



The Beacon

Newsletter of St John's Church, Worksope

April 2026



Our Vicar, Gareth, writes.....

I visited a nursery recently to share the Easter story with the children. April, my wife, came with me (she's a lot better with really little children than I am!) We wrestled a bit beforehand with how to tell the Easter story in a way that would make sense to them, because we imagined that many of the children will have never heard the Easter story before. It will be brand new to them.

The challenge of course is that the Easter Sunday story (while wonderful and happy) makes no sense unless you also tell the story of Holy Week. The week that led up to Easter. A week of political corruption, betrayal, torture, loneliness agony and death. Explaining that in as gentle and honest a way as we could to nursery children was a challenge! (April did great. I just smiled and did as I was told!)

There is a temptation for adults too, sometimes, to try to skip over the hard bits of Holy Week, and just rush to the joy of Easter Sunday. But to really experience that joy, we have to go through Holy Week.

We go through Palm Sunday, when we remember Jesus hailed by the crowds as Messiah with Palms and shouts of Hosanna!. It's always joyful, but also tinged with a bit of sadness. We know that before long, the crowds will turn on Jesus.

Maundy Thursday, is a day when we recall the last supper, and Jesus' command to love one another. It's always inspiring. But it's also heart wrenching as we ponder his agony in the garden, wrestling in prayer with God, begging to be spared the cross.

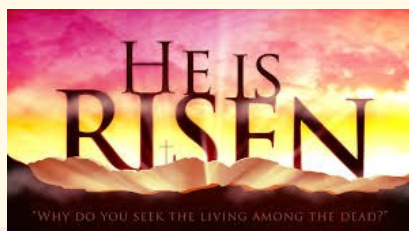
And Good Friday, the most difficult day of all, as we sit before the cross and ponder how the God of the universe could allow himself to suffer and die for us. 'Tis mystery all, the immortal dies!" Wesley wrote in his hymn "And can it be".

These aren't easy days to walk through, but they're so important, and meaningful for us as Christians. They help us engage with the story of Jesus, and they make the joyful celebration of Easter even more profound. This year, we're having a service on each of those days (check the notice sheet for details). I'd really encourage everybody to engage with those extra services if you're able. I don't say that just to fill the pews (though it's always encouraging when we're surrounded by others as we worship!) but so you can fill your hearts with the thoughts, readings, feelings and emotions of Holy Week. To walk the path of the cross with Jesus. To see what he has to say to you this year. And let Him really meet with you, in the beauty and sadness of it all.

Then, of course, having journeyed well through Holy Week, I'll be thrilled to celebrate Easter Sunday with you all. We're starting at 9.30am for bacon barmes and pastries, an easter egg hunt for the children and some Easter anthems to sing. And then if you're able stay at 10.30 for our all-age service with Holy Communion.

He is Risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Rev Gareth Banton
Vicar of St John the Evangelist, Worksope



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ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Sunday 22nd March

Every Anglican church is required to have an Annual Meeting (APCM) which is essentially a business meeting to review what the church council has achieved in the previous year, to check the Accounts and to elect people to new appointments where needed.

It is also an opportunity to thank church members for all their contributions to the life of the church.



Our Churchwarden for the past 5 years, Phill Kicks, has retired from this post and Anne Shillitto is stepping up as Asst. Churchwarden for the coming year. Jess Rudman will continue for a further year.



Plans are in progress to acquire funding from the Diocese to appoint someone as Children's/ Youth Worker for 20 hours p.w.

NEW VISION STATEMENT

Growing—Knowing—Reaching

Becoming a Christian

At Easter time you may be thinking what is it all about? Why not try your local church to find a place to ask your questions?

Many people have found saying this prayer to be a helpful first step to a relationship with God....

'Lord Jesus Christ,

I am truly sorry for the things I have done wrong in my life. Please forgive me. I now turn from everything that I know is wrong.

Thank You that You died on the cross for me so that I could be forgiven and set free.

Thank You that You offer me forgiveness and the gift of Your Holy Spirit.

Please come into my life today.

Thank You, Lord Jesus.'

The "START" Course

Do you have questions about life and the Christian faith?

6 Sessions starting Tuesday 14th April
7.00—8.00pm

Please email Gareth if interested

gareth@stjohnsworksop.org

or call the church 01909 472595.

START is a chance to explore questions about life, God, and the Christian faith, with a small group of people in a relaxed and informal way. It's completely free, and is great for people just curious about (or new to) faith, or simply wanting to make new friends in our church community.

Arriving in Worksop in April 2016. after over 40 years living in a village and being a busy member of the 13th century church of Saint Crallo, We now had to find a new church. My priority was to find a Mother's Union and I found one at St John's. Who better to be my guide? – Ann Rutherford met me on my first Sunday and drew me into the warmth that is at the heart of this church.

But, after all those years of traditional 'green prayer book' worship and Hymns Ancient & Modern – the video songs and 'no idea what came next' services were a bit of a shock. It didn't take long to realise that worship could be fun.

After taking time to learn who was who and who did what, I volunteered to help with Sunday School, then joined the rota for reading and intercessions. I was starting to feel at home here.

When Mairwen came along with Tobias and we joined the Toddlers group, I met Pauline and felt this was where God meant us to be.

The support and encouragement I received meant so much. So, I tried to give back in whatever way I could. The spire project was a challenge I was very surprised to be involved in. I learned a lot of new skills during that time. The dedication of each member of that group was inspiring.

Another surprise was being included in a homegroup led by Michelle. As a small group of young ladies (they will like that) with Pauline and myself both grandmothers, we formed a close friendship circle. It was there I began to discover how powerful prayer could be. Now the group has embraced new members, the circle grows

Always my 'base camp' has been Mother's Union. I have entertained them, worshipped with them, shared food and ideas and served alongside them. In turn they have loved and prayed for me when I have not been at my best.

Now we look to the future with Gareth and his family bringing new ideas to strengthen and grow the church in different ways.

I don't have enough words to describe God's goodness in bringing us here. It is a real joy to be a member of the special family that is St John's.

Karen

One of Karen's favourite verses is from Psalm 100

**"Worship the Lord with gladness.
Come before Him with joyful songs"**

An opportunity to support Ian Walsham's charity Hike

I've challenged myself to do a 13 mile charity hike over the North Yorkshire moors on Saturday 16th May, starting at 0900hrs. It's for Alzheimers.

I've done 5 training walks up to now of 7.5 miles each and two 1000 metre swims in the last couple of months. I've got less than 12 weeks to prepare for the date.

I'm going to be doing a raffle in aid of Alzheimers. The prize is worth £140. The tickets are £5 per strip. All I know is they are skin care and/or hair care products. Fortunately I have a friend who knows about stuff like this!



Media Matters Fed up with Bad news?

From time to time we like to remind you to tune in to a Christian radio station.

Premier Christian Radio, part owned by *Premier Christian Media Trust*, broadcast about 20 hours each day with inspirational programmes. They offer contemporary Christian music, insightful communications, and faith-based discussions. Hear some great stories of people tuning in and finding support in helping them through difficult life situations.

Access is by: DAB Radio, or TV Freeview 725, or Premier Plus App

United Christian Broadcasters (UCB) offer a similar operation to above *Premier*. They also run a weekday *Prayerline* phone-in service, about 12 hours each day, that I'm sure will have benefitted many callers.

Access is by: DAB Radio and UCB Player App



Tuesday @ 10 April 28th Coffee Morning

'Little Me and the Untold Story'

Speaker: Gill Hatley-Warnes
about the Holocaust and her
mother's memories



JUST FOR FUN—

Things

MEAN

SITHORNDE

SOLUTIONS

CONTROL

THING THING
THING THING

HEALTHYYYY

WEALTHYYYY

Little things mean a lot
A thorn in the side
Everything's under control
Healthy, Wealthy and Wise



About St J's



St John's is a Bible-based, evangelical Anglican Church, open to the moving of the Holy Spirit.

We aim to show the love of Christ to all.

Our main Sunday worship is at 10.30a.m. There is 'Kids' Church' for children aged 3 years and over. Also a creche for under 3s. '**Sunday @ 6**' is an informal evening meeting in the church lounge.

We welcome all who come into our buildings for any reason.

Prayer underpins everything as we support each other in a loving community and reach out to others.



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 a.m. from 9.30—12 noon]
Tel: 01909 472595

Email: office.worksopstjohn@gmail.com

Vicar: Revd Gareth Banton 07897 005843
garethrbanton@gmail.com

Church Website:

www.stjohnschurchworksop.co.uk

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

Regular Weekly Diary

Tuesday 10.00—12 noon
Coffee Morning

Wednesday 1.00 pm Mothers' Union
(1st Wed'day of the month)
7.00 pm
Lifeline Praise and Prayer

OR Home Groups

Friday 7.00—8.30 (alternate weeks)
Games Night for all ages

Saturday 10.00—12 noon
Church open to all

*For more details of the above ask one
of our leaders*



Follow us on Facebook

'St John's Church, Worksop'