

Notices

Instructions to access the live stream for services:-

- Navigate to the main St Mary's Woodkirk Facebook page.
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.

If you wish to make a donation to the work of this church or if you wish to pay your weekly collection via our bank account then the details are given below:-

Yorkshire Bank Morley
Sort Code 05-01-31
Account – Woodkirk PCC 31405751

Thank you - Sharon



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 28th February 2021

10.30am Holy Communion – Lent 2
(Service streamed via Facebook live)

Instructions to Connect given in column 4

Services for next week

Mon 9.00am	Morning Prayer streamed as above
Tues 6.00pm	Evening Prayer
Weds 10.00am	Said BCP Morning Prayer streamed as above
7.00pm	Lent Reflective Service streamed as above
Thurs 9.00pm	Night Prayer/Compline streamed as above
Fri 9.00am	Morning Prayer streamed as above

Next Sunday's Services are as follows: -

10.30am Lent 3 - Said Holy Community
streamed as above)

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

From our Parish Prayer Diary: For Teachers and Teaching Assistants.

From our Church Prayer Diary : For Students returning to schools and colleges.

We pray for Baptism Families, Wedding Couples and Funeral Families.

Those who have asked for **prayers for healing**:

Kevin, Richard, Grace, Betty, Lionel, Frank, Nicole, Simon, Faith, Alfie, Bree, Beryl, Marlene, Philip, Jillian, Brian, Margaret, Jerry, Louise, Mark, Sandra, Mark.

The family and friends of those who have recently died:
Audrey Gill

And those whose **anniversaries** fall at this time:
William Price

VICAR: Revd. Sharon Wilkinson 07539 466724

Email: vicar@stmarywoodkirk.org

READER: Dawn Tattersfield 07840 739239

Email: dawn@stmarywoodkirk.org

PASTORAL MINISTER: Gail Townsend 07792 975814

Email: gail@stmarywoodkirk.org

EDITOR: Dave Townsend 07745 301746

Email: dave@stmarywoodkirk.org

CHRISTENINGS can be booked by contacting:

BAPTISM CO-ORDINATOR: Barbara Tate

Email: barbara@stmarywoodkirk.org

WEDDINGS can be booked by contacting our:

WEDDING CO-ORDINATOR: Gail Townsend 07792 975814

Email: gail@stmarywoodkirk.org

CHURCH WEBSITE: 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

Scripture Readings for the coming week:-

Sunday 28th February – HC –streamed live

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Mark 8: 31-38

Monday 1st March – Morning Prayer – streamed live

Psalms 32

John 6:41-51

Tuesday 2nd March – Evening Prayer – streamed live

Psalms 52

Hebrews 2:1-9

Weds 3rd March – BCP Morning Prayer – streamed live

Psalms 17

John 6:60-71

Thurs 4th March – Night Prayer/Compline – streamed live

Psalms 139

Isaiah 58: 6,7

Fri 5th March – Morning Prayer - streamed live

Psalms 41

John 7:14-24

Services for Lent and Easter

Lent Reflections

There will be streamed Lent Reflective Services on Wednesday evenings at 7.00pm the next one will be on Wednesday 3rd March 2021.

14th March – **Mothering Sunday**

28th March – **Palm Sunday**

Holy Week

Mon 29th March Reflective Service at 7.00pm

Tues 30th March Stations of the Cross at 7.00pm

Weds 31st March Reflective Service at 7.00pm

Thurs 1st April Maundy Thursday - Reflective Service and Watch 7.00pm

Fri 2nd April Good Friday - Solemn Service at 2.00pm

Sat 3rd April – Easter Vigil and Service of Light 8.00pm

Sun 4th April - Easter Sunday – 10.30am He is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia.

Current advice from Leeds Diocese.

Following the Government's statement on planned dates for a four stage easing of lockdown, subject to scientific review, the current proposed roadmap is as follows:

Under current rules, weddings are only allowed in “exceptional circumstances”, such as for those with terminal illness or facing life-changing surgery and in England, 30 people are currently permitted to attend a funeral under the coronavirus regulations.

From Monday, March 8, rules around funerals will stay the same, proceeding with 30 attendees and six people allowed at wakes/stone settings/ash scatterings. From that date, weddings will still be limited to six people, but will not be limited to exceptional circumstances.

After Monday, April 12, weddings and wakes/stone settings/ash scatterings 15 people will be allowed to attend, with funerals remaining at 30.

From Monday, May 17, the number of people permitted at weddings and funerals will be 30, also applying to other life events, such as christenings.

As mentioned, all legal limits on social contact at weddings and funerals will be lifted completely from Wednesday, June 21, subject to the outcome of scientific review.

As you are aware Churches have been able to open during this lockdown but the advice from Bishop Nick has been that Clergy and PCC's will be supported in keeping their church closed if the risks are deemed too great.

The PCC and I are due to meet on the 8th March and we will again discuss the perceived risks of opening St Mary's taking into account the Government's advice to be cautious and stick within the guidelines below:

From March 8, in the first part of Step 1, pupils can return to schools, two people from different households can meet outdoors for recreation, and care home residents can receive one visitor.

From March 29, in the second part of Step 1, two households will be able to meet in private gardens. People from different households can gather outdoors under the so-called “rule of six” restriction. The “stay at home” order will be replaced by guidance encouraging people to stay local and work from home where possible. Most international travel will still be banned.

Step 2 will start no earlier than April 12, when non-essential retailers will reopen, alongside hairdressers, nail bars and libraries. Self-catering holidays in England can also resume. Indoor leisure facilities including gyms and swimming pools will reopen, and pubs and restaurants will be able to serve customers outdoors.

May 17 is the earliest date for Step 3, when most outdoor social contact restrictions will be lifted, and indoor mixing will be allowed between two households. Pubs and restaurants will be able to reopen indoor rooms. Museums will also reopen. Sports arenas will start to admit people within new limits: for example large stadiums like Wembley will be able to hold up to 10,000 fans.

On June 21, the earliest date for Step 4 or “freedom day”, Johnson hopes to be able to lift all legal limits on social contact and to reopen all remaining parts of the economy, including nightclubs.

Of course all of this depends on criteria being met that is driven by the scientific data.

As it stands – the Lent Reflections will remain streamed only, and all other services for Easter are presently streamed but this may change once the PCC had met on the 8th March to discuss the possibility of the church re-opening but I again emphasise that the PCC’s main responsibility is to make sure that you are safe and that there is minimum risk of spreading the virus amongst ourselves.

I am pleased to hear that so many of you have now had your first vaccinations and I think by the end of April most of our older members of the congregation will have had their second vaccination.

If you are struggling or need anything then please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Gail.

Love and prayers to you all.
Sharon

Lent Reflection on 24th February looked at the theme – Walking toward Jerusalem.

Opening Prayer

Your life was a journey
from the moment you were born.
From birth to death
From Bethlehem's stable
to Calvary's cross.
How often we fail to understand,
that the conclusion of your journey
was inevitable,
that you understood this
from the very beginning,
and yet still walked the path
that was yours to take.
By comparison
the many choices we make
in our life seem trivial,
the twists and turns we choose
are often taken on impulse,
with no clear comprehension of the outcome.
Thank you, Jesus.
Thank you that you loved humankind enough
to make that journey,
even as you felt the pain of rejection,

the pain of the lashes,
the pain of the nails,
the pain of the cross.

Amen.

Reading: Mark 8: 31-38, Psalm 73, Romans 5:1-11

If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For us, living after the crucifixion and resurrection, this text makes sense. We probably don’t even flinch. For those of us who are, perhaps, already thinking about our Good Friday liturgies and sermons, this text has clear meaning. And, I think it had the same clear meaning for Mark’s first audience: *Just as Jesus bore his cross, the trajectory of our lives of faith must be similar.* We have our cross to bear too. And when we bear that cross, we become more and more like the One who bore the cross on Calvary. And, that is the point of a life of faith.

However, just because we get it—and because Mark’s audience around 70 AD got it—does that mean that Jesus’ first listeners got it?

Did the people standing around hearing Jesus start to talk about his death and suffering have any clue that he would die on such a horrific instrument of tortuous death? Could they even conceive that this teacher, rabbi, healer, preacher, exorcist, and Godly man would meet such a grisly end?

Of course not.

And so, before they could even begin to wrap their heads around his death, Jesus tells THEM that they have to “take up *their* cross.” When Jesus says this here, a long time before Golgotha, these words would have *had* to sting and confuse the ears of his listeners.

Take up our cross? What cross? Oh, you mean a cross of crucifixion? The instrument of death for a slave?

There are some who clearly want to toss this passage in the *historical-Jesus-didn’t-say-this* bin. They may be right. This verse hardly makes sense pre-crucifixion.

And yet...we could argue about that...or, we could imagine the sheer linguistic power that he was conjuring up to make his real point here:

For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.

When you follow Jesus it means putting your own self-survival in the backseat. The first act of following Jesus is totally re-ordering your priorities and principles to the way of the Kingdom. It’s no longer about saving your life. Following Jesus means that your priority is to lose your life.

And, what better way to talk about that than the cross. It’s an instrument where not only are you condemned to a tortuous death, but you’re also succumbing to a dishonourable death. A slave’s death. A death that even the Hebrew Bible calls “accursed.”

On the cross you don't just lose your life, but you do so in a wholly unfashionable way.

You lose everything. Life. Honour. Pride.

But, Jesus says that in such a loss everything is, in fact, gained.

And, just in case Jesus' first audience didn't get it—because they were scandalized at the thought of dropping those last few pitiful rungs on the societal ladder—Jesus himself follows this up with showing them how it's done.

How to lose. And how to triumph. For God and His Kingdom.

Closing Prayer

Your light is the only light we need
as we travel through life's mystery

Your word the only voice we hear
that still small voice that leads us
to the place where we should be

Your presence is the only company we need
as we walk this narrow road
Your fellowship the warmth we crave to help us on our
way

Grant us the eyes of faith
that can see beyond
the troubles of this day,
knowing that by your grace
we can be overcomers,
and all that we perceive
as our current weaknesses
might become strengths
that will uphold us
in better days to come.

Amen