

The Beacon

Newsletter of St John's Church, Workop

March 2025

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Phill Kicks, one of our Churchwardens, writes

WHO are we really seeking for our future?

As we are going through Lent this year it is very appropriate that we are in the process of advertising for a new incumbent to take us on the next stage of our journey in faith. Lent is a time of resolutions, for some it may be fasting, for others retreats, or extended prayer. For me it has enabled me to focus on our future and, with faith, the right applicant for the post. Advertising is already happening with various advertisers, including the Church Times, right up to Easter.

But most importantly I am focussing on that closing date for applications on the 27th April.

Throughout this time I ask all you prayer warriors to extend your prayer time, send your arrow prayers to God for the right person for us and our vision to be guided to our advert and apply.

When the right candidate applies we will know because they will have seen our vision and profile, acknowledge our sound foundations, and they will be ready, willing and able to pick up Christ's banner and lead us all forward to fulfil our vision to grow the church and be a place of salvation in Workop.

Phill Kicks



Mothering Sunday

Each year on the fourth Sunday of Lent, countries around the world celebrate Mothering Sunday. This typically involves lavishing Mums with gifts and attention and celebrating the women who have nurtured us throughout our lives. But with the day becoming increasingly commercialised, how many people are aware of its very different origins?

The Journey to the Mother Church

In the 16th century, Mothering Sunday was less about mothers and more about church. Back then, people would make a journey to their 'mother' church once a year. This might have been their home church, their nearest cathedral or a major parish church in a bigger town. The service which took place at the 'mother' church symbolised the coming together of families. This would have represented a significant journey for many.

A day off to visit Mother

Another tradition was to allow those working in the fields on wealthy farms and estates in England to have the day off on the fourth Sunday of Lent to visit their mothers and possibly go to church too. This was a variation on the theme of visiting the 'mother' church and was a move towards a more family focussed occasion. Before the days of cars and roads, family get-togethers were far more rare. In some ways this tradition is still alive today as grown up children often visit their parents on mothering Sunday.

SIMNEL CAKE



Simnel Cake is a fruit cake associated with Lent and Easter. It is distinguished by layers of marzipan, typically one in the middle and one on top, and a set of eleven balls made of the same paste. It was originally made for the fourth Sunday in Lent, also known as the Refreshment Sunday of Lent (when the 40-day fast would be relaxed), Mothering Sunday, or Simnel Sunday. In the United Kingdom, it is now commonly associated with Mothering Sunday. Conventionally, 11 marzipan balls are used to decorate the cake, symbolising the 12 apostles minus Judas Iscariot.

[Recipes on-line]

My Mum

Who tells me off when I'm being bad... but who dries my tears when I'm feeling sad, and who calms me down when I really am mad? **My mum.**

Who says 'Be quiet' when things seem so long... But who serves me food so that I grow up strong, and teaches me to know right from wrong? **My mum.**

Who says 'Eat it up' when it's yucky or runny... but who laughs at my jokes when they're not even funny, and lends me £1 when I've run out of money? **My mum.**

Who says to me 'You must mend your ways'... but who shares God's love with me all of her days, and so I'll thank God and His name I'll praise for... **My mum.**

From a selection of poems written by

Carole Moorhouse

While working at the Birmingham University Hospitals Trust I was tasked with developing a replacement for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital which, physically, was struggling to keep pace with the outstanding developments of its clinicians. After many months of hard work by many of the staff a proposed development was accepted and a Construction Company commissioned to start building. Due to the development site being partially owned by the University, legal agreements for access were needed to be completed with them before the work could start. The University however, held back and were reluctant to issue the agreements (11 in all).

The Construction Company waited weeks for access to site to begin and eventually gave notice that they would withdraw their involvement in the project if these agreement weren't in place within 4 weeks.

I tried to get the University to respond but failed and I could see the project sinking. The worry and stress were great and I could not see any way forward. One night I lay in bed not able to sleep and sweating with fear of failure. The only hope and trust I had was in the Lord God so I put my fears to him in prayer.

A few days later I received a phone call from the University requesting permission to cross our land for a building project they were doing. I couldn't believe my ears and was amazed at the Lord's response to my prayers. My popularity nose dived when I let them know that they could not cross our land until the 11 legal agreements had been signed within the following 3 weeks. Despite the anger of the University's Estate staff the documents were completed in the time scale and the New Hospital Project begun. The Hospital is now fully operational: all praise to the Lord God Almighty and our grateful thanks.

Mel Morris



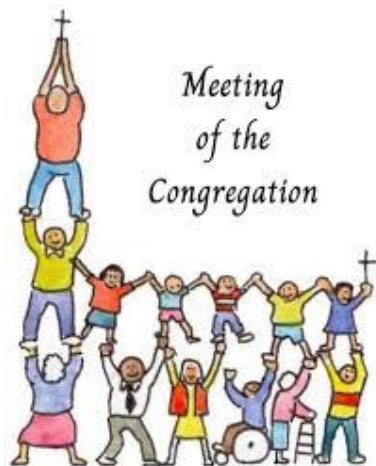
**From
the
Bible**



"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." (Phil 4:6)



**From
the
Bible**



ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Sunday 6th April 2025—after Morning Service

All regular church members are welcome to attend this event at which we look back over the past 12 months and look forward to the coming year.

It is a special time to give thanks for all God has done during this challenging year and seek His vision for our future.

The Church,,,,,

When it works the church is like LEGO—accommodating each other's nobbly bits makes us all stick together.

(Milton Jones)



SUNDAY SERVICES

10.30 am Morning Worship
+ Kids, Church

6.00 pm Sunday @ 6.00
Informal Service in the
Church Hall Lounge

Contact Point

Church Office:

Overend Road, Worksop S81 1QG

[usually open Friday am. from 9.30—12 noon]

Tel: 01909 472595

Email: office.worksopstjohn@gmail.com

Church Website:

www.stjohnschurchworksop.co.uk

Heritage Website: <https://worksopspire.org>

Check out our updated website

www.stjohnschurchworksop.co.uk

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