

# THE LINK

## Keeping you in touch with Outwood, Stanley, Wrenthorpe and Alverthorpe Churches 14<sup>th</sup> February-21<sup>st</sup> February

Dear all,

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of Lent (for those of you missing parish pancake parties, you'll hopefully find some consolation in Fr Jonathan's recipe for American-style pancakes for Shrove Tuesday).

I've heard a number of comments along the lines of "no point giving something up this Lent, we've given up everything already" or "feels like it's been Lent since last year." It's hard not to sympathise - but the point of Lenten observances is not to make you feel more miserable, but to help you concentrate more on prayer or on the Christian life. They act as a reminder, too, as we focus on the life of Jesus and on his fasting and prayer in the wilderness.

So one thing to think about might be how we might find that "wilderness experience" - a way of drawing back from business and distraction in order to focus our hearts and minds on God. That's always challenging, and while in some ways lockdown might have made it easier, others will find themselves busier and more harassed than ever.

Our Lent course this year comes from St George's College in Jerusalem, and its title "A River Through the Desert" points us in that direction. In taking important locations in the Holy Land as a focus for reflection on Scripture, it aims to offer refreshment and nourishment for our faith, in the same way a river brings life to the desert. I hope many of you will join us, and that it will help you to encounter God in the wilderness of this pandemic.

Blessings,

Rev'd Jo

### Prayers and Readings for this Week

#### 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.

#### Ash Wednesday

Joel 2.1-2,12-17  
Psalm 51.1-18  
2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10  
Matthew 6.1-6,16-21

Almighty and everlasting God,  
you hate nothing that you have made  
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:  
create and make in us new and contrite hearts  
that we, worthily lamenting our sins  
and acknowledging our wretchedness,  
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,  
perfect remission and forgiveness;  
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.

## **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent**

Genesis 9.8-17

Psalm 25.1-9

1 Peter 3.18-end

Mark 1.9-15

Almighty God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness,  
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:  
give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit;  
and, as you know our weakness,  
so may we know your power to save;  
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

17<sup>th</sup> February – 7:30pm Ash Wednesday Mass

with Sprinkling of Ashes

23<sup>rd</sup> February – 4pm Lent Group

24<sup>th</sup> February – 7:30pm Lent Group

#### **Wrenthorpe**

17<sup>th</sup> February – 12pm Ash Wednesday Mass with Sprinkling of Ashes (on Zoom)

23<sup>rd</sup> February – 4pm Lent Group

24<sup>th</sup> February – 7:30pm Lent Group

#### **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)

## **Ash Wednesday**

This year, Ash Wednesday falls on 17 February. There will be two celebrations in the team. One at St Anne's Wrenthorpe at 12pm, which will take place on Zoom – please get in touch for the Zoom login if you'd like to join us. This will be the first Zoom Eucharist we have tried in the team and hopefully this will enable congregation members to see one another as well as watching the service.

The second service will take place at St Mary Magdalene's, Outwood at 7:30pm in the evening. This service will be streamed on Facebook Live Video. St Mary Magdalene's will be reviewing its Covid-secure arrangements on Monday 15 February and this service may be open to the public if the PCC agree to this change.

## **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/>

## **Reopening our Churches**

Under the current government guidance, churches are permitted to be open if they have adequate Covid-secure precautions in place. This will be different for each church and all the churches in our team are reviewing their opening arrangements within their own church councils.

St Mary Magdalene's in Outwood will be reviewing their arrangements at the PCC on 15 February and St Anne's Wrenthorpe will review theirs on 24 February. We will update you in the Link and by letter/email if our arrangements change. Please let Fr Jonathan or Rev'd Jo know if you have any feedback on whether you would feel safe if our churches reopen – we will then pass this on to our PCCs.

St Paul's and St Peter's will review their opening arrangements in due course.

## **Good News from Around the World**



*When we think of the Canadian Rockies, we think of unspoiled wilderness, but there's quite a lot of coal in those hills! Places like Crowsnest Pass, shown above, have been protected for the last fifty years by Alberta's Coal Policy, which did not allow new mines in wilderness areas. However, a collapse in oil prices*

and a slow economy led to the government changing its mind last May and opening the way for new coal mines in areas that are home to grizzly bears and caribou, and provide water to over 1 million people.

But the decision has been reversed: an unlikely coalition of environmentalists, country singers, hikers and Indigenous people caused a U-Turn this week.

Everyone acknowledges the decision is difficult: Alberta's economy depends heavily on the energy industry and jobs are at stake. But as Latasha Calf Robe, a community organiser with the Blood Tribe says, it's about something bigger than that: "By protecting treaty rights, we are protecting the land, we are protecting the mountains, we are protecting the wildlife. Because these fights never end. If it's coalmines one day, it's pipelines the next day, and then it's logging."



Israel has now given 40% of its population the Covid vaccine – the most of any country in the world (we're third, with 18.9% of the country vaccinated). The government has now announced that leisure facilities, including gyms and hotels will be able to reopen in two weeks' time. You will need to show that you have been vaccinated or have had a clear Covid test in the last 72 hours, but there's hope that with the vaccine deployed in large numbers we can soon expect the same changes here!



Sister André has seen a lot: she's turning 117, and has survived two world wars and the Spanish flu epidemic to become the oldest person in Europe.

Now she has survived the coronavirus. She was diagnosed mid-January in an outbreak at her nursing home which killed ten others, but fortunately was asymptomatic. She told French television she wasn't afraid to die: "I'm happy to be with you, but I would wish to be somewhere else — join my big brother and my grandfather and my grandmother." Sister André was born in 1904 and was brought up in a non-religious Protestant family. She converted to Catholicism at 19, and at 25, she began working at a hospital. For 28 years she took care of elderly people and orphaned children. In 1944, she joined the Daughters of Charity to become a nun at the age of 40. She took on the name Sister André in honor of her deceased brother, and in 2009, she moved to the retirement home, Le Parisien reported. She is now blind, but spends a great deal of her time praying for others and looks forward to meals with friends and walks in the garden when the pandemic is over! Good on you, sister!

## 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 Father Jonathan Bish: American Pancakes**

Hello all, me this week. Usually Mother Jo and I cook together, but she is generally better in the kitchen than I am. But there are a couple of recipes I am fond of, and this is one of my favourites for a cold morning on a day off. American pancakes are much thicker and fluffier than their British equivalent and make a fine breakfast food. They're easy and fun to make with children too!

You will need:

- 2½ teaspoons baking powder
- 1 pinch of salt
- At least 1 teaspoon white sugar
- 2 large eggs (beaten)
- 30 grams butter (melted and cooled)
- 300 millilitres milk
- 225 grams plain flour
- butter for frying



If you can get it, you can substitute buttermilk for the milk, but you may then want to add some milk to keep the dough fairly wet. I often increase the sugar quantity: Americans all have a sweet tooth, and using 2 teaspoons or even a tablespoon of sugar will get you closer to the real thing. You may also want to try brown sugar rather than white sugar – I think it produces a nicer result.

The easiest way to make these is to put all the ingredients into a blender or alternatively use an electric beater, which is what we do. If you do mix up the batter by hand in a bowl, make a well in the flour, baking powder, salt and sugar, beat in the eggs, melted butter and milk, and transfer to a jug: it's much easier to pour the batter into the pan than to spoon it.

If you have a griddle pan you will get a much better result, especially if you have the old fashioned sort with a temperature gauge. Keep it hot, but not too hot. Pour out your batter so that your pancakes are about 3-4 inches wide and flip them once they start to blister and bubble on one side. Then 1-2 minutes on the other side to finish them off.

Serve with maple syrup (or golden syrup if you fancy a transatlantic breakfast!). Add bacon if you like!

If you want to vary the recipe, you might want to add blueberries or chocolate chips.

### **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, Sarah Louise Clark, Sandra Bedford  
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](mailto:frjonathanbish@gmail.com))  
Wrenthorpe: Mthr Jo (01924 373758/[revdjokershaw@gmail.com](mailto:revdjokershaw@gmail.com))  
Stanley & Alverthorpe: Rev'd Glenn (01924 [218484/cogginsglenn@gmail.com](mailto:218484/cogginsglenn@gmail.com))

# Keeping you entertained!

From *CartoonChurch*

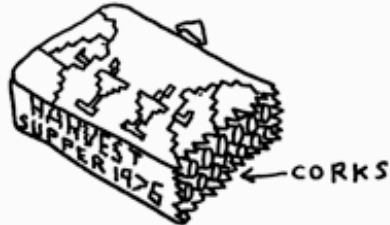
## KNEELERS

Q. WHAT IS INSIDE THEM?

A. THE FILLING DEPENDS UPON WHO HAS MADE THE KNEELER. THESE KNEELERS HAVE BEEN CUT OPEN SO THAT YOU CAN SEE WHAT IS INSIDE:



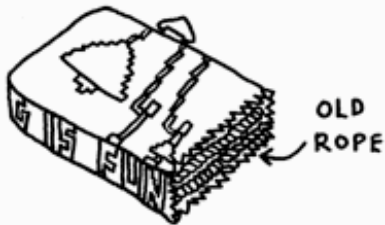
THE SUNDAY SCHOOL



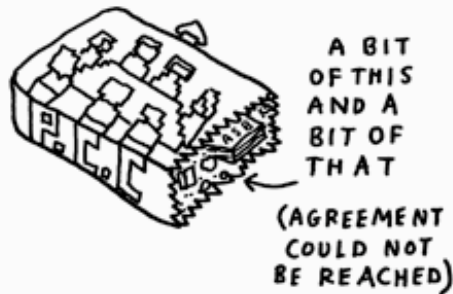
THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE



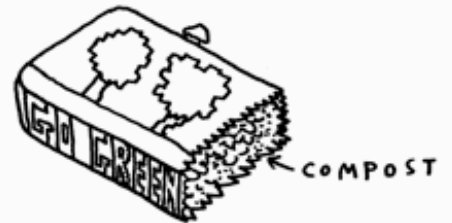
THE VICAR



THE BELLRINGERS



THE P.C.C.



THE 'ENVIRONMENT'  
SUBCOMMITTEE