



Where all find a welcome and are nurtured in their journey with Christ.

Sung Eucharist

The second Sunday of Advent



Welcome to St Mary's



Please sanitise your hands

Please clean your hands using the provided hand sanitiser when entering and leaving the building.



Masks welcome

If you feel more comfortable wearing a face covering, please do so. If you've forgotten a face covering and would like one, please speak to a member of our team.



Keeping your distance

If you want to keep some extra space between yourself and others, we recommend sitting in our physically distanced pews at the north side of the building.



Communion is your choice

Communion is available as both bread and wine, but if you wish to only receive the bread please do so and then return to your seat. Receiving only the bread is still considered to be full communion by the Church of England.



Handshakes optional

When we offer each other a sign of peace you're welcome to share a handshake, but remember that some people may not be comfortable with this and will instead simply nod or wave.

Follow the instructions of our stewards

Please follow all instructions from our stewards, especially during communion.

Hearing loop available

Our building is fitted with an inductive loop system which can be picked up by setting hearing aids to the “T” position.

Support our work

St Mary’s is a charity which receives no funding from the government and is entirely dependent on donations and fees to keep its doors open, continue its work in the community, and maintain its buildings and outdoor spaces.

If you would like to donate to support us you can give during the service as giving plates are passed around. Alternatively, you can place your offering in the plate by the door as you leave, or tap your contactless card or device.

You can also donate online by card or directly from your bank by scanning this QR Code with your camera or by visiting wkrk.uk/donate.



If you'd like to give in some other way, find out more about planned giving, or learn how we use donations then please ask a member of our team.

Other services this week

Choral Evensong

Today at 6.00 pm

Said Eucharist

Wednesday 7 December at 10.00 am

Sung Compline by Candlelight

Wednesday 7 December at 8.30 pm

Christmas at Whitkirk

Messy Church Christingle Service

Sunday 11 December at 4.00 pm

Festival of Lessons and Carols

Sunday 18 December at 6.00 pm

Family Crib Service

Saturday 24 December at 5.00 pm

Midnight Eucharist with Carols

Saturday 24 December at 11.30 pm

Christmas Day Eucharist with Carols

Sunday 25 December at 10.00 am

Notices and events

Pints of View

This Thursday 8 December at 7.30 pm

The Brown Cow

Come and join us in the pub as we chat about how Christianity relates to the rest of our lives. From events in the news to how prayer can help us grow, exploring the deeper meaning of the Eucharist to unpacking just what happens when we celebrate Christmas. Every meeting is open to anyone, no matter if you've come before or you're totally new.

Messy Church Christingle Service

Next Sunday 11 December at 4.00 pm

St Mary's Church Whitkirk Community Centre

Church, but more hands-on. Join us in the Community Centre for drinks and a biscuit, get stuck in with activities around the week's theme, and then end with a short, informal act of worship in the church.

Festival of Lessons and Carols

Sunday 18 December at 6.00 pm

St Mary's Church, Whitkirk

The traditional celebration of the Christmas story in words and music. Join our choir as they sing arrangements of new and traditional carols, and join in with well-known favourites, all interspersed with readings from the Bible by members of the local community.

There are refreshments in the Community Centre after the service - tea, coffee, mulled wine and mince pies.

Family Crib Service

Saturday 24 December at 5.00 pm

St Mary's Church, Whitkirk

Come and join us as we celebrate the Baby Jesus in the manger on Christmas Eve. All are welcome to our annual crib service with loads of familiar carols - an excellent way for children and families to get together and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

You are also warmly invited to dress as your favourite characters in the Christmas story - why not come as an angel, Mary, Joseph, a sheep, or even an innkeeper?

The Gathering

Our worship begins at the sound of the bell, please stand as the sacred ministers enter, during which the introit hymn is sung.

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.
*Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.***

**O come, thou rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
*Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.***

**O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
*Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.***

**O come, thou key of David, come
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
*Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.***

**O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
Who to the tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient time didst give the Law,
In cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Words: from the 'Great O Antiphons' (12th century)

translated by J. M. Neale (1818-1866)

Music: adapted by T. Helmore (1811-1890) from a French Missal

Hymn Tune: VENI EMMANUEL

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you

and also with you.

Words of Welcome

Invitation to Confession

A voice cries out in the wilderness,
'Make straight the way of the Lord'.
So let us listen,
and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith.

Silence is kept.

Heavenly Father,
you call us to repent of our sins:
soften our proud and stubborn hearts.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus,
you declared the forgiveness of God:
teach us to forgive one another.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit,
you search our hearts and show us the truth:
direct us in your way of righteousness.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

A setting of the 'Kyrie eleison' is sung by the Choir.

The president says:

Almighty God,
who in Jesus Christ has given us
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,
forgive us our sins,
open our eyes to God's truth,
strengthen us to do God's will
and give us the joy of his kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Collect

The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words 'Let us pray'.

Almighty God,
purify our hearts and minds,
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as
judge and saviour
we may be ready to receive him,
who is our Lord and our God.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Please sit.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the
Lord.

His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,
but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of
the earth;

he shall strike the earth with the rod of his
mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall
kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze;

their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the
asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on
the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the
Lord as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a
signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of
him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Isaiah 11.1-10

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as the gradual hymn is sung. During the hymn a procession will make its way to the centre of the nave from where the Gospel for the day is read. To symbolise our desire to turn to Christ in our daily lives, at the end of the hymn we remain standing and turn to face the place where the Gospel is proclaimed.

**On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings!**

**Then cleansed be every Christian breast,
And furnished for so great a guest!
Yea, let us each our heart prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.**

**For thou art our salvation, Lord,
Our refuge and our great reward;
Without thy grace we waste away
Like flow'rs that wither and decay.**

**All praise, eternal Son, to thee
Whose advent sets thy people free,
Whom, with the Father, we adore,
And Holy Ghost for evermore.**

Words: C. Coffin (1676-1749)

translated by J. Chandler (1806-1876)

and the editors of 'Hymns & Psalms'

Music: from 'Musikalisches Handbuch' (1690)

Hymn Tune: WINCHESTER NEW

Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

cf Isaiah 40.3-5

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."' "

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.

Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptise you with water for repentance, but one

who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

Matthew 3.1-12

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Please sit after the preacher leads us in prayer.

An Affirmation of Faith

Please stand with the president.

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

cf Philippians 2.6-11

Prayers of Intercession

Following an invitation to pray from the intercessor we kneel or sit to pray.

The response to the bidding:

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

then at the end:

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Please stand with the president.

The Peace

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

cf Luke 1.78,79

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

This is usually a handshake shared with those near you.

Preparation of the Table

The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

A hymn is sung. During this hymn a collection, our financial offering in support of the work of the church both at St. Mary's and across our diocese, is taken.

You can place cash or giving envelopes in the collection plates as they are passed around. If you would prefer, or if you miss the plate, you can also give by scanning this QR code, or by tapping your contactless card or device on the giving plate by the door as you leave.



**Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
Great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
To set the captive free;
To take away transgression,
And rule in equity.**

**He comes with succour speedy
To those who suffer wrong;
To help the poor and needy,
And bid the weak be strong;
To give them songs for sighing,
Their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying,
Were precious in his sight.**

**He shall come down like showers
Upon the fruitful earth,
And love, joy, hope, like flowers,
Spring in his path to birth:
Before him on the mountains
Shall peace, the herald, go;
And righteousness, in fountains,
From hill to valley flow.**

**Kings shall fall down before him,
And gold and incense bring;
All nations shall adore him,
His praise all people sing;
To him shall prayer unceasing
And daily vows ascend;
His kingdom still increasing,
A kingdom without end.**

**O'er every foe victorious,
He on his throne shall rest,
From age to age more glorious,
All-blessing and all-blest.
The tide of time shall never
His covenant remove;
His name shall stand for ever,
That name to us is love.**

Words: J. Montgomery (1771-1854) based on psalm 72

Music: from a melody in J. Crüger's 'Gesangbuch'

adapted by W. H. Monk (1823-1889)

Hymn Tune: CRÜGER

Taking of the Bread and Wine

As this bread was scattered
and then gathered and made one,
so may your Church be gathered into your kingdom.

Glory to you, O God, for ever.

Wisdom has built her a house;
she has mixed her wine; she has set her table.

Glory to you, O God, for ever.

Please kneel or sit.

The Eucharistic Prayer (A)

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For when he humbled himself
to come among us in human flesh,
he fulfilled the plan you formed
before the foundation of the world
to open for us the way of salvation.

Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,
we now watch for the day
when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.

And so we join our voices with angels and archangels
and with all the company of heaven
to proclaim your glory for ever praising you and singing:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious
ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Silence is kept.

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

*The **Agnus Dei** is sung as the bread is broken for distribution.*

**Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us peace.**

Invitation to Communion

Draw near with faith and thanksgiving
you who hunger for the bread of life.

Gather around the table
as strangers and friends and feed on him
who was, who is and who is to come.

The president and people receive communion. All baptised Christians are welcome to receive the sacrament. Please follow the guidance offered by the stewards.

If you are not baptised, or would prefer to not receive then do still come forward for a blessing bringing this book with you so the president knows your intention.

The sacrament is available in both kinds, however if you wish to only receive the bread please do so and then return to your place. Receiving in one kind is still considered to be full communion by the Church of England. Please do not dip bread in the wine (sometimes called 'intincting').

For those at home it might be helpful to use this prayer during the distribution.

***In God's power, in his peace, in his presence,
we place ourselves today.***

***Holy God, Holy and Strong One, Holy and Mighty One,
protect us by your power, provide us with your peace,
fill our lives with your presence
and awaken us to your coming;
through Jesus Christ, the King of Glory,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
now and for ever.***

Amen.

Choir Anthem

'Herefordshire carol'

This is the truth sent from above,
The truth of God, the God of love,
Therefore don't turn me from your door,
But hearken all both rich and poor.

The first thing which I do relate
Is that God did man create;
The next thing which to you I'll tell
Woman was made with man to dwell.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes,
Till God the Lord did interpose;
And so a promise soon did run
That he would redeem us by his Son.

And at that season of the year
Our blest Redeemer did appear;
He here did live, and here did preach,
And many thousands he did teach.

Thus he in love to us behaved,
To show us how we must be saved;
And if you want to know the way,
Be pleased to hear what he did say.

*Words: & Music: English traditional carol
arranged by R. Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)*

The following communion hymns may be sung during the distribution as time allows. Please remain seated.

**The advent of our King
Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing
In strains of holy joy.**

**The everlasting Son
Incarnate deigns to be;
Himself a servant's form puts on,
To set his servants free.**

**Daughter of Sion, rise
To meet thy lowly King;
Nor let thy faithless heart despise
The peace he comes to bring.**

**As Judge, on clouds of light,
He soon will come again,
And his true members all unite
With him in heav'n to reign.**

**All glory to the Son
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever One,
Through all eternity.**

Words: C. Coffin (1676-1749)

translated by J. Chandler (1806-1876) alt.

Music: from 'Harmonischer Liederschatz'

adapted by W. H. Havergal (1793-1870)

Hymn Tune: FRANCONIA

**Let us break bread together on our knees,
Let us break bread together on our knees.
*When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.***

**Let us share wine together on our knees,
Let us share wine together on our knees.
*When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.***

**Let us praise God together on our knees,
Let us praise God together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.**

Words: unknown

Music: unknown arr. C. Hand (1929-2015)

**The Lord is my light,
My light and salvation;
In God I trust,
In God I trust.**

Words: based on Psalm 27

Music: J. Berthier (1923-1994)

The Post Communion Prayer and The Lighting of the Advent Candle

Please stand as the president introduces a time of silent prayer with the words 'Let us pray'.

Father in heaven,
who sent your Son to redeem the world
and will send him again to be our judge:
give us grace so to imitate him
in the humility and purity of his first coming that,

**when he comes again,
we may be ready to greet him
with joyful love and firm faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

The president then moves to the Advent Wreath to light the second of the Advent candles. This week the candle helps us remember the Prophets which gives us the opportunity to reflect on the way the birth of the 'Messiah' was foretold. The candle is lit and this prayer is said.

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, just and true:
to you be praise and glory for ever.
Of old you spoke by the mouth of your prophets,
but in our days you speak through your Son,
whom you have appointed the heir of all things.
Grant us, your people, to walk in his light,
that we may be found ready and watching
when he comes again in glory and judgement;
for you are our light and our salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

A hymn is sung.

**Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
Once for favoured sinners slain;
Thousand, thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of his train.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ appears, on earth to reign.**

**Ev'ry eye shall now behold him
Robed in dreadful majesty;
We who set at naught and sold him,
Pierced and nailed him to the tree,
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
Shall the true Messiah see.**

**Those dear tokens of his passion
Still his dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation
To his ransomed worshippers:
With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture
Gaze we on those glorious scars!**

**Yea, amen! let all adore thee,
High on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the pow'r and glory,
Claim the kingdom for thine own.
O come quickly, O come quickly, O come quickly!
Alleluia! Come, Lord, come!**

Words: C. Wesley (1707-1788), J. Cennick (1718-1755)

and M. Madan (1726-1790) alt.

Music: from J. Wesley's 'Select Hymns with Tunes Annexed' (1765)

Hymn Tune: HELMSLEY

The Dismissal

The Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

The Dismissal

Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.'

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

May the Lord, when he comes,
find us watching and waiting.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Our regular services

Sung Eucharist: Every Sunday at 10.00 am
Said Eucharist: Every Wednesday at 10.00 am
Choral Evensong: 1st Sunday of the month at 6.00 pm

Contact us



If you'd like to talk to us you can call us on **0113 264 5790**, send an email to **hello@whitkirkchurch.org.uk**, or find more details on our website at **whitkirkchurch.org.uk/contact**.

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