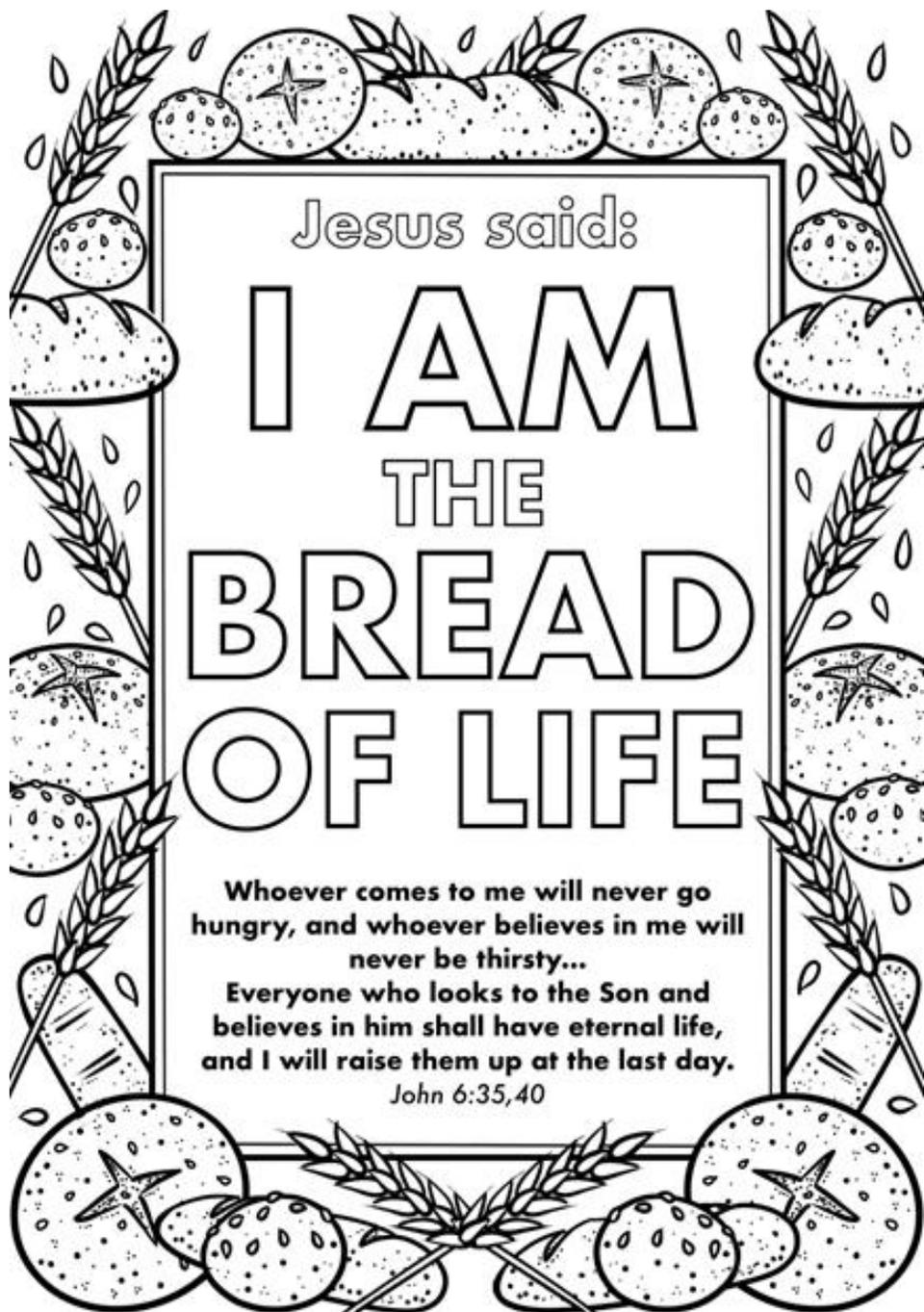
The woman did what Elijah had asked and God blessed her ...

... The bowl never ran out of flour and the jar never ran out of oil until it rained again!



Find these words from the story in the word search:

WORD • LORD • GOD • ELIJAH • SENT • ZAREPHATH • GATE • CITY • WIDOW
STICKS • WATER • DRINK • BREAD • FEED • HANDFUL • FLOUR • LITTLE
OIL • SON • EAT • DIE • FULL • WENT • MAKE • BAKED • ATE • JAR • JUG • MANY
DAYS • LIVE • NEVER • EMPTY



We are pleased to announce that

YOUR **PARKING** SPACE

is the new operator of our Parish Centre car park, on the corner of St John's Avenue and Wentworth Street WF1 2QU. YourParkingSpace is the UK's fastest growing car parking operator and the largest one on-line, pioneering innovation in the car parking sector. They provide a contactless, COVID-safe, way to pay for parking on an hourly, daily or monthly basis. With every monthly booking the company plants one tree.

Very competitive prices for parking at the Parish Centre are now available to the general public. You can pay to park on an hourly, daily or monthly basis, using your mobile phone. Either download the YourParkingSpace app or call 0330 333 8434 (calls charged at local rate). For either method you will need to enter our St John's Church location ID, which is 11173. This ID is clearly displayed on the signage at the car park, along with all other details. You will be advised of the rate being charged once you have input your preferred option. The app is available on the app store or Google play.

The car park now features 24/7 monitoring through Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology. Any car that parks without payment may be issued with a Parking Charge Notice. This is to ensure that only permitted vehicles are using, and paying for, our parking facilities.

For full terms and conditions, please visit their website:
www.yourparkingspace.co.uk/company/terms-conditions
YourParkingSpace Ltd. Company No 08670309

This new parking solution will hopefully be of help to some of our local citizens. Any revenue it generates for the church, will be invested back into serving Christ in the community.

For any extra information please see Martyn or Susan Lawson or ring them on 01924 378101.

Community Use of St John's Church

Wentworth St, Wakefield, WF1 2QU

The church building is fully accessible, with ramp access to the main door, and two ramps giving to access the staging.

Our accessible toilet also provides baby change facilities.

For further information, or to enquire about hiring our facilities, please contact Susan Lawson on 01924 378101

e-mail: stjohn.churchbookings@gmail.com

Comfortable chairs in the nave can (in non-covid times) provide flexible seating for up to 200 people. There is a dais, a keyboard and a sound system. Cost is £20 an hour.

Also available are Wi-Fi, and a back projector with a large screen. Each costs £10 per session.



The Samaritan Room has space for up to 15 people. It costs £10 an hour.



Our fully equipped kitchen opens onto a café area with 6 tables + 24



chairs. The tables can

be removed to make a larger, more flexible, meeting space.

The café area costs £10 an hour.

The kitchen costs £10 per session (half day or evening) when hiring any another room.

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Who's Who at St John's

Vicar **The Revd Stephanie Buchanan**

Tel: 01924 371029

e-mail: stephanie.buchanan@btinternet.com

Curate

The Revd Rob Harper 07702875014

Assistant Clergy

The Revd Paul Ellis 01924 367976

Churchwardens

Martyn Lawson 01924 378101

Licensed Lay Minister (Reader)

Brian Morris 01924 369437

To ask about booking any of the following, when available:

Church, Church Reception Area, Samaritan Room

Susan Lawson 01924 378101

e-mail: stjohn.churchbookings@gmail.com

Magazine Editor, and Advertising Manager

Deidre Morris 263 Park Lodge Lane, WF1 4HY

01924 369437 e-mail: bandmorris@btinternet.com

Our Website: www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7365

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