

God's Story
Our Story



St Mary's Honley & St George's Brockholes

<http://www.hwbparish.org.uk>



STAY HOME ▶ PROTECT THE NHS ▶ SAVE LIVES

**We have taken the difficult decision to
close our churches until further notice.**

The Vicar, Church Wardens and PCC have reluctantly decided to close the church building for public worship on the Sundays in order to protect and preserve everyone's safety during the Covid-19 lockdown. This decision will be reviewed by the PCC in four weeks.

This closure will not affect requests for funerals or burials of ashes which will still be able to go ahead under Government guidelines and restrictions.

We are particularly concerned by the greatly increased transmissibility of the new strain of Covid-19, the current high and rising rate of transmission and the vulnerability of our congregation. While we are sad to have to make this difficult decision, we believe that it is the safest, wisest and most loving decision to make in the circumstances for our church family and community. The PCC has an absolute duty of care for everyone who enters the church building.

**We urge everyone to follow the instructions given by the government to
stay in their homes in a national effort to limit the transmission of
COVID-19.**

Services of Daily prayers can be found on the link on our worship page.
Also the invitation to pray morning prayer at home at 10.00 am each day.
<https://www.facebook.com/thechurchofengland/> keep up to date.

*Hope returns when I remember this one thing:
The Lord's unfailing love and mercy still continue,
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
The Lord is all I have, and so in Him I put my hope.*

Lamentations 3.21-24

Can I encourage you to keep connected with each other; by which ever means is appropriate.
Follow the government's guidance. Stay Home, help the NHS, Save Lives.

Most of all keep in touch. Martin

Sunday

10.00am A service on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82052570669?pwd=bFY1OHQvd3pGaW90QXNIa2ljUEExqZz09>

Meeting ID: 820 5257 0669

Password: 055008

You can access the service by any phone.

0 203 051 2874

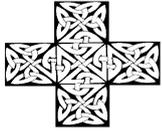
meeting ID: 820 5257 0669

Password: 055008

Service sheet can be found on the worship tab on the web site



The Church of England helpline called **Daily Hope**. This is aimed at those who do not have access to the internet and all the online resources.



We Remember:

The years mind of
Dorothy Gregory, George Marsh, Brian Swallow,
David Claydon Allison, Ralph Fretwell
Also, the family and friends of
Pauline Radford, Carmel Mary Gill, Jean Lee

John 1.43-51

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee.

He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.'

⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of

Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael

and said to him, 'We have found him about

whom Moses in the law and also the

prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from

Nazareth.' ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, 'Can

anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip

said to him, 'Come and see.' ⁴⁷When Jesus

saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of

him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there

is no deceit!' ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, 'Where

did you come to know me?' Jesus answered,

'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip

called you.' ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you

are the Son of God! You are the King of

Israel!' ⁵⁰Jesus answered, 'Do you believe

because I told you that I saw you under the

fig tree? You will see greater things than

these.' ⁵¹And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell

you, you will see heaven opened and the

angels of God ascending and descending

upon the Son of Man.'

In Genesis 25—28. Jacob was running away, with not a penny to his name and nothing but the clothes on his back, he had a dream He saw a ladder with its foot on the ground and its top reaching to heaven. God's angels were going up and down on it.

It is this passage Jesus seems to be referring to when he says to Nathanael and the other disciples (the 'you' in verse 51 is plural) will see heaven opened, with the angels of God going up and down upon the son of man. This is a strange picture, and it is hard to see what Nathanael and indeed what Jesus might have meant by it. Since it's obviously important within the gospel, concluding the first chapter, we need to look at it more closely.

The point about Jacob's ladder was that it showed that God was there with him, in that place. Jacob called the place 'Bethel', that is, 'God's house'. After he had come back to the land, and his descendants had been set up in possession of it, Bethel became one of the great sanctuaries of Israel, one of the places where early Israelite worship was carried on. The tradition of Jacob's dream, of the angels going up and down on the ladder, would then be connected with the belief that when you worshipped God in his house, God was really present, with his angels coming and going to link heaven and earth.

GIVING

Help to keep the parish churches open.

All our funding comes from the giving of the people who attend or those who feel that they want to support us. We do not receive any money from any other source.

Now more than ever, please consider giving generously to support our Mission and Ministry during these difficult times and beyond. Thank you for your support. Martin

You can now make donations online just follow this link.

<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/a459163d-1461-4ce0-bc1c-4c98dca169c8>



Or





Honley St. Mary's MU

The MU nationally is encouraging branches to try meetings on Zoom. If you have a computer and the internet, you can access a Zoom meeting.

If you do not have a computer, we will hope to provide a summary from the speaker.

Please let me know your feelings on this by either emailing me on

liz.short57@btinternet.com or phoning and leaving a message on the church phone number 661751 by January 31st.

Thank-you. Liz Short

Welcome Centre, Huddersfield

The congregation at St Mary's has always supported the Welcome Centre, but due to the pandemic, weekly donations have not been possible. I am happy to collect food donations from you. Alternatively, you may wish to give a monetary donation, details can be found on the Welcome Centre webpage. If you wish to donate money in a different form, contact me for details.

Thank you - Diana Kaye (666424).

A virtual Coffee morning

Wednesday's on Zoom 9.30 to 10.30 join us at any time online: chat, share



stories, listen to the music... have coffee or tea at home [even cake if you have some].

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83218275796?pwd=TmNreHVuY2NPcU9tWE4yK3pCSHhEUT09>

Meeting ID: 832 1827 5796 Passcode: 607192

Personal Daily Reflection

You may find this app helpful which gives 15 minute daily reflections that can be listened to or followed through reading the text.

'Lectio 365 app', from 24-7 Prayer

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.prayer247.lectio365&hl=en>

<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/lectio-365/id1483974820>



Used Stamps Wanted



Did you know **The Bible Society** can raise money from used stamps?
Please send stamps to **Bible Society, Stamp Appeal, Post Room, Stonehill Green, Westlea, Swindon SN5 7DG**
Thank you!



Martin's Talk.

Perhaps it is best to see John's Gospel as one in which we, with Philip, Nathaniel, Peter and Andrew are called to 'come and see'. The passage is completely invitational; Jesus invites Philip having gone to find him not waiting for Philip to come to Him. Philip then goes and finds Nathanael. Nathanael, in fact, is only mentioned in John's Gospel.

'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' (John 1:46). Or to paraphrase can owt good come from up north? It seems that Nazareth, west of the Sea of Galilee, was considered too insignificant to be the place of the Messiah's origin. Hence Nathaniel's rude comment

Notice the reaction of every person who meets Jesus in this chapter. They all immediately invite other people to meet Jesus. John the Baptist points the crowds to Jesus. Andrew invites Peter to meet Jesus. Philip invites Nathanael to meet Jesus. If you meet Jesus, you know that everyone needs to know Jesus, so you invite people to meet Jesus.

Here is a model for doing church that invites each person to explore, witness and discover. It is simply, see for yourself, do not take my word for it, let the evidence speak for itself: "come and see". How daring is that for a church? How exciting! But beyond that, if we were to live like this where we trust we are doing God's will rather than simply attempting to keep the institution going, "come and see" becomes an invitation for ourselves, to see beyond ourselves and to what is being done and spoken of that is bigger than us. It is an invitation to see what is being sacrificed and how lives are transformed because we are in touch with that which is beyond ourselves.

God wants you. He does not need you. But he wants you because he loves you. How does that make you feel? The thought should be overwhelming. A perfect God loves and wants imperfect you! Spend some time meditating on this, and perhaps talking to or thanking God for it. And: What should this thought do to your self-image? More than that, it is an invitation be surprised, each day. It is a willingness to be less in control of what is happening and let the Spirit's more imaginative and wild side surprise and call us into the world.

It becomes a way of life based on relationships "Come and see" speaks into the integrity of people, choosing to follow because of what they have witnessed. It is about the sense that something good or loving has its own authority simply because it is good or loving or just. The rest of the Gospel of John is the follow-on from this invitation. It is a variety of witnesses to Jesus, stories of encounter, places where love has been met and lives transformed. This is a gospel of relationships, of invitations for Samaritans and Pharisees and a whole bundle of people you would not expect to be your normal witnesses.

"Come and see" In this John is offering a way of life for which his readers can choose to follow or not. Yet even within this passage, and the verses on either side of it, we see the variety of choices people make to the Gospel's invitation. Some are enthusiastic, some invite others on the strength of it, some are just puzzled and doubtful.

The question for us all who are part of the faith community is what are we inviting people to "come and see"? In times of pandemics, when we have reduced what we do out of necessity, it is perhaps a time to reframe our faith community and wonder what will draw people back.

What is it about the gospel that will have us come back into congregational life? What might we do as a faith community that witnesses to this Gospel of people on the edge being welcomed in, and doubters being listened to? How might we live the invitation to "come and see"?

Who are you inviting to come and meet Jesus? Someone who knows Jesus cannot be selfish with him. We need to do everything we can to get everyone to Jesus. Who will you invited to church to come to church when we can re- enter our buildings? Start by praying for them NOW!

The Collect For this Week:

Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end: bring us with the whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord.