

THE LINK

Keeping you in touch with Outwood, Stanley, Wrenthorpe and Alverthorpe Churches 14th March-21st March

Dear all,

Mothering Sunday is going to fall at the start of this week. In most of our churches, we try to do something special for that day, whether it is distributing flowers, welcoming Scouting or Guiding units into church, or trying to reach out to local families. We don't have that opportunity this year, although at least in St Mary Magdalene's Outwood, we're still hoping to welcome at least some visitors into our building for worship that day.

Mothering Sunday can be a difficult day: there will always be people in our congregations whose mothers are no longer living, and there will be others whose mothers were not around, who did not have a good relationship with their mother, or indeed mothers whose children have died. One of the most difficult questions in bereavement for parents who have lost children is whether you still call yourself a mother or father, and this is particularly true for mothers who have lost children in pregnancy.

It makes Mothering Sunday more complicated than it might first appear, but hopefully for many people the virtues of motherhood are something they've experienced in some way and can celebrate. Our faith reminds us that being a 'mother' isn't just about biology. The church is our mother because we become brothers and sisters through our shared baptism. Our local churches have a 'mother' as well, for our cathedrals are the 'mother church' to the

diocese. And last of all, especially for Christians in the catholic tradition, the Virgin Mary is our mother, for she was the first to receive Jesus into her heart when she became the mother of the Saviour. So let's celebrate that and everything else that motherhood means for us this week.

Every blessing,
Fr Jonathan

Prayers and Readings for this Week

4th Sunday of Lent

Number 21.4-9
Psalm 107.1-3,17-22
Ephesians 2.1-10
John 3.14-21

Merciful Lord,
absolve your people from their offences,
that through your bountiful goodness
we may all be delivered
from the chains of those sins
which by our frailty we have committed;
grant this, heavenly Father,
for Jesus Christ's sake, our blessed Lord and
Saviour,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

5th Sunday of Lent (Passion Sunday)

Jeremiah 31.31-34
Psalm 51.1-13

Hebrews 5.5-10
John 12.20-33

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection
of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him
who suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
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

North Wakefield Team

16th March – 4pm Lent Group

16th March – 7:30pm Lent Group

Outwood

22nd March – 7:30pm PCC Meeting

25th March – 7:30pm Mass for the
Annunciation

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 during the service
or after it 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

The BBC has reported that litter picking has increased in communities up and down England. You can read their coverage here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-56321769>



One of stories talked about Johnny Sanders, who said he had noticed a number of pickers working separately around his town of Shifnal in Shropshire. He set up the TFI Wombles group to bring them together and it now has more than 330 members online. He said, "It started off as a way to curb my anger. People have a horrible habit of bagging their dog poo and hanging it in a tree, and that really did wind me up, but there was nothing I could do to fix it except collect it myself. Now when I go out walking I take a little bag and everything I see, I pick up and drop in a bag."

You may have noticed people locally doing similar good deeds – thanks to everyone keeping our local community clean!



You may not have heard of Saxmundham before, but it is Britain's most vaccinated town, with two-thirds of the population already having had at least one jab, compared to just over one-third of the population nationally. Rollouts of the vaccine are coordinated differently in different local authority areas. In Saxmundham, locals put down their success to their excellent GP surgery. Many put it down to a local doctor, Dr Havard. Robert Ney, 68, told the BBC, "'I think with the age population here being slightly older, plus the fact that Dr Havard was very keen to get everybody done, I think that is why the number of people vaccinated has been so high. Everybody I've spoken to has had it. He has done it so well. Everybody wants it done."



People always tell you that you should not give money to people who are homeless, but a Canadian city has tried just that: the study in Vancouver looked at what would happen if people who had recently become homeless, and still had bank accounts, were given £4800, with no strings attached. After a month, half of those participating had already found stable accommodation, 70% of them were food secure, and by the end of the year participants had an average of £600 left in their bank account. The "New Leaf" programme saved the provincial government just over £300 a year per head because participants were no

longer using emergency shelters, but perhaps more importantly, many of those participating were back in employment and all of them were living more stable and healthier lives. Other Canadian cities are planning to introduce the model.

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



**Wrenthorpe &
Kirkhamgate
Assist**

HERE WHEN YOU NEED US

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: Rhubarb Cake

We're coming to the end of the forced rhubarb season - but the unforced rhubarb is already starting to grow, and it won't be long before those of us with rhubarb in the garden have more than we know what to do with! This delicious cake will work with either forced or unforced rhubarb, but if you're using the latter, choose thinner, younger stalks. This is a very similar cake to the German "sunken apple cake" I shared a recipe for last year, and like that, it's excellent with a cup of coffee, and maybe a spoon of cream or mascarpone. Good hot or cold, best eaten within three days.



- 200g/7oz slightly soft butter, plus extra to grease the tin
- 200g/7oz caster sugar
- 3 tbsp golden granulated or brown sugar
- 3 large free-range eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla extract

- 1/2 tsp ground ginger
- 200g/7oz ground almonds
- 200g/7oz self-raising flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 300g/10½oz young rhubarb stalks, trimmed and cut into roughly 2cm/¾in lengths

Preheat the oven to Gas Mark 4 and grease a 23cm cake tin (preferably spring form). Line the base with baking paper.

Put all the ingredients except the rhubarb and the brown sugar into a large bowl and cream together (this will go MUCH faster with an electric mixer or food processor....).

Spoon the cake batter into the tin. Top with the rhubarb, pressing it gently into the mixture, and then sprinkle the brown sugar over the top.

Bake for an hour and fifteen minutes, or until a skewer or toothpick comes out clean. Keep an eye on the cake as you may find the top begins to over-brown before the centre is cooked - if this starts to happen, cover the top with a circle of baking paper.

Cool in the tin for twenty minutes before turning out onto a wire rack.

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 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-kIJpw>

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 – Annie Sheppard, Dennis Firth, Sylvia Stringer, Roy Whiteley

Wrenthorpe – Emma Carter, Elizabeth Peaker, Betty McGarroch, Carol Hodgson, Hazel Ash

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

TRADITION

HOW IT DEVELOPS

