



St John, Warley & St Hilda, Halifax

## Benefice News

### Lent & Easter 2022

If ever there was a season of Lent when we were daily reminded of the world's need of Christ, then 2022 is it.

What is happening in the Ukraine has brought many of us to tears of shock, horror and compassion whilst crying out to God to have mercy upon all of those caught up in this tragic conflict. Videos have come out of Kharkov (where Faith in Action have been helping the most vulnerable over many years) of children sobbing as they cry out to God to save them. It is heart rending. Other videos have emerged of Ukrainian women facilitating Russian prisoners of war to make tearful phone calls home to reassure mothers and wives that they are safe. Some of those fighting are still in their teens.

Where is God in the midst of all of this horror and fear?

Benjamin Morrison is in Svitlovisk as a pastor. He told Christianity Today (3/3/22) about his experience of God working in the midst of war:

"Bomb shelter ministry" is, I must admit, not a ministry profile I thought I'd ever have. And yet, we are already seeing how fruitful it's been. Our neighbours have heard more about Christ, heard more Scripture, and been led in more prayer in the last week than most of them probably have in their lives. In addition to the "Our Father" prayer, I've taken to reading various Psalms with them—a particularly fitting book for us in Ukraine, as David often cries out amid being hunted by his enemies."

Putin's denial of death (by his history of using mobile crematoria to disguise the number of losses that his armies have sustained) reminds Christians of why we serve a Lord who conquered the grave. Tyrants with delusions of great empires run throughout history. To the prince of Tyre, God delivered an oracle through the prophet Ezekiel (Ezekiel 28:9) "Will you then say, 'I am a god,' in the presence of those who kill you? You will be but a mortal, not a god, in the hands of those who slay you" .

The potential implications of this conflict are terrifying to contemplate. We are all crying out to God to come to the Ukrainians' aid, for wisdom for world leaders, for a softening of

Putin's heart. Our God is the God of miracles and he is also the God who has already saved us.

This week we marked the beginning of Lent with Ash Wednesday and this is about remembering that one day we will die. This is important. Psalm 19:12 exhorts us to "number our days" and James 4:14 asks us to remember that life is a vapour soon to vanish.

But Ash Wednesday it is also about *how* we died. By joining to Christ, we have died with him. The way to glory is not the way of Rome, of Russia, or of our own desire to exalt or protect ourselves. The way to glory is the way of the cross.

In wartime, dictators should especially remember that, win or lose, they will die and that there will be no invading or conquering the kingdom of God. They will be held to account for themselves – as we all will. At the beginning of Lent – and throughout the year—we should remember this too.

### **A Prayer for Ukraine**

God of peace and justice,  
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.  
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.  
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,  
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.  
We pray for those with power over war or peace,  
for wisdom, discernment and compassion  
to guide their decisions.  
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,  
that you would hold and protect them.  
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.  
Amen.

**Archbishop Justin Welby**  
**Archbishop Stephen Cottrell**



**Caroline**

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### **APCM DATES**

**St John's Church – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 10:15am**

**St Hilda's Church - Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2022 at 10:15am**

## FUTURE WORSHIP TIMES

As society starts to get back on a more normal footing, it is proposed that we return to weekly services at both churches as of 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022. With a new rota format, the service time is proposed to be at 10:15am for the main service for each church each week. The Book of Common Prayer Service is proposed to remain on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month at the later time of 9:00am.

We will have a conversation about a new time for the Zoom Service with those regularly participating and our YouTube recording will now be kept for seasonal special services as appropriate as the need for these has fallen in recent weeks.

Both PCCs will take a formal vote on this proposal at their next meetings. If you would like your views to be taken into account before the votes, please speak to Caroline or other PCC members.

## Warley Community Association & Warley St. John's Church

Invite you to come along to  
"The Warley Chatty Café"  
Inside the church From 12.00 noon to 1.30pm  
every second Tuesday of the month  
next one is on 8th March 2022



A light lunch will be available and opportunity to meet up, chat, receive information and hear music- Café Style.

All ages welcome, the young, the not so young, families, all sexes.

Time to spend in the company of others in a relaxed atmosphere.

## LENT COURSE 2022 ON THE WAY TO JERUSALEM



For 5 consecutive weeks starting on  
Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 7:15pm for a 7:30pm start on Zoom  
(A YouTube recording will be available later on each evening on the St John, Warley and St Hilda, Halifax YouTube channel)



WEST HALIFAX

Zoom can be accessed by either computer or telephone (at your usual call charge).  
Either log into Zoom or phone  
0203 4815237

Then enter the following details:

Meeting ID: 845 0248 9763  
Passcode: 151072

## EASTER SERVICES

### Palm Sunday

9:30am @ St John's Church

### Maundy Thursday

7:00pm @ St Hilda's Church

### Good Friday

Meditation at the Cross  
11:00am at St John's Church

### Taize Service

7:00pm at St Hilda's Church

### Easter Sunday

St John's Church @ 8:30am and  
9:30am  
St Hilda's Church at 10:00am

*Come and join Halifax Young Singers*  
to



*Raise the Roof*

*Sunday 3rd April 3.30pm*

*St. John's Church*  
*Windle Royd Lane*

*Tickets £5*                      *Refreshments*

**Urgent Fundraiser To Save the Anandaban Laboratory**  
On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2022 from 2:00pm to 3:30pm at St John's Church, Warley

**Visiting Speaker – Nigel Riley**  
**Plus Silent Auction, Quiz, Tea & Cake**

Tickets £5 per person (on the door) with all proceeds contributing to the urgent rebuilding of the laboratory at Anandaban Hospital.  
Any enquiries can be made to Caroline on [rev.caroline14@gmail.com](mailto:rev.caroline14@gmail.com)







**SAVE THE DATES – THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2:00 – 5:00**

**Jubilee celebration at The Vandals in Warley**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June 10:15am**

**Service of Thanksgiving at St Hilda's Church**