

# ST. MARGARET'S ILKLEY

**The Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> 2020**



Dear Friends,

This will be the last such letter I write as your Vicar. However, this is certainly not the time nor media for any great valediction or homilising about past, present or future! I feel I have done that in other words, and in other places, over the last few weeks.

Now is the time only to express gratitude for the many kindnesses I have been shown by so many people, and similar thankfulness especially for those who have made true sacrifices to serve as friends and colleagues as we have sought to live out the Gospel faithfully in this place. We only ever operate through the power of God's Spirit and through his bountiful grace. For what has fallen short, one can only offer repentance in the knowledge of God's forgiveness and mercy.

I feel remarkably blessed to have been given a wonderful family who have supported us in our ministry every step of the way, and I know that that without them all what we have sought to do would have been impossible. To them I owe the deepest debt of gratitude.

My love and prayers for St Margaret's will always remain.

Fr. Philip

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### **Farewell to Fr Philip and the Gray Family**

As we bid farewell to Fr Philip, we would like to thank him, Sue, Anthony and Bex for their dedication to St Margaret's, the parish, the town and wider area. We have been blessed to have a priest and friend who has taught, guided, nurtured, comforted and celebrated with us all, particularly this year when the family put their own plans on hold in order stay by our sides through some of the strangest and destabilising times. We are truly grateful and see them off on their new adventure with our love, prayers and very best wishes for the future.

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### **Vacancy service arrangements**

There will continue to be a 10.00am Mass in church each Sunday and you should book as usual through Vickie. If you would like to attend on Sunday, December 27th or on Sunday, January 3rd, please book this week as the office will closed from 23rd December to 4th January. For dates from January 10th onwards, clergy cover is still to be confirmed. Therefore, we would be grateful for your patience if we can't provide full details in advance.

Steve Betts has kindly offered to continue hosting the Zoom coffee each Sunday at 11.30am and the link will be included in each news sheet.

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### **Sunday "Coffee Time"**

Please join us on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> for our virtual "coffee time". The meeting details are below.

**Topic: St Margaret's Coffee Meeting**

**Time: December 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 11:30 AM London**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

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

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### **Let Us Pray**

God of hope, who brought love into this world,  
be the love that dwells between us.  
God of hope, who brought peace into this world,  
be the peace that dwells between us.  
God of hope, who brought joy into this world,  
be the joy that dwells between us.  
God of hope, the rock we stand upon,  
be the centre, the focus of our lives  
always, and particularly this Advent time.

**Amen**

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## **Services on**

**Sunday 27th December**

**JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST**

**10.00am Mass in Church**

**Sung Mass by Choir**

**Celebrant: Mike Edson, retired Archdeacon**

**Booking is essential through the Parish Office**

**[stmargaretschurchpa@gmail.com](mailto:stmargaretschurchpa@gmail.com).**

**Sunday 3rd January**

**THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

**10.00am Mass in Church**

**Sung Mass by Choir**

**Celebrant: Fr David Hope**

**Booking is essential through the Parish Office**

**[stmargaretschurchpa@gmail.com](mailto:stmargaretschurchpa@gmail.com).**



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## **Christmas Services**

### **A CHRISTMAS SERVICE OF READINGS AND CAROLS**

**Sunday 20th and 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

### **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

**Please note bookings are now closed for services at church over the Christmas period. There is now no service of lessons and carols on Monday, December 21st.**



## **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](mailto:astretton1@virginmedia.com)



### **St Matthews Church, Northampton**

St Matthew's is an Anglican Parish Church, in the catholic tradition. You are welcome to join Fr Nicholas Setterfield and the congregation of St Matthews for Parish Mass at 10.15am, and Evensong at 5.30pm every Sunday. These services will be live-streamed. Service booklets can also be downloaded. Go to <http://www.stmatthewsnorthampton.org.uk/> to join a live-streamed service and for details of forthcoming services.

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#### **Notice in advance of the next PCC meeting**

The next meeting of the PCC will take place on January, 15th 2021. The PCC is very grateful to parishioners who have written or emailed with their thoughts on the appointment of Father Philip's replacement following the meetings with Bishop Toby and Father Oswin. If anyone has not yet written to the PCC and would like to do so, please would they send a letter or email to the parish office by December 29th to [stmargaretschurchpa@gmail.com](mailto:stmargaretschurchpa@gmail.com)

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#### **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.

Please use hand sanitizer when you enter and leave church and take responsibility for your own social distancing. Please also pick up one of the "Please clean me" notices on entering church. We kindly ask you to leave this notice on your seat when you leave church.

We wish to keep the church as a place of quiet. Any social conversations should take place away from the Church and its grounds. There will be no hymn books or prayer books or other cards available, so if you would like any prayer resources please bring those with you and take them away similarly.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:stmargaretschurchpa@gmail.com) for more information.

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**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.**

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

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