

# THE LINK

## Keeping you in touch with Outwood, Stanley, Wrenthorpe and Alverthorpe Churches 29th November-5th December 2020

Dear all,

as I write this, we're starting to anticipate the end of the second lockdown, though at the time of writing it's not yet clear exactly how much will change. Some of us are eagerly anticipating being able to do a bit more - I'm certainly looking forward to welcoming back congregations to church -, some of us may feel it's not going to make much difference to their lives, and some of us might be feeling a bit apprehensive. And whatever group you're in, I suspect that you're feeling that this Advent and Christmas is going to be different, and sadder, than usual.

But there are still things to make us hopeful. The continued good news about vaccines, even if it is still some way off from being fully deployable, definitely gives hope for an end to the period of crisis. However hard this December might seem, we know that we're taking precautions not just for ourselves, but out of love and care for others. And while this year continues to be different, there are still things happening to make Advent a special time. We're still looking for people who would be able to join in and create a window display showing part of the Nativity story, or display a poster for our "Nine Lessons and Carols prayer walk", and we're also encouraging everybody to put a star in their window as a sign of hope. You could also contribute to the Wrenthorpe and Kirkhamgate food bank, give a gift for the Home Start hampers through St Mary Magdalene Outwood, or drop off a wrapped, new, gift for a child in need at St Peter's Stanley (please do this before their St Nicholas service on the 6th).

Above all, though, hope is found in the reminder that Christmas is about more than big meals and presents - even about more than time with family and friends. Advent and Christmas point us to the

hope that we find in Christ, the light of the world, in whom we see God becoming a human being and lighting up our darkness.

Love,  
Rev'd Jo

### Prayers and Readings for the Week

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent (29 November)

##### Sunday Readings

Isaiah 64.1-9

Psalms 80.1-8, 18-20

1 Corinthians 1.3-9

Mark 13.24

##### The collect

Almighty God,

give us grace to cast away the works of darkness  
and to put on the armour of light,  
now in the time of this mortal life,  
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in  
great humility;  
that on the last day,  
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty  
to judge the living and the dead,  
we may rise to the life immortal;  
through him who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent (6th December)

Isaiah 40.1-11

Psalms 85.1-2, 8-13\*

2 Peter 3.8-15a

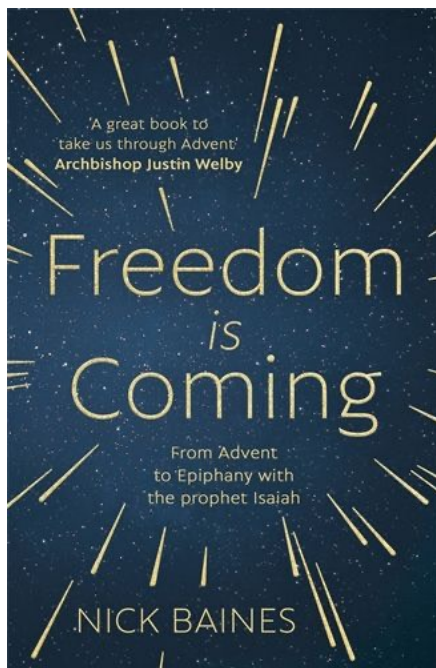
Mark 1.1-8

## Praying together

Please use these readings and prayers together with your own devotional books. We will also distribute a short order of service for Sundays via email and paper copies will go to those not online. If you would like a copy of our booklet 'Prayers Resources for When You Can't get to Church', call 01924 373758, and we'll post or email one to you.

## Advent Course

This year, the Benefice will be using Bishop Nick's book on Advent, *Freedom is Coming*, as a way of reflecting on Advent and what it means.



There are three ways to join in. The Monday evening Home Group in St Peter's Stanley will be using it in their sessions on Zoom. Fr Jonathan and Mthr Jo will also be running a session on Wednesday the 2nd on Zoom at 4pm (meeting on Tuesdays in subsequent weeks). Both of these sessions will start the week beginning 30<sup>th</sup> November. The Diocese is also running the course, which is available on Wednesday evenings at 7pm between 25<sup>th</sup> November and 16<sup>th</sup> December. You can find out more information about the book and register a place for free on the Diocese's Digital Learning Platform [here](#).

You can buy Bishop Nick's book on Amazon or directly from SPCK Publishing: <https://spckpublishing.co.uk/freedom-is-coming>

There will also be an opportunity to join in a **shorter course together with Wrenthorpe Methodist Church**, with three sessions, beginning on 1<sup>st</sup> December at 7:30pm. These will look at Zechariah, Joseph and Mary. These will also begin on Zoom.

If you want to join in with these courses, please get in touch, and we will let you know everything you need to do to join.

## A #LightOfHope

The northern diocese of the German Protestant Church is asking people to share the light of hope this Advent, by drawing or crafting stars, hanging them in their windows, and sending stars of hope to friends and family. Why not join in? Draw your own star, or you might like to create a 3D star. You can find a template in our 'Prayer for Use at Home' booklet for All Saints and Advent or go to [https://www.nordkirche.de/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Projekte\\_und\\_Kampagnen/Hoffnungsleuchten\\_Basteln/Bastelstern\\_hoffnungsleuchten.pdf](https://www.nordkirche.de/fileadmin/user_upload/Projekte_und_Kampagnen/Hoffnungsleuchten_Basteln/Bastelstern_hoffnungsleuchten.pdf) for a downloadable version.



## Tearfund Advent Devotional

Continuing the theme of hope, Tearfund is offering a daily email devotional on hope this Advent. Go to [https://www.tearfund.org/about\\_you/resources/christmas/](https://www.tearfund.org/about_you/resources/christmas/) to sign up.

## **Nativity Trail**

We are hoping to create a "Nativity Window Trail" this Christmas, either across the benefice or in each parish. We're looking for volunteers to create some scenes from the Christmas story (Gabriel and Mary; Mary and Joseph go to Bethlehem; the Shepherds; the Kings follow the Star). Please get in touch if you'd like to help. You could make a tissue paper stained glass window or draw and paint on the glass with washable paint and tape.

Fr Jonathan & Mthr Jo

## **Upcoming Church Events**

### **Outwood**

Church Open for Prayer before the Sacrament:  
22 November from 1pm-3pm

PCC Meeting: 2 December at 7:30pm (on Zoom)

### **Wrenthorpe**

Bereavement Course: every Thursday at 2pm in church

St Anne's & Friends Quiz Night: 9 December at 7:30pm (on Zoom)

### **Regular events online:**

All our weekday online events are hosted on Zoom, either through the benefice's website's meeting rooms, or through a meeting login. For more information about how to join and how to use Zoom, please contact us.

### **Sundays**

- 11am Coffee Morning on Zoom for St Anne's Wrenthorpe

### **Mondays**

- 10am 'Start the Week – Drop in for Chat and Prayer' on Zoom
- 7:30pm St Peter's Stanley Housegroup on Zoom

### **Tuesdays**

- 10am Coffee Morning for St Paul's on Zoom
- 4pm Bible Study for St Mary Magdalene's Outwood and St Anne's Wrenthorpe

### **Worship Online, on the Radio and on Television**

Sunday Worship is broadcast on Radio 4 at 8:10am. Songs of Praise is broadcast on BBC1 at

1:15pm. The Church of England streams a service on YouTube every Sunday at 9am.

You can also join in with our church services online! We're showing them live on the churches' Facebook pages. If you don't have Facebook, you can still watch the services: type your church's name and 'Facebook' into Google, and click on the first link. The videos should be available to view once the service has concluded

### **The pattern for online services is as follows:**

#### **Sundays:**

- 10am Parish Mass (St Mary Magdalene Outwood)
- 10am Parish Eucharist (St Anne's Wrenthorpe)
- 10am Holy Communion (from St Peter's and St Paul's on alternate weeks)
- 5:30pm Reflection

#### **Mondays**

- 9am Iona Morning prayer
- 5:30pm Evening Prayer (live from St Mary Magdalene's)

#### **Tuesdays:**

- 5:30pm Evening Prayer (St Mary Magdalene's and St Anne's)
- 9pm Iona Evening Prayer (St Peter's Stanley)

#### **Wednesdays:**

- 9am Iona Morning Prayer (St Peter's Stanley)
- 9pm Sung Compline (St Mary Magdalene's and St Anne's)
- 9pm Iona Evening Prayer (St Peter's Stanley)

#### **Thursdays:**

- 5:30pm Evening Prayer (St Mary Magdalene's and St Anne's)
- 6pm Prayer for the Nation (St Mary Magdalene's)
- 9pm Iona Evening Prayer (St Peter's Stanley)

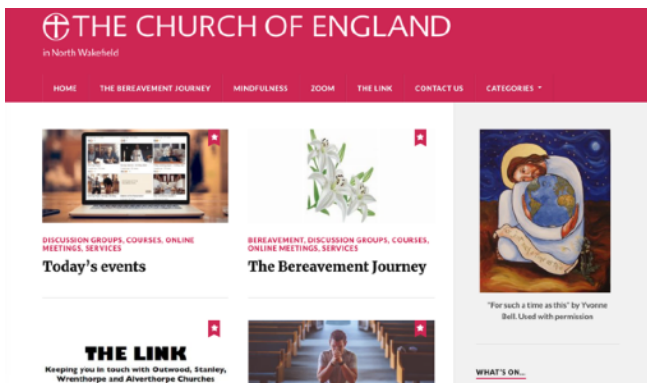
#### **Fridays**

- 9pm Iona Evening Prayer (St Peter's Stanley)

#### **Saturdays:**

- 12:30pm Midday Prayer (St Mary Magdalene's and St Anne's)

## New Website



Dave Florence from St Peter's Stanley has worked on our website throughout lockdown, and it now has a new format. Visit it to learn more about our services and events, to join Zoom meetings, and for resources to help in the pandemic.

## Good News from Around the World

### *Couple Give Wedding Feast Away*



*The happy couple wait to be married (private photo)*  
Like many engaged couples, Emily Bugg and Billy Lewis of Chicago found their wedding plans changed by the pandemic. After scaling down their plans several times, they decided the pandemic would not stop them marrying, even though their only option was a town hall wedding with two witnesses. They were ready to call up their various lost deposits up to bad luck, when Emily, who works for Thresholds, a charity supporting people with mental illness, had a good idea. She asked her caterer if they'd be willing to use the money to pay for Thanksgiving dinners to be delivered to Threshold's most vulnerable clients - and the caterer agreed. Emily and Billy are still a bit sad they didn't get to celebrate with their

friends, but are happy to have started married life by doing a kind thing.

### *New Apple Discovered in Wiltshire*



*Photo: Hannah Thomas*

Archie Thomas, who works for a wildlife charity, was out walking near his home in the Nadder Valley, Wilts, when he spotted an unusual looking apple and wondered what variety it was. But no-one - not even the Royal Horticultural Society's apple experts - recognised it, and it was eventually decided it was a new variety. It's reportedly a good flavoured apple, suitable for eating or cooking. Archie, who plans to try to propagate a new plant, is still considering his options for a name, which might pay tribute to his wife Hannah - though he's rejected his little boy's suggestion of "Ronaldo."

### *Luxury Watches with a Heart*

Luxury watches are a bit of an ostentatious display of wealth - but when Londoner William Adoasi started Vitae London back in 2016, he wanted to do things a bit differently. As well as making sure the factory manufacturing his watches paid workers fairly, as a man of African descent, he wanted to do something to give back. Knowing that children are turned away from school if they can't afford school uniform, he decided that for every watch he sold, the company would buy and give away two sets of uniform, plus a school bag and footwear, helping a child access education. At the moment the firm is working in several provinces in South Africa, but they hope to expand into remoter areas of Sub-Saharan Africa if all goes well.



## Visiting Churches



As churches are closed for public worship, it is important that they can still be open for private prayer, so we have increased the number of times during the week when it is possible to visit church during lockdown.

The times are as follows:

Monday 4pm-5pm St Mary Magdalene's Outwood  
Tuesday 10-11:30am St Peter's Stanley  
Wednesday 2-4pm St Anne's Wrenthorpe  
Saturday 10-12pm St Mary Magdalene's Outwood  
Saturday 10-12pm St Paul's Alverthorpe

## Home Start Hampers



HomeStart help families in need and Outwood Parish Church has helped provide hampers to make the Christmas season easier for many years. This year, we're asking that donations for hampers be left in St Mary Magdalene's Church in a plastic bags so that they can be ready for 6 December, when we're due to restart our public services in

church. They'll then be sent to HomeStart on 7 December.

Suggested items for hampers include:

- Christmas pudding
- Custard
- Tin of meat balls
- Christmas cake
- Tinned fruit
- Corned beef (Tin)
- Hot dog sausages
- Savory snacks
- Coffee
- Chocolate biscuits
- Baked beans
- Mince pies
- Dried pasta
- Jar of pasta sauce
- Tin of ham
- Chocolates
- Children's sweets
- Tin of tuna
- Tea
- Sugar

## Wrenthorpe & Kirkhamgate Food Bank



As well as supporting our local Covid-19 Assist Group by hosting their food bank in the St Anne's Church Hall, we're now going to be having a regular collection box for the food bank in both St Anne's and St Mary Magdalene's churches. 72% of families with children who depend on foodbanks are in work, and the need for support is growing, especially in the current Covid-19 restrictions. Please bring non-perishable food and toiletries to church when you are able to, and the boxes will be taken to the food bank as they fill up!

## Mothers' Union News: Key Workers Appeal



Want to do more than just clap for key workers? The Mothers' Union have expanded their 'Away from it All' holiday scheme that offers needy families the chance to get away to key workers' families who would otherwise not get a break this year. You can learn more about the scheme, donate, or nominate a family who need a holiday here: <https://www.mothersunion.org/thank-you-keyworker-appeal>

Mothers Union are unable to meet for their November meeting due to lockdown, but will return to meeting once public worship is permitted in churches again.

### Recycled Greeting Cards

Maureen Wood from St Anne's Wrenthorpe writes: I am pleased to let you know that the following contributions have been made as a result of the sale of recycled cards:

£50 to Mental Health in Young People in memory of a student at York University who took his own life.

£150 to Forget-Me-Not Children's Hospice.

£75 to Emma's Memorial Fund.

I am always in need of used birthday cards to be able to continue this worthwhile job. They can be left on my doorstep or I will collect. If you wish to purchase any cards, I can bring them to you or you can pick them up from my home. Please ring 01924 360489, and collect from 61 The Mount, Wrenthorpe.

### A recipe from Mother Jo Kershaw: "White Turkey Chilli"

This week we have a lot of leftovers from our Thanksgiving dinner - and in particular, there's a lot of turkey! While you probably don't have large

amounts of leftover turkey right now, we are now beginning to look towards Christmas, and perhaps you're wondering what you might do for Christmas dinner. So while you probably already have a favourite method for dealing with left-over turkey, this is one you might consider. It's a comforting, mild chilli that's great for a dark winter night. And of course it will also work with left-over roast chicken, too.

Serves 2

1 small onion, chopped  
Sunflower or other neutral tasting oil for frying  
1-2 cloves garlic, minced  
1 mild green chilli pepper, stemmed, deseeded, and chopped  
1/2 tsp cumin  
1/2 tsp coriander  
1/2 tsp oregano  
(Optional: 1/4 tsp cayenne pepper)  
1 can cannellini beans, rinsed and drained  
1 red or yellow pepper, chopped  
300 ml chicken stock  
Cold roast turkey or chicken (use your judgement based on what you have!), chopped into bite sized pieces  
1 small pot sour cream  
Salt and pepper to taste

Fry the onion gently until transparent, then add the garlic, chillies, and spices, and fry for a few minutes more until the pan smells fragrant.

Add the stock, beans, and pepper, and season with salt and pepper. Bring to the boil, then simmer, uncovered, for half an hour.

Add the turkey and bring briefly to the boil, then reduce the heat, add the sour cream, and simmer for a few minutes, stirring until well-combined. Taste and adjust seasoning if needed.

Serve with crusty bread or with rice; you might also like to serve a salad with a sharp dressing. If you only have a small amount of left-over roast meat, you might like to add a drained can of sweetcorn to the pan with the beans and peppers.

### Quiz - Name That Carol

1. This carol was written to be accompanied by a guitar, because the planned music had to be scrapped because of an organ malfunction.

2. This Basque carol was translated into English by a former curate of Horbury Bridge. The chorus is sometimes sung as "Most highly flavoured gravy."
3. This haunting piece was written for a competition in the hopes of winning the composer and author beer money.
4. One of Charles Wesley's most popular hymns, but you probably don't know it by its original title, "Hark How All The Welkin Rings."
5. One of the oldest hymns sung in church, this beautiful carol was written in fourth century Spain by Aurelius Prudentius Clemens.
6. This popular carol by Christina Rossetti has a tune by Darke and one by Holst. You might hear either in Outwood Parish Church!
7. This very popular carol for small children is sometimes said to be by Martin Luther - but it's actually 19th Century American.
8. An early and popular tune for this carol is now far better known for a Yorkshire parody describing the risks of hill-walking bare-headed.
9. This carol describes a kindly Bohemian getting lost in the snow while trying to deliver dinner to a poor man.
10. There's a (probably untrue) theory this carol has a secret message about Bonny Prince Charlie; it does have a verse which is only sung on Christmas Day.

### **St Anne's & Friends Quiz Night**

Nicholas from St Anne's will be hosting a quiz on Zoom on 9 Wednesday at 7:30pm for or about an hour. All are welcome to join – get in touch if you'd like to join in. All welcome, you don't have to already go to St Anne's! For those unable to Zoom we can post the quiz through doors so people feel included – let us know if you'd like one

### **RIP**

Please remember and pray for those who have died recently whose funerals will be led by members of our clergy team, and others from the local community.

Alverthorpe – Hilda Poskitt  
 Outwood – Ian Booth, Leonard Jones, Pat Manners, David Hudson, Baby Henry,  
 Stanley – Mary Clements  
 Wrenthorpe – Geoffrey Tallett, Betty Deighton,  
 Margaret Dunn, Ray Crabtree, Stella Bean

### **Bereavement Support**

Our team of churches are running a 6 week Bereavement Course:

- Online on Mondays from 1:30pm-3pm led by Revd Glenn. A second session began Thursday 12th November at 7:00pm until 8:30pm. For the Zoom link, go to <https://northwakefield.benefice.uk/>

The in-person course at St Anne's has now concluded, but we are looking to run another set of sessions in January, this time in Outwood Parish Church. Please let Fr Jonathan know if you're interested.

### **Getting help with COVID-19**

The current advice from the NHS if you feel ill is to stay at home. If you cannot cope with your symptoms and you're seriously ill call NHS 111. There is a local hotline for Covid-19 support. If you can't get out for things you need and you don't have any friends, family or support available within the community, help is available. Call: 0345 8 506 506 between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Choose option 3 to make a request for support and help will be arranged.

### **Staying in touch with each other**

It's hard to cope with being alone or not seeing many people for a long period of time, and everyone struggles. If you want a chat, you can call any of the vicars in this team. Leave your numbers so we can keep in touch too!

Outwood: Fr Jonathan (01924 373758/  
[frjonathanbish@gmail.com](mailto:frjonathanbish@gmail.com))  
 Wrenthorpe: Mthr Jo (01924 373758/  
[revdjokershaw@gmail.com](mailto:revdjokershaw@gmail.com))  
 Stanley & Alverthorpe: Rev'd Glenn (01924  
[218484/cogginglenn@gmail.com](mailto:218484/cogginglenn@gmail.com))

## Keeping you entertained!

It's the season to write and send Christmas cards - but what does your choice say about you?

# CHRISTMAS CARDS

