

St Mary's Church, Walkley



The Church on the Road:
Inclusive, Eucharistic, a safe place to be with God

Holy Cross Day

Eucharist 14th September 2025

Welcome to St Mary's Church, Walkley

President: The Revd Canon Dr Alan Billings
Preacher: The Revd Canon James Wilson
Team Warden on duty: Catherine

The Gathering and Opening Hymn

We stand and we sing the opening hymn.

President In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The Greeting

President Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you.

All **and also with you.**

The Confession and Absolution

Minister God shows his love for us in that, while we were still sinners,
Christ died for us.
Let us then show our love for him
by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

We keep a time of silence.

All **Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

President May the God of love
bring us back to himself,
forgive us our sins,
and assure us of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

We remain standing and we sing.

The Gloria in Excelsis

All **Glory to God in the highest, peace to his people on earth,
Glory to God in the highest, peace to his people on earth,
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship
you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Glory to God in the highest, peace to his people on earth,
Glory to God in the highest, peace to his people on earth,
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of
God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us,
have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the
Father: receive, receive our prayer.
Glory to God in the highest, peace to his people on earth,
Glory to God in the highest, peace to his people on earth,
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you
alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with Holy Spirit, in the
glory of God the Father. Amen. In the glory of God the Father,
Amen.**

The Collect

President Let us pray.

Almighty God,
who in the passion of your blessed Son
made an instrument of painful death
to be for us the means of life and peace:
grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ
that we may gladly suffer for his sake;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

We sit.

The Reading: Numbers 21. 4 - 9

Reader A reading from the Book of Numbers.

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.' Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, 'Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.' So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Reader This is the word of the Lord.
All **Thanks be to God.**

The Gradual Hymn

We stand and we sing. During the hymn we turn to face the processional cross as the book of the Gospels moves to the middle of the people.

The Gospel Reading: John 3. 13 - 17

Minister Alleluia, alleluia.
We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

All **Alleluia.**

Isaiah 30.15

Minister Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Minister This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Sermon

We stand.

The Creed

President Let us declare our faith in God,

All **We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

We sit or kneel.

The Prayers of Intercession

Intercessor By the Saviour's cross and passion,
All **Lord, save us and help us.**

Or another response is used.

Intercessor Holy God,
All **holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.**

We stand.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

President Christ is our peace.
He has reconciled us to God
in one body by the cross.
We meet in his name and share his peace.

All The peace of the Lord be always with you.
and also with you.

Minister Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We exchange the peace through smiles, waves and handshakes
with those around us, as you feel comfortable.*

The Offertory Hymn

We stand and we sing as the altar is prepared. If you would like to support St Mary's, donations can be made after the service at the back of church using the collection plate or contactless card giving station. If you would like to give regularly to St Mary's please speak to the Treasurer, or one of the Team Wardens.

The Eucharistic Prayer

President The Lord is here.

All **His Spirit is with us.**

President Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

President Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

President It is indeed right and good,
our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Today we celebrate with songs of praise
the cross, the victory-sign of Christ.

Through the fruit of the forbidden tree we fell,
now through this tree our Saviour cancels all our sin.

An instrument of shameful death
has become for Christ a throne of glory.

The power of the life-giving cross
reveals the judgement that has come upon the world
and the triumph of Christ crucified.

And so, with choirs of angels
and with all the heavenly host,
we proclaim your glory
and join their unending hymn of praise:

Cantor Holy Holy Holy Lord

All **Holy Holy Holy Lord**

Cantor God of power and God of might

All **God of power and God of might**

Cantor Heaven and earth are full of your glory

All **Heaven and earth are full of your glory**

Cantor Hosanna in the highest

All **Hosanna in the highest**

Cantor Blessed is he who comes

All **Blessed is he who comes**

Cantor In the name of the Lord most High

All **In the name of the Lord most High**

Cantor Hosanna

All **Hosanna**

Cantor Hosanna

All **Hosanna**

Cantor Hosanna in the highest
All **Hosanna in the highest**

President Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Minister Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

Cantor Dying you destroyed our death
All **Dying you destroyed our death**

Cantor Rising you restored our life
All **Rising you restored our life**

Cantor Lord Jesus come
All **Lord Jesus come**

Cantor Lord Jesus come
All **Lord Jesus come**

Cantor Come again in glory
All **Come again in glory**

President And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of Mary, Mark, John and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

We sit or kneel.

The Lord's Prayer

President As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

All **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

President We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

The Giving of Communion

President God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.

All **Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

The president will give instructions on how to come forward for communion and on returning to our seats. All are welcome to come to front for the bread and wine or a blessing. If you would like a blessing please keep your arms folded across your chest at you approach the front.

We are now able to receive the wine as well as the bread. The president will dip the wafer in the wine before giving it to you. Gluten free wafers are available, please ask at the altar.

During the distribution we sing.

The Prayer after Communion

President Let us pray.

Faithful God,
whose Son bore our sins in his body on the tree
and gave us this sacrament to show forth his death until he comes:
give us grace to glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,
for he is our salvation, our life and our hope,
who reigns as Lord, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

All **Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out
in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

The Notices

We stand.

The Blessing

President Christ crucified draw us to himself,
to find in him a sure ground for faith,
a firm support for hope,
and the assurance of sins forgiven;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon us and remain with us always.

All **Amen.**

The Closing Hymn

We remain standing and we sing during which we turn to face the back of church as the robed ministers process.

The Dismissal

Minister Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Coffee and tea are served after the service, all are welcome.

For more information: stmaryswalkley.co.uk

