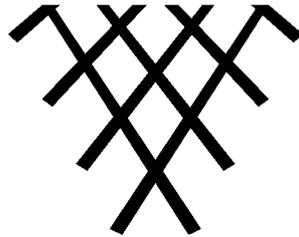
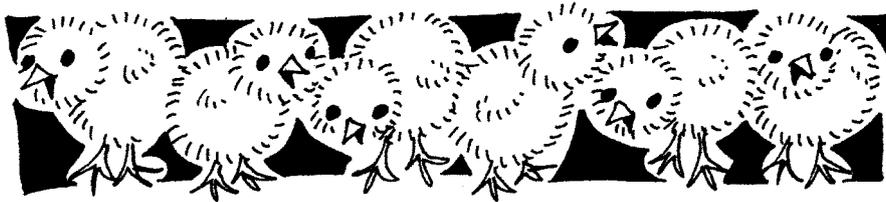


ST PETER'S
CHURCH STANLEY



March 2021
Parish News



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Covering Stanley & Nearby Areas

Dear Friends, When we meet or phone family or friends one of the first things we ask is how they are. We can now add a further query which is 'have you had the vaccine yet? There's no doubt one of the things to herald and rejoice at the start of this year is the number of vaccinations that have been delivered in our country; over 20 million as I pen this letter. What an absolute triumph of science and logistics to have produced several vaccines in under a year and delivered them. The sheer number of vaccinations given is a very positive step along the rocky road towards some sort of normality.

I wonder if the heroes of the day are now scientists, NHS staff and key-workers who continue to serve and go the extra mile in these most testing times – let's give them three cheers!

When one looks back it is amazing how our lives have been improved in these past few generations. Can you remember the days when you got up on a winter's morning to find ice on the inside of the bedroom window? Central heating has given us warm homes and when one goes to a local supermarket the sheer amount of choice can be overwhelming; they reckon a large supermarket has something like 44,000 different items on the shelf, and that's before you go online.

There is a flip side to the ever increasing standard of living, the ease of travel and the choice on the shelves, and that is the damage we are doing to the planet and animal world and do workers across the world get a fair wage. In the first book of the Bible, Genesis, we are given the privilege of being good stewards of the world we live in. So how we live and develop as a human race comes with a great responsibility to think beyond what's in it for me but rather what impact does my life have on this amazing world, and how can I leave it in good shape for future generations. As we continue to push the boundaries of what we can do as a human race we must bear in mind that just because we can do a new thing doesn't mean we should do it without considering the possible side effects. A starting point is to recognize that we are not mini-gods, rather we are accountable to God for the way we use our God given talents and the world's resources.

For Christians, a good place for guidance are the two commandments summarised by Jesus: the first is 'love the Lord your God with all your heart and mind and soul' and the second is 'love your neighbour as you would love yourself'. With these two commandments we should not go too far wrong as we live in an increasingly complex world and grapple with many questions and challenges that come our way. So as Lent continues, let's give thanks for all those who continue to use their God given talents to push the boundaries of science and technology so they may be guided by God to build a world that reflects his goodness and grace and help us all to live a blessed life.

Take care and stay safe, Rev Glenn Coggins



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St Peter's Church Services

St Peter's Church, Lake Lock Road, Stanley, WF3 4HW

10am on Sundays: Family Communion

Over the next few weeks, we will continue to stream an online service at 10am on Sundays until we return to church worship with a congregation on Sunday 28th March. The online services will be filmed at either St Peter's in Stanley, or at St Paul's in Alverthorpe. Please see overleaf for more information about the return to in-church worship. For our online services please see:

- Facebook: St Peter's Church, Stanley, Wakefield
- Church website: www.stpeters-stanley.org.uk
- Benefice website: www.northwakefieldbenefice.org.uk
- YouTube: St Peter's Church, Stanley

As well as the Sunday morning services, we are broadcasting morning and evening prayer sessions several times a week on our Facebook page. Please visit our Facebook page to watch these services at the times shown below. Once broadcast, the services can be watched as many times as you wish.

Monday	<u>9am Morning prayer</u>
Tuesday	<u>9pm Compline evening service</u>
Wednesday	<u>9am Morning prayer</u>
Wednesday	<u>9pm Compline evening service</u>
Thursday	<u>9pm Compline evening service</u>
Friday	<u>9pm Compline evening service</u>

When will church be open??

Even before the recent announcement of the government 'roadmap' to open things up, St Peter's PCC had made the decision to return to in-church worship at the **10am Palm Sunday service on 28th March.**



This will be the first service that the congregation has able to attend since the beginning of January. Places of worship have been allowed to stay open the whole time, but the PCC took the decision to minimise the risk to everyone by staying shut. When we open, there will still be many restrictions in place: we will still have to wear masks, keep our distance from each other, numbers will be limited and we won't be allowed to sing. But we truly hope that this is the beginning of things getting back to normal.

The next significant date for the church will be 12th April, after which community centres are allowed to reopen. This means that some of our social activities will be allowed to restart, beginning with the return of some of our children's activity providers such as Mini-Maestros and the majorettes.

We hope that at that point we will be able to restart the Community Choir, the Tuesday senior citizens lunch club and Knit & Natter. However, these will all be dependent on the rules about socialising and permitted activities, which may of course change again over the next few weeks. However, most people who attend these groups will hopefully have had both of their vaccines by that point, so it will be wonderful to be able to meet together again with much less fear about the virus spreading.

It is far too early to make decisions about all of the other things that we used to enjoy doing at the church such as coffee mornings, fund-raising events and the pantomime. All we can do is stay hopeful that as a nation we make steady progress towards the future, and give thanks for those rolling out the amazing vaccination programme.

I wonder what the situation will look like when it is time to write the April magazine!? Hopefully it will be even more positive!

An update from the Stanley Residents' Group:
Stanley Vegetable, Flower and Cake Show



We are launching what we think will be Stanley's first ever traditional village vegetable and flower show and want you to take part!

We want it to be fun and rewarding regardless of age, ability and experience, so we've chosen the categories carefully to involve as many people as possible. We hope to add more categories in future years if the show is a success.

There are several categories covering vegetables, salad items, flowers, cakes and buns across 3 age groups, with 1st, 2nd, 3rd place rosettes, prizes, certificates and of course a Best in Show trophy. For adults it will be £1 per entry but under 18's are free.



We have vegetable categories for those with or without allotments and greenhouses, and easy-growing salad items which might appeal more to children. We are providing a limited number of free seeds to get people started and encourage them to 'Have a Go'. And don't worry if it all goes horribly wrong—there's a Wonky Veg category for all the weird and funny shaped things you might end up with!

In the flowers' categories there will be sunflowers for the kids which continues our theme from last year but we also have the more traditional roses and dahlias too. And as for cakes, well, it has to be Victoria sponge doesn't it? And under 18's can have a go at making cupcakes.

So, whether you or the kids need a new challenge to beat lockdown blues; fancy yourself as Stanley's answer to Mary Berry; or reckon you can grow an even bigger Sunflower than last year—as long as you are an amateur, this competition is for YOU!

You've got plenty of time as the closing date is likely to be 30th June. Registration forms with full details are available now from our leaflet dispensers at the Little Library opposite the Wheatsheaf pub and on Aberford Road opposite the Thatched House pub. Or email us at: stanleyresidentsgroup@gmail.com.

STANLEY LIBRARY

Stanley Library offers a wide selection of books, talking books, selected language tapes, newspapers (including the weekly Wakefield Express), selected magazines (including the monthly Which magazine), and an A4 colour photocopier; please enquire for the cost of using the machine. There are also public access computers, offering free internet access, and basic computer programmes (i.e. word processing). The computers are free to use; users just need to have a current library card.

OPENING HOURS

(revised opening hours in current lockdown)

Monday	10am—1pm
Tuesday	10am—4.30pm
Wednesday	Closed all day
Thursday	10am—4.30pm
Friday	10am—1pm
Saturday	10am—1pm
Sunday	Closed all day

Activities for Children: Tiny Tots Storytime for under 5's is from 11am-11.30am every Monday throughout the year. Other children's activities are organised in most school holidays; please ask for details.

Crafts and Chat morning: Every Tuesday from 10am-11.30am: bring your knitting, drawing, crocheting or any other activity and enjoy chat and refreshments.

Coffee Morning: There is a coffee morning every Thursday morning, 10am-12 noon. Come and relax with friends over a cuppa.

Code Club: Learn how to make your own computer games and animations at Code Club, every Thursday from 3.30pm—6pm.

Family History: Would you like help researching your family history? An advisor is available in the library every Saturday from 10.30am who can help navigate Ancestry and other useful sites.

Reading Groups: Check with the library for the meeting times and book details of the current reading groups.

Stanley Library contact details: Lake Lock Road, Stanley, Wakefield, WF3 4HU, Telephone number: 01924 303130.



Spring bulbs

By the time you read this, there will be daffodil shoots well and truly peeping through the ground all around the village.

Back in the autumn, volunteers from Stanley Residents group and St Peter's church planted some new areas of Stanley with daffodil bulbs: Orchard Avenue, Auty Crescent, Bottom Boat Road, Ferry Lane and the start of Nellie Spindler Drive. Lots of bulbs were planted on the slope from the old church site towards Aberford Road.

It will look super when the daffodils are fully in bloom. If you think there are other areas of Stanley that could do with some Spring cheerfulness, please let the Stanley Residents group know by emailing stanleyresidentsgroup@gmail.com

Stanley Gala?

This year's Stanley Gala organised by Stanley Residents group will hopefully be going ahead on the field at St Peter's church on Saturday 7th August. Obviously a lot could happen between now and then but the group is crossing all their fingers that it will go ahead. So, save the date!



Written in March



The cock is crowing,
The stream is flowing,
The small birds twitter,
The lake doth glitter,
The green field sleeps in the sun...

There's joy in the mountains,
There's life in the fountains,
Small clouds are sailing,
Blue sky prevailing,
The rain is over and gone.

From 'Written in March while resting on the bridge at the foot of Brother's Water' by William Wordsworth

Remember to change your clocks on Sunday 28th March

This winter has seemed particularly long and dark, but it is nearly at an end, and we can start to look forward to lighter evenings and hopefully happier times. British Summer Time starts at 1am on Sunday 28th March, so remember to move your clocks forward by one hour.



Mothering Sunday—14th March

There is an old Jewish saying: “God could not be everywhere and therefore He made mothers.” Mother Church, Mother Earth, and our own mothers have all been celebrated as part of ‘Mothering Sunday’ in the UK since at least the 1600’s.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young apprentices or live-in servants were allowed one holiday a year to visit their families, which is how ‘Mothering Sunday’ got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.



St Peter’s Mothering Sunday service will be streamed on-line only on our Facebook page at 10am on Sunday 14th March.

Stanley Community Singers

Every Monday, 1pm-1.30pm

The Stanley Community singers are not singing together at the moment, but are continuing to meet up on ‘Zoom’ every week to sing some of our favourite songs. We hope that it won’t be long until we can meet in person again, possibly after Easter, but we will know more in the next few weeks.

Mount Road Methodist Chapel news

Due to the current national lockdown, there are no services or activities currently taking place at Mount Road Methodist chapel. This will be reviewed in due course now that the government ‘roadmap’ has been announced.

All in the month of March

- 1700 years ago, on 7th March 321, the Roman Emperor Constantine 1 (Constantine the Great) decreed that Sunday should be a day of rest throughout the Empire.
- 150 years ago, on 27th March 1871, the first international rugby union football match was held in Edinburgh. Scotland beat England 1 – 0.
- Also 150 years ago, on 29th March 1871, the Royal Albert Hall in London was officially opened by Queen Victoria.
- 75 years ago, on 25th March 1946, that London’s Heathrow Airport was opened, as London Airport. It was renamed Heathrow in 1966.
- 60 years ago, on 6th March 1961, George Formby, the ‘ukulele king’ died. A British comedian, singer and actor, he was best known for his comic songs, including ‘When I’m Cleaning Windows’.
- 50 years ago, on 8th March 1971, the ‘Fight of the Century’ took place at Madison Square Garden in New York City. Two undefeated heavy-weight boxers fought each other for the world title, with Joe Frazier defeating Muhammed Ali.
- 40 years ago, on 1st March 1981, IRA member Bobby Sands began a hunger strike at Maze Prison, Northern Ireland. He was elected as an MP to the British parliament on 10th April, and died on 5th May.
- Also 40 years ago, on 29th March 1981, the first London Marathon was held.
- 25 years ago, on 13th March 1996, that the Dunblane Massacre took place in Scotland. A gunman killed 16 children and a teacher at a primary school and wounded several others before taking his own life.
- Also 25 years ago, on 20th March 1996, the government reported that Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) in humans was linked to BSE (mad cow disease) and could be transmitted to humans who ate infected beef. On 25th March the EU banned the export of British beef (until 2006).
- 20 years ago, on 8th March 2001, British racing driver Donald Campbell’s speedboat Bluebird was recovered from the bottom of Coniston Water in Cumbria. (It had crashed and sank during a record attempt in January 1967 in which he was killed.)
- 10 years ago, on 11th March 2011, the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami hit Japan. 15,897 people were killed, 2,533 went missing, and nearly a quarter of a million became homeless. Three reactors at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant went into meltdown, leading to the second-largest nuclear accident in history.

How Sunday became a Christian day of rest

It was 1700 years ago, on 7th March 321, that the Roman Emperor Constantine 1 (Constantine the Great), who had converted to Christianity, decreed that Sunday should be a day of rest throughout the Empire.



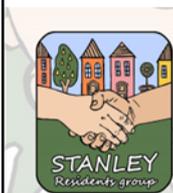
This was a change from normal Roman Empire practice, which was to regard Sunday as just another work-day – something the UK seems to be reverting to. But Constantine’s civil decree made Sunday a day of rest from labour. It said: “All judges and city people and craftsmen shall rest upon the venerable day of the sun.”

This was not intended to replace the Jewish Sabbath, which starts at sunset on Friday and continues to sunset on Saturday. Such Jewish observance was regarded by most Christians as being bound to the old law instead of the Spirit, and so was resisted. Christians backed the Sunday rest because it was the day on which Jesus had risen from the dead and the Holy Spirit had come – despite possible doubts about the phrase “day of the sun”.

Christians meeting for worship on Sunday in fact dates back to the Acts of the Apostles, and it is mentioned historically about 115AD. Actual practice varies across the world and through the years.

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Football clubs takes to the airwaves



Earlier this year, Wycombe Wanderers FC broadcast a church service with a difference. Four of the team's leading players, Adebayo Akinfenwa, Jason McCarthy, Alex Samuel and Cameron Yates joined the club chaplain Benedict Musola in a special act of worship broadcast across the UK's 38 BBC local radio stations. The four professional footballers talked about their faith, and about how the team hold regular Bible studies, and pray on the pitch before matches.

And before Christmas, League Two side Bradford City FC hosted an online carol service with Bradford Cathedral. It included readings and contributions from City manager Stuart McCall, and players Billy Clarke, Clayton Donaldson and Richard O'Donnell. The service was streamed across all the Yorkshire club's social media channels



Ten years of Syria at war

Ten years ago, on 15th March 2011, the Syrian Civil War began. It continues today.

Hostilities started with pro-democracy "Arab Spring" demonstrations that were crushed by President Bashar al-Assad, and the violence spread, with different groups, backed by various countries, joining in. The Sunni Muslim majority clashed with the President's Shia Alawite sect, and jihadist groups flourished, with the Kurds – demanding self-government – dominating the north of the country.

Syria's Christians – formerly ten per cent of the country – suffered atrocities from all sides. Many have fled, and those left in Syria now number about 670,000 out of a population of 19 million. It has been said that both sides in the war want to "displace Christians and change the culture".

Key supporters of the Syrian government have been Russia, Iran and the Lebanon-based Hezbollah, while Western powers, Gulf Arab states and Turkey have backed some of the rebels. Israel is nominally neutral, but has attacked Iranian and Hezbollah forces in south-western Syria, perceiving them as a threat to Israel.

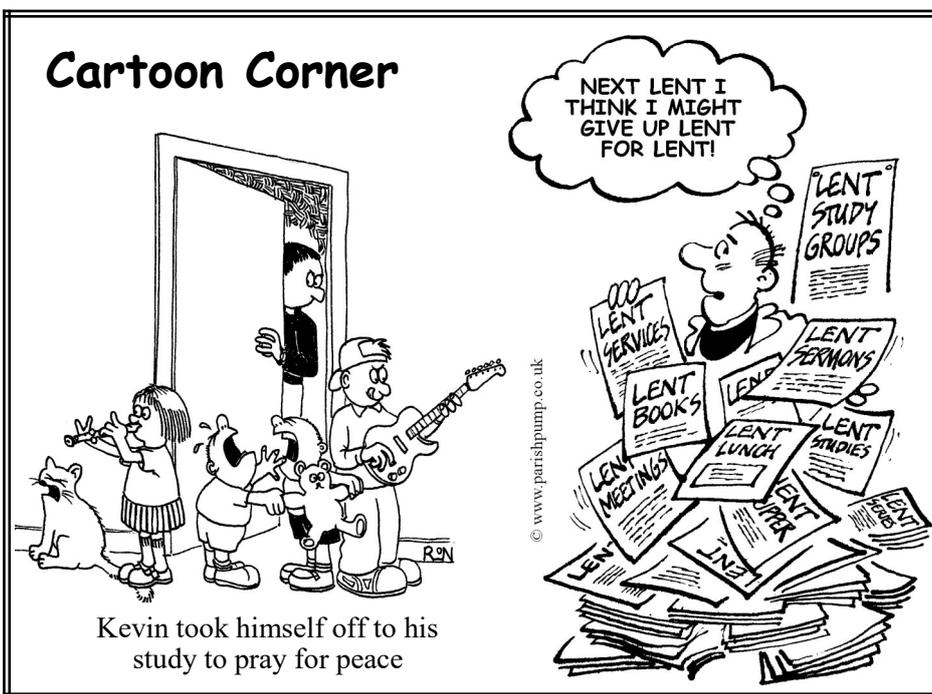
Estimates of the total number of deaths by the end of 2020 are hard to establish, but vary between 380,000 and 600,000. More than 200,000 of these were civilians, and 25,000 of those were children.

St David's Day, 1st March—time for daffodils

1st March is St David's Day, and it's time for the Welsh to wear daffodils or leeks. Shakespeare called this custom 'an honourable tradition begun upon an honourable request', but nobody knows the reason. Why should anyone have ever 'requested' that the Welsh wear leeks or daffodils to honour their patron saint? It's a mystery!

We do know that David, or Dafydd, of Pembrokeshire was a monk and bishop of the 6th century. In the 12th century he was made patron of Wales, and he has the honour of being the only Welsh saint to be canonised and culted in the Western Church. Tradition has it that he was austere with himself, and generous with others; living on water and vegetables (leeks, perhaps?!) and devoting himself to works of mercy. He was much loved.

In art, St David is usually depicted in Episcopal vestments, standing on a mound with a dove at his shoulder, in memory of his share at an important Synod for the Welsh Church, the Synod of Brevi.



Prayers for March

JESUS

If I could package faith into one parcel
And collect all hope into a single can –
If I could roll all love into one heart-ball
And commoditise it in a living man
I'd already have a fully detailed label
Prepared before the world itself began -
And it would have one name -
And that name – JESUS -
At the centre of God's universal plan
To take the world along the course
God's surge of love provoked
Till wholeness flows through everything
With God's Spirit of life unyoked.
by Sam Doubtfire

Prayer for Families

Dear Father God,
In this month, when we especially think about mothers, we thank you for the families and friends you have given us. You know how hard it has been to have been separated over these past months, how much we have missed and longed for their hugs, their physical presence and fellowship.

As we hold on to the hope of overcoming the pandemic, help us to be strengthened by the power of the love we receive, and to strengthen others by the love we give. May we know that, wherever we are, whatever our circumstances, we and our loved ones are held safe and connected by your unfailing love for us, revealed in Jesus, who is alive, and from whom nothing, no pandemic, no man-made turmoil, absolutely nothing and no-one can separate us, when we put our trust in Him.

Thank you, Father, that we belong to your family. Thank you for the love and security we have in you.
In Jesus' name, Amen.
By Daphne Kitching

Daily Strength

You have been a refuge for the poor, a refuge for the needy in their distress, a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat.

Isaiah 25:4

The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.

Psalms 9:9

“I am the bread of life.
Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

John 6:35

Please contact the editor, Eleanor Plant, with items for the next magazine on 01924 835746, or by email: churchoffice@stpeters-stanley.org.uk

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ADVICE SURGERIES

No appointment necessary — Home visits can be arranged

Stanley Library & Community Centre, Lake Lock Road, Stanley,
1st & 3rd Thursday of each month 6.00 - 7.00pm

Excluding bank holidays

St Peter's Church Centre, Stanley

2nd Saturday of each month 10am - 11am

Bevin Close Community Centre, Outwood

2nd Saturday each month 11.15am - 12.00noon

Stanley Rodillians RUFC—new members needed!

Stanley Rodillians RUFC is looking for girls and boys of all ages between 4 and 11 to join the mini/junior section.

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www.stanleyrodilliansrufc.rfu.club

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Rainbows & Brownies	Visit www.girlguiding.org.uk	

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For information about weddings and baptisms please see the Vicar or Curate after any church service or telephone 01924 218484.

Contact us:

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Wakefield
WF3 4HW
01924 835746

Email: churchoffice@stpeters-stanley.org.uk



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