

THE LINK

Keeping you in touch with Outwood, Stanley, Wrenthorpe and Alverthorpe Churches 31st January-7th February

Dear all,

I can remember on visits to my grandparents as an older child and teenager that my grandmother would watch the news, shake her head, and say, "I can't understand what they're fighting about!" I expect some of us feel that way at this stage in the pandemic. This week, the news is about a row between the European Union and AstraZeneca over vaccine production, an attempt by the Scottish government to start a new independence referendum, and a cunning plot by gamers to manipulate the price of GameStop to teach hedge funds a thing or two about playing the market.

Conflict never stops, even if there are times when it makes us want to throw up our hands and say "Enough, sort it out!" as my grandmother wanted to do. But behind conflict, there are nearly always serious issues. For instance, should the first doses of the vaccine go to the country that made them, the country which was first in the queue, the countries most affected by coronavirus, or the poorest countries who are least able to deal with the crisis? Arguments can be made for all four.

When we as Christians run into conflicts, we're guided by the teachings of Jesus, the words of scripture and the traditions of the church. Unlike the rest of the world, we don't just decide what we think and feel about conflicts by ourselves, but as part of the church and as followers of Jesus. Perhaps if that sense of mutual responsibility was embraced more widely, there would be more honesty when people disagree – and perhaps less conflict!

The world is a tumultuous place at the moment, but we have a firm foundation in our faith. Let's look to it for guidance as we think about how we can make the world better both now and in the months, to come.

With prayers and best wishes,

Fr Jonathan

Prayers and Readings for this Week

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.

2nd Sunday before Lent

Proverbs 8.1, 22-31
Psalm 104.26-end
Colossians 1.15-20
John 1.1-14

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme
over all things,
now and for ever.

Upcoming Church Events

Outwood

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

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



A few years ago, Paul O'Sullivan of Baltimore in the US was idly scrolling through Facebook when, on a whim, he did a search for his own name and sent friends requests to the other Paul O'Sullivans he found. A number of them accepted, and he realised that three of them shared his interest in making music. So he suggested starting a band. The other Pauls - who

refer to each other by their hometowns - took a while to accept Baltimore Paul's idea could work, but they began making music together online. They can't rehearse together and so record their parts separately, and initially no-one had much time for The Paul O'Sullivan Band. Lockdown changed that, and the band now has an album out! Rotterdam Paul says their friendship and music have been "light at the end of the tunnel", while Manchester Paul sees it as "the wonder of the internet". But their biggest dream is to one day play a concert together - in person.



It's been very heartening to see photos of people receiving their vaccines, but in the week of Holocaust Memorial Day, it was particularly moving to see photos of concentration camp survivors being vaccinated. Perhaps the most memorable picture was one shared by blogger @ifyoutickleus, of their elderly father getting the jab in the same arm that was tattooed in Auschwitz. He received his first injection from Pte Maddy Oliver, a British soldier assisting as a vaccine helper, the day before the anniversary of his liberation from Auschwitz, 76 years ago.



How would it change your attitude if you planted a tree? That's what school children in South Wales are going to learn. The Fruitful Orchards Project by Natural Resources Wales aims to educate through nature and has given fruit trees to schools so they can create their own orchards when they return. The project is open to schools Cardiff, Vale of Glamorgan, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Merthyr Tydfil and Bridgend with enough space to plant up to five fruit trees. Nadia De Longhi, operations manager for Natural Resources Wales, said: "This project is a great example of how we can support and facilitate learning in, about and for, the natural environment."

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: Clementine scented shortbread



At this time of year, there are still lots of lovely clementines about in the shops. Clementines are so nice to eat on their own that it always seems a shame to cook with them. However, here's a recipe that allows you to use the flavour in their delicious peel, and which gives an interesting

twist on a very classic biscuit. Shortbread uses a 1-2-3 proportion for fat, sugar, and flour - you could make it with 300g of flour and omit the cornflour, but using it makes the shortbread lighter and crisper.

NB: the clementines in the shops have probably been waxed, so you should not eat the zest as is. However, the wax is easy to remove: just put the whole clementine into a bowl of very hot water, and scrub vigorously with a brush. I don't recommend trying to remove it once you have peeled the clementine, though! Even if you have found unwaxed clementines, give them a wash anyway, though cold water will do, to get rid of any residues of insecticide.

If you are a vegan, you can of course replace the butter with margarine, but I wouldn't recommend doing so for any other reason than moral concerns, as it does affect the flavour quite dramatically.

100g cold butter
200g caster sugar
50g cornflour
250g plain flour
Zest of one or two clementines.

Preheat the oven to gas mark 4.

In a large bowl, cream together the butter and sugar (easiest done with a mixer).

Sieve the flour and cornflour into the bowl and use your hands to mix it into a dough. Don't overwork it! If you have warm hands, you may find the dough benefits from a short rest in the fridge.

Roll out the dough to about half an inch thick. Now you can either cut it in eighths, to form the classic petticoat tails, cut it into fingers, or, if you like, use a round fluted cutter to cut out round biscuits. Whatever shape you go for, prick the biscuits lightly with a fork and place on a lined baking tray.

Bake for ten to fifteen minutes (check after ten!) and cool on a wire rack.

Could this be you?



Have you ever thought about ministry in the church? Applications are now open for the Diocese of Leeds' licensed lay ministers training, a two year course which leads to permission to lead some services and a license to preach. If you've ever thought about ministry, please speak to one of our clergy team. We have lay ministers serving or in training in all four of our churches, but there is always room for one more! If you have ever thought about exploring ministry as a priest or deacon, please also speak to us. It is a longer training course, but it can be done while working and it is even possible to be a priest while doing a normal job!

There are also courses on offer in the diocese for training in having pastoral conversations. These are available online and will be available in person when restrictions are eased.

- Level 1 – Pastoral Conversations (single session 2hrs) – Monday March 22nd 1.30-3.30pm: <https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/course/online-pastoral-conversations-course-220321/>
- Level 2 – Pastoral Assistant training (10 sessions x 2hrs) begins on Wednesday 21st April, 7-9pm: <https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/course/pastoral-assistant-training-online-summer-2021/>
- The self-paced version of the level 1 course remains available for those who prefer to study in their own time: <https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/course/self-paced-pastoral-conversations-course/>

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](mailto:218484@cogginsglenn@gmail.com))

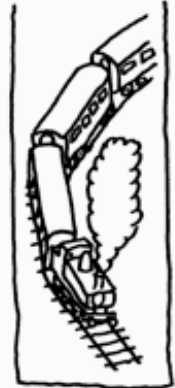
Keeping you entertained!

Cartoon Church has a helpful guide to decoding what the clergy are wearing!

STOLES

THE VICAR USES THESE TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE CONGREGATION

PATTERN →



WHAT
THE
VICAR
INTENDS
IT TO
MEAN →

CHRISTIANITY
BRINGS
NEW
GROWTH

THE
SPIRIT
IS AT
WORK

THE
BIBLE
IS VERY
IMPORTANT

WE ARE ALL
ON A
JOURNEY
OF FAITH

WHAT
THE
CONGREGATION
THINKS
IT
MEANS →

WE COULD
DO WITH
SOME HELP
WITH THE
OVERGROWN
CHURCHYARD

ONE DAY
WE WILL
GET
SOME
PROPER
HEATING

IN SOME
WAYS A
STOLE LOOKS
SIMILAR TO A
VERY LARGE
BOOKMARK

I
LIKE
TRAINS