

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

# **Sung Eucharist**

The fourth 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 on the plate by the door as you leave or tap your contactless card or device, or give online by card or directly from your bank by scanning this QR Code with your phone's camera or by visiting wkrk.uk/donate.

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.



# Our stewards are here to help

Please follow all instructions from our stewards, especially during communion. If you need extra help during a service, or if you would need help to leave the building in an emergency, please let us know.

# 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 OR Code.



#### ■ This service is streamed

We record and live-stream many of our services. If you'd prefer not to appear on camera, please let any member of our team know. You can find more information on streaming, privacy and your rights on our website at **wkrk.uk/sp** or by scanning this QR Code.



# **(+)** 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.

### 🙀 Children welcome

We love having children at our services and we want them – and their families – to love being here. If your children need to move around or make noise during the service, please don't feel uncomfortable. We are glad to hear and see them; they are the future of the church!

Toys and activities are available in our Tots' Corner are near the main door, and children are welcome to make use of these either in this area or in their pew. This area is not supervised; children must be always supervised by a responsible adult.

# 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.



# Other services this week

#### Festival of Lessons and Carols

Today at 7.00 pm

**Crib Service** 

Christmas Eve at 5.00 pm

Midnight Mass

Christmas Eve at 11.30 pm

Sung Eucharist for Christmas Day

Christmas Day at 10.00 am

Sung Eucharist for the Feast of the Holy Innocents

Sunday 28 December at 10.00 am

### **Notices and events**

# The Leeds South & East Food Bank: What's Needed in December

The Leeds South & East Food Bank continues to be in urgent need of donations of food to help feed those in most need. In particular at the moment they are asking for **UHT milk**, **biscuits**, **custard**, **cooking sauces** and **tinned or packet mashed potatoes**.

If you are able, you can donate by picking one of these items up in your weekly shop and dropping it in the box at the back of the church. You can find other ways to help, including donating money or your time, on their website at wkrk.uk/fbd. If you need the help of a foodbank yourself, see wkrk.uk/fbh.

#### Christmas break

Please note that we will be taking a short break after Christmas. There will be no midweek Eucharist on either Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve and no Daily Prayer in the church from Christmas Eve until Tuesday 6th January. There will also be no Bible Discussion Group in the week after Christmas. This will restart on Friday 9 January. Sunday services on 28 December (Holy Innocents) and 3 January (Epiphany) will be taking place as usual.

# A Christmas message from Rev'd Claire

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone at St Mary's a very happy Christmas, and a peaceful and healthy 2026. It is a joy and a privilege to serve this community as your vicar and I pray that the joy of the Christmas message will remain with you throughout the year ahead. I don't send Christmas cards, so please don't be offended if you don't get one from me. In lieu of cards, I have made a donation to Shelter, because no-one should be without a home to call their own at Christmas. My Christmas greetings are no less heartfelt for not being accompanied by a card. **Happy Christmas** and **thank you** for all you do to support me and the work of the church in LS15.

— Claire

## Dates for your diary in 2026

The fun doesn't stop once Christmas is over. Please keep these dates free in your diaries...

- 25 January, 4.00 pm: Assembly Bangers come and sing all your primary school favourites.
- 31 January, 3.00 pm: Lantern-making for Candlemas come and make a lantern in the Community Centre. Refreshments available. Followed by a lantern parade into the church. Primarily aimed at primary-aged children.
- 17 February, 5.30 pm: Pancake Party, in the Community Centre.

# **Crib Service: Christmas Unwrapped**

### Christmas Eve at 5.00 pm St Mary's Church, Whitkirk

Don't miss our legendary Crib Service at 5.00 pm on Christmas Eve, when we will once again be playing a Christmassy pass-the-parcel. Fun for all the family.

### Join us after the service for refreshments

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

# The Coming

R.S. Thomas

And God held in his hand
A small globe. Look he said.
The son looked. Far off,
As through water, he saw
A scorched land of fierce
Colour. The light burned
There; crusted buildings
Cast their shadows: a bright
Serpent, a river
Uncoiled itself, radiant
With slime.

On a bare
Hill a bare tree saddened
The sky. Many People
Held out their thin arms
To it, as though waiting
For a vanished April
To return to its crossed
Boughs. The son watched
Them. Let me go there, he said.

# 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 John Mason Neale (1818-1866) Music: adapted by Thomas Helmore (1811-1890) from a French Missal arranged by Colin Hand (1929-2015) 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**

# Lighting of the Advent Candle

The president then moves to the Advent Wreath to light the fourth of the Advent candles. This week the candle helps us remember Mary who bore Jesus in her womb. This prayer is said.

God our Father, the angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary that she was to be the mother of your Son. Though Mary was afraid, she responded to your call with joy. Help us, whom you call to serve you, to share like her in your great work of bringing to our world your love and healing. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world.

#### Amen.

The fourth candle is lit.

Lord Jesus, light of the world, blessed is Gabriel, who brought good news; blessed is Mary, your mother and ours. Bless your Church preparing for Christmas; and bless us your children, who long for your coming. Amen.

#### Invitation to Confession

'The axe is laid at the root of the trees; every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down.' But confident in God's mercy we confess our sins.

cf Matthew 3.10

#### Silence is kept.

Heavenly Father, you exalted the humble and meek: give us humble and contrite hearts. Lord, have mercy.

#### Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you grew towards birth in the Virgin's womb: be planted also in our hearts and lives.
Christ, have mercy.

#### Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit, you overshadowed Mary, that she might become the God-bearer: fill us with your heavenly gifts. Lord, have mercy.

#### Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy, Christ, 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 you your sins, open your eyes to God's truth, strengthen you to do God's will and give you 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'.

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

#### Amen.

# The Liturgy of the Word

Please sit.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Isaiah 7 10-16

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

# Hymn

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.

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)

Music: Walter Greatorex (1877-1949)

Hymn Tune: WOODLANDS

based on Luke 1.46-55

# **Gospel Reading**

Choir Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Choir 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.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband loseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him lesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' When loseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the

Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Matthew 1.18-end

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 following response is used.

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.

#### 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 blate, you can also give by scanning this QR code, or by tabbing your contactless card or device on the card reader by the door as you leave.



Sing we of the blessed Mother who received the angel's word, and obedient to his summons bore in love the infant Lord; sing we of the joys of Mary at whose breast that child was fed, who is Son of God eternal and the everlasting Bread.

Sing we, too, of Mary's sorrows, of the sword that pierced her through, when beneath the cross of Jesus she his weight of suff'ring knew, looked upon her Son and Saviour reigning high on Calv'ry's tree, saw the price of our redemption paid to set the sinner free.

Sing again the joys of Mary when she saw the risen Lord, and, in prayer with Christ's apostles, waited on his promised word: from on high the blazing glory of the Spirit's presence came. heav'nly breath of God's own being, manifest through wind and flame.

Sing the greatest joy of Mary when on earth her work was done, and the Lord of all creation brought her to his heav'nly home: virgin mother, Mary blessèd, raised on high and crowned with grace, may your Son, the world's redeemer, grant us all to see his face.

Words: George Bourne Timms (1910-1997) Music: Cyril Vincent Taylor (1907-1991) Hymn Tune: ABBOT'S LEIGH

## 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.

# 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.

He is the one foretold by all the prophets, whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling.

John the Baptist was his herald and made him known when at last he came.

In his love, Christ fills us with joy as we prepare to celebrate his birth, so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer, our hearts filled with wonder and praise.

And so with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we proclaim your glory and join in their unending hymn of praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessèd is he, O blessèd is he
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, 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.

Christ is the bread of life:

When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory, until you 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.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

#### **Invitation to Communion**

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Most merciful Lord,
your love compels us to come in.
Our hands were unclean,
our hearts were unprepared;
we were not fit
even to eat the crumbs from under your table.
But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation,
and share your bread with sinners.
So cleanse and feed us
with the precious body and blood of your Son,
that he may live in us and we in him;
and that we, with the whole company of Christ,
may sit and eat in your kingdom.
Amen.

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.

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **Anthem**

Sung by the Choir.

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

For in this rose contained 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: 15<sup>th</sup> century Music: Graham Ellis The following communion hymns may be sung during the distribution as time allows. Please remain seated.

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

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free, from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art, dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king, born to reign in us for ever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

> Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) Music: John Stainer (1840-1901) Hymn Tune: CROSS OF JESUS

## **The Post Communion Prayer**

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

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out
in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.

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, 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 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: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), John Cennick (1718-1755) and Martin Madan (1726-1790) Music: from John Wesley's 'Select Hymns with Tunes Annext' (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: 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 Pilgrims in the Park: Last Saturday of the month at 2.00 pm

at Temple Newsam Park

Daily Prayers: Tuesday to Saturday at 8.30am and 5.30pm

#### Contact us

If you'd like to get in touch 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**.

To help us reach net zero carbon emissions by 2030, St Mary's uses recycled paper for all its single-use printing.

Please take this order of service home to recycle again.

St Mary's Church, Whitkirk 390 Selby Road Leeds LS15 0AA Registered Charity Number 1130280

⊕ whitkirkchurch.org.uk 😝 /whitkirkchurch 😭 @whitkirkchurch.org.uk