

THE LINK

Keeping you in touch with Outwood, Stanley, Wrenthorpe and Alverthorpe Churches 21st February-28th February

Dear all,

This week St Mary Magdalene's Outwood will be going back to church on Sunday 21st February. The Church Council there have taken the decision based on falling infection rates both locally and nationally, our confidence in our Covid-secure arrangements, and the fact that many in our church congregations have now received the first dose of the vaccine.

Other churches in our team will make the decision to return as they feel that it is safe for them to do so: St Paul's has made the decision to return no earlier than 28th March and St Peter's and St Anne's will review their arrangements for worship at church council meetings in the coming days.

It is important to recognise that what is right for one church in this pandemic is not always right for all churches: some churches have remained open throughout this lockdown, some have offered only online worship, while others will be returning as their local situation eases. The government have allowed us to do this, but it is our responsibility to do so safely and in a way which respects the local church and its decision making. We are all part of the body of Christ.

But hopefully this is a sign that there is light at the end of the tunnel.

Every blessing,

Fr Jonathan

Prayers and Readings for this Week

1st 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.

2nd Sunday of Lent

Genesis 9.8-17
Psalm 25.1-9
1 Peter 3.18-end
Mark 1.9-15

Almighty God,
you show to those who are in error the light of your truth,
that they may return to the way of righteousness:
grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion,
that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession,
and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Upcoming Church Events

Outwood

23rd February – 4pm Lent Group
24th February – 7:30pm Lent Group

Wrenthorpe

23rd February – 4pm Lent Group

24th 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)

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



"Yardi Gras" Brings Carnival Spirit Home

New Orleans is famous for its colourful Mardi Gras/ Shrove Tuesday parades, with colorful floats and parties. But last year, the parties turned the city into an early Covid hotspot - so with great sadness but no argument, this year everything was cancelled. But the people of New Orleans are a creative bunch, and so "Yardi Gras", in which people decorated their houses and gardens, was born. Displays took all sorts of themes, many related to the natural world or local history, and a website was set to help people find them and to raise money for local charities. Many people taking part have had so much fun they say they hope "Yardi Gras" becomes part of the tradition every year.



Nano, nano, nano, nano-chameleon!

A German-Madagascan team of scientists has discovered the world's smallest reptile. Incredibly, the body of the male nano-chameleon (*Brookesia nana*) is only 1.35 cm long, slightly smaller than the width of most people's thumbnails. The females are a good bit bigger, but still only 2.9cm long. The chameleon hunts mites, and protects itself by hiding under leaves of grass. Dr Oliver Hawlitschek, of the Hamburg Centre of Natural History, said that while the area the tiny reptiles were found in had been suffering from deforestation, he was happy that it had been recently placed under protection, "so the species will survive."



This Playground is Rubbish!

In 2015, Indian architecture student Pooja Rai was walking to a lecture when she noticed some children playing with broken concrete pipes. Realising there was nowhere safe for the children to play, she and her friends got together to create a playground. Lack of safe places to play is an increasing problem in urban India, and Pooja set up Anthill Creations, a not-for-profit which has built 260 playgrounds using colourfully painted tyres, wheels from old carts, and other scrap, across India. Anthill Creations often work with schools, as well as refugee communities. The team get to know the children the playgrounds are built for, and people from the local community help with the building. Every playground is different! "Play is such an essential part of a child's education, which

not too many people are concerned about. We believe that every child, whether rich or poor, should get an equal opportunity and access to play," says Pooja.

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 Alverthorpe 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: Langoustines, Oysters and Scallops

It is traditional in Lent to abstain from meat, so for Lent, we're going to have a series of recipes based on fish or vegetables.

One of the consequences of Brexit has been that that British fishermen, especially in Scotland, have struggled to sell their products to the continent. In this country we tend to be less adventurous with fish and shellfish than our European and American cousins, so why not support British fishermen this Lent by trying some new things?

Here are three of my favourite fruits of the sea to try if you have never had them before.

Langoustines



These are some of Scotland's finest sea creatures but are much more likely to be eaten in France or Spain than at home. When we have them, we usually eat them in scampi, but they are delicious when boiled whole. Simply take your langoustines, boil them in salted water, and take them out once the end of the tail stops being translucent and is a creamy pink. You eat them by pulling the tails off and eating the meat inside and breaking apart the claws: harder work than scampi, but it's worth it!

You can sometimes get whole langoustines from Sainsbury's or you can order them directly from an online supplier.

Oysters



'He was a brave man who first ate an oyster', which is probably why people often don't give them a try, but they're missing out! But there are 23 recognised varieties of oyster in the UK, ranging from well-known ones like Lindisfarne and Whitstable oysters, to the unexpected Portsmouth Harbour variety! The best way to eat an oyster is raw on the half shell, but if you're not feeling that bold, try doing what they do in the south of the USA and deep fat frying your oysters in breadcrumbs.

Scallops



I have to confess a bias here: the best scallops are from the east coast of the United States. But the humble British scallops is still a fine thing. Scallops tend to come in two varieties – bay or sea – depending on how big they are and where they live. The smaller Isle of Man Queenie Scallops, for instance, are an example of bay scallops.

Both are delicious and can be pan-fried or put under the grill. The golden rule with scallops is to

undercook them, rather than overcook them. When frying, two or three minutes on medium heat for each side is usually enough and they are safe to eat rare. They are good by themselves but frying them with oil and garlic and serving them with pasta produces a fine Italian-American dish. If you use frozen scallops, which can be a very good bargain, let them defrost overnight rather than trying to defrost them in a hurry.

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.

Diocese of Leeds Lent Reflections

The Wakefield Episcopal Area within Leeds Diocese has organised for a series of reflections to take place through Lent on Fridays at Noon, beginning 19 February. Please email caroline.asquith@leeds.anglican.org for the zoom details if you'd like to join – all welcome!

These reflections will be recorded for those who cannot join us at these times. They will be available afterwards at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvnvg6p0I5vUTWe9H-klJpw>

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, Melvyn Crump
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: Rev'd Jo (01924 373758/
revdjokershaw@gmail.com)

Stanley & Alverthorpe: Rev'd Glenn (01924
218484/ cogginsglenn@gmail.com)

Keeping you entertained!

From CartoonChurch

LENT BOOKS

SEVEN DEADLY SINS



SLOTH



GREED



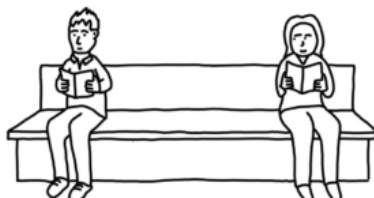
ENVY



GLUTTONY



PRIDE



LUST



WRATH