

ST. MARGARET'S ILKLEY

**The Third Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 13th 2020**



Dear Friends,

As you will be aware, I have been giving the pattern of our Christmas Services this year serious thought in recent weeks, and have consulted carefully with the lay officers of our parish. I knew that whatever we do offer needed to take into account a number of very significant factors, which would not normally frame our service patterns. Among these are the prohibition on any congregational singing of hymns and carols, a limit on the numbers attending any one service to ensure we can worship in our church with safe physical distancing, and also the consideration of those who continue to shield at home because of their vulnerability to the coronavirus. You will see below the pattern we have created is a mix of physical and online services.

Given the physical limitations that we must work with, and the safe limit on numbers, I have decided to offer a Service of Christmas Carols and Readings which will be exactly the same on the three consecutive evenings in the week running up to Christmas. This will give opportunity for over 200 people to attend a traditional Christmas Service in the beauty of St Margaret's Church. I realise we will feel the absence of our ability to sing Christmas Carols together acutely but that is a sacrifice we are being asked to make for our mutual well-being at this time. I would suggest that if you do feel strongly about singing carols then the sensible option is to access one of our two online services, on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, which will include traditional Christmas Carols which you can indeed sing in the safety of your home!

Our Crib Service, which often has an attendance of over 500 people, will be online this year. I felt that for everyone's safety this was by far the best option in our present circumstances. I feel any other option is likely to either exclude a large number of people or create confusion and possible difficulties of having to exclude large numbers of people on the church door on Christmas Eve. Either way, I felt the outcome could be, at best, unfortunate and it will be best for the many families who would normally come to worship to do this year in the security and comfort of their homes. Obviously, they can, if they wish, access one of the other five Christmas Services across the week.

In order to give access to physical worship to as large a number of people of possible, we are guaranteeing that you can come to one of our five acts of worship during the week. Hopefully, this will be your preferred option, but if you give Vickie two then we shall fit you into one or the other. If you would like to come to a second service also, then we will endeavour to accommodate you, but cannot guarantee it until we know the level of demand. Please be patient with Vickie as she works out the practicalities of this. It is very likely she could be dealing with over 250 requests next week and it will take some time to work things out and try and accommodate everyone's desires. Our times are indeed, exceptional, and they do create exceptional demands for us as a church, one which works with one part-time office staff member and volunteer helpers. They do very remarkable things on a shoestring!

With my love and prayers

Fr. Philip

Sunday "Coffee Time"

Please join us on Sunday, December 13th for our virtual "coffee time". The meeting details are below.

Topic: St Margaret's Coffee Meeting

Time: December 13th, 2020 11:30 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/7586081733?pwd=bFVnZ1dpbzFPN3h5aVpVbmJmank4QT09>

Let Us Pray

Father in heaven,
our hearts desire the warmth of your love
and our minds are searching for the light of your Word.
Increase our longing for Christ our Saviour
and give us the strength to grow in love,
that the dawn of his coming may find us rejoicing
in his presence and welcoming the light of his truth.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

Amen

Private Prayer at St. Margaret's

Monday to Thursday

9.30am - 11.30am

St Margaret's continues to be open for individual private prayer on Monday to Thursday mornings between 9.30am and 11.30am.



Services on

Sunday 20th December

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10.00am Mass in Church

Sung Mass by Choir

Booking is essential through the Parish Office

stmargaretschurchpa@gmail.com.

10:30am YouTube Premiere: Sung Mass

from the temporary Chapel in the Vicarage

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Please see the poster below for full details of
Christmas Services 2020



With Vicar
Canon Philip Gray

Live Services available on Facebook and YouTube
Search for @StMargaretsChurchIlkley



**ST. MARGARET'S
ILKLEY**

Christmas Services

A CHRISTMAS SERVICE OF READINGS AND CAROLS

Sunday 20th/Monday 21st/Tuesday 22nd December at 6.30pm

This traditional Christmas Service combines the biblical Christmas Readings and Choral Carols from the choir

FIRST MASS OF CHRISTMAS

24th December at 10.30pm

A traditional Christmas Eucharist with Choral Music from the choir, as we welcome the new born King

CHRISTMAS DAY

25th December at 10.00am

A traditional Christmas Eucharist with Choral Music from the choir, as we celebrate the birth of the Saviour

BOOKING CHRISTMAS SERVICES

All services in church must be pre-booked

Email stmargaretschurchpa@gmail.com by 16th December

Due to limited capacity it may only be possible to attend one Christmas service

Please be aware that government restrictions prohibit the singing of congregational carols

OR JOIN US AT OUR SERVICES ON YOUTUBE

CHRISTMAS CRIB SERVICE (recorded)

YouTube Premier: 24th December at 4.00pm

A short Christmas Service recorded around the crib at St Margaret's with congregational Christmas Carols

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS (recorded)

YouTube Premier: 25th December at 10.30am

A traditional Christmas Day Eucharist recorded at St. Margaret's, including congregational Christmas carols

With Fr Philip Gray

For Christmas Services online search on YouTube for St Margarets Church Ilkley and click on the videos

How to book a Christmas service

The programme of Christmas services in church has now been published. You will be guaranteed attendance at one of the five services over the week running up to Christmas Day, and also offered the chance to be on a “waiting list” for a second service, should you wish to attend more than one. The service on Sunday 20th, Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd at 6.30pm is exactly the same service, being offered on three consecutive evenings to provide the opportunity for as many as people to attend church as possible in a safe and socially distanced manner. **As we can only host 70 people at each service you will not be able to attend the service if you have not made a booking.**

Please request your first choice and second choice service by emailing Vickie at stmargaretschurchpa@gmail.com. Please give your name and the names of each individual you wish to attend with you and include a contact phone number for each adult even if you have provided them on other occasions!

All the details of the Christmas services, what to expect at each service and the email address for booking your place in church is included in the document here. <https://www.stmargaretsilkley.org/sites/default/files/christmas2020.pdf>

Bookings open on Monday, December 14th and close on Wednesday, December 16th. Your booking will be confirmed following the closing of the booking period and by the end of Friday, December 18th.



Christmas Appeal for Keighley Women's Refuge & Staying Put

This year's Christmas appeal is in aid of the women's refuge in Keighley which is run by the charity *Staying Put*.

Staying Put is a domestic and sexual abuse charity working with women, men and children who are victims, with survivors and with families with complex needs across West and South Yorkshire, and with perpetrators in challenging their behaviour and actions. By offering both practical and emotional support it's often possible for clients to remain safely in their own home, allowing them to stay within their community and support networks. However, for the

20% of clients who are at high risk, remaining in their homes is not an option and secure temporary refuge or dispersed accommodation is provided.

Staying Put say, "Domestic and sexual abuse can affect anyone at any stage in their life. In 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic we have seen domestic abuse incidents rise dramatically due to the lockdown and the "stay home, save lives" message, resulting in an escalating risk to vulnerable people. Recently the referral rate for our services has gone through the roof. Since the lockdown measures were put into place in March, we have seen approximately 200 more referrals to our services per month than this time last year. Our work is needed now more than ever."

This link has been developed in conjunction with the St Margaret's branch of the Mothers' Union. All donations given at the Christmas services will be passed to *Staying Put*. Last year £4,800 was raised. This year's financial appeal is particularly important as, due to COVID restrictions, we will not be able to provide our usual assistance in kind through toiletries and gifts.

Contributions (cash or cheque made payable to St Margaret's PCC) should be put in an envelope marked for the attention of the Stewardship Secretary and placed in the safe at the back of church. Alternatively, they can be posted to Alison Stretton (Stewardship Secretary) at the address below. If you prefer to give by direct bank transfer, please contact Alison for details of how to do this. If you wish to Gift Aid, please state this in your email or in a covering note and we will use your existing GA declaration or send a form out to you.

Contact details for postal/direct bank contributions:

Address: Alison Stretton, 4 Oakburn Road, Ilkley LS29 9NN

Tel: 01943 430024

Email: astretton1@virginmedia.com



Churchwardens, **Helen Buswell and Alison Stretton**, were sworn into office by Fr Philip on Sunday, December 6th.



Read up on the latest news from the Bradford Episcopal Area News in its Christmas edition of The Bean. This edition also includes resources for Advent.

The Bean

<https://www.leeds.anglican.org/sites/default/files/files/the%20Christmas%20BEAN%20020fin.pdf>

Advent resources

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-RCaLYTgKsBlm9-Ose7_r9vltDyLDh09?usp=sharing

Organ Recital Cancelled

Please note the organ recital on Thursday, December 17th has been cancelled due to tier 3 restrictions. We look forward to hosting organ recitals back in church very soon.

Practical Support and Help

Ilkley and District Good Neighbours provides a range of support and practical help during coronavirus to include shopping, a regular phone call, collecting prescriptions and other help needed. For more information go to <http://info@goodneighboursilkley.org.uk>

Ilkley Corona Response Group (ICRG) can be contacted via the Bradford Hub on 01274 431000, or use the online form at <https://bit.ly/ilkeleycorona>

Ilkley Library. To reserve books from the online catalogue and for the Home Library Service – ilkley.library@bradford.gov.uk 01943 436225

Ilkley Chat provides the latest news affecting Ilkley as a result of COVID-19 <https://www.ilkeleychat.co.uk/coronavirus> This link also provides details of **food delivery services** offered by supermarkets. Contact Alison Stretton on 01943 430024 or Vickie Kemp at stmargaretschurchpa@gmail.com for more information.

During this difficult time it is important to keep in touch with friends. Please do feel you can call a member of our church family who will be pleased to hear from you.

Fr Philip	01943 607210
Fr Bernard	01943 816253
Fr Godfrey	01943 603861
Jane Sheldon	01943 431288
Helen Buswell	01943 608146
Linda Whittaker	01943 601144
Alison Stretton	01943 430024

**Daily Hope, is a 24 hour free phone line for Christian worship and prayer.
Call 0800 804 8044**