



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

# Choral Evensong

East Leeds Deanery Celebration

Sunday 6 July 2025, 6.00 pm



# Welcome to St Mary's

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## Follow the instructions of our stewards

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## This service is streamed

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## Safeguarding

Our Parish Safeguarding team can be contacted at any time. You can talk to Rev'd Claire or to Janet Blenkinsop, our Parish Safeguarding Officer, you can email **safeguarding@whitkirkchurch.org.uk**, or you can find more information and contact details at **wkrk.uk/safe**.



## What is Evensong?

Evensong is a combination of two of the seven offices (services) that made up the daily round of monastic prayer. These were the evening offices of Vespers and Compline which consisted of responses, psalms, canticles, readings and prayers. The liturgy of Evensong was first written down in 1549 in Archbishop Thomas Cranmer's *Book of Common Prayer*. Several revisions to the book were made over subsequent years with the definitive version published in 1662. Widely known for the beauty and richness of its language, including Myles Coverdale's translation of the psalms, the 1662 edition of the *Book of Common Prayer* remains the official prayer book of the Church of England.

The service of Evensong is renowned for its choral music. Several sections of the liturgy are sung by the choir though there are various ways in which everyone can participate. For example, it is an ancient custom in the *Magnificat* and the *Nunc Dimittis* as the choir sings the first two lines of the *Gloria* ('Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost') to make the sign of the cross and to bow one's head in honour of God the Holy Trinity.

Ever since its foundation this church has been a house of prayer. The first recorded priest of St Mary's Whitkirk was Paulinus who was the priest here in 1185 AD. The worship we share today gives a powerful sense of connecting the present with the past and of being part of a great, and continuing, tradition. Thank you for being part of this act of worship as we join our prayers and praises with those that have been offered here at St Mary's for over eight hundred and thirty years.

# The Service of Choral Evensong

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

## Hymn

**There's a wideness in God's mercy,  
like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in his justice,  
which is more than liberty.  
There is no place where earth's sorrows  
are more felt than up in heav'n;  
there is no place where earth's failings  
have such kindly judgement giv'n.**

**For the love of God is broader  
than the measure of man's mind;  
and the heart of the Eternal  
is most wonderfully kind.  
But we make his love too narrow  
by false limits of our own;  
and we magnify his strictness  
with a zeal he will not own.**

**There is plentiful redemption  
in the blood that has been shed;  
there is joy for all the members  
in the sorrows of the Head.**

**There is grace enough for thousands  
of new worlds as great as this;  
there is room for fresh creations  
in that upper home of bliss.**

**If our love were but more simple  
we should take him at his word;  
and our lives would be all gladness  
in the joy of Christ our Lord.**

*Words: Frederick William Faber (1814-1863) alt.*

*Music: Maurice Bevan (1921-2006)*

*Hymn Tune: CORVEDALE*

## **Words of Welcome**

*The Rev'd Anne Russell*

## **Sentences of the Scriptures**

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves,  
and the truth is not in us: but, if we confess our sins,  
he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to  
cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*1 St. John 1. 8, 9*

*Please remain standing.*

Dearly beloved brethren, the scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloke them before the face of Almighty God our heavenly Father; but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent, and obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same, by his infinite goodness and mercy.

And although we ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before God; yet ought we most chiefly so to do, when we assemble and meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy Word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul.

Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present, to accompany me with a pure heart, and humble voice, unto the throne of the heavenly grace, saying after me;

*Please kneel or sit.*

# **The General Confession**

**Almighty and most merciful Father;  
we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep.**

**We have followed too much the devices  
and desires of our own hearts.**

**We have offended against thy holy laws.**

**We have left undone those things  
which we ought to have done;  
and we have done those things  
which we ought not to have done;  
and there is no health in us.**

**But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders.  
Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults,  
restore thou them that are penitent;  
according to thy promises declared unto mankind  
in Christ Jesu our Lord.**

**And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake;  
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,  
to the glory of thy holy Name.**

**Amen.**

## **The Absolution**

Almighty God,  
the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who desireth not the death of a sinner,  
but rather that he may turn from his wickedness and live;  
and hath given power, and commandment, to his Ministers,  
to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent,  
the Absolution and Remission of their sins:  
He pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent,  
and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel.  
Wherefore let us beseech him  
to grant us true repentance, and his holy Spirit,  
that those things may please him, which we do at this present;  
and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure, and holy;  
so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **The Preces**

*The Preces (short petitions) are sung alternately by the cantor and the choir.*

○ Lord, open thou our lips.

**And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.**

○ God, make speed to save us.

**○ Lord, make haste to help us.**

*Please stand.*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:  
and to the Holy Ghost.

**As it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be:  
world without end. Amen.**

Praise ye the Lord.

**The Lord's Name be praised.**

*The Choir sings the psalm appointed for today.*

*Please sit.*

## **Psalm 65**

*The psalms are sacred poems from the Old Testament dating back over three thousand years. The music for the psalm is known as Anglican chant, a short repeating tune.*

Choir      Thou O God art praised in Sion :  
                 and unto thee shall the vow be performed in Jerusalem.

Thou that hearest the prayer :  
unto thee shall all flesh come.

My misdeeds prevail against me :  
O be thou merciful unto our sins.

Blessèd is the man whom thou choosest  
and receivest unto thee :  
he shall dwell in thy court  
and shall be satisfied with the pleasures of thy house  
even of thy holy temple.

Thou shalt shew us wonderful things in thy righteousness  
O God of our salvation :  
thou that art the hope of all the ends of the earth  
and of them that remain in the broad sea.

Who in his strength setteth fast the mountains :  
and is girded about with power.

Who stilleth the raging of the sea :  
and the noise of his waves, and the madness of the  
people.

Thou also that dwell in the uttermost parts of the earth  
shall be afraid at thy tokens :  
thou that makest the outgoings of the morning  
and evening to praise thee.

Thou visitest the earth and blessest it :  
thou makest it very plenteous.

The river of God is full of water :  
thou preparest their corn, for so thou providest for the  
earth.

Thou waterest her furrows  
thou sendest rain into the little valleys thereof :  
thou makest it soft with the drops of rain  
and blessest the increase of it.

Thou crownest the year with thy goodness :  
and thy clouds drop fatness.

They shall drop upon the dwellings of the wilderness :  
and the little hills shall rejoice on every side.

The folds shall be full of sheep :  
the valleys also shall stand so thick with corn  
that they shall laugh and sing.

*Please stand.*

*Choir*      Glory be to the Father:  
and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost:  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be:  
world without end. Amen.

*Music: Edward Cuthbert Bairstow (1874-1946)*

## **Old Testament Lesson**

*Please sit.*

The First Lesson is taken from the twenty-ninth chapter of the book of Genesis beginning to read at the first verse.

Then Jacob went on his journey, and came to the  
land of the people of the east. As he looked, he saw

a well in the field and three flocks of sheep lying there beside it; for out of that well the flocks were watered. The stone on the well's mouth was large, and when all the flocks were gathered there, the shepherds would roll the stone from the mouth of the well, and water the sheep, and put the stone back in its place on the mouth of the well.

Jacob said to them, 'My brothers, where do you come from?' They said, 'We are from Haran.' He said to them, 'Do you know Laban son of Nahor?' They said, 'We do.' He said to them, 'Is it well with him?' 'Yes,' they replied, 'and here is his daughter Rachel, coming with the sheep.' He said, 'Look, it is still broad daylight; it is not time for the animals to be gathered together. Water the sheep, and go, pasture them.' But they said, 'We cannot until all the flocks are gathered together, and the stone is rolled from the mouth of the well; then we water the sheep.'

While he was still speaking with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep; for she kept them. Now when Jacob saw Rachel, the daughter of his mother's brother Laban, and the sheep of his mother's brother Laban, Jacob went up and rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the flock of his mother's brother Laban. Then Jacob kissed Rachel

and wept aloud. And Jacob told Rachel that he was her father's kinsman, and that he was Rebekah's son; and she ran and told her father.

When Laban heard the news about his sister's son Jacob, he ran to meet him; he embraced him and kissed him, and brought him to his house. Jacob told Laban all these things, and Laban said to him, 'Surely you are my bone and my flesh!' And he stayed with him for a month.

Then Laban said to Jacob, 'Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?' Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, 'I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.' Laban said, 'It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.' So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

*Genesis 29.1-20*

*At the end the reader says:*

Here endeth the First Lesson.

*After a short silence, please stand.*

## **Magnificat**

*The Magnificat is the song of praise Mary sang after learning that she would give birth to Jesus, as recounted in Luke's gospel.*

*Choir*     My soul doth magnify the Lord :  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.  
For he hath regarded :  
the lowliness of his hand-maiden.  
For behold, from henceforth :  
all generations shall call me blessed.  
For he that is mighty hath magnified me :  
and holy is his Name.  
And his mercy is on them that fear him :  
throughout all generations.  
He hath shewed strength with his arm :  
he hath scattered the proud  
in the imagination of their hearts.  
He hath put down the mighty from their seat :  
and hath exalted the humble and meek.  
He hath filled the hungry with good things :  
and the rich he hath sent empty away.  
He remembering his mercy  
hath holpen his servant Israel :  
As he promised to our forefathers  
Abraham and his seed for ever.

*Luke 1.46-55*

*Choir*      Glory be to the Father :  
                 and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost :  
                 as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be :  
                 world without end. Amen.

*Music: Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)*

*Please sit.*

## **New Testament Lesson**

The Second Lesson is taken from the sixth chapter of the letter of St. Mark's gospel beginning to read at the seventh verse.

Jesus called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, 'Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.' So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, 'John the baptiser has

been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him.’ But others said, ‘It is Elijah.’ And others said, ‘It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.’ But when Herod heard of it, he said, ‘John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.’

For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, ‘It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.’ And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, ‘Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it.’ And he solemnly swore to her, ‘Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom.’ She went out and said to her mother, ‘What should I ask for?’ She replied, ‘The head of John the baptiser.’ Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, ‘I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist

on a platter.' The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

*Mark 6.7-29*

*At the end the reader says:*

Here endeth the Second Lesson.

*After a short silence, please stand.*

## Nunc Dimittis

*The Nunc Dimittis is also known as the Song of Simeon. Luke's gospel tells us that old Simeon, a devout Jew, had been promised that he would not die until he had seen the promised Saviour. When Jesus was presented to him at the temple in Jerusalem, he at once recognised the Messiah and uttered these words of farewell.*

Choir     Lord now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace :  
             according to thy word.  
             For mine eyes have seen thy salvation ;  
             which thou hast prepared before the face of all people ;  
             to be a light to lighten the Gentiles :  
             and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

*Luke 2.29-32*

Choir     Glory be to the Father :  
             and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost :  
             as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be :  
             world without end. Amen.

*Music: Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)*

*Please remain standing.*

## **The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth:  
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried,  
he descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
the holy catholic Church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

## **The Lesser Litany and the Responses**

*These prayers bind together themes of praise, mercy and the desire for God's protection as night draws in. The Lesser Litany, the Lord's Prayer and the Responses are sung alternately by the cantor and the choir.*

The Lord be with you.

**And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray.

*Please kneel or sit.*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father

**which art in heav'n,  
hallowed be thy name.**

**thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
in earth as it is in heav'n.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive them that trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.**

**Amen.**

○ Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

**And grant us thy salvation.**

○ Lord, save the King.

**And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.**

Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

**And make thy chosen people joyful.**

○ Lord, save thy people.

**And bless thine inheritance.**

Give peace in our time, ○ Lord.

**Because there is none other that fighteth for us,  
but only thou, ○ God.**

○ God, make clean our hearts within us.

**And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.**

## **The Collect of the Day**

○ Lord, we beseech thee mercifully to hear us;  
and grant that we, to whom thou hast given  
    an hearty desire to pray,  
may by thy mighty aid be defended and comforted  
in all dangers and adversities;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **The Collect for Peace**

O God, from whom all holy desires,  
all good counsels, and all just works do proceed:  
give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give;  
that both, our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments,  
and also that, by thee,  
we being defended from the fear of our enemies  
may pass our time in rest and quietness;  
through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**Amen.**

## **The Collect for Aid against all Perils**

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord;  
and by thy great mercy defend us  
from all perils and dangers of this night;  
for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

*Please sit.*

## **The Anthem**

*Choir*      Thou visitest the earth, and blessest it, and blessest it:  
                thou crownest the year, the year with thy goodness.

*Words: Psalm 65 verses 9 and 12  
Music: Maurice Greene (1696-1755)*

*Please remain seated.*

# The Address

*Siaa-Liane Mathurin, Chief Officer of Wellsprings Together*

## Hymn

*Please stand.*

**Be thou my guardian and my guide,  
and hear me when I call;  
let not my slipp'ry footsteps slide,  
and hold me lest I fall.**

**The world, the flesh, and Satan dwell  
around the path I tread;  
O save me from the snares of hell,  
thou quick'ner of the dead.**

**And if I tempted am to sin,  
and outward things are strong,  
do thou, O Lord, keep watch within,  
and save my soul from wrong.**

**Still let me ever watch and pray,  
and feel that I am frail;  
that if the tempter cross my way,  
yet he may not prevail.**

*Words: Isaac Williams (1802-1865)*

*Music: Melody by Isaac Smith (1734-1805)*

*Hymn Tune: ABRIDGE*

## Prayers

*Please kneel or sit.*

## Offertory Hymn

*Please stand. 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 card reader by the door as you leave.*



**O Jesus, I have promised,  
to serve thee to the end;  
be thou for ever near me,  
my Master and my friend:  
I shall not fear the battle  
if thou art by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway  
if thou wilt be my guide**

**O let me hear thee speaking  
in accents clear and still,  
above the storms of passion,  
the murmurs of self-will;  
O speak to reassure me,  
to hasten or control;  
O speak and make me listen,  
thou guardian of my soul.**

**O Jesus, thou hast promised,  
to all who follow thee,  
that where thou art in glory  
there shall thy servant be;  
and, Jesus, I have promised  
to serve thee to the end:  
O give me grace to follow,  
my Master and my friend.**

**O let me see thy footmarks,  
and in them plant mine own;  
my hope to follow duly  
is in thy strength alone:  
O guide me, call me, draw me,  
uphold me to the end;  
and then in heav'n receive me,  
my Saviour and my friend.**

*Words: John Ernest Bode (1816-1874)*

*Music: Basil Harwood (1859-1949)*

*Hymn Tune: THORNBURY*

## The Blessing

The peace of God  
which passeth all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds  
in the knowledge and love of God,  
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost,  
be amongst you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

*Thank you for being part of this evening's act of worship.*

*There is no Evensong at St Mary's Whitkirk in August. The next Choral Evensong will be a Festal Evensong for our Patronal Festival, the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on Sunday 7 September at 6.00 pm. All are welcome.*

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## 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
Compline:	First Wednesday of the month at 8.30 pm
Sanctuary:	Second Thursday of the month at 6.30 pm
Sacred Space:	Last Thursday of the month at 6.00 pm
Daily Prayers:	Tuesday to Saturday at 8.30am and 5.30pm

## 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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