

12th September 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. For the staff and children of St John's CE Primary School.

Website: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/7365>

Facebook: @wakefieldstjohns

Email: stjohn.churchwarden@gmail.com

SUNDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2021 – GENEROSITY WEEK

Readings: Timothy 6: 11-19

Matthew 6: 19-33

Special Prayer (Collect) for Generosity Week

God of grace, ever creating and restoring,
you breathe life into all things
and embrace us with an everlasting love;
help us to grow in wonder and awe,
to embody a spirit of gratitude,
and to dream generous dreams;
that, in gathering what we have,
we may graciously offer ourselves
to accomplish what you will,
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 will be open today, Sunday 12th September 2021, for a Celebration of Generosity Communion Service at 10am. The doors will open at 9.45am.

We ask everyone to wear a face covering while they are in church. This can be a mask or a visor/face shield. Do bring one with you, if possible. We are pleased to announce that we will be singing hymns in the service and there will also be the opportunity to light a candle in the side chapel. Printed service booklets and hymn books will be available, and we will no longer have the one-way system in place. Other aspects of worship – such as the way in which we receive communion – will not change for the time being. All will be made clear in the service.

Live stream!

The 10am service in church today will be live streamed and the live stream will be 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. The link will also be available 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 may like to print it off and bring it to church with you or you may wish to follow the service on your phone during the church service. We have also attached a Roots at Home sheet and three activity sheets for families to do together. These are taken from Roots © ROOTS for Churches Ltd (www.rootsontheweb.com) 2002-2020 and reproduced with permission.

You can find details of this week's Church of England online service by following this link:

www.churchofengland.org/news-and-media/church-online

Today is the start of Generosity Week - 12th -19th September 2021

Our service today and the service on Sunday 19th September will focus on generosity and gratitude. Generosity is at the heart of our faith. We believe in a generous God and our own generosity is an expression of our faith in action. The ministry and mission of St John's is largely funded through the incredible generosity of those who give to the Church. If you would like to know how you can give to St John's, please see below.

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 – This is like a standing order, but the regular payments from your bank account go to PGS, who pass it on to the church. For taxpayers, they also recover the Gift Aid, 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, which can help it keep up with increasing costs without 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 our treasurer, Geoff Lockyer, can give you. You will need our PGS Parish Code, which is 460646605. Please have a word with Geoff if you have any questions or need any assistance. His email address is geoff@geofflockyer.co.uk.

Standing Orders - will continue as before.

Gift Aid Envelopes - If you give using weekly or monthly envelopes, you can save up your envelopes until you are able to come back to church, or send Geoff a cheque made out to "St John's Church, Wakefield, PCC". If you would like us to deliver your envelopes for the current tax year, please let Geoff know.



Our QR code, here, can also be used to make donations to St John's

Early Autumn Study course - 'Brief Encounters'

Starting in September, we are offering a Bible study course that uses a selection of 'Brief Encounters' presented in Mark's Gospel. Using these brief encounters, we explore aspects of Discipleship by looking at Forgiveness, the Challenge of discipleship, Family, Discovering Jesus, Jesus' suffering, and Faith.

This course has something to offer anyone wishing to explore what it is to be a disciple and uses Mark's Gospel to get to know a little more of who Jesus was and an understanding of discipleship.

Each week we will run a session on Monday evening (7.30-9pm) and again on Wednesday afternoon (1.30-3pm).

The sessions will be in church or can be joined via zoom if you prefer.

The first sessions are on Monday 20th September and Wednesday 22nd September. They will run each week for six weeks. Each session can be enjoyed individually, so if you miss one that won't be a problem.

There will be a sheet in church to sign up or you can let Cath know you would like to attend, either in person or online, by emailing cath.s.fox@outlook.com

St John's Toddler and Baby Playgroup

St John's Toddler and Baby Playgroup meets on Fridays, during term time, from 9.15 – 11.30am. If you would like more information about the toddler and baby playgroup, please contact Rob on 07702 875014.

Season of Creation – 1st September – 4th October 2021

As usual, we will be observing a 'Season of Creation' from 1st September to 4th October 2021 at St John's. This is an opportunity for us to demonstrate our engagement with environmental issues in five areas:

- Worship and teaching
- Management of our church building
- Management of the churchyard
- Community and global engagement
- Our lifestyle

The Diocese of Leeds is putting on several courses to help us to address these issues. It would be good if some members of the congregation could attend these. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Rob Harper rob.harper@leeds.anglican.org We have a small team working on environmental issues at St John's. If you would like to be part of this team, please do let Rob know.

On **Sunday 3rd October** there will be a special **Climate Sunday Service** at 10am at St John's which will help us to focus our reflections and prayers on our care for creation.

Tea-Time Service

We will be starting monthly services on a Sunday Tea-Time (4pm) on Sunday 17th October and on the third Sunday of each month after that.

These services will be very relaxed and include songs, activities, readings and prayers and 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 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.

Would you like to be part of the team involved in the live streaming of our Church Services?

We have recorded and uploaded or live streamed every Sunday morning service since the Covid 19 Pandemic started in March 2020. We want to continue to offer this facility to members of our congregation who are not able to attend Church and to others who might be interested in St John's services. However, we need to increase the pool of volunteers who can operate the equipment so that we have continuity for every week. So we are looking for volunteers to learn a new skill and be introduced into the technical aspects of video recording, sound amplification and streaming of our service from Church. If you volunteer, you will be fully trained and the whole process explained so that you can be confident in setting up, operating and dismantling all the equipment needed to capture and stream our Church services live on a Sunday and at other times. Once trained, you will be supported during services until you feel able to carry out the process independently.

If you would like to express an interest to find out what is involved and then change your mind that's fine.

The training will cover:

Use of the digital video camera, how to set it up on a tripod, how to connect to the streaming equipment and how to frame a shot for standard Church services;

How to set up the streaming control deck and computer to ensure that the service can be streamed live as it happens onto the internet via YouTube ©;

How to use the sound desk to control which microphones are being amplified through the sound system in Church and also into the live stream audio mix;

Simple basic troubleshooting strategies if things do not work or go wrong.

If you would be interested in being involved in this aspect of our worship. Please speak to Martyn Lawson or Stephanie and we will explain in more detail what would be involved and when we can arrange a convenient time for the training.

Coffee/Tea after the 10am service in Church.

There won't be coffee and tea after our Sunday morning service today, as we don't have anyone available to serve drinks. However, we are hoping to serve coffee and tea after most services. If you would be able to help serve drinks to members of the congregation on an occasional basis (no more than once every two months), please speak to Susan.

Sunday 19th September 2021 – Trinity 16 – End of Generosity Week

There will be a Communion service at St John's at 10am on Sunday 19th September 2021 which will be live streamed. The link to the St John's YouTube Channel will be in next week's newsletter and the live stream will be available from 10am. You can also access the live stream via A Church Near You and Facebook. The newsletter will be sent out at 8am as usual.

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.

Pews available



We still have some sections of the old Victorian pews in the balcony. If anyone would like one, please let Susan know shlawson0@gmail.com

Midweek opportunities for worship and prayer

Morning Prayer on Mondays at 9.30am

Morning Prayer on Zoom lasts about twenty minutes and consists of a Psalm, a Bible reading and some prayers. All welcome. Here's the Zoom link if you would like to join in

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81143465385?pwd=NGsybHdEZEZ5UFUzdXNYMjJmZDhwUT09>

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**.

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.



Wakefield District City of Sanctuary

Afghanistan & Asylum Seekers Winter Appeal

NEW Clothing Items Needed:

- Underwear & Socks;
- T-shirts;
- Jogging Tops & Bottoms;
- Warm & waterproof Shoes & Flipflops.

For Men, Women and Children. All Ages and Sizes welcome.

We also welcome donations of clean and decent secondhand Winter coats and warm clothing.

Afghanistan & Asylum Seekers Donations Appeal

Educational Items & Materials Needed:

- Simple Dictionaries & Thesauruses;
- Educational Workbooks & Writing Materials.
- Children will also enjoy colouring books, colouring crayons and small toys and books.

All donations can be delivered on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10am to 3pm to:
Clothing Store, St Michaels, Westgate Common, Wakefield, WF2 9RW.

Please email us at info@wdcos.org.uk, call or text us on 07800 605397 to check availability before delivery. Arrangement can be made with volunteers for other delivery times.

Wakefield District City of Sanctuary St Michael's Welcome Centre, Westgate Common, WF2 9RW.
The clothing store, resource centre and food bank are all based at St Michael's.

Food Store – Monday, Wednesday and Friday 1pm – 3pm

Asylum Seekers Support Fund - Wednesdays 10am – 12pm

Clothing Store - 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. For further details, see the website: <https://wakefield.cityofsanctuary.org/>

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 October magazine is **SUNDAY 12th SEPTEMBER, 2021 – TODAY!**

Contributions to the Editor, Deidre Morris (email: bandmorris@btinternet.com) by Sunday 12th September 2021, please.

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