



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

Festal Evensong

Patronal Festival: The Blessed Virgin Mary

Sunday 7 September 2025, 6.00 pm



Welcome to St Mary's

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

Accessible for everyone

We aim to be accessible for everyone. For more information on accessibility at St Mary's please see **wkrk.uk/access** or ask any member of our team.



Follow the instructions of our stewards

Please follow all instructions from our stewards.

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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

**Ye who own the faith of Jesus
sing the wonders that were done,
when the love of God the Father
o'er our sin the vict'ry won,
when he made the Virgin Mary
mother of his only Son.
Hail Mary, hail Mary,
hail Mary full of grace.**

**Blessèd were the chosen people
out of whom the Lord did come,
blessèd was the land of promise
fashioned for his earthly home;
but more blessèd was the mother,
she who bore him in her womb.
Hail Mary, hail Mary,
hail Mary full of grace.**

**Praise, O Mary, praise the Father,
praise the Saviour and thy Son,
praise the everlasting Spirit,
who hath made thee ark and throne;
o'er all creatures high exalted,
lowly praise the Three in One.
Hail Mary, hail Mary,
hail Mary full of grace.**

*Words: Vincent Stuckey Stratton Coles (1845-1929)
Music: melody from a French 'Paroissien' ('prayer book')
Hymn Tune: DAILY, DAILY*

Sentences of the Scriptures

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9.6

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 132 verses 1-14

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 Lord remember David :

 And all his trouble.

 How he swore unto the Lord :

 And vowed a vow unto the Almighty God of Jacob ;

 'I will not come within the tabernacle of mine house :

 'Nor climb up into my bed ;

 'I will not suffer mine eyes to sleep nor mine eye-lids to
slumber :

 'Neither the temples of my head to take any rest ;

 'Until I find out a place for the temple of the Lord ;

 'An habitation for the mighty God of Jacob.

 'Lo we heard of the same at Ephrata :

 'And found it in the wood.

 'We will go into his tabernacle :

 'And fall low on our knees before his footstool.

 'Arise O Lord into thy resting place :

 'Thou and the ark of thy strength.

 'Let thy priests be cloth-ed with righteousness :

 'And let the saints sing with joyfulness.

‘For thy servant David’s sake :

‘Turn not away the presence of thine Anointed.’

The Lord hath made a faithful oath unto David :

And he shall not shrink from it;

‘Of the fruit of thy body :

‘Shall I set upon thy seat.

‘If thy children will keep my covenant

and my testimonies that I shall learn them :

‘Their children also shall sit upon thy seat for evermore.

‘For the Lord hath chosen Sion to be an habitation for
himself :

He hath long-ed for her.

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.

Old Testament Lesson

Please sit.

The First Lesson is taken from the second chapter of the Song of Solomon beginning to read at the first verse.

I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys. As a lily among brambles, so is my love among maidens. As an apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among young men. With great delight I sat in his shadow, and his fruit was sweet to my taste. He brought me to the banqueting house, and his intention towards me was love. Sustain me with raisins, refresh me with apples; for I am faint with love. O that his left hand were under my head, and that his right hand embraced me! I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, by the gazelles or the wild does: do not stir up or awaken love until it is ready!

Song of Solomon 2.1-7

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. During the singing of the Magnificat the altar will be censed.

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: Giovanni Ilorio (16th century)

Please sit.

New Testament Lesson

The Second Lesson is taken from the first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles beginning to read at the sixth verse.

So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way

as you saw him go into heaven.’ Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Acts 1.6-14

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: Thomas Morley (c. 1557-1602)

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.

O Lord, save thy people.

And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.

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

O God, make clean our hearts within us.

And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God,
who looked upon the lowliness of the Blessed Virgin Mary
and chose her to be the mother of thy only Son:
grant that we who are redeemed by his blood
may share with her in the glory of thy eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with thee,
in the unity of the Holy Ghost,
one God, now and for ever.

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 There is no rose of such virtue
 as is the rose that bare Jesu:
 Alleluia.

For in this rose containèd was
heav'n and earth in little space:
Res miranda. *

* "A wonderful thing"

By that rose we may well see
there be one God in persons three:

Pares forma. **

** “Of the same form”

Then leave we all this worldly mirth,
and follow we this joyous birth;

Transeamus. ***

*** “Let us go”

Words: 15th century carol

Music: Graham Ellis

Please remain seated.

The Sermon

Hymn

Please stand.

**For Mary, mother of our Lord,
God’s holy name be praised,
who first the Son of God adored,
as on her child she gazed.**

**The angel Gabriel brought the word
she should Christ’s mother be;
our Lady, handmaid of the Lord,
made answer willingly.**

**The heav'nly call she thus obeyed,
and so God's will was done;
the second Eve love's answer made
which our redemption won.**

**She gave her body for God's shrine,
her heart to piercing pain,
and knew the cost of love divine
when Jesus Christ was slain.**

**Dear Mary, from your lowliness
and home in Galilee,
there comes a joy and holiness
to ev'ry family.**

**Hail, Mary, you are full of grace,
above all women blest;
and blest your Son, whom your embrace
in birth and death confessed.**

Words: John Raphael Peacey (1896-1971)

Music: Gordon Slater (1896-1979)

Hymn Tune: SAINT BOTOLPH

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.



**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord:
unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name:
make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name, the Lord, the mighty one.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might:
pow'rs and dominions lay their glory by;
proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word:
firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore.**

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024)

based on Luke 1.46-55

Music: Walter Greathorex (1877-1949)

Hymn Tune: WOODLANDS

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.

Next month there will be a special 'Songs of Praise' on Sunday 5 October at 6.00 pm (in lieu of Choral Evensong). The next Evensong on Sunday 2 November at 6.00 pm will be a 'Festal Evensong for All Saints'. 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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St Mary's Church, Whitkirk 390 Selby Road Leeds LS15 0AA

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