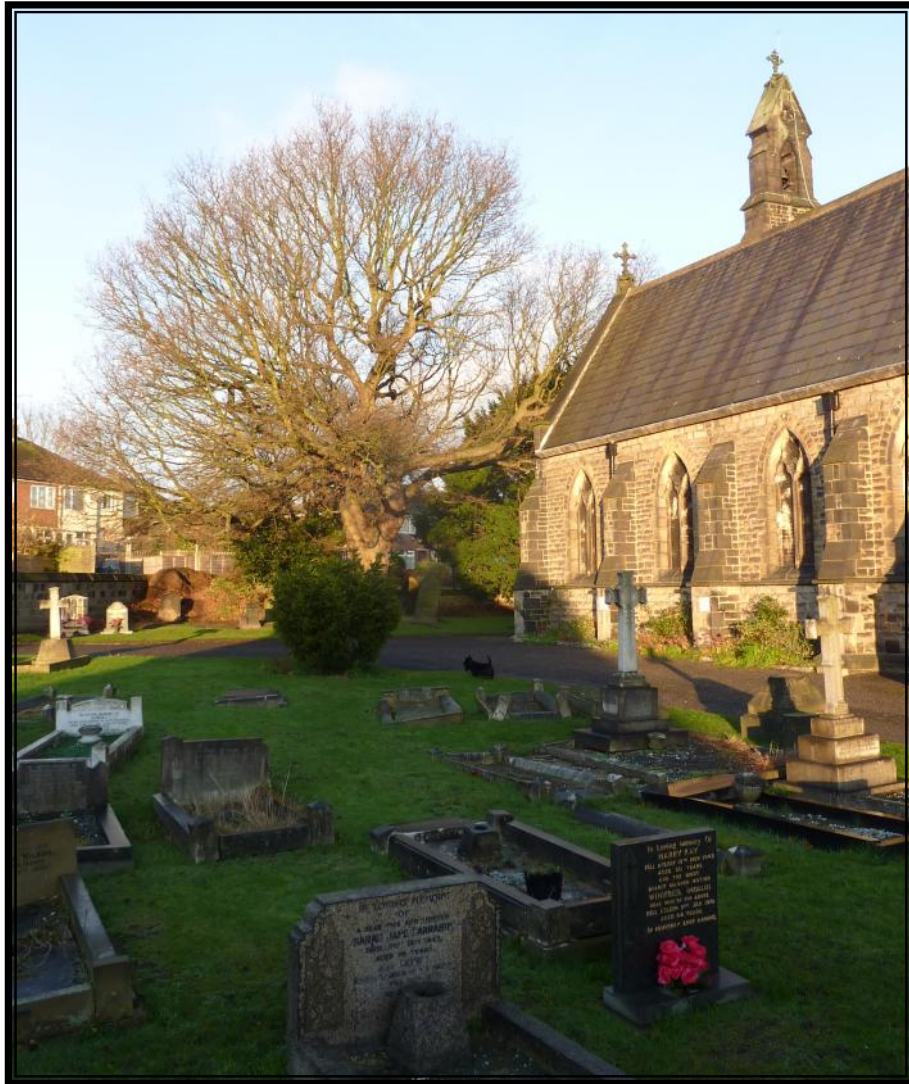


S⊕ JAMES WOODSIDE
HORSFORTH
www.stjameswoodside.org



St James' Life

The St James Woodside Church Magazine

Autumn 2025

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Regular Events [non-church affiliated in grey]

Sunday	Services at 09.00 and 10.30 in church	Start time
	Messy Church (Monthly on 3rd Sunday)	16:00
Monday	Number Train (<i>term time</i>)	09.30, 11.00
	Annette Peterson - 07852 989523	13.00
	WI (<i>3rd Monday of month</i>)	18.30
	Pat Spencer - 0113 2587062	
	Yoga	19.00
	Emma Clayton—07741 487565	
Tuesday	PCC (<i>bi-monthly</i>)	19:30
Wednesday	Pilates Class	11.45
	Emma Jakubowski—07789 960132	
	Cook Stars	16.00
	Brownies (<i>term time</i>) Anne Culverwell 0113 2300513	18:30
Thursday	Number Train (<i>term time</i>)	09:30, 11:00
	Yoga Class	18:00
	Caroline Young 07525 749444	
	Pilates (<i>term time</i>)	19:30
	Catherine Hewitt 07530 058377	
Friday	Pilates Class (<i>term time</i>)	13:30
	Jane Suggitt 07795 034115	
	Pop-up Café (<i>second Friday of month</i>)	10:00
	Church Office: 258 4558	
Saturday	Dance Class (<i>term time</i>)	10.30
	Lynne Malone - 07722 672679	

If you are interested in any of the activities, please contact the leader directly.

Welcome to St James' Life from Jonathan, the Vicar

"For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope."

ROMANS 15:4

Friends

Welcome to this edition of St James' Life. As ever, I hope you find the contents an encouraging reflection of our life together under God.

Since I last wrote in this publication, I have enjoyed a 12-week sabbatical. It was a time of great refreshment, and I thank God for all those at St James' who carried the burden of running the parish in my absence. We enjoyed the gathering in the Parish Centre in September to share some of our sabbatical shenanigans which included language learning in Madrid, walking a section of the Camino de Santiago de Compostela, trekking in Nepal and study at St George's House, Windsor (more below). It was great to return to my sisters and brothers at Woodside.

I'm writing this introduction a few days after Bible Sunday, when many of us gathered in the Parish Centre to explore the Bible in a Day. Jo Bailey and Pete Gillions treated us to an engaging overview of the Bible's narrative, from creation to re-creation. As we seek to live well together under God, may we continue to find hope in scripture and place our trust in God.

May God bless you richly

Jonathan

Collect for the Last Sunday After Trinity (Bible Sunday)

Blessed Lord,

who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:

help us so to hear them,

to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them

that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,

we may embrace and for ever hold fast

the hope of everlasting life,

which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

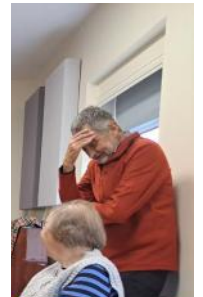


Bible in a Day Course—Sunday 26 October

Jo Bailey and Pete Gillions led the ambitious attempt to cover the whole Bible in just a few hours! Starting at 10.00am it was great to see so many people giving up their time to take part and engage with the scriptures!

The morning sessions looked at the accounts of Creation, Fall and the People of Israel, whilst in the afternoon we moved onto the ministry of Jesus and the Hope we share. The focus of the scripture readings was to see what the scriptures tell us about God and about ourselves. Running through all the sessions was the key theme of remembering and anticipating, finding our part in the Biblical story. As well as bible readings the sessions included videos, music and a scroll covering the whole sweep of Biblical history.

The whole day went extremely quickly - evidence of how engaging and interesting the whole session was. Jo and Pete, ever the consummate teaching professionals, had put a great deal of effort into ensuring that there was a variety of teaching techniques - from using people as geographical land masses (see Andy N. below as the Dead Sea), to using a fairy tale to show us how we can decide how we would like to fit into God's big story. Not everything went according to plan - see picture of Pete - but that just added to the excitement - as nothing engages an audience more - than a hint of jeopardy! Or was this just our teachers' clever way of mirroring the general sense of risk that God took when creating the World and introducing the chaos of humankind into his creation...I like to think so!



Thanks Jo and Pete - first rate day.

Rebecca Cain

Ed Note: if you would like regular Bible reading notes, please speak to John Pickford, who will be very pleased to help you.



Stewardship Campaign

Thank you to everyone who has reviewed their giving during our Stewardship Campaign this summer. Lots of people responded; and lots of others already index their giving to inflation via the Parish Giving Scheme automatically. Thank you all.

I'm also aware that for some people it isn't possible to raise your giving. For others who still wish to review it, I remind you that this can be done online at www.parishgiving.org.uk where you can set up an account, or change your existing monthly gift. If online isn't you, then you can ring them on 0333 002 1260. Or you can ask me for a form to complete and post. Anyone contacting them will need to identify St James Woodside as your church. Our ID with them is 460646637. If you go online, there's a picture you will recognize!



The Parish Giving Scheme website has been down for most of October 2025 for a major update. This is now complete. They have emailed users to let them know of changes – these emails aren't scams. When you log in again, you will need to set up additional security. I can help if needed.

I've always thought of St James people as generous givers. This year we have managed to refurbish the Parish Centre kitchen, which now looks terrific thanks to Pete Gillions and team, and decorators Ruth Dent and Mike Counsell [& who else?]. As a result of keeping our Parish Centre good, our bookings are rising, and so income is growing. The surplus from the Parish Centre is given annually to a local good cause – in 2024 this was the Horsforth Shed to whom £2,400 was transferred earlier this year.

Our major future project is the replacement of the church roof – partly completed last year – and internal refurbishment. It is likely we will seek to raise funds to complete the roof in 2026.

On a regular basis, of course, we also pay for our 'Parish Share' of Diocesan costs, including our vicar, as well as our own direct church costs such as heating. I am proud that we have always paid these costs out of our giving, as our first duty to God's work in this part of his world. Let's aim to expand this work for God in the years to come.

With thanks from your happy Treasurer,
Cal Bailey

Safeguarding Sunday: 16 November 10.30am

Here at St. James' we want every child and adult to feel and be safe and valued. This is a big task and we want to get better at it. We take safeguarding very seriously as an outworking of our faith in a just and loving God.

Thirtyone:eight is the UK's leading independent Christian safeguarding charity and has useful resources and training which we



use. They run an annual safeguarding awareness campaign for churches called Safeguarding Sunday. This year the theme of the campaign is 'Action Speaks Louder' – encouraging churches to not just talk about safeguarding but to take positive action towards creating safer places.

The campaign is now in its 7th year and last year saw over 5000 churches across the UK, from a variety of backgrounds and traditions take part. We are encouraged to not just reflect but also act on improving safeguarding practices, learning from where we may have got things wrong. To build on the ways we are supporting those who have been hurt, and highlight all the good work being done behind the scenes to protect vulnerable people. <https://safeguardingsunday.org/>

So, we will be taking part in this campaign and the service on Sunday 16th November at 10.30am will be a chance to recognise the importance of taking care of everyone and to emphasise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility! We need your help to make everyone feel safe and valued.

If you have questions, suggestions or comments please talk to me (I'm the safeguarding lead for church) or Jonathan.

Thank you for your support.

Jo Bailey

The Church Masterplan—update

It has been pleasing to see the work already completed to replace the chancel roof and making good the leaking joints between the main roof and the gable ends has been successful. On the inside of Church, the loose plaster was removed and the walls are drying out nicely. When this process is completed we will re-plaster the walls, hopefully early in 2027. Some areas of the Church walls had the wrong type of mortar, causing damage to the stonework. This has now been removed and the affected areas repointed.



The next phase of work includes the PCC's intention to proceed with a project to complete replacement of the church roof and other essential repairs to the building fabric. The roof element includes the exploration of installing solar panels, an important element in our efforts to reduce energy bills and carbon emissions. Fixing the main roof and some remaining areas of the walls is a sensible and necessary step ahead of the plans for an internal reordering.

Design and tendering activities have been completed, and we have sought planning permission from Leeds City Council for the addition of solar panels to the roof. Unfortunately, the Local Authority have so far refused to grant planning permission. Given the modest impact of the panels to the building aesthetics overall, the significant potential environmental benefit and the Council's own goal to reduce carbon emissions, this decision is both disappointing and surprising. We have been advised by the architect, two planning consultants and our local and city councillors to engage with the Leeds Planning Department and re-apply, and this process is underway.

The roof replacement will proceed with or without the addition of solar panels. Please do continue to pray for the PCC as they seek to be good stewards of the church building and plan a sustainable future for St James'.

Christmas Services at St. James

09 December at 1.30pm:	Broadgate School Yr5/6 Carol Service
14 December at 4.00pm:	Ducklings Christingle
21 December at 6.30pm:	Candlelit Carol Service, preceded by refreshments
24 December at 4.00pm:	Cribtingle
24 December at 11.30pm:	The First Eucharist of Christmas
25 December at 9.00am:	Holy Communion
25 December at 10.00am:	Family Worship for Christmas Day
28 December at 10.30am:	Holy Communion

PCC Report

Since the last edition of the Magazine, PCC has discussed the church's Environmental Policy, with a view to development of a plan to meet the Church of England's target of Net Zero by 2030. There is much more work to do which will hopefully be incorporated into the Masterplan.

We have also given thought to an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy (EDI), which is being developed by Joe and Tracey . The new Website is also being brought to completion, spear-headed by Jonathan W and Sophie.

In addition, the PCC has funded a new kitchen in the Parish Centre, and many thanks to Pete, Mike, Ruth, Lynne and others for choosing, fitting and painting it — it looks wonderful, and has been much admired.

Many thanks to everyone for their efforts on behalf of the church family.

Alison P



Mara Safe House Update

Many of you will know that Jonathan and I are part of the Tanzanian Link Committee - a link that Leeds Diocese has with the Mara diocese of Tanzania. This link has been going strong for over 30 years.

In 2016 I took on the role of Safe House Link Officer, following a trip to Tanzania - where our group visited the Safe House in Mugumu. Here we heard the moving stories of girls who have left families - usually in their teens - to avoid the awful practice of FGM. This practice is still carried out in parts of Tanzania, despite being illegal in that country since 2009. In a few tribal cultures, this act is seen as purification before marriage and may lead to a larger wedding dowry. Girls can be housed at the Safe House for an indefinite period of time, and receive shelter, access to education, and a home there. The Safe House also moves to reconcile children with their parents over time - if possible - but acts to protect the girls' health, as FGM can lead to many health issues and in some cases premature death.

We send a few hundred pounds every month from the Tanzanian Link committee - and this is supported from donations from around the diocese - some are one off, and some regular giving, to support its vital work. More regular donations would really help with this.

Last month the Safe House was supporting 25 girls - this is an average number at any one time. The money goes towards food, clothing, transport, toiletries and in some cases towards their education.

One particular girl was brought to our attention this summer - her name is Anamaria Chacha Masero. Anamaria achieved the top grades in school - an unbelievable achievement - particularly given her living situation. She is clearly a gifted student and wants to study to be a water engineer. Through the Link, a number of us are going to support Anamaria through her 3 years at Dar es Salaam University. This will cost about £1500 a year for each of the 3 years. We already fundraise for the Safe House at St. James' and a number of people are regular monthly givers. We would also like to do some fund raising for Anamaria as she trains to be a water engineer.

How can you help?

If you are interested in supporting this work:

Please pray for the Safe House and all the children/ young adults who pass through. Please pray for the staff who support its work, and the Diocesan staff in Tanzania.

If you think you could fund raise in any way - or would like to give a contribution, or be a regular contributor to the Safe House then please speak to Rebecca Cain or email her on rebeccaacain@outlook.com and finally - please engage with any fundraising activities - by attending and taking part. You will remember the cook-

book that Ruth Dent put together a few years ago - this was in aid of the Safe House. Any new initiatives would be very welcome.

Thanks to all who contribute and take an interest. Please see below a picture of Anamaria in front of the Safe House in Mugumu.

Thanks

Rebecca Cain



Heritage Day—20 September 2025

The Church was open as part of the Heritage Open Day Scheme again this year. We welcomed visitors from near and far to look round the Church, explore the displays of the history of the Church in the Woodside community and to enjoy conversation, cake and coffee.

It was a very wet day but a number of people braved the weather and visited the Church on the Satur-



day, with members of the congregation also looking at the displays after the Sunday service. We held Messy Church in the Church on the Sunday afternoon so the children and their parents were able to follow the trail and look for the 'Church mice' (knitted ones!) to find out about various aspects of the Church building and history.

Although we didn't have a huge number of visitors on the Saturday, those that came were very appreciative. Some were members of our congregation and some came from very close by. One couple had been married at St. James' many years previously and someone else had been told by his mother that he'd been baptised at St. James', and was delighted to find the entry of his baptism in the Registers. We also had visitors from much further away – a family with long-standing connections with St. James' who now lived in West Sussex. They had travelled to Leeds to a family celebration and come to the Churchyard to bring flowers to a family grave. They noticed lights on in the Church and were thrilled to find that it was open and that we had displays of the history of the Church, a lot of which brought back memories for them.

Many thanks to the members of the congregation who helped to clean the Church in preparation for the day, helped set up displays, provided cakes and came along on the day to welcome visitors and serve refreshments.

Christine L

Prayer Diary

Pull out and keep handy

Please pray for:

- ◆ the various events in the calendar;
- ◆ for our members and contacts named in the church directory;
- ◆ for the prayer items in the notice sheet.

Also for:

Sunday

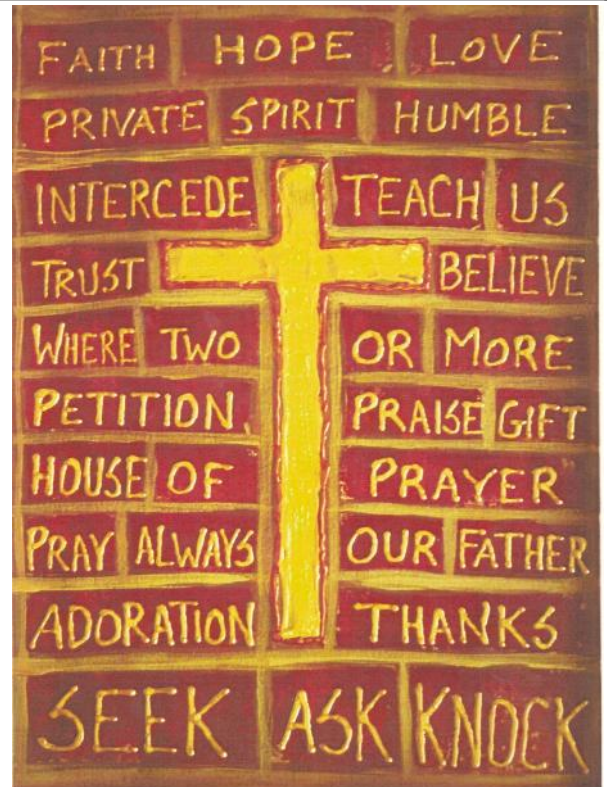
- ◆ Sunday Services
- ◆ Children's Activities
- ◆ Jonathan Cain, our Vicar; wife Rebecca; children Nic, Arthur, Charlie and Bill
- ◆ PAFRAS and the Manuel Bravo project
- ◆ A Rocha and the environment

Monday

- ◆ Our Church Wardens – Lynne and Christine
- ◆ St George's Crypt
- ◆ The Bible Society and Wycliffe Bible Translators - the Fresards
- ◆ The Church of England
- ◆ Horsforth Churches Together and Duncan Stow

Tuesday

- ◆ Music at St James
- ◆ Uniformed Organisations
- ◆ PCC (2nd Tuesday every other month)
- ◆ The Children's Society



If you would like the church as a whole to pray for you, please email Alison at the church office and the request will be forwarded on as soon as possible. For confidential prayer matters please continue to contact John Pickford to be put on the Prayer Chain.

Church Calendar

Date	Time	Service	Readings
Sunday 02.11.25 Collect: All Saints' Day	09.00	Holy Communion	Ephesians 1:11-23 Luke 6:20-31
	10.30	Morning Worship	Ephesians 1:11-23 Luke 6:20-31
	16.00	Evening Prayer (All Souls)	Philippians 4:4-9; John 20:19-end
Sunday 09.11.25 Collect: Remembrance Sunday	09.00	Morning Prayer	2 Thessalonians 2:1-5;13-17 Luke 20:27-38
	10.30	Holy Communion	2 Thessalonians 2:1-5;13-17 Luke 20:27-38
Sunday 16.11.25 Collect: 2nd Sunday before Advent Safeguarding Sunday	09.00	Holy Communion	2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 Luke 21:5-19
	10.30	Morning Prayer	2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 Luke 21:5-19
	16.00	Messy Church	
Sunday 23.11.25 Collect: Christ the King	09.00	Morning Prayer	Colossians 1:11-20 Luke 23:33-43
	10.30	Holy Communion	Colossians 1:11-20 Luke 23:33-43
Sunday 30.11.25 Collect: 1st Sunday of Advent	09.00	Parish Breakfast	
	10.30	Holy Communion	Isaiah 2:1-5 Matthew 24:26-44

Church Calendar continued

Date	Time	Service	Readings
Sunday 07.12.25	09.00	Holy Communion	Isaiah 11:1-10 Matthew 3:1-12
Collect: 2nd Sunday of Advent	10.30	Morning Worship	Isaiah 11:1-10 Matthew 3:1-12
Sunday 14.12.25	09.00	Morning Prayer	Psalms 68:1-19 Isaiah 35:1-10 Matthew 11:2-11
Collect: 3rd Sunday of Advent	10.30	Holy Communion	Isaiah 35:1-10 Matthew 11:2-11
	16.00	Ducklings Christingle	
Thursday 18.12.25	19.00	Slater's Memorial Service	
Sunday 21.12.25	09.00	Holy Communion	Isaiah 7:10-16 Matthew 1:18-end
Collect: 4th Sunday of Advent	10.30	Morning Worship	Isaiah 7:10-16 Matthew 1:18-end
	18.30	Candlelit Carol Service	
Wednesday 24.12.25	16.00	Cribtingle	
Collect: Christmas Eve	23.30	Holy Communion	Isaiah 62:6-end Luke 2:1-7
Thursday 25.12.25	09.00	Holy Communion	Hebrews 1:1-4 John 1:1-14
Collect: Christmas Day	10.00	Family Worship	Hebrews 1:1-4 John 1:1-14
Sunday 28.12.25	10.30	Holy Communion	Psalms 124 Matthew 2:13-18
Collect: The Holy Innocents			

Prayer Diary cont.

Wednesday

- ◆ Our Readers – Cal and Pete
- ◆ North West Leeds Deanery and the Diocese
- ◆ The Parish Centre, its many users
- ◆ Our St James' Administrator, Alison
- ◆ Horsforth Foodbank
- ◆ Christians Against Poverty
- ◆ Horsforth Community Pantry



Thursday

Please pray for those who are housebound, and those mentioned on the weekly notice sheet.

- ◆ Horsforth Live at Home Scheme
- ◆ Caring for Life
- ◆ Joanna project
- ◆ The persecuted Church
- ◆ Pete Gillions and the Horsforth Shed project

Friday

- ◆ Children at St James
- ◆ Our Pop-up Cafe and the people we meet there
- ◆ All governments at national and local level
- ◆ TEAR Fund, Christian Aid and Water Aid
- ◆ Jonathan Swales and the Lighthouse Project

Saturday

- ◆ Preachers and service leaders and others involved in the services tomorrow.
- ◆ Brian Lipscombe, our retired clergy
- ◆ Jo Glenwright, at St John's Menston
- ◆ CPAS and Arrow

The Children's Society

The community of St James' Woodside has for many years supported the Children's Society through House Box Collections and the Christingle services which usually take place over the Christmas period. Thanks to your commitment the Society are able to help more and more young people flourish every year. Last year they supported more than 72,000 young people across the country and were able to campaign for change, improving millions of lives.



The House Box collections have raised millions of pounds for young people as part of the Society's mission and last year it raised more than £720,000. Right now, the collections mean so much. Too many families are living in poverty and teenagers in particular are suffering as a result. Often they take on their family's worries, desperate to find a way to help. But teenagers are children too, and they can't wait any longer for help. The support we give is so important as the Society works to make sure they get the right support as soon as they need it.

I thank the people of St James' Woodside for the contributions they make to the Box Collections and the donations at the Christingle services. If anyone would like to provide further support for the Society, please contact me on 0113 2588887 or by email at johnplbw@yahoo.co.uk.

John Pickford
Local Box Coordinator.

Bishops join church leaders in message after rally

Following the recent march in London, which attracted many thousands, a group of Church of England bishops and senior clergy joined leaders from across denominations in speaking out against any “co-opting or corrupting” of the Christian faith and symbols to exclude others.

The bishops of Winchester, Manchester, Southwark, Croydon, Bradford, Woolwich and Kingston were among the signatories to a joint letter from church leaders voicing concern at the use of Christian symbols, particularly the cross, at the ‘Unite the Kingdom’ rally held in September.

They joined with senior leaders in the Methodist, Baptist and Pentecostal churches; the Church of Scotland; the Salvation Army; the Catholic social action network Caritas and leaders of major cross-denominational groups such as the Evangelical Alliance and Churches Together in England in the letter which appeared in the media on 21 September. Other signatories include the former Archbishop of Canterbury Lord Williams, leaders of Christian charities such as the Bible Society, CARE and the Oasis trust, as well as prominent clergy and theologians. The full text of the letter is included below.

“We are deeply concerned about the co-opting of Christian symbols, particularly the cross, during Saturday’s ‘Unite the Kingdom’ rally. Many individuals and communities felt anxious, unsettled and even threatened by aspects of the march. There were undoubtedly diverse motivations for those engaged in the event. We respect the right to free speech, to hold different views on issues such as immigration, the importance of healthy debate between religious communities and the need to disagree well when consensus is difficult.

We also understand that for many of those involved in the rally there is a deep sense of frustration at feeling unheard and forgotten in the democratic process. We know that we cannot heal this wound unless the Church, and society as a whole rises to do more to address the issues of poverty, inequality and exclusion.

However, this rally included racist, anti-Muslim and far right elements. As Christians from different theological and political backgrounds we stand together against the misuse of Christianity. The cross is the ultimate sign of sacrifice for the other. Jesus calls us to love both our neighbours and our enemies and to welcome the stranger. Any co-opting or corrupting of the Christian faith to exclude others is unacceptable.

As Christian leaders we are proud of our country and commit ourselves to work with others building a more United Kingdom where the values of love, humility and compassion shine through in every community; and we do so unapologetically in the name of Jesus Christ.”

21 September 2025

St George's House

If, like me, you watched the Netflix series, *The Crown*, you might remember an early episode when the queen seeks to help her husband, the young and generally bored Prince Philip, find new meaning and purpose after he leaves the Royal Navy. Elizabeth R appoints a new Dean of St George's Chapel, Windsor, the Revd Robin Woods. The prince and the dean develop a friendship and together establish St George's House, a retreat and conference centre adjacent to the Chapel, in the grounds of Windsor Castle.

The Crown may not be entirely factual, but St George's House does exist. Opened nearly 60 years ago, the purpose of the House is to nurture wisdom through dialogue. That purpose is achieved in part via an annual clergy consultation, and, during my recent sabbatical, I was one of the twenty-four clergy privileged to be invited to attend the consultation for 2025. Fair to say, I was very excited!

The consultation, which took place over ten days was titled, *God: some conversations*, and had the following purpose:

“As a whole the Consultation aims to bring about a renewed sense of purpose. Having been informed, challenged, supported and encouraged we will return to our place of ministry refreshed and reinvigorated, speaking more confidently and convincingly about God.”

Our conversations during the consultation were framed around the following topics:

- ◇ Mary and the Church
- ◇ Today's Church
- ◇ Free speech
- ◇ The Church's Response to the Challenge of Zionism
- ◇ God and the arts
- ◇ Mental Health
- ◇ Diversity and inclusion
- ◇ Peace and conflict

Each topic was considered through Bible study, book/ film review, guest lecture and seminar paper. The twenty-four clergy were divided into three study groups.



My group of eight were:

- Ed Brandt: Minister of the Presbyterian Church USA. US citizen and former chaplain in the National Guard. Presently pastor of a church in Florida.
- Paul Bryce: Anglican Priest. Chaplain in the Royal Navy.
- Jonathan Cain: Anglican Priest. Vicar in the Church of England (Leeds).
- Sally Ingle-Gillis: Anglican Priest. Vicar in the Church in Wales.
- Lorenzo Lebrija: Episcopalian Priest. US citizen of Hispanic heritage (and concerned about the risk of deportation). Chief Innovation Officer at Virginia Theological Seminary.
- Leisa Potter: Anglican Priest. Vicar in the Church of England (Exeter).
- Graham Stacey: Anglican Priest. Vicar in the Church of England (Gloucester).
- Philip Wilson: Minister of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. Staff Chaplain in the Royal Air Force.



Seminar paper titles included:

- Preaching public policy in a polarized world.
- ‘No requirement?’ A critical examination of the need for humanist chaplaincy in the Royal Navy.
- The church and the food pantry: opportunity or threat?
- A sacramental response to shame.
- From toxic to trusted: what young adults are telling us about the church’s future.
- What does the church have to say about free speech in society today?
- My God, your God, our God – talking about God in a hyper-individualised society.
- How might the contemporary Church speak about peace in a world of increasing military conflict?

At the end of the consultation, each group was encouraged to produce a response to the question, *How do you speak about God?* This is how our group responded to that prompt.

Speaking of God Today Requires Courage, Context, and Care		
Insight #1	Insight #2	Insight #3
Speaking of God through Human Vulnerability and Healing: God is not primarily described through doctrine but encountered in vulnerability—grief, loneliness, mental health struggles, and embodiment (incarnation). Speaking about God begins with presence, listening, and hospitality, not assertion. Church structures must support the fragile parts of the Body.	Speaking of God can be done through Difference and Reconciliation: Difference is not a problem to solve but a sacred site for discovering God “between us.” Speaking of God includes learning new languages: of culture, ethnicity, class, and even disagreement. Peace doesn’t mean silence; it means faithfully naming injustice and working through it. Recognize our own hurt in engaging people (Rohr: “Pain we don’t transform, we transmit”).	Speaking of God is about more than words: Music, art, ritual, and symbol are vital theological expressions—not decoration but invitation. Storytelling reveals truth in ways facts and logic cannot.
Reflective question #1	Reflective question #2	Reflective question #3
How does our way of speaking about God make space for human pain, complexity, and belonging?	In what ways do we allow the voice of the “other” to reshape our understanding of God?	What stories, songs, or images do we use when we speak about God—and what do they reveal about the God we believe in?
From Word to Witness:		
Underpinning all of this is serving God without fear: “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.” (Hebrews 13:6) Speaking about God is not performance—it is witness. “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” (Romans 12:21) Our speech about God must be marked by humility, love, and an invitation to relationship.		

The conversation was fascinating and enjoyable. It will be for others to judge whether I speak more confidently and convincingly about God, but I was certainly invigorated.

And, alongside the consultation there was an opportunity to experience a bit of life and worship at the centre of the British State. St George's Chapel is the chapel for the Knights of the Garter and daily worship includes prayers for them and the sovereign. It was interesting to sit in the chapel for morning prayer and reflect on those who had sat in the stall before me (the Chapel and Order of the Garter date back to the 1300s).



During the consultation, Windsor Castle hosted the state visit of President Macron (the flag indicates that the King was in residence). Security was super tight, and we had a great view of the state procession as it made its way through the streets of Windsor. I did fall foul of the security the morning after the State Banquet, as I attempted to leave the Castle and go for a run. I was met by Charlotte, the Chapter Clerk (think Judy Dench as 'M' in the James Bond movies), and a squad of armed police. "Where are you going, young man?" Charlotte enquired. "Out for a run," I replied, which prompted the following command: "I think you better return to your room and do some push ups!" I did as I was told!

Jonathan



Remembrance 2025

Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."
(JOHN 14:27)

Jesus said, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."
JOHN 15:12-13

The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

JAMES 3:17-18

Remembrance activities in 2025 including marking the 80th anniversaries of the end of the Second World War, VE Day and VJ Day, and have added poignancy as the last living connections with that conflict are lost. Jonathan was privileged to lead the Act of Remembrance at the Horsforth Cenotaph with Horsforth Town Council and the Royal British Legion. Here is the text of his address.



When I was asked to lead this service today, I wrote to Flight Lieutenant Richard Lyon, Officer Commanding the local Royal Air Force Air Cadets, and asked the cadets one question: Why is it important that we remember today?

Here are some of their answers:

- Honouring people who have sacrificed themselves for us.
- Remembering people who have fought for us and paying tribute to them.
- Remembering those who fought and died for us.
- Not forgetting heroes who saved the world.
- Remembering those who fought in my family.
- Respecting those who gave their lives, dying for our country.

Thank you, Cadets. It is right that we remember, that we honour and respect, and that we never forget. We are a nation of friends, and there is no greater love than to lay down your life for your friends.

One Cadet added another answer: "Remembering our privilege of not having to fight, being able to live peaceful lives". Today, I invite you to hold these responses together — the call to honour sacrifice and the sober gratitude for peace.

I'd like to tell a short story. A clergy colleague of mine, Mark, was brought up by his grandparents. As a boy he knew his grandfather had served in the Royal Air Force, but the old man never spoke about his wartime experiences. Then, once, Mark mentioned the name Dresden, and his grandfather, his hero, unexpectedly wept. The young Mark did not understand why that name had made his grandfather cry.

Years later Mark was invited to preach in the rebuilt Frauenkirche in Dresden. On the way to the station at the end of his visit a taxi driver asked Mark why he had come. Mark, after a long pause, said: “My grandfather was a navigator on a Lancaster bomber. On 14 February 1945 he flew here as part of the bombing raid and he could never speak of it.” The driver was quiet and then replied: “That was the night my mother was killed.”

The driver stopped the car, turned, and said: “And now we shake hands.”

Both men knew the facts of that night; both knew the horror of Dresden and many other cities in the UK and across Europe. But they had come to something more — a hard, human wisdom. They recognised that lives had been laid down so others might live: live without needing to fight; live in peace. They understood that revenge must be interrupted to make room for a truer future — “a harvest of righteousness sown in peace for those who make peace”.

It is easy for present-day images of war to overwhelm our act of remembering. Wars are happening now — in Ukraine and in other places — and their suffering is immediate and raw. That raises a fair question: why do we memorialise the conflicts of 1914–18 and 1939–45 when violence continues around the world?

Perhaps the best answer is the legacy those earlier conflicts left us. From the ashes of the Second World War came institutions and ideas designed to stop nations settling disputes in blood. The United Nations and, in Europe, the project that became the European Union were created to provide non-violent means of resolving differences. Their record is imperfect, and the future of both institutions is uncertain, but until recently our generation enjoyed the longest period of peace in European history. Our ceremonies today remind us that neglecting international cooperation and the work of peace has consequences — they remind us to keep faith with those who sacrificed by working for peace now.

These memorials also teach us about the kind of love that stoops to give itself away. Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you”, and he taught that love is shown by laying down life for friends. The Christian story declares that God values humanity so deeply that he enters into our suffering and dies for us; his resurrection promises that death does not have the last word. In that light, we believe the dead live on in God’s presence, calling us and every generation to find a better way than war.

To remember rightly, then, is not merely to rehearse facts or to feel sorrow alone. It is to turn grief into resolve: to honour courage without celebrating conflict; to mourn loss while working for peace; to teach our children the price of freedom and the discipline of reconciliation – peace starts and ends in individual human hearts. To remember rightly is to stand alongside veterans and families, to hear their stories, and to let those stories shape our commitments.

So today we remember those who laid down their lives; we give thanks for those who served; and we pledge ourselves, each in our place, to the work of peace. May wisdom guide our decisions; may compassion inform our politics; may the light of truth expose the ways of hatred and show us the path of reconciliation.

May we carry the courage of the fallen like a quiet light, and let that light guide our hands to heal, our mouths to speak truth, and our hearts to choose peace.

Amen.



ONLINE...

NETWORK LEEDS

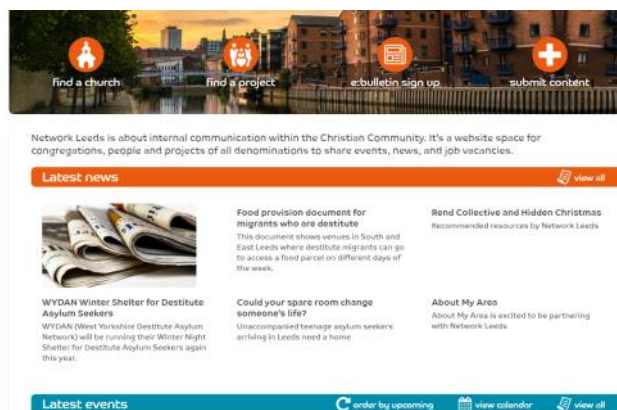
Network Leeds is an online network seeking to make connections across the Christian Community within Leeds. We do this by advertising events, job vacancies we also publicise articles and stories on our website. Most of what we do, we don't charge for. We then share all this info across the city on a fortnightly basis to over 1100 members via our e-bulletin.



news
events
jobs & volunteering



find out more



www.networkleeds.com

FOODBANK:

Foodbank continues to welcome our contributions of food. Please put your contributions in the box at the back of church.

<https://leedsnorthandwest.foodbank.org.uk/contact-us/>

ST GEORGE'S CRYPT

St George's Crypt is in the frontline of support for homeless, disadvantaged and vulnerable people in Leeds and its surrounding areas.

www.stgeorgescrypt.org.uk

PREMIER CHRISTIAN MEDIA

Premier is a Christian radio station and community, based in London.

Premier Christian Radio broadcasts on MW 1305, 1332, 1413 in London; and nationally on DAB, Freeview Channel 725 and Sky Digital 0123.

www.premier.org.uk

THINKING FAITH NETWORK:

Formerly called WYSOCS (West Yorkshire School of Christian Studies) and based in Outwood Lane, holds various lectures and events.

<http://thinkfaith.net>

BIBLE GATEWAY

Bible Gateway is focused on making Scripture freely available on the Web in multiple languages and translations.

As well as many different, searchable translations, there are commentaries, a daily email devotional and a daily audio Bible reading plan.

www.biblegateway.com

SCRIPTURE UNION WORD LIVE

WordLive is a total Bible reading environment brought to you by Scripture Union. Each

day a new Bible passage is provided for you to read, respond to and record your thoughts – either in your own private journal or with others on the site. Along the way there are prompts to help and guide you: meditations, movies, poems, images. You can keep your favourite bits in the bookmark section to return to time and again. You can receive and access *WordLive* in a variety of ways: by email, RSS or through your mobile phone.

www.wordlive.org

CHRISTIANITY

Christianity.org.uk is the website of the Christian Enquiry Agency Ltd. This is an agency of Churches Together in England. The purpose is to inform people about Jesus Christ and Christianity.

www.christianity.org.uk

DIOCESE OF LEEDS

Created in Easter 2014, it's the newest of the 42 dioceses that make up the Church of England and St James is part of it. In the Diocese we'll be shaping the life and work of the Church of England in this part of Yorkshire so that we can serve the people in our parishes in the best way possible.

www.leeds.anglican.org

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

The screenshot shows the official website of The Church of England, specifically the Diocese of Leeds. At the top, the Church of England logo is displayed alongside the text 'THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND' and 'Diocese of Leeds'. Below this is a navigation bar with links to Home, News, About Us, Education, Events, Mission & Ministry, Resources, The Christian Faith, and Who's Who. The main content area features a large banner image of a diverse group of people holding signs that read 'Your Share' and 'your share your gift our diocese'. To the right of the banner are three smaller images with blue buttons: 'Contact your vicar', 'Christenings', and 'Weddings'. A 'Learn more here...' link is visible at the bottom of the banner image.

A Christian presence in every community.

www.churchofengland.org

ST JAMES WEBSITE :

www.stjameswoodside.org

ST JAMES FACEBOOK PAGE :

www.facebook.com/#!/groups/stjameswoodside/?fref=ts

Flowers

If you would like to sponsor flowers for any of the vacant dates, please speak to Lynne. If you are a taxpayer, we can reclaim tax on your donation through Gift Aid. Lynne Gillions

Nov 2	Derek Plummer in loving memory of Dorothy and Len Plummer
Nov 9	Remembrance Day
Nov 16	In loving memory of Pamela Ramsden and Annie Gough
Nov 23	In loving memory of Marion Langton
Nov 30	
Dec 7	Beryl Egan in loving memory of Alf
Dec 14	John and Karen Evans in loving memory of 'Big John'
Dec 21	Mel Nightingale in memory of Nana
Dec 28	
Jan 4	
Jan 11	In loving memory of Thomasina and Kenneth Muggeridge Snr
Jan 18	
Jan 25	Elaine Savage

Registers

Baptisms and Thanksgivings: Maggie Parnell, 28 September

Funerals: Titilola Onos-Ekpo, 26 September, Tris Rymer, 09 October

Marriages: Josh Hobson and Kelly Richardson, 17 October

Contact Details

Church Office:

Alison Pickford (Administrator)

This is this first point of contact for Parish Centre bookings.

Opening Hours:

Monday - Thursday mornings

Tel: 0113 2584558

Email: office@stjameswoodside.org

Vicar: Revd. Jonathan Cain

Tel: 07375 557804

Email: Jonathan.Cain@leeds.anglican.org

Churchwarden: Lynne Gillions:

Tel: 011302588575

Email: lgillions@yahoo.com

Churchwarden: Christine Lazenby

Tel: 0113 267 7711

Email: christine_50_2001@yahoo.co.uk

Church web site:

www.stjameswoodside.org

Find us on Facebook: St James, Woodside

Once a Year

Here is an appeal to all you lovely people of St. James:

If everyone contributed only one item for the magazine each year (of course you can contribute lots more), we would have a magazine brimming with interesting, challenging and newsworthy features.

St James Life:

Alison is now collating articles for the Magazine so please let her have any articles for the Winter Edition by **12 December** [email preferred **office@stjameswoodside.org**].

*The Winter edition will be going out
in January 2026*

S⊕ JAMES WOODSIDE
HORSFORTH
175 YEARS



FAITH



HOPE



LOVE

Sharing God's blessing in Horsforth