

**Calling All Readers and Would Be Readers within the Benefice:** St James' May 2nd at 6.00pm. Firstly thank you to the band of Readers that deliver words from Holy Scripture to our congregations on Sundays. Kevin is holding a support session for Readers (and would be Readers) on techniques that will increase confidence and help you home in on existing skills when delivering the Word of God. This is a one-off session and there is no need to book a place. All are welcome especially those who are considering this form of ministry.

**Wakefield Cathedral May 5th at 3.30pm:** You are warmly invited to attend the Collation and Installation of The Reverend Canon Cat Thatcher as the new Archdeacon of Pontefract (which covers our parishes).

**St Peter's APCM Sunday May 12th directly after the Eucharist**

**A Call to All Garden Enthusiasts:** If you have any spare bedding plants etc, please donate them to our **'Garden Plants Sale' on Saturday 18th May 10.30am – 11.30am.** All money raised is for church funds.

**St James' Summer Fair June 15th:** We are now asking for donations of toiletries, books, jigsaws and anything that would make great raffle and tombola prizes. Please no electrical items, donations to Margaret Poucher.

**The Rt Revd Tony Robinson, Episcopal Bishop of Wakefield:** Bishop Tony will retire on August 31, 2024 after 42 years of ordained ministry. His final service will be a Eucharist in Wakefield Cathedral on Saturday, July 6 at 11am. Please hold Bishop Tony and his family in your prayers at this time. Everyone is welcome to attend his last service.

**Notice Sheets:** If you want anything adding please email Kevin, the cut-off day is Tuesday the item will then appear on the following Sunday.

#### **Do follow our social media accounts**

Websites: [www.stjameschapelthorpe.org.uk](http://www.stjameschapelthorpe.org.uk); and [www.woolleychurch.org.uk](http://www.woolleychurch.org.uk)

**YouTube channel:** 'The Parishes of Chapelthorpe and Woolley'

**Facebook:** St Peter's Facebook page: 'Woolley church - St Peter's'  
St James' Facebook page: 'St James Parish of Chapelthorpe'

## **The United Benefice of Chapelthorpe and Woolley with West Bretton**

**Sunday: Easter 5**

**28th April 2024**

### **First Reading – Acts 8: 26-end**


Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, the queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:


"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."


The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.


### **Psalm 22:25-end**


**Refrain: Be not far from me, O Lord.**


25 From you comes my praise in the great congregation;   
I will perform my vows in the presence of those that fear you.

26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied;   
those who seek the Lord shall praise him;  
their hearts shall live for ever. **[R]**

27 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord,   
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

28 For the kingdom is the Lord's   
and he rules over the nations.

29 How can those who sleep in the earth  
bow down in worship, 

or those who go down to the dust kneel before him 

30 He has saved my life for himself;  
my descendants shall serve him; ♦  
this shall be told of the Lord for generations to come.

31 They shall come and make known his salvation,  
to a people yet unborn, ♦  
declaring that he, the Lord, has done it.

**Refrain: Be not far from me, O Lord.**

Restless with grief and fear, the abandoned turn to you: in every hour of trial, good Lord, deliver us, O God most holy, God most strong, whose wisdom is the cross of Christ. **Amen**

#### **Second Reading – 1 John 4: 7-end**

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate a brother or sister are liars, for those who do not love a brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

#### **The Gospel – John 15: 1-8**

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

## Services

### **Week commencing 28th April – Easter 5**

**Sunday St Peter:** No service.

**The Church in West Bretton 9.15am:** Eucharist.

**St James' 11.00am:** Eucharist. (APCM after the service)

**Wednesday St James' 10.30am:** Said Eucharist followed by Bible Study.

### **Week commencing 5th May – Easter 6**

**Sunday St Peter's 9.15am:** Eucharist

**St James' 11.00am:** Eucharist

**Wednesday St James' 10.30am:** Said Eucharist followed by Bible Study.

## Your Prayers

### **For the recently sick:**

**For the long-term sick:** Richard Ellins, Margaret Fozzard, Leonard Bartle, Douglas Seth-Smith, Annalease Aspden, The Reverend Canon Roger Cressey, Barbara Cressey, Graham Beynon-Fisher, Mary-Rose Lacoux,

### **Recently departed:**

**In Memory, whose anniversaries fall at this time.**

**St James':** The large votive candle in church is for Dennis Poucher.

**St Peter's:** Stanley Cottam-Thompson and David Rowbotton,

## Notices

**St James' Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting (APCM):** You are invited to stay after the Eucharist today and hear and read the reports on what happened in your church in 2023. You will also have the opportunity to ask any questions about the reports.

**St James' Monday April 29th at 1.30pm Class Visit:** Hendl Lane J&I School, looking at 'Sacred Places in the Community.'

**St Peter's PCC Meeting Monday April 29th at 7.00pm.** Zoom meeting to ratify the reports for the APCM.

**Men Behaving Godly: Tuesday April 30th at 7.00 – 9.00pm:** Our men's group meets at The Bay Horse Pub on Stoney Lane. We will be discussing The Triune God – The Father, Son and Holy Spirit.