

# THE LINK

## Keeping you in touch with Outwood, Stanley, Wrenthorpe and Alverthorpe Churches 10<sup>th</sup> January- 17<sup>th</sup> January

Dear all,

You will all have heard by now that the United Kingdom will be going into lockdown again as a result of rising infection rates and the new variant of Covid-19 which is now present throughout the country. For many people in this country, it will not mean a big change – most of us have not been seeing people outside our social bubbles for some time and many of us have only been going out for essential shopping.

Nevertheless, a new lockdown is a reminder that the virus is still present and can spread faster than it did in the past, which means that we need to take some difficult decisions about Sunday worship. Places of worship are allowed to meet during this new lockdown – this is the result of the government recognising that local churches have successfully protected their congregations through the last several months. However, there is a strong feeling in every church in our team that worship may need to be suspended locally, given the limits of our buildings and the age of our congregations. As I write this, St Paul's and St Peter's are planning to meet for worship for the last time this Sunday (10<sup>th</sup> January), while St Mary Magdalene's Outwood suspends worship immediately. St Anne's will make the decision about whether to suspend worship this Sunday.

This is not a decision our churches are taking lightly. "Let us not give up the habit of meeting together" it says in Hebrews 10.25. Gathering to worship together every Sunday – whether we are at home, on holiday or working – is a basic commitment every Christian should make. But the protection of life is also an essential Christian duty – even medieval bishops and popes used quarantine and restrictions of public worship as a way of controlling disease.

Services will continue online, of course, with participation from members of the congregation, as we have done in the past. And resources will be available for prayer at home.

At Epiphany we commemorate the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh which the wise men brought to Christ. We remember his kingship, his divinity, but also his death. And so we begin the journey towards Lent, Holy Week, Good Friday and the cross. But that also means we are moving towards the resurrection. Let that be our watchword during this lockdown.

Every blessing,  
Fr Jonathan, Mthr Jo & Rev'd Glenn

### **Prayers and Readings for the days before Christmas**

#### **Baptism of Christ (10<sup>th</sup> January)**

Genesis 1.1-5  
Psalm 29  
Acts 19.1-7  
Mark 1.4-11

Eternal Father,  
who at the baptism of Jesus  
revealed him to be your Son,  
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:  
grant to us, who are born again  
by water and the Spirit,  
that we may be faithful to our calling as your  
adopted children;  
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.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Epiphany (17<sup>th</sup> January)**

I Samuel 3.1-10  
Psalm 139.1-5, 12-18  
Revelation 5.1-10  
John 1.43-end

Almighty God,  
in Christ you make all things new:  
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches  
of your grace,  
and in the renewal of our lives  
make known your heavenly glory;  
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.

### **Upcoming Church Events**

#### **Outwood**

15<sup>th</sup> February – 7:30pm Virtual PCC on Zoom

#### **Wrenthorpe**

20<sup>th</sup> January – 7:30pm Virtual Quiz

27<sup>th</sup> January – 7:30pm Virtual PCC 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

### **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) (no service on 8 December)
- 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)

## Good News from Around the World



At the height of the Covid epidemic in Kerala, hospital mattresses were being burned after every use. Learning of this, fashion designer Lakshmi Menon wondered what could be done. She'd already been experimenting with making braided mattresses with fabric scraps, hoping to help the homeless, but now she had an even cleverer idea. India has become the second biggest producer of PPE - which means lots of PPE grade fabric scraps. Lakshmi set up a workshop, providing income for struggling women in rural Kerala, and producing portable and easily washable mattresses that are cheap to buy and can be re-used, thus helping both hospitals and the environment. The international not-for-profit Enactus is now getting involved in scaling up the project, and mattresses are also being distributed to help India's many homeless people.



Reporter Andy Larsen of the Salt Lake Tribune wanted to give away the contents of his childhood piggy bank - and ended up raising \$55000 and helping over a thousand people in need. Just before Christmas, his mother told him she'd found his old piggy bank - which turned out to contain \$165 in loose change.

Andy decided to put it to use helping people have a better Christmas, and asked his Twitter followers to let him know who might need a little help. Touching stories of people needing help poured in- but so did donations from others who wanted to help out. In the end, Andy was able to get \$200 to each struggling family or individual nominated, and gave \$10000 to RIP Medical Debt, a charity which buys up the medical debt (a huge problem in the US) of those who cannot pay, and writes them off. He also gave money to local food banks, a charity organising grocery shopping for those unable to shop for themselves, and other local good causes. It's amazing what the contents of one piggy bank can do!



It could only happen in Australia! Two recreational fishermen got a shock when they discovered a naked man 1 metre above crocodile-infested mangrove swamps near the city of Darwin. Luke Voskresensky was released on bail after being charged with armed robbery but cut off his electronic monitoring device and escaped into the woods. He told the fishermen he had been lost for four days, survived on snails, and used his clothing for 'bits and pieces on the way'. One fisherman, Kev Joiner said, "We thought he just must have had a big night after New Year's and got lost and done himself a mischief in the bush." Faust said he stripped to his underwear and handed His fellow fisherman, Cam Faust said "He looked like he needed a beer, although he was in a bad way," Faust said.

Voskresensky didn't get a beer. Instead he's been re-arrested for breaking bail and aggravated assault. We're not sure if this is good news, but we hope it gave you a laugh!

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!

## Visiting Churches



Our churches are open for visits at the following times:

Monday 4pm-5pm St Mary Magdalene's Outwood  
Saturday 2-3pm St Mary Magdalene's Outwood  
(on 19<sup>th</sup> December only)  
Saturday 10-12pm St Paul's Alverthorpe

Arrangements for St Anne's Wrenthorpe will be confirmed in next week's Link.

## Wrenthorpe & Kirkhamgate Food Bank



**Wrenthorpe &  
Kirkhamgate  
Assist**  
HERE WHEN YOU NEED US

Regular collection boxes for the food bank are hosted 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

## A Recipe from Mother Jo Kershaw: Cannellini and Leafy Green Soup

A hearty soup is always a good and comforting option for lunch in cold weather. I enjoy bean soup - it's inspired by Italian recipes, but it's not very authentic at this stage. It is, however, very good.



This is a delicious and healthy soup. It's also one that benefits from the best stock you have (ideal if you've got some stock in the freezer from the Christmas bird). Don't use beef stock, though - it will overwhelm the flavours. If you're using ready made stock, use a good one - Marigold bouillon powder is my favourite vegetarian option (a vegan version is also available).

1 medium onion, finely chopped  
1 leek, cleaned and chopped  
1 1/2 tsp dried rosemary (or 1 1/2 tbsp fresh chopped, if you have it)  
600ml poultry or vegetable stock  
2 400g cans cannellini beans (or any white bean), drained and rinsed

Juice of 1 lemon

150g or so cavolo nero, kale, or spring greens,  
stalk removed and leaves torn into small pieces

2 tsp olive oil for frying

Salt and pepper to taste

If you have it: the rind of a parmesan slice

To serve: grated parmesan or your favourite hard  
cheese, good toast.

In a large pan, sweat the onions and leeks until  
tender and translucent over a low heat  
(remember onions always take longer than recipe  
books say!).

Add the stock, the parmesan rind and two thirds  
of the beans, bring to the boil, and simmer for  
twenty minutes.

Remove the parmesan rind and, using a stick  
blender or a potato masher, puree the beans.

Add the remains of the beans and the kale, and  
return the rind, to the pan. Bring to the boil again  
and simmer for another ten minutes (or until the  
greens are done to your taste). Add the lemon  
juice and taste to check seasoning.

Serve, drizzling with olive oil, with good toast and  
a sprinkle of parmesan for those who want it.

NOTE: this is also good with spinach, but in that  
case, add them a few minutes before you are  
ready to serve, as spinach only needs very light  
cooking. If you don't like kale or other leafy  
greens at all, you could use courgettes. Dice them  
small and add them with the first lot of beans.

You can, of course, use dried beans instead,  
prepared according to the packet instructions, but  
you may have difficulty getting cannellini beans at  
present.

## **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 – Ian Hirst, Richard Barnes, Pat  
Goodwin and Ron Churm

Outwood – Ann Hague, Leslie Foster, Emily  
Jackson, Raymond Robinson, John Mountain

Wrenthorpe – Emma Carter, Elizabeth Peaker

## **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)

Wrenthorpe: Mthr Jo (01924 373758/  
revdjokershaw@gmail.com)

Stanley & Alverthorpe: Rev'd Glenn (01924  
[218484/cogginsslenn@gmail.com](mailto:218484/cogginsslenn@gmail.com))

**Keeping you entertained!**  
*From Cartoon Church*

# BEATITUDES

FOR A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO STAY INDOORS



FOR THEY HAVE PROTECTED OTHERS

BLESSED ARE THE UNEMPLOYED AND THE SELF-EMPLOYED



FOR THEIR NEED OF GOD IS GREAT

BLESSED ARE THE CORNER SHOPKEEPERS



FOR THEY ARE THE PURVEYORS OF SCARCE THINGS

BLESSED ARE THE DELIVERY DRIVERS AND THE POSTAL WORKERS



FOR THEY ARE THE BRINGERS OF ESSENTIAL THINGS

BLESSED ARE THE HOSPITAL WORKERS, THE AMBULANCE CREWS, THE DOCTORS, THE NURSES, THE CARE ASSISTANTS, AND THE CLEANERS



FOR THEY STAND BETWEEN US AND THE GRAVE, AND THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS SURELY THEIRS

BLESSED ARE THE CHECKOUT WORKERS



FOR THEY HAVE PATIENCE AND FORTITUDE IN THE FACE OF OVERWORK AND FRUSTRATION

BLESSED ARE THE REFUSE COLLECTORS



FOR THEY WILL SEE GOD DESPITE THE MOUNTAINS OF WASTE

BLESSED ARE THE TEACHERS



FOR THEY REMAIN STEADFAST AND CONSTANT IN DISTURBING TIMES

BLESSED ARE THE CHURCH WORKERS; THE DEACONS, PRIESTS AND BISHOPS



FOR THEY ARE A COMFORTING PRESENCE IN A HURTING WORLD AS THEY CONTINUE TO SIGNPOST TOWARDS GOD

BLESSED ARE THE SINGLE PARENTS,



FOR THEY ARE COPING ALONE WITH THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND THERE IS NO RESPIRE

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE ALONE,



FOR THEY ARE CHILDREN OF GOD AND WITH HIM THEY WILL NEVER BE LONELY

BLESSED ARE THE BEREAVED,



FOR WHOM THE WORST HAS ALREADY HAPPENED. THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE ISOLATED WITH THEIR ABUSERS



FOR ONE DAY - WE PRAY - THEY WILL KNOW SAFETY

BLESSED ARE ALL DURING THIS TIME WHO HAVE PURE HEARTS; ALL WHO STILL HUNGER AND THIRST FOR JUSTICE; ALL WHO WORK FOR PEACE AND WHO MODEL MERCY



MAY YOU KNOW COMFORT. MAY YOU KNOW CALM. AND MAY THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND THE LOVE OF GOD, AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, BE WITH US ALL. AMEN