

THE LINK

Keeping you in touch with Outwood, Stanley, Wrenthorpe and Alverthorpe Churches

24th January-31st January

Prayers and Readings for this Week

Dear all,

It is said that the darkest hour is just before the dawn. I have never wanted to try to check this by staying up all night, but it is a popular phrase and one which is appropriate to the time we find ourselves in. In many ways there are reasons to be hopeful. As I write this, more than 6% of the population have had at least one jab for the coronavirus vaccine and vaccines are now about to be offered to those over 70 and the critically vulnerable, as well as those who are in their 80s. I know several people in our congregations have already received their first injections and many more will be looking forward to them as the vaccine programme broadens.

But it is still a dark hour. The three worst days for Covid-19 deaths have taken place in the last week. The UK may be inoculating people faster than every other major country, but we also have the highest infection rate in the world at the moment. And while new cases may be going down in nearly every part of the UK, Covid-19 still has affected many people we know – including Glenn and Angela in this team of churches. We continue to pray for their recovery and hope they get plenty of rest.

But in the book of Malachi, the prophet says “[F]or you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.” A change is coming. Like every other pandemic, this one will end, even if we have to deal with its effects for many years to come. The Christian hope is that these changes we go through point to the change that will come at the end of time when Christ returns and heaven and earth will be remade. So keep on going and keep the faith.

With prayers and best wishes,

Fr Jonathan

3rd Sunday of Epiphany (24th January)

Genesis 14.17-20
Psalm 128
Revelation 19.6-10
John 2.1-11

Almighty God,
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles
the wonder of your saving presence:
renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your mighty power;
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.

Candlemas (31st January)

Malachi 3.1-5
Psalm 24.7-end
Hebrews 2.14-end
Luke 2.22-40

Almighty and ever-living God,
clothed in majesty,
whose beloved Son was this day
presented in the Temple,
in substance of our flesh:
grant that we may be presented to you
with pure and clean hearts,
by your Son Jesus Christ 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

All churches

25th January – 7:30pm Licensing of Churchwardens on Zoom

Outwood

30th January – Virtual Cocktail Night

15th February – 7:30pm Virtual PCC on Zoom

Wrenthorpe

27th January – 7:30pm Virtual PCC on Zoom

30th January – Virtual Cocktail Night

Stanley

25th January – 7:30pm Bible Study: The Lord's Prayer

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



Even serious gardeners may not think about the seed that they buy, but that is changing. Many commercially available seeds come from a very narrow genetic stock – which means you get virtually identical plants everywhere. This cuts down on diversity and means plants are less resistant to disease if something goes wrong. But community seed banks are tackling the problem: local people keep, dry and share the seeds from their allotments, ensuring that their plants are more resilient – and different from anywhere else in the world. If you want to read more about the work of the Stroud Community Seed Bank, there's a feature on what they do here:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/jan/19/plotting-the-future-the-seed-guardians-bringing-variety-to-uk-gardens-aoe>



Another bit of good news about pizza this week! Nurses at the critical care unit at Royal Stoke University Hospital were surprised to receive a delivery of pizzas from a local firm. When they phoned the pizza company, they discovered that the pizzas were a gift from a group of sixth form students who wanted to remain anonymous. Their kindness really cheered up the hard-pressed unit staff - and one of the nurses' tweets about it went viral, meaning that the thoughtful young people have made more people smile than they ever imagined.



Fishermen in Namibia have found a way to dramatically cut down the number of birds accidentally caught by long-line fishing. In long-line fishing, baited hooks are towed on very long lines behind fishing boats. They are very good at catching tuna and other popular fish but can also catch vulnerable species like sharks, turtles and seabirds. But attaching pieces of coloured hosepipe to the lines has made the technique far safer for bird life. Bird deaths have gone down from 22,000 in 2009 to 215 in 2018. And that's despite the fishing industry growing. "The fact that we have done something about it ... that gives me a great sense of joy and achievement," said Titus Shaanika of BirdLife International's Albatross Task Force in Namibia.

Virtual Cocktail Night!



Fr Jonathan and Mthr Jo are going to host a social evening on Zoom on 30th January at 7:30pm for anyone who is interested, and to make it a little more fun, we're going to make it a cocktail night!

There are some recipes for a cocktail and a non-alcoholic 'mocktail' in this week's edition of the Link for those who'd like to make them. But feel free to come, even if your drink of choice is a pint, a glass of wine, or a mug of tea! Open to everyone across the four churches. Hope to see you there! (Dressing up unnecessary!)

Visiting Churches



Our churches are open for visits at the following times:

Monday 4pm-5pm St Mary Magdalene's Outwood
Wednesday 12:30pm-1:30pm St Anne's Wrenthorpe
Saturday 2-3pm St Mary Magdalene's Outwood (on 19th December only)
Saturday 10-12pm St Paul's Alverthorpe

All our churches can also be visited by appointment

Wrenthorpe & Kirkhamgate Food Bank



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 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!

A Recipe from Mother Jo Kershaw: Cocktails and Mocktails

The Jungle Bird

In keeping with the "store cupboard" theme, here's an unusual and delicious cocktail we discovered during the first lockdown that you can make with the juice of tinned pineapple. The "Jungle Bird" was apparently invented in the glamorous Aviary Bar in Kuala Lumpur - it's unusual in combining the tropical flavours of rum and pineapple with the bitter Italian aperitif Campari, but it works really well. To make sugar syrup, dissolve 2 parts sugar in 1 part water (you can do this most easily using hot water and allowing it to cool. It will keep for a few days in the fridge).



If you don't have a cocktail shaker but you'd still like to try this drink, you can put the ice and ingredients into a large insulated coffee mug, put your thumb over the hole in the lid, and shake.

2 shots (50ml) dark rum
1 shot Campari
2 shots pineapple juice

1 tbsp sugar syrup
1 tbsp lime or lemon juice

Half fill your cocktail shaker with ice.
Add all the other ingredients, and shake vigorously until ice forms on the side of the shaker (obviously this will not happen if you are using an insulated coffee mug!)
Strain into a tumbler and enjoy. Garnish with a chunk of pineapple or a cocktail cherry, if you like.

A very simple cocktail - the Tom Collins

2 shots gin
1 shot lemon juice
2 tsp sugar syrup
To top off: sparkling water

Pour the gin, lemon juice and sugar syrup into a tall glass which contains ice. Stir.
Top off to taste with sparkling water.



The no-jito

This non-alcoholic version of the mojito replaces the rum with apple juice and a dash of almond essence, which really lifts the drink.

1 unwaxed lime, cut into wedges
1 tsp caster sugar
6 mint leaves, plus a few more for garnish
4tsp apple juice
A dash of almond extract
Sparkling water.

Put the lime wedges and sugar in the bottom of your glass, and “muddle” them by pressing down and stirring with a cocktail muddler or something like the end of a rolling pin or even a wooden spoon. Add the mint leaves and muddle again, but more gently.

Add the apple juice, almond essence, and as many ice cubes as you like and stir well.



Finally, top off with the sparkling water to taste - and garnish with some more mint leaves, if you like.

Licensing of Churchwardens

The churchwardens for all four churches across our team will be licensed on Monday 25th January at 7.30pm. This will take place only via Zoom, but everyone is welcome to attend and invitations to come along to the service on Zoom will be circulated to everyone we have email contact with. If you want to come along, please be in touch!

St Peter's Stanley Bible Study

This is a Bible study course held via Zoom, based on the Lord's Prayer and concentrating on the theme of 'prayer'. The zoom link for this course is <https://northwakefield.benefice.uk/ruth-mws-zoom-page/> which is Ruth's zoom link. This course will take us up to the beginning of Lent; it's not too late to get involved.

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, Ron Churm, Elizabeth Wilkinson
Outwood – John Mountain, Doris Kemp, Christine Stephenson, Jamie Farrar, June Brown
Wrenthorpe – Emma Carter, Elizabeth Peaker, Betty McGarroch

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/cogginsglenn@gmail.com)

Keeping you entertained!

We're being nostalgic this week to remind everyone that wearing masks is not new! From a San Francisco newspaper in 1918

Friday, November 22, 1918

THE MASKED MARVEL

