

## Notices

We all need to pray for so many things, wisdom for our Government, safety for our families but as Christians let us also be beacons of light to those around us. Help us share what we have and shop sensibly. Help us to be the ones to look out for our neighbours.

Once again if you need anything please do not hesitate to contact me. My prayers will be with you.

We are not people of fear: we are people of courage. We are not people who protect our own safety: we are people who protect our neighbours' safety. We are not people of greed: we are people of generosity. We are your people God, giving and loving, wherever we are, whatever it costs for as long as it takes wherever you call us. Amen

If you are not familiar with technology please ask a younger member of the family to show you. It is a way we can worship together in our homes, just as the early Christians did thousands of years ago.

Instructions to access the live stream for services:-

- Navigate to the main St Mary's Woodkirk Facebook page.  
[www.facebook.com/stmarywoodkirk](http://www.facebook.com/stmarywoodkirk).
- All scheduled lives will be pinned at the top of the page and you can join them by clicking on them at the time that they start.
- Alternatively a link to the live will also be published on our **A Church Near You** page
- Find the event taking place and click on "More about this event" this will automatically take you straight to the live service on Facebook.

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**CHRISTENINGS** can be booked by contacting:

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Email: [barbara@stmarywoodkirk.org](mailto:barbara@stmarywoodkirk.org)

**WEDDINGS** can be booked by contacting our:

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**CHURCH WEBSITE:** [www.stmarywoodkirk.org](http://www.stmarywoodkirk.org)

**FACEBOOK:** regular updates about life at St Mary's can be found on our Facebook pages:

*St Mary's Church, Woodkirk,*

*and Friends of Woodkirk Churchyard.*

**TWITTER:** tweet us and follow us @stmarywoodkirk



## WELCOME TO ST MARY'S WOODKIRK

 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Leeds

*Engaging with God  
Engaging with Each Other  
Engaging with the Community*

**Sunday 17th May – Easter 6**

**10.30am Holy Communion (streamed via Facebook live)**

*Instructions to Connect given in column 4*

### Services for next week

There will be no Services throughout next week as I am taking some days off for some rest and reflection. I am thinking that I may put up some very short videos in a different style just to keep in touch with everyone.

If you need anything please in the first instance contact Gail Townsend 07792 975814

Email: [gail@stmarywoodkirk.org](mailto:gail@stmarywoodkirk.org).

Gail will be able to contact me if necessary and my prayers will be with you each day.

Next Sunday's Services are as follows: -

**10.30am Easter 7 - Holy Communion (streamed via Facebook live)**

### FOR YOUR PRAYERS

From our Parish Prayer Diary: For All Schools, Pupils, Teacher and Families.

From our Church Prayer Diary : For the Community Payback Team.

For those whose Baptisms have been postponed.  
For those whose Weddings have to be changed  
For those whose Funeral arrangements are not what they wish.

Those who have asked for **prayers for healing**:  
Kevin; Richard; Grace; Ben; Betty; Gethin; Lionel; Queenie; Nancy, Frank, Nicole, Ethan, Barbara, Diane, Margaret, Jerry, Louise, Simon, Chris, Eileen, Faith, Harold

The family and friends of those who have recently died: - Shirley Fothergill, Mary Oakland

And those whose **anniversaries** fall at this time: - Leslie Norman Millburn, Annie Pennock Rhodes.

Scripture Readings for the coming Week:-

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May – HC – 10.30am

Acts 17:22-31

John 14:15-21

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May

Psalm 65

Luke 6:27-38

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May

Psalm 128

1 Peter 4:12-19

Weds 13<sup>th</sup> May

Acts 17: 15, 22-18.1

John 16:12-15

Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> May NB Readings are for Ascension Day

Acts 1:1-11

Luke 24: 44-53

Fri 15<sup>th</sup> May

Psalm 81

Exodus 35: 30-36.1

So this is the week we have heard of the Government's plan to come out of lockdown and for each of us this will mean different things. As a Vicar, I have to bear in mind not only Government Guidelines but also Guidelines from the Church of England and Guidelines given by our Bishop, Bishop Nick.

The Guidelines by the Government indicate that places of worship will be "open" in stage three of their plan beginning on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July providing there is no increase in the infection rate. Guidelines by the Church of England indicate that Priests can now go into church buildings for private prayer and to stream services provided they follow a 7 page document of how to make your building safe after a lockdown and following strict procedures for deep cleaning. Guidelines by Bishop Nick are on the same wavelength yes priests can go back into church for prayer and streaming of services on condition all necessary hygiene precautions are taken but that Clergy must make it clear to their congregations that this does not mean that Clergy being in the church building does not open the doors for others to join them. However, Bishop Nick goes on to say that if Clergy do not feel that this is the time to re-enter church then we do not have too at this point and that it may be better to have some consistency and status quo if the government has to retighten lockdown in the face a future spike in infections and use this time as a period of reflection.

What does "open" church look like in July? No-one really knows yet but it won't be open as we are used to. There will be no quick return to worship on a Sunday morning in the church building.

At the minute and for the immediate future church has to be deep cleaned after even I have entered the building and so this next week I will go about the task of reopening the building in a safe way, running water, flushing toilets each day, checking alarms, boilers and heating systems. A deep clean will take place of the church building by myself and in anticipation of the church at some point being opened for private prayer or limited funerals etc, I am making the decision to remove all soft furnishings and footstools as these are the things that cannot be deep cleaned easily. All bibles, hymn books, postcards, gift aid envelopes will be put into storage so that no book or piece of paper can be handled by more than one person. The red chairs at the back will be put away and not used. If we need extra chairs, I will bring the new ones from the church hall which can be wiped over.

This will make deep cleaning more effective and efficient in the immediate future.

Bishop Nick has asked us to think about four questions A) what have I/we lost in the last two months that must remain lost? B) what has been lost in the last few months that we must regain in the weeks and months ahead? C) what has been gained in the last few months that must now be retained or developed? D) what has been gained that was fine for the season but can now be lost?

If you have any thoughts on this please email them to me for consideration by the PCC.

Finally this week, I am taking some time off, I feel tired and drained and hope to recharge my batteries for a few days so there will be no services next week.

We will continue to have a virtual coffee morning at 10.30am on Saturday mornings on Zoom. If you haven't attended and would like to join in then you will then need to email me so that I can let you have the access codes to enter the coffee morning.

Gail and I have kept in touch with all of you and so far everyone seems to be well and have the things they need.

Please continue to pray for Nancy, Eileen and Liz.

You are all in my prayers and if you need anything please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes. Sharon