


# St JOHN'S CHURCH WAKEFIELD

Sharing Christ in the community

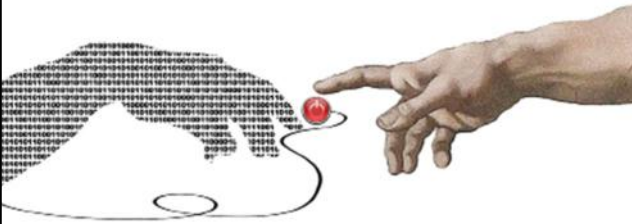
St John's Square / Wentworth St Wakefield WF1 2QU

Riding Lights Theatre Company and  
Scientists in Congregations

RIDING  
LIGHTS 

## THE UNEASY SLEEPS OF MAX MAXWELL

...waking up to  
artificial intelligence



a new one-act play by  
Richard Hasnip

followed by  
**conversations with  
leading scientists**

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**THURSDAY 23 FEBRUARY, 7.30PM**    ADULT £10  
ST JOHN'S CHURCH    CONCESSION £6  
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**Parish  
Magazine  
February**

**2023**

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## *The same, but different*

*A month into the New Year, I hope we feel 2023 has been well and truly embraced. Or we may be reflecting on how badly we have kept our new year resolutions.*

*Rob's editorial last month suggested making a small change as we started the New Year: spending a little time each day with God, through prayer and reading the Bible. Some of us might see Lent as a second chance to make that small change or revisit our resolutions.*

*I imagine many of you do the same thing each year for the six weeks of Lent. Or do you try and do something different each year? Maybe you could do the same, but differently. My 'tradition' is to give up chocolate, but actually I eat less chocolate anyway after the 'binge' over Christmas. I do try to give some time to a specific activity, maybe reading to improve my wellbeing or my learning. Or perhaps I can give time to be of help to others.*

*For various reasons, this year I am going to revisit and reconsider my 'traditions' for Lent. A good place to start is by asking myself the question, 'What difference will it make and to whom?'*

*I can still give up chocolate but give the chocolate bar I crave to a random person. Giving time to reading could be an opportunity to share a book, or something I've learned, with others over coffee and a chat or in a study group. Each change requires some imagination and creative thinking from me: ultimately it could have a more significant impact personally and for others, whether they are strangers or friends.*

*Our traditions, our way of doing things, started*

somewhere. They may have been quite controversial when first introduced. As we get older, we can begin thinking that 'in my day...' we wouldn't do this, that or the other, when actually 'my day' has changed beyond recognition. This is often the case when we think about children and young families in church, or the perceived lack of them.

Since Covid we've often discussed how it has given us opportunities to re-launch, re-imagine and develop new opportunities for worship. We've been inspired, as a church, to be creative and bold in seeking ways for people to connect with God through different types of worship and fellowship.

The re-imagined Toddlers, Lego Breakfast, Messy Church and the relatively new monthly Tea-Time services, each provide worship and fellowship for the children and families who attend. Just as attenders on a Sunday morning are identified as a congregation, so are the attendees at these gatherings. They experience 'church' and God's Kingdom differently, yet it is the same God, the same Kingdom. The message of Good News is the same, but it is expressed in a different way.

When Lent arrives this month, I challenge you to do something different, or do the same but differently, for the six weeks of Lent.

You might like to give some of your time to offer 'church' to as many people as we can. If so, do have a word with me, the Churchwardens or any member of the leadership team: there are always lots of things you can support, as you can see in this month's magazine. And we always value your prayer support.

**Cath Fox**

# DUST + GLORY

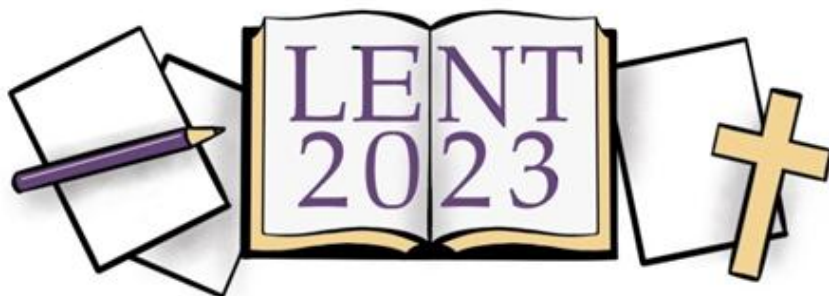
**Dust and Glory: A Lent journey of faith, failure and forgiveness** is the Church of England's Lent theme for 2023.

This Lent we are all invited to explore how we can live well with the mess of everyday life.

Dust and Glory encourages us to take a fresh look at the frustrations and failings that every day brings and, rather than pretending we can always avoid them, seek to learn from them and grow closer to God through them.

At St John's there will be a **Dust and Glory Lent Course** (more details to follow in the March magazine) based on the Archbishop of Canterbury's 2023 Lent Book, *Failure: What Jesus said about sin, mistakes and messing stuff up* (SPCK) by Bishop Emma Ineson.

There will also be booklets available containing a daily Bible reading, a short reflection, a prayer and a practical challenge for each day of Lent. Co-written by Bishop Emma Ineson and Abbie Martin, the booklet can be used in parallel with the Lent Course or independently.





## We have a 10.00am service of Holy Communion each Sunday

We provide hand gel as you come into church and at the entrance to the prayer chapel.

There will be candle, shell and leaf prayer stations in the side chapel.

At the communion we offer bread and wine - the wafer is partially dipped in the wine.

We offer refreshments after the service.

The 10.00am service is 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 would like this.

### Tea-Time Service

We also have a service at 4.00pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. [Everyone is welcome](#). The service is very relaxed with songs, activities, readings and prayers.

It is for everyone: families of all kinds, children, adults, young and old. Why not come along? Drinks and biscuits (and sometimes cake!) will be available before the service.

# **Follow Me 8 at Wakefield Cathedral**

Bishop Tony invites everyone to share worship, food and fellowship and to learn more on a variety of faith subjects.

## **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February** **Archbishop Rowan Williams**

The evening begins with Evensong at 6.30pm (optional).

Food is served from 7.15pm (people must book in advance, for catering purposes, if they wish to eat supper. See below).

The Follow Me teaching session is 7.45pm - 9.15pm and open to everyone, with no booking required

To book for food on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February, please send RSVPs and any dietary requirements before 12noon on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February to: [caroline.asquith@leeds.anglican.org](mailto:caroline.asquith@leeds.anglican.org) or ring 01924 434450. You will be sent an E-ticket to confirm your attendance, for supper purposes. As we now use caterers, any RSVPs received after 1st February may not get supper, as that is the day the food order has to be finalised.

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***Bishop Tony has also arranged***

## **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March Quiet Day** **at the Community of the Resurrection, Mirfield**

Speaker: **Bishop John Pritchard**

If you would like to attend the Quiet Day, early booking is advisable, as places are limited. Please send your RSVP before Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March. The cost is £10 per person with payment on the day. Drinks will be provided but please bring your lunch.

**FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY!**

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023      7.30 – 9.30pm**

**Riding Lights Christian Theatre Company**

**Present, at St John's Church, a performance of**

**The Uneasy Sleeps Of Max Maxwell**

**...waking up to artificial intelligence**

**A new one-act play by Richard Hasnip,  
followed by conversations with leading scientists.**

The evening provides an entertaining human story  
to spark questions about the ways in which  
Artificial Intelligence already does, and surely will,  
interact with our lives.

After the play, there will be a short interval,  
followed by a live question and answer session  
with expert scientists from the local area.

***Come along and raise your questions.***

For online bookings go to <http://bitly.ws/z3Pc>

If you would like tickets but are unable to book online,  
please contact Susan Lawson, (01924 378101)  
who will make tickets available for you.

Riding Lights Theatre Company are based in York, but take  
their shows to halls, churches, schools etc cross the country.  
They bring a fresh, and often challenging, Christian approach  
to life situations both old and new.



Riding Lights Theatre Company and  
Scientists in Congregations

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COMPANY



# THE UNEASY SLEEPS OF MAX MAXWELL

...waking up to  
artificial intelligence



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**THURSDAY 23 FEBRUARY, 7.30PM**

ST JOHN'S CHURCH

WENTWORTH STREET, WAKEFIELD, WF1 2QU

BOX OFFICE 01904 655317 / [www.ridinglights.org/max-maxwell](http://www.ridinglights.org/max-maxwell)

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## 21<sup>st</sup> Feb: Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Day

Ever wonder why we eat pancakes just before Lent? The tradition dates back to Anglo-Saxon times, when Christians spent Lent in repentance and severe fasting.

So on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, the church bell would summon them to confession, where they would be 'shriven', or absolved from their sins, which gives us *Shrove* Tuesday. At home, they would then eat up their last eggs and fat, and making a pancake was the easiest way to do this. For the next 47 days, they ate a very basic diet.

Pancakes feature in cookery books as far back as 1439, and today's pancake races are in remembrance of a panicked woman back in 1445 in Olney, Buckinghamshire. She was making pancakes when she heard the shriving bell calling her to confession. Afraid she'd be late, she ran to the church in a panic, still in her apron, and still holding the pan.

Flipping pancakes is also centuries old. A poem from Pasquill's Palin in 1619 runs: "And every man and maide doe take their turne, And tosse their Pancakes up for feare they burne."

Some people have noted that the ingredients of pancakes can be used to highlight four significant things about this time of year:

eggs stand for creation,  
flour is the staff of life,  
salt keeps things wholesome,  
milk stands for purity.

Shrove Tuesday is always 47 days before Easter Sunday.



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## 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb: Ash Wednesday; sorrow for our sins

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. Why 'Ash' Wednesday? The reason is about getting things right between you and God, and the tradition goes back to the Old Testament.

When the Israelites sinned, and then saw their evil ways as God saw them, they repented in sorrow for the damage and evil they had done. As part of this repentance, they put ashes on their heads, as this was an outward sign of their heart-felt repentance and acknowledgement of sin. (See Genesis 18:27; 2 Samuel 13:19; Job 2:8, 30:19; Isaiah 58:5; Jeremiah 6:26;)

In the early Christian Church, the yearly 'class' of penitents had ashes sprinkled over them at the beginning of Lent. They were turning to God for the first time, and mourning their sins. But soon many other Christians wanted to take part in the custom, and to do so at the very start of Lent. They heeded Joel's call to 'rend your hearts and not your garments' (Joel 2:12-19). Ash Wednesday became known as either the 'beginning of the fast' or 'the day of the ashes'.

The collect for today stresses the penitential character of the day. It encourages us with the reminder of the readiness of God to forgive us and to renew us.



The actual custom of 'ashing' was abolished at the Reformation, though the old name for the day remained. Today receiving the mark of ashes on one's forehead is optional, but it does remind us of our mortality: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return..." (Genesis 3:19)

The late medieval custom was to burn the branches used on Palm Sunday the previous year to create ashes for today.

The Collect for Ash Wednesday is:

*Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.*



**NO  
MORE  
STAMPS**

## **Thank you and Goodbye**

Firstly I would like to thank you for all the Christmas stamps you have saved for The Leprosy Mission (LM) and not only for this year's stamps but also for all the stamps you have saved for a number of years. In 2016 the LM raised £147,994 from the sale of stamps to dealers. (It costs only £24 for a course of drugs to stop

the development of leprosy once diagnosed, so you can work out how many people we have helped per year).

**Now for the bad news.** The LM has informed me that in the last couple of years the value of stamps has greatly reduced. Now that bar coded stamps have been introduced, stamp values have been further decreased. Sadly it has got to the point where there is really no money to be made in this area. So it is with regret that the LM has made the tough decision to wind down stamp collections. They will continue to accept our collections until March 31<sup>st</sup> 2023.

The letter they sent informing me of their decision has this final paragraph:

“I know that this will be a disappointment for many of you. I want to say with a grateful heart again how thankful I am for all you have done for people affected by leprosy. I hope you understand that this decision was not taken lightly and that it was taken for the right reasons.

*Signed Peter Waddup, Chief Executive. The LM”*

I will continue to accept your stamps until the middle of March when I shall send my last “donation” to the LM. Hopefully they will receive it before the 31<sup>st</sup>. (Dependent upon strikes etc.)

So get your final stamps to me and once again thank you for all your help over the years and please continue to support the LM in any way you can.

*Brian Kirkham.*



**Come and join the  
fun with us**

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February  
3.30pm — 5.30pm in church**

**Activities, Fun, Celebration,  
Worship and Food**

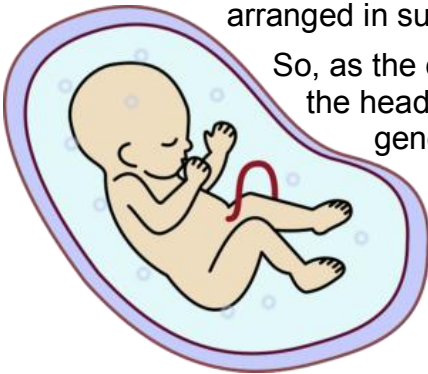
**For Parents / Carers / Grandparents and  
their children to enjoy together  
*(all children to be accompanied by an adult please)***

## Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

Every person who ever lived was once a sperm and an egg. Those two cells fused together, and in nine months they turned into a living, breathing, human being. Each of us emerged from this same embryonic development process, which is highly complex and organised, but variable enough to turn out a unique individual every time.

If you like order – such as neat piles of stationery, or tidy colour-coded files – you will enjoy this story. One of the most important stages of an embryo's development is when each section of the body, from head to rump, takes on its identity. Each part is told what shape to take, and which limbs or internal organs to grow: legs or arms, lungs or kidneys, and so on.

The most beautiful part of this body-patterning process is that it brings the dimensions of time and space together in such a neat way. The DNA instructions for the procedure, known as genes, are organised in the order in which they are needed during development *which is also* the order in which they appear on the body. No other sets of genes are known to be arranged in such a tidy pattern.



So, as the embryo develops, the tissues near the head end activate the first sets of genes. Those active genes then make all the proteins needed for that part of the body to grow and develop in the right way. The tissues just below the head then switch on the second set of genes, and so on. A wave of activation

passes down the embryo, specifying each section of the trunk in turn.

The Wisconsin-based developmental biologist Jeff Hardin often quotes Psalm 139 to express the wonder of embryonic development. The Psalmist did not understand how this

process happened, but he knew that it was a marvellous thing. *“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb...your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.”*

The story of the tidy genes brings out the hidden beauty in the very early stages of embryonic development. The more biologists get to find out about how we came to be born, the more we can say, *“I am fearfully and wonderfully made”!*

*Dr Ruth M. Bancewicz, Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge.*

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## **Answer to prayer**

A small boy badly wanted a baby brother, so his dad suggested he pray every night for one. The boy prayed earnestly, night after night, but his prayers seemingly weren’t answered. So after a few weeks, he didn’t bother to ask anymore.

Some months later, his dad said they were going to see Mum in the hospital and he was going to get a big surprise. When they got to the room, the little boy saw his mother holding two babies. The little boy stood still for a moment, and then cautiously observed: *“It’s a good thing I stopped praying when I did.”*

No medicine is more valuable... none better suited to the cure of all our temporal ills, than a friend to whom we may turn for consolation in time of trouble – and with whom we may share our happiness in time of joy.

*St Aelred of Rievaulx*

## Readings at the 10.00am Communion Service

Date	Day	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading
5 Feb	3rd Sunday before Lent	1 Corinthians 2:1-12	Matthew 5:13-20
12 Feb.	2nd Sunday before Lent	Romans 8:18-25	Matthew 6:25-end
19 Feb.	Sunday before Lent	2 Peter 1:16-end	Matthew 17:1-9
22 Feb	Ash Wednesday	Isaiah 58: 1-12	John 8: 1-11
26 Feb.	Lent 1	Genesis 2: 5-17 & 3:1-7	Matthew 4: 1-11
5 March.	Lent 2	Genesis 12: 1-4a	John 3: 1-17

*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  
March 2023 issue**

***By 12 February 2023***

***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](mailto:bandmorris@btinternet.com)



## DIARY DATES for FEBRUARY 2023

Wed. 1 11.00am-1.00pm Drop In to St John's.  
3.30-5.30pm MESSY CHURCH

Fri 3 9.15am Toddler & Baby group

### **Sunday 5 Feb. Third Sunday before Lent**

10.00am Holy Communion

Mon 6 9.30am Morning Prayer via zoom

Wed. 8 11.00am-1.00pm Drop In to St John's.

Fri 10 9.15am Toddler & Baby group

### **Sunday 12 Second Sunday before Lent**

10.00am Holy Communion

Mon 13 9.30am Morning Prayer via zoom

Wed 15 11.00am-1.00pm Drop In to St John's

### **Sunday 19 Sunday before Lent**

10.00am Holy Communion

4.00pm Tea-Time Service

Mon 20 9.30am Morning Prayer via zoom

Wed 22 ASH WEDNESDAY

11.00am Holy Communion and Ashing

11.00am-1.00pm Drop In to St John's.

7.30pm Holy Communion and Ashing

Thurs 23 7.30pm THE UNEASY SLEEPS OF MAX MAXWELL

Fri. 24 9.15am Toddler & Baby group

### **Sunday 26 Lent 1**

10.00am Holy Communion

Mon 27 9.30am Morning Prayer via zoom

Wed. 1 March 11.00am-1.00pm Drop In to St John's.

Fri 3 9.15am Toddler & Baby group

### **Sunday 5 Lent 2**

10.00am Holy Communion

Mon 6 9.30am Morning Prayer via zoom



## *BAPTISMS*

*We welcome into  
the Lord's family*

**15 January**      **Oliver Teddy Isaac Hughes  
Archie Christopher Hughes**

**22 January**      **Sophie Thwaites**

## *FUNERAL*

*We commit to the Lord's eternal care*

**30 January**      **Gary Delaporte**

**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**

# Sunday Services at St John's

**EVERY SUNDAY**

**10.00am Parish Communion**

There will be candle, shell, stone and leaf prayer stations in the side chapel.

3rd SUNDAY EACH MONTH

**4.00pm Tea-Time Service**

For everyone: families of all shapes & sizes, singles, children, adults, young and old.

A relaxed service, with songs, activities, readings and prayers, and refreshments. We have a crèche area for the service.

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 to join in is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89866690323?wd=NHZXaEc2TkJEcFBXbmtptOE5WTEpadz09>

**Church Drop-In** 11.00am—1.00pm Wednesday  
*Everyone is welcome to drop in for tea/coffee, a chat etc.*

**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 Thursday most months  
1.30pm in Church  
*All are welcome to share in Christian contemplative prayer.*

**Church Choir** Practice after the 10.00am service  
*Join us in helping to lead Sunday worship*

## UNIFORMED ORGANISATIONS

*Purposeful activity in a structured, fun environment.*

**25<sup>th</sup> 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

## Rainbows and Brownies

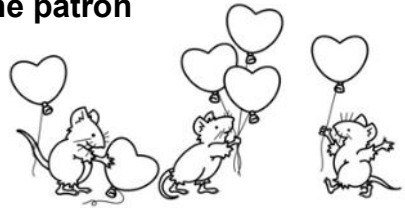
To register an interest, visit [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk) & click on join  
Rainbows contact Ann Coulson – 07932394020  
Brownies contact - Rachel Ashman - 07832251318

## 14<sup>th</sup> Feb: Valentine's Day

There are two confusing things about this day of romance and anonymous love-cards strewn with lace, cupids and ribbon. Firstly, there seem to have been two different Valentines in the 4th century. One was a priest martyred on the Flaminian Way, under the emperor Claudius; the other was a bishop of Terni martyred at Rome. And neither seems to have had any clear connection with lovers or courting couples.

### So why has Valentine become the patron saint of romantic love?

By Chaucer's time the link was assumed to be because on this saint's day -14<sup>th</sup> February – the birds are supposed to pair up.



Perhaps the custom of seeking a partner on St Valentine's Day is a survivor of the old Roman Lupercalia festival, which took place in the middle of February. One of the Roman gods honoured during this Festival was Pan, the god of nature. Another was Juno, the goddess of women and marriage. During the Lupercalia it was a popular custom for young men to draw the name of a young unmarried woman from a name-box. The two would then be partners or 'sweet-hearts' during the time of the celebrations. Even modern Valentine decorations bear an ancient symbol of love – Roman cupids with their bows and love-arrows.

No churches in England are dedicated to Valentine.

### What NOT to give her for Valentine's Day:

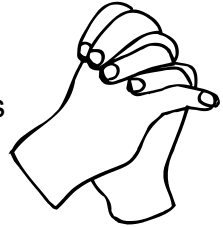
- Any food with 'diet', 'light', or 'high fibre' on the label.
- Any household appliance or power tool.
- A gift certificate.
- Cash.

## Some hints about prayer this Lent

Prayer is instinctive for most human beings, even those who don't regard themselves as religious. You are at a bus stop in the wind and the rain, thinking 'I do hope the bus will come soon'. It's an inner yearning. It defies logic: either the bus is coming, or it isn't. But we all do it. It's instinctive and it's the raw material of prayer. Hoping for something better is basic. Like all instincts, it needs to be trained.

### **To whom do we pray?**

What you pray, and the way you do it will be shaped by your view of God. Christian prayers are fashioned by what we know of Jesus and what He taught about prayer.



### **We pray by invitation.**

Again and again, Jesus encouraged His companions to pray. Some of His parables on it have been misinterpreted as ways to persuade a resistant God to do what we want.

Look at Luke 18, verses 1-8, about a widow whose perseverance finally persuaded an unwilling judge to rule in her favour. The lesson is that God is *not* like that!

Similarly, an unwelcome neighbour who persistently calls for help in the middle of the night gets what he wants (Luke 11:5-13). The lesson? If such tenacious lobbying can overcome human unwillingness, *how much more* our gracious God will heed His children's cry.

### **Pushing at an open door.**

Jesus is already praying for us. So, when we start to pray, we step on to an already moving staircase. Sometimes prayer seems tougher than it need be. Jesus invited us to be linked to Him, in the way an inexperienced bullock is yoked to a mature ox. Have a look at Matthew 11:28-29, which concludes "for my yoke is easy and my burden is light". When Marion Bartoli unexpectedly won the 2013 Wimbledon final, she said "I believe if you put all your heart and effort into everything you are doing, then God is there to help you."

## Is your prayer on the right lines?

Try adding “for Christ’s sake” at the end. “Please let my marrow win the Gardening Club competition”? No.

“Not my will but yours” is the key. So when praying, don’t give God instructions, just report for duty.

*John Barton*

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## War and Peace

When the latest copy of a magazine published by *Barnabas Aid* landed on my doormat, it highlighted the widespread suffering in the world, from natural disasters and human greed. It also reported the help that this Christian charity is providing in partnership with other Christian organisations.

A good example is work being done in war-stricken Ukraine: *‘We are very, very thankful for all the aid and help that you have given us’* said one church partner in Ukraine. Partners have, for example, helped to distribute 700 wood-burning stoves to benefit over 1,000 families in need, and in doing so reached about 4,000 individuals.

Barnabas Aid is one of dozens of Christian charities from around the world, working at the frontline of the war. Many others are working elsewhere to care for the refugees who have fled their country.

Many of the charities work together. For example, from the UK, the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) is a group of 15 leading UK charities that combine resources and efforts to meet overseas emergencies, such as those being faced daily by the people of Ukraine. During the first 6 months of the war, DEC provided 1.8 million people with clean water; reached 129,700 people with food aid; gave 70,800 people health aid; and 41,800 people were given hygiene kits.

For more about DEC see: <https://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal>

*Bob Peters*





# AMERICAN BUTTERMILK PANCAKES

## Ingredients:

150 gr / 5oz plain flour  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
¼ teaspoon bicarbonate of soda  
50gr / 2oz caster sugar  
2 eggs  
150ml / 5 fl.oz buttermilk or soured milk  
25gr / 1oz butter, melted and cooled  
Bland oil for frying

## Method:

Sieve first 3 ingredients together into a bowl, and stir in the sugar.

Whisk the eggs, buttermilk and melted butter together in another bowl, then pour into the dry ingredients, whisking all the time, until you have a smooth, thick batter.

Heat a heavy based frying pan, or a griddle, over a medium heat, and grease lightly with oil or butter.

Drop tablespoons of batter onto the hot pan, spaced out.

You should get 3-5, depending on the size of the pan. The pancakes should spread a little.

Cook for 1-2 minutes, until the batter underneath has set, and holes appear in the top surface.

Flip the pancakes over and cook the other side for a minute or two, until cooked.

They should only be light golden brown.

Remove to a wire rack, or fold into a tea towel.

Repeat greasing and cooking until all the batter is used.

Serve warm or cold, buttered.

You may add flavourings such as honey, grated lemon rind, mixed spice, grated apple or sultanas to the basic mixture.

Makes about 20 pancakes.



# A Poem for Candlemas

By John Henry Newman (1801-1890)

The Angel-lights of Christmas morn,  
Which shot across the sky,  
Away they pass at Candlemas,  
They sparkle and they die.



Comfort of earth is brief at best,  
Although it be divine;  
Like funeral lights for Christmas gone,  
Old Simeon's tapers shine.

And then for eight long weeks and more  
We wait in twilight grey,  
Till the high candle sheds a beam  
On Holy Saturday.

We wait along the penance-tide  
Of solemn fast and prayer;  
While song is hush'd, and lights grow dim  
In the sin-laden air.

And while the sword in Mary's soul  
Is driven home, we hide  
In our own hearts, and count the wounds  
Of passion and of pride.

And still, though Candlemas be spent  
And Alleluias o'er,  
Mary is music in our need,  
And Jesus light in store.

Candlemas, 2 February, is 40 days after Christmas. It marks 'The Presentation' when Jesus was taken to the temple to be presented to the Lord. Simeon and Anna both recognised him as the Messiah, the 'Light of the World', when his parents brought him into the temple. (Luke 2:21-39)

## **War, Hunger, Cold ... and Hope**

### **Bishops look ahead and share their thoughts**

With a focus on food banks, warm spaces, community, the war in Ukraine, and migration, bishops across England have shared messages of hope for the coming year.

The Bishop of Lichfield, Michael Ipgrave, highlighted how many churches will be open not only for services, but also as a warm, heated space for those who need it, as St John's is on Wednesdays, between 11.00am and 1.00pm.

“The instinct to welcome people into our own space is deep within us as human beings,” he said. “And the welcome we give, or fail to give, to people who are cold, hungry, struggling with finances today, says so much about our own society.”

The Bishop of Dover, Rose Hudson-Wilkin, looked back on 2022 as a year of upheaval “of seismic proportions, including the loss of our beloved late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. The shadow of Covid-19 was still with us: the lasting impact of the pandemic through Long Covid, and the effects of lockdown on children's and adults' mental well-being. But we have also seen compassion in action as thousands of families offered to share their homes with Ukrainian families lucky enough to get visas. We also saw our churches working with many charities to offer support by way of warm community spaces; assisting with language lessons; providing clothing and food. Indeed, the words of our Lord came into their own: ‘I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink, naked and you clothed me, sick and in prison and you visited me.’ Thank you for your part in this.

The Bishop of Chelmsford, Guli Francis-Dehqani said: “.. we begin another year, with all the uncertainty that continues to rage around us, and with continued worries about the cost of living and the changing nature of the church. Perhaps it's worth remembering that the same Christ child who drew kings and magi to His crib is the one who invites us to follow Him still today.”

## What the temptations mean for us

Immediately after His baptism in the River Jordan, Jesus faced and resisted three powerful temptations during 40 days in the wilderness of Judea. This time of testing and temptation was His preparation for the work God had sent Him to do on earth.



It's the principle behind the season of Lent, which begins on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Although the temptations were personal to Jesus, many of us will recognise their relevance in our own lives.

The first was simple. 'You're hungry. You can do miracles. Well, turn these hot stones at Your feet into loaves of bread'. It sounds quite plausible, but in fact it's an invitation to put one's own needs first. Temptation rejected.

Then came the second: 'throw yourself off a pinnacle of the Temple. You know that God will send His angels to catch you before you hit the ground'. Again, it's plausible (there was even a verse from the Bible to back it up). But this would be to substitute one spectacular publicity stunt for the hard slog of travel, preaching, healing and touching individual lives. Temptation rejected.

The third was outrageous. 'Fall down and worship corrupt and evil power, and You will have infinite worldly power and success'. In other words, the divine Son of God should deny His Father and worship the devil, to glean success without going to the Cross. For the third time, temptation resisted.

I know these temptations were tests of the Messiah Jesus, but can't we see in them temptations that come to all of us from time to time? Look after number one, and all will be well. Take the short cut to success and avoid all the hard slog.

Compromise your integrity, in order to fulfill your ambitions. Or choose the hard way: walk the narrow path of honesty, commitment, and truth. That's really the Lenten choice.

*Canon David Winter*

# The Gates of Hell

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has “opened the gates of hell” and unleashed evil around the world.

So said the Archbishop of Canterbury during an interview on BBC1’s *Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg*. He told how, during his recent visit to Ukraine, he’d seen the mass grave in Bucha, and heard of the massacres and torture carried out by the occupying Russian forces. The Russians are driven by “an ideology of conquest” he said, their only goal is “getting historic Ukraine back.”

Justin Welby said it was important for Britain to continue to support Ukrainian resistance, “you can’t talk about reconciliation when guns are firing, as people are just concentrating on whether they’re alive for the next 20 minutes.”

He said the Ukrainians had told him that “for us, that word (reconciliation) means surrender, and we’re not going to do that’.” There was a way forward, said the Archbishop: “and that’s withdrawal and ceasefire by Russian forces.”

---

Since 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022 8 million Ukrainians have been displaced and thousands killed. This winter most people in Ukraine are short of medicine, food, water, power and heating. If you’d like to help, here are some charities:

**The Disaster Emergencies Committee (DEC)** is an umbrella group of UK charities.

<https://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal>

**Christian Aid**, founded in 1945 to help war refugees.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal-2022>

**Barnabas Fund** distributes food to Christians in the poorer areas, both in Kyiv and in rural regions.

<https://www.barnabasfund.org/gb/latest-needs/help-ukrainian-christians-in-their-hour-of-need/>

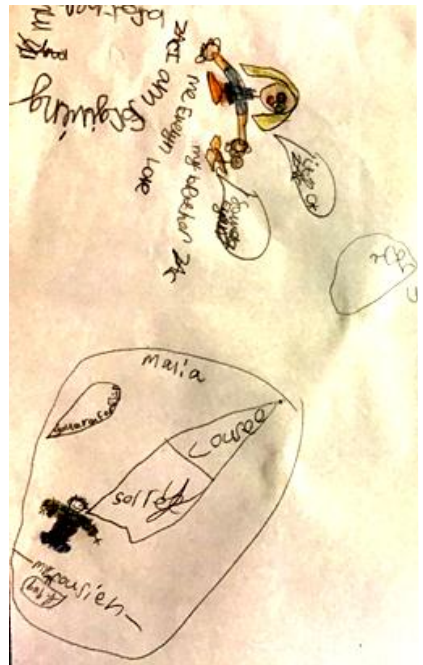
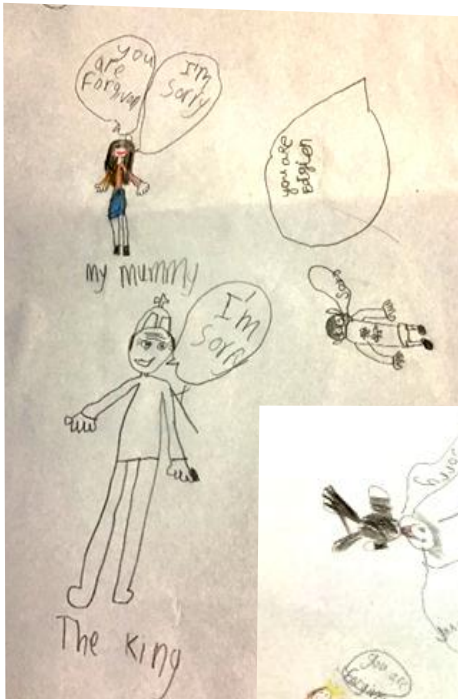
**Samaritans Purse** provides medical supplies, food & water

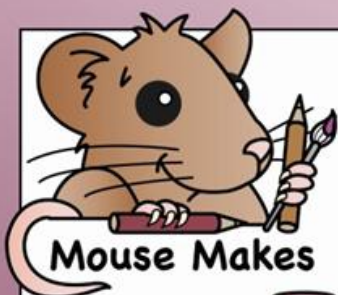
<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/idr-crisis/crisis-in-ukraine/>

# St John's School Page

In RE lessons, Year 2 pupils have investigated the lives of some people for whom Jesus was good news. They have discussed how Jesus offered friendship, forgiveness and peace. Pupils have also thought about how these three offers are 'good news'.

Children have worked together to create pictures showing friendship, forgiveness and peace.





## Mouse Makes

What did Jesus give thanks for and share?

-----  
 Matthew 26:27

What did Jesus say this represented?

His -----  
 Matthew 26:27-28



SUPPER  
 LAMB • LORD  
 DISCIPLES  
 TOGETHER  
 EVENING  
 ROOM • JAR  
 WATER • TWELVE  
 JESUS • CHRIST  
 NIGHT • TOOK  
 THANKS  
 BLESSING  
 BROKE • GIVEN  
 COVENANT  
 DRINK • EAT  
 FORGIVENESS  
 SINS • HOLY  
 COMMUNION  
 EUCHARIST

What was the special meal Jesus was preparing to eat?

-----  
 Matthew 26:18



What did Jesus take, bless and break?

-----  
 Matthew 26:26

What did Jesus say this represented?

His -----  
 Matthew 26:26



Jesus instructed his disciples to continue to break bread and share the cup "in

-----  
 of me."

-----  
 1 Corinthians 11:24-25



O R F B R O K E J H O L Y C  
 R O O M B C U P T O O K E H  
 L O R D R U B A W G D J A R  
 T E G J E S U S E E R E T I  
 M U I N A N E S L V I S O S  
 L C V C D E C O V E N A N T  
 B H E O C I N V E N K B I B  
 L A N M W A T E R I L L G O  
 O R E M E M B R A N C E H D  
 O I S U P P E R I G O S T Y  
 D S S N M U G I V E N S H D  
 E T D I S C I P L E S I N S  
 B S T O G E T H E R W N A  
 T H A N K S K L A M B G

Find the words from the questions too!



## Words of Wisdom

You can become a Christian in a moment, but not a mature Christian. Christ can enter, cleanse, and forgive you in a matter of seconds, but it will take much longer for your character to be transformed and moulded to his will.

It takes only a few minutes for a bridegroom to be married, but in the rough-and-tumble of their home it may take many years for two strong wills to be dovetailed into one.

So when we receive Christ, a moment of commitment will lead to a life-time of adjustment.

*(John Stott)*

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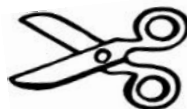
### Flying through the storm

A bishop was on a flight home when the 'Fasten your seat belts' sign came on and the captain explained that a storm was approaching. The aircraft started to shake and lightning lit up the sky. The bishop looked around and saw that many passengers clearly felt uneasy. Not the young girl sitting across the aisle from him, engrossed in her book, calm and untroubled. They soon cleared the storm and the bishop asked the girl if she had been just a little bit afraid while they were in the storm. "Not really," she said, "my daddy's the pilot and I know he will get me home safely."

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# Community Use of St John's Church

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The church building is fully accessible, with ramp access to the main door, and two ramps giving access to 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](mailto:stjohn.churchbookings@gmail.com)

Comfortable chairs in the nave can provide flexible seating for up to 200 people.

There is a dais, a keyboard and a sound system. Cost is £25 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 £12.50 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 £12.50 an hour.

The kitchen costs £12.50 per session (half day or evening) when hiring any other room.

## YOUR **PARKING** SPACE

This company operates our Parish Centre car park, on the corner of St John's Avenue and Wentworth Street WF1 2QU. They offer the general public a contactless, COVID-safe, way to pay for parking on an hourly, daily or monthly basis, with competitive prices. You pay 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 has 24/7 monitoring via Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology. Any car parking 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](http://www.yourparkingspace.co.uk/company/terms-conditions)

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Any revenue that comes from the car park will be used by the church to serve Christ in our local community.

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



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Churchwarden **Martyn Lawson** 01924 378101

Licensed Lay Ministers (Readers)

**Cath Fox** 01924 386422

**Brian Morris** 01924 369437

Treasurer: **Geoff Lockyer** 01924 368972

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

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e-mail: [stjohn.churchbookings@gmail.com](mailto:stjohn.churchbookings@gmail.com)

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