



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

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.

Hearing loop available

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

Follow the instructions of our stewards

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



Please sanitise your hands

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



Digital order of service available

If you prefer, you can follow our order of service on your own phone or tablet. Just visit wkrk.uk/oos on your browser or scan this QR Code.



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.



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.



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.

We encourage people with coughs and colds to wear a face covering, to help prevent the spread of winter bugs.

Upcoming services

Messy Church Christingle Service

This evening

Making Christingles in the Community Centre at 4.00 pm

Service in the church at 5.00 pm

Sung Eucharist for the third Sunday of Advent

Sunday 17 December at 10.00 am

Festival of Lessons and Carols

Sunday 17 December at 6.00 pm

Notices and events

Join us after the service for refreshments

You are warmly invited to join us after service for refreshments in our Community Centre.

*The Greatest
Story Ever Told*

St Mary's Church
Whitkirk

Christmas Services 2023

❖
Sunday 10th December

Christingle 5pm

❖
Sunday 17th December

Nine Lessons and Carols 6pm

❖
Christmas Eve

Sung Eucharist 10am

Crib Service 5pm

Midnight Mass 11.30pm

❖
Christmas Day

Holy Communion 10am

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.

**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: James Montgomery (1771-1854) based on Psalm 72

Music: from a melody in Johann Crüger's 'Gesangbuch'

adapted by William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

Hymn Tune: CRÜGER

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.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

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.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that
she has served her term, that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins. A voice cries out: 'In the
wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make
straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain
and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall
become level, and the rough places a plain. Then
the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all
people shall see it together, for the mouth of the
Lord has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I
cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like
the flower of the field. The grass withers, the
flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows
upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass
wITHERS, the flower fades; but the word of our
God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of
good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O

Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Isaiah 40.1-11

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as the gradual hymn is sung. At the end of the hymn we remain standing and turn to face the place where the Gospel is proclaimed.

**Firmly I believe and truly
God is Three, and God is One,
And I next acknowledge duly
Manhood taken by the Son.**

**And I trust and hope most fully
In that Manhood crucified;
And each thought and deed unruly
Do to death, as he has died.**

**Simply to his grace and wholly
Light and life and strength belong,
And I love supremely, solely,
Him the holy, him the strong.**

**And I hold in veneration,
For the love of him alone,
Holy Church as his creation,
And her teachings as his own.**

**Adoration ay be given,
With and through th'angelic host,
To the God of earth and heaven,
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

Words: John Henry Newman (1801-1890)

*Music: Warwickshire ballad arranged and harmonised
by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)*

Hymn Tune: SHIPSTON

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 Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ,
the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet
Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of
you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one

crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,” John the baptiser appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptised you with water; but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.’

Mark 1.1-8

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 on 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.



**The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is his new creation,
By water and the word;
From heav'n he came and sought her
To be his holy bride,
With his own blood he bought her,
And for her life he died.**

**Elect from ev'ry nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation,
One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses,
With ev'ry grace endued.**

**'Mid toil and tribulation,
And tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation
Of peace for evermore;
Till with the vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious
Shall be the Church at rest.**

**Yet she on earth hath union
With God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we
Like them, the meek and lowly,
On high may dwell with thee.**

Words: Samuel John Stone (1839-1900)

Music: Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876)

Hymn Tune: AURELIA

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

'On Jordan's bank'

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

Then cleansed be ev'ry 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: Charles Coffin (1676-1749)
translated by John Chandler (1806-1876)
and the editors of 'Hymns & Psalms'*

*Music: from 'Musikalisches Handbuch' (1690)
arranged by Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)*

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

**Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,
For with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
Our full homage to demand.**

**King of kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
In the body and the blood.
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heav'nly food.**

**Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth
From the realms of endless day,
That the pow'rs of hell may vanish
As the darkness clears away.**

**At his feet the six-winged seraph;
Cherubim, with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the Presence,
As with ceaseless voice they cry,
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Lord most high.**

*Words: Liturgy of St James
translated by Gerard Moultrie (1829-1885)
Music: French traditional melody
Hymn Tune: PICARDY*

**Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes,
The Saviour promised long:
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne,
And ev'ry voice a song.**

**He comes, the pris'ners to release
In Satan's bondage held;
The gates of brass before him burst,
The iron fetters yield.**

**He comes, the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of his grace
Enrich the humble poor.**

**Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim;
And heav'n's eternal arches ring
With thy beloved name.**

Words: Philip Doddridge (1702-1751) based on Luke 4.18-19

Music: Thomas Ravenscroft (c.1582- c.1633), 'Psalms' (1621)

Hymn Tune: BRISTOL

**Faithful Shepherd, feed me
In the pastures green;
Faithful Shepherd, lead me
Where thy steps are seen.**

**Hold me fast, and guide me
In the narrow way;
So, with thee beside me,
I shall never stray.**

**Daily bring me nearer
To the heav'nly shore;
May my faith grow clearer,
May I love thee more.**

**Hallow ev'ry pleasure,
Ev'ry gift and pain;
Be thyself my treasure,
Though none else I gain.**

**Day by day prepare me
As thou seest best,
Then let angels bear me
To thy promised rest.**

Words: Thomas Benson Pollock (1836-1896)

Music: Friedrich Silcher (1789-1860)

Hymn Tune: PASTOR PASTORUM

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.

**Hills of the North, rejoice,
Echoing songs arise,
Hail with united voice
Him who made earth and skies:
He comes in righteousness and love,
He brings salvation from above.**

**Isles of the Southern seas,
Sing to the listening earth,
Carry on ev'ry breeze,
Hope of a world's new birth:
In Christ shall all be made anew,
His word is sure, his promise true.**

**Lands of the East, arise,
He is your brightest morn,
Greet him with joyous eyes,
Praise shall his path adorn:
The God whom we have longed to know
In Christ draws near, and calls you now.**

**Shores of the utmost West,
Lands of the setting sun,
Welcome the heav'nly guest
In whom the dawn has come:
He brings a never-ending light
Who triumphed o'er our darkest night.**

**Shout, as you journey on,
Songs be in ev'ry mouth;
Lo, from the North they come,
From East and West and South.
In Jesus all shall find their rest,
In him the sons of earth be blest.**

*Words: from the New English Hymnal
based on Charles Edward Oakley (1832-1865)*

Music: Martin Shaw (1875-1958)

Hymn Tune: LITTLE CORNARD

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:	First Sunday of the month at 6.00 pm Next on Sunday 7 January
Compline:	First Wednesday of the month at 8.30 pm Next on Wednesday 3 January




Contact us

If you'd like to get in touch you can send an email to **hello@whitkirkchurch.org.uk**, or find more details on our website at **whitkirkchurch.org.uk/contact**.

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or share with your friends and neighbours.

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