

**The Second Sunday Before Advent**  
**Sunday, November 15th 2020**

---



Dear Friends,

*“It is dark, no moon, no light  
Just darkness, a starless sky  
The wind blows, the waves break  
A single firefly passes by*

*Soon the firefly is gone  
Leaving me in the darkest of nights.  
The tiny fly made me anticipate  
A sunrise with the finest of lights.”*

This poem was posted by Aufie Zophy on his website in July. A number of you have commented to me that you were very taken by the image given to us by our new Archbishop, which I shared in this letter a couple of weeks ago, that the Christian hope is not to be seen as a light at the end of the tunnel, but rather that it is a light with us amidst our present darkness.

This poem anticipates hope in the shape of the creation itself – the tiny fly experienced as a foreshadowing of the new day to come. This hope is given, known and experienced within the creation itself.

For all of us the hope of a vaccine to immunise us from the effects of the coronavirus is a tangible and real sign of hope. One which will release many of us from our present confinements, leading us back to freedom and the fullness of life. I am not a scientist, nor an immunologist. However, as a theologian what I do see in this news of hope of a vaccine, is the way in which God enables us to respond to the present sufferings that we experience. God has made us co-creators with him, and within that creation he has given us the resources and ingenuity to

overcome the distortions and diseases which are also part of our world. This goes to the heart of the liberation and freedom which we have been given as human beings, endowed with the ability to imagine and originate from the very substances given to us in creation a cure for our diseases. This goes to the heart, too, of the actions and messages of Jesus of Nazareth who came to heal the sick, give liberty to the captives, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour. The hope of a road out of our present plight is the very incarnation of the faith that we have because we believe that God is with us. I would boldly say that we must let no humanist or secularist provide any other narrative to this where God is set up as the scapegoat for all the ills of our present plight or has simply abandoned to us our fate. These are potentially hopeless narratives of despair and nihilism.

In my letter two weeks ago I drew the parallel between Archbishop Stephen's analogy and our liturgical experience of Easter Eve, carrying the newly lit Paschal Candle into the complete darkness of a waiting church. The Easter Exultet which is sung after that first light has been spread among us all tells the story of the freedom God brought to his ancient people the Jews at the Passover, and the new Passover of Christ in the resurrection on Easter morning. One of the hymns I have chosen for our YouTube Premiere Mass this Sunday ends similarly to that Exultet with these lines:

*O'er lands both near and far  
Thick darkness broodeth yet  
Arise, O Morning Star,  
Arise and never set!"*

As it says in the Second Letter of St Peter (1: 19) *"You will do well to pay attention to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts."*

With my love and prayers

Fr. Philip

PS. I have also been asked to pass on this message: *Following this week's congregational meeting with +Toby and Fr Oswin, if you have any specific questions to ask at the next meeting on Monday, November 23rd, please could you submit these in advance by post or email ([stmargaretschurchpa@gmail.com](mailto:stmargaretschurchpa@gmail.com)), if possible by Thursday, November 19th. The Standing Committee will then forward all questions to the Bishop in advance of the meeting.*

---

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

Please join us on Sunday, November 15th for our virtual "coffee time". The meeting details are below.

Topic: St Margaret's Coffee Meeting

Time: November 15th, 2020 11:30 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

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

---

### **Let Us Pray**

God of hope,  
in these times of change,  
unite our church  
and guide us with your wisdom.  
Give us courage to overcome our fears,  
and help us to build a future  
in which all may prosper and share;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

---

### **Meetings with our Patron and Bishop Toby How to forward your question and join meeting 2**

Monday, November 23rd at 7.30pm

#### **Questions for Bishop Toby and our Patron**

Following this week's congregational meeting with +Toby and Fr Oswin, if you have any specific questions to ask at the next meeting on Monday, November 23rd, please could you submit them in advance by post or email ([stmargaretschurchpa@gmail.com](mailto:stmargaretschurchpa@gmail.com)), if possible by Thursday, November 19th. The Standing Committee will then forward all questions to the Bishop in advance of the meeting.

#### **The details to join the meeting are as follows:**

Topic: St Margaret's Ilkley meeting with Patron 2

Time: Nov 23, 2020 07:30 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86155284594?pwd=N3MzQ3NoTTIROFRqUnlRY0dkVStzZz09>

Meeting ID: 861 5528 4594

Passcode: 208426

Dial by your location

0203 051 2874 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 861 5528 4594

Passcode: 208426

---



## Services on

Sunday 15th November

**THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT**

YouTube Premiere: Sung Mass

from the temporary Chapel in the Vicarage

Due to government restrictions on public worship there is no service in church on Sunday, November 15th

Sunday 22nd November

**CHRIST THE KING**

**(THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE ADVENT)**

YouTube Premiere: Sung Mass

from the temporary Chapel in the Vicarage

Due to government restrictions on public worship there is no service in church on Sunday, November 22nd



With Vicar  
Canon Philip Gray

Live Services available on Facebook and YouTube  
Search for @StMargaretsChurchIlkley

## Annual Parish Meetings

The APCM, which was postponed in April, will now take place on **Thursday, November 26th at 7.30pm** by Zoom only due to the lockdown restrictions. The Zoom link to join the meeting, will be included in this bulletin closer to the time.

The APCM reports and accounts are now available to view on the church website, as well as the minutes of last year's APCM and the agenda for this year's meetings.

At the meetings, the following number of vacancies can be filled. There will only be an election if the number of nominations for a particular vacancy exceed the numbers shown.

2 Churchwardens

5 Deanery Synod representatives

13 Parochial Church Council members

To date, I have received the following nominations:

### **Churchwarden**

#### **Nominee: Helen Buswell**

Proposed by Steve Betts, seconded by Tom Williams

#### **Nominee: Alison Stretton**

Proposed by Jane Sheldon, seconded by Michelle Still

### **Deanery Synod**

#### **Nominee: Gwyneth Hartley**

Proposed by Valerie Banks, seconded by Jane Sheldon

#### **Nominee: Judith Smith**

Proposed by Jane Armstrong, seconded by Marie Anson

### **PCC**

#### **Nominee: Catherine Cheater**

Proposed by Tina Warnes, seconded by Geoff Cloke

#### **Nominee: Bethany Harrison**

Proposed by Janet Kish, seconded by Marie Anson

#### **Nominee: Catherine Beaumont**

Proposed by Tina Warnes, seconded by Alison Stretton

#### **Nominee: Rosalind Beeson**

Proposed by Val Smith, seconded by Andrea Rayner

#### **Nominee: Sarah Williams**

Proposed by Val Smith, seconded by Helen Buswell

#### **Nominee: Tom Williams**

Proposed by Tina Warnes, seconded by Norma Smith

#### **Nominee: Michelle Still**

Proposed by Carmel Ramage, seconded by Helen Buswell

Nominations for all positions are open to anyone who is on the Electoral Roll of St Margaret's and who satisfies the other requirements specified on the nomination forms. Churchwardens are elected annually and may stand for six consecutive periods of office. PCC members and Deanery Synod representatives are elected for a period of three years.

The existing Deanery Synod members will continue in position until 31st December 2020. From 1st January 2021 the structure of the Deanery Synod will change, whereby we can have 5 members from St Margaret's. Those elected, automatically become members of the PCC.

The nomination forms for Churchwarden, PCC member; Deanery Synod are set out below in two different formats for you to choose from. ***Please note that if you use the docx version, you will need to enter the name of the parish - St Margaret's, Ilkley - at the top of the printed form.***

Please post your completed forms to Vickie Kemp, Parish Office, St Margaret's, Queen's Road, Ilkley LS29 9QL, drop them in the post box next to the choir vestry door or leave them in the safe at the back of church. If you are unable to print the form, please email the Parish Administrator at [stmargaretschurchpa@gmail.com](mailto:stmargaretschurchpa@gmail.com) and Vickie will send a form to you. Alternatively, you can email the PCC Secretary at [catherinewebster7@gmail.com](mailto:catherinewebster7@gmail.com) with your name and address, stating which position you would like to apply for, confirming that you meet the legal requirements, and request that your proposer and seconder email me to confirm their support for your candidature, including their own name and address. There will be a meeting held immediately before the elections on that day where you will have a chance to hear from the candidates.

#### **PCC member**

**word:** [https://www.stmargaretsilkley.org/sites/default/files/pcc\\_member\\_nomination\\_0.docx](https://www.stmargaretsilkley.org/sites/default/files/pcc_member_nomination_0.docx)

**pdf:** [https://www.stmargaretsilkley.org/sites/default/files/pcc\\_member\\_nomination.pdf](https://www.stmargaretsilkley.org/sites/default/files/pcc_member_nomination.pdf)

#### **Churchwarden**

**word:** [https://www.stmargaretsilkley.org/sites/default/files/churchwarden\\_nomination.doc](https://www.stmargaretsilkley.org/sites/default/files/churchwarden_nomination.doc)

**pdf:** [https://www.stmargaretsilkley.org/sites/default/files/churchwarden\\_nomination.pdf](https://www.stmargaretsilkley.org/sites/default/files/churchwarden_nomination.pdf)

#### **Deanery Synod**

**word:** [https://www.stmargaretsilkley.org/sites/default/files/deanery\\_synod\\_nomination\\_0.docx](https://www.stmargaretsilkley.org/sites/default/files/deanery_synod_nomination_0.docx)

**pdf:** [https://www.stmargaretsilkley.org/sites/default/files/deanery\\_synod\\_nomination.pdf](https://www.stmargaretsilkley.org/sites/default/files/deanery_synod_nomination.pdf)

Thank you. Catherine Webster, PCC Secretary.

---

### **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.

---

Thank you to everyone who supported this month's Organ Recital which raised £146 for the Choir Fund.

---

### 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/ilkleycorona>

**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 4362254.

**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.

---

**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

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

---

You can link to St. Margaret's Facebook page, website and YouTube channel by clicking the icons below.

---