

THE LINK

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

7th February-14th February

Dear all,

February isn't always the month with the best reputation - a friend of mine said the other day that she feels like it's been February since last March! And while I enjoyed last week's snow, I know not everyone is a fan of the white stuff!

Nonetheless, though, it's noticeable that even though the weather is cold and wintry, the days are getting longer, and snowdrops and other spring flowers are beginning to appear to cheer us. It's a reminder that no winter can last forever.

At the moment, I think a lot of us are feeling very tired. But there is hope to be found, in the beauties of the natural world, in the kindness of others, and in the good progress of the vaccine roll-out.

This Sunday's readings focus us on God as creator, and how the God we meet in Christ is the same God who forms and upholds our world. As we see the flowers of spring return and watch the birds preparing to nest, let's let them lift our hearts - and be a reminder of God's care for us all.

With every blessing,

Rev'd Jo

Prayers and Readings for this Week

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.

The Sunday before Lent

2 Kings 2.1-12
Psalm 50.1-6
2 Corinthians 4.3-6
Mark 9.2-9

Almighty Father,
whose Son was revealed in majesty
before he suffered death upon the cross:
give us grace to perceive his glory,
that we may be strengthened to suffer with him
and be changed into his likeness, from glory to
glory;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Upcoming Church Events

Outwood

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

Stanley

Mondays – 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)

A Lent Pilgrimage with St George's College Jerusalem

This year, Fr Jonathan and Revd Jo are going to be leading a course from St George's College in Jerusalem called "A River Through the Desert." It's an opportunity to explore our faith using the physical features of the Holy Land. The course has videos from different parts of the Holy Land led by ministers from the college, and will hopefully be a bit more relaxing than Lent courses sometimes are, as we journey on Zoom to the places where Jesus walked.

We'll be running the course at 4pm on Tuesdays and 7:30pm on Wednesdays, beginning the week after Ash Wednesday (23/24 Feb). Please join in, and if you're able to make a donation to help the

college's fundraising, please visit their JustGiving page:
<https://www.saintgeorgescollegejerusalem.com/giving/>

Good News from Around the World



There has been a lot of talk about vaccine nationalism and countries eager to secure medical treatment for their own citizens, so it is good to hear some news about countries helping one another out. Germany recently deployed a medical plane with 26 medics, 50 ventilators and 150 hospital beds to Portugal which currently has the highest rate of Coronavirus cases in Europe. Nearly half the country's Covid deaths have happened since January, but we hope that help from Germany and other countries will bring the latest outbreak under control.



York Station is due for a refurbishment: a bridge will be demolished outside the station to increase parking, give better access for buses, and best of all, more space for pedestrians and bicycles. Hopefully it will make visits to York even better when we're allowed to travel again!



The US state that's doing best at distributing the vaccine might surprise you - despite the Arctic dark and cold, it's Alaska! Working together with the Indian Health service, Alaska's public health officials have managed to vaccinate an impressive 13% of residents. Alaskans are used to using unconventional methods to get precious cargo through. Residents have been vaccinated on landing strips, and it's common for people to arrive for their job by sled. Once when bad weather meant planes couldn't take off in remote Kachemak Bay, vaccine distributors asked Curt Jackson, who runs a summer water taxi for tourists, if he would be willing to take them to their destination, lest the precious and time-sensitive vaccine go to waste. What's normally a fifteen minute trip became a frightening hour's journey, but Jackson got them through. "Boats, ferries, planes, snowmobiles — Alaskans will find a way to get it there," said the state's chief medical officer, Anne Zink.



You might not think the humble hedgerow was so good for the planet. But ecologist Rob Wolton has been promoting the restoration of Britain's hedgerows as a solution to the problems the environment faces. Some hedgerows are up to 800 years old, and they are home to a surprising number of species. Wolton knows: he observed his local hedgerow over the course of 12 months and discovered there were over 2,000 species using it. There's growing support for

the idea of preserving hedgerows, with both the European Commission and the UK's Commission on Climate Change suggesting that they are one of the best ways to support wildlife in intensely settled areas. Why not go along to your local hedgerow and see what you can see?

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
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 which serves Outwood, Wrenthorpe, Stanley and

Alvethorpe 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: Celeriac Soup

Have you ever seen a celeriac in the shops, and wondered what on earth to do with it? The humble celeriac isn't the most beautiful of vegetables, and its knobbly outer can look a bit daunting. But this close relative of the celery is surprisingly versatile - it's very popular in France, Italy and Germany. It's in season now, and it's well worth a try. I particularly like it in soup, but it is also very good as a mash if you fancy a change from potatoes - cut into cubes and boil for 15-20 minutes before mashing with salt, pepper and butter - and you can cut it into matchsticks and blanch it for use in a wintery salad.

- A knob of butter
- 1 Celeriac
- 1 Potato
- 1 Leek
- 1 Onion
- 1 Garlic clove
- 1 litre chicken or vegetable stock

Cut off the root and tops and peel your celeriac - you'll need to take off a good thick layer of skin, and make sure you cut out the root channels and any brown bits. You'll probably find you lose up to a quarter of the starting weight.

Wash, trim, and slice the leek, peel and cube the potatoes, peel and roughly chop the onion, and peel and slice the garlic clove.

Melt the butter in a large saucepan, and add the vegetables, sweating on a low heat until the vegetables start to soften (this will take a while! Stir it occasionally to make sure nothing sticks).

Add the stock and bring to the boil, then simmer for twenty minutes or until the celeriac is very tender.

Remove from the heat and blend. Check seasoning. Either return it to the heat and serve immediately, or cool and serve later.

Serve with some good bread. You could also swirl some creme fraiche or sour cream into the bowl, or perhaps add a dollop of pesto.

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)

Keeping you entertained!

Perhaps if we took advice from CartoonChurch we'd have fewer sound problems in the last few week's broadcasts!

