



Our vision is to be an open Christian community where people feel loved, respected, and free to be fully themselves.



17th December 2023

3rd Sunday of Advent

**Welcome
to you all**



Large
Print



St James

St James

St James

Our Services this week

St James:

Sunday 17th

8:30am Holy Communion
10:00am Holy Communion & Crib Service

Thursday 21st

9:30am Holy Communion

Our Lady & St Nicholas:

Sunday 17th

6pm Lessons & Carols

What else is happening this week

Sunday 17th

4:15pm Family Christmas Carols
Hallam Fields Hall

Monday 18th

10am-noon Mothers Union Wanlip

Tuesday 19th

10am-noon Old Nick's Christmas Coffee Shop
Wanlip Hall

12:30-4:30pm A Welcome Space St James

Wednesday 20th

11am Highcliffe concert practice St James

1:30pm Highcliffe School Concert St James

3-4pm Open Church & Private Prayer
Our Lady & St Nicholas

7:30pm Carols for All St James

Thursday 21st

2:30pm Carol Service Watermead Court

Friday 22nd

7:30pm Drinks & Nibbles 251 Birstall Road

Saturday 23rd

10am-Noon Open Church St James

What's happening next week

Sunday 24th

8:30am Holy Communion St James

10am Holy Communion St James

4:30pm Christingle St James

6pm Christingle & Communion Our Lady & St Nicholas

11:30pm Midnight Mass St James

Monday 25th

9am Christmas Communion Our Lady & St Nicholas

10am Christmas Communion St James

Wednesday 27th

3-4pm Open Church & Private Prayer Our Lady & St Nicholas

Thursday 28th

9:30am Holy Communion St James

Saturday 30th

10am-Noon Open Church St James

Notices

Please feel free to contact Amanda or one of the Churchwardens at any time

Rev Amanda Digman
(Day off usually Friday)

251 Birstall Road

07803 625049

revamandadigman@me.com

Debbie Shephard

41 Roman Road

2673262

Corinne Aldis

15 The Oaks, Acorn Close

3482984

Julie Ward

28 Walker Road

2677600

Matthew Harvey

56 Lambourne Road

07957 170920

Christmas at St James

17th December at 10am

Crib Service

20th December at 7:30pm

Carols for All

24th December at 4:30pm

Christingle

24th December at 11:30pm

Midnight Mass

25th December at 10am

Christmas Communion

Christmas at Our Lady & St Nicholas

17th December at 6pm

Lessons & Carols

19th December at 10am

Old Nick's Christmas Coffee Shop

24th December at 6pm

Christingle & Communion

25th December at 9am

Christmas Communion

Family Christmas Carols - 17th December

Come and join us for Christmas Carols on Sunday 17th December at 4:15pm in Hallam Fields Hall. Free refreshments and goodie bag for children. Everyone welcome.

Carols at Watermead Court - 21st December

On Thursday 21st December at 2:30pm we are having a short Carol service with the people in Watermead Court. We'd love you to join us in singing the old familiar carols. Tea and mince pies after! *Gill Pope*

Christmas drinks and nibbles at The Rectory - 22nd December

Christmas drinks and nibbles at The Rectory, 251 Birstall Road on Friday 22nd December at 7:30pm Everyone is very welcome, even if this is your first time in church or you are just visiting!

Welcome Space Update

Thank you to you all for your support for this community project during the past year and helping us to celebrate our anniversary on Tuesday when we welcomed about 30 people. Special thanks to the bakers for the food and Kevin and Roy for providing musical entertainment.

Two weeks ago, we had a visit from the County Council who have funded the project, they were complimentary about what we are doing and have given us increased funding for a second year. This means we can now also open up every week on Wednesday from 12.30 until 16.30 starting on January 3rd 2024. Tuesday opening will continue as usual next year with our last meeting for this year on 19th December and starting up again on January 2nd 2024. Please come and join us for a hot drink and friendship and bring a friend. Thank you, *Janet 07962949942*

Christingle - making up workshop - 23rd December

We will be making up the Christingles on Saturday 23rd December at 10am - 12:30pm at St James. If you can help please let Rose know or turn up on the day.

Monthly tip for a less-plastic life - December

Find old wrapping paper to use for this year's presents.

A Collect for the 3rd Sunday in Advent

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

A Post Communion Prayer for the 3rd Sunday in Advent

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever. **Amen**

Prayer Chain

If you have an urgent prayer request please contact Doreen Wilson (2674680) or Gill Pope (2675086) it will be passed round the prayer chain as quickly as possible in strictest confidence.

Re-organisation of the Church Office

We would like to thank all those who purchased stockings, decorations, bags, mince pies, gave cash towards the chocs, provided wool and Kate and Cynthia who helped with the knitting. This has raised £400.00 towards the alterations of the office. A wonderful total to help keep Sheryl warm. This amount will go through the Monday Group account for the Church treasurer. *Brenda & Joan*

St James Music Night

was a very successful evening with people staying for refreshments and chatting after enjoying the concert. £540.00 was given in our collection buckets, and all this money will go to the Church. Thanks to all who supported us. *Doreen Wilson*

Information Sheets for 31st December

If you require any notices to be included in the information sheets for 31st December, can you please let me have them before I I am on Thursday 21st as I will be out of the office from then until Tuesday 2nd January .Thanks. *Sheryl*

Keep in Touch magazine

The Winter edition of the magazine is now available at the back of church for those of you who have paper copies. Please return envelopes with any amendments to the box in the church office, or let me know. Thanks. *Sheryl*

Flowers for special occasions

We are fortunate to have two hugely experienced and professional flower arranging teams at Birstall & Wanlip who are willing to receive requests for flower arrangements to be placed in Church to mark your special occasion. Donations for the cost of the flowers are always welcome, but not always necessary. If you would like the teams to arrange a flower display with your special occasion in mind, please contact Sylvia Simes on 2674206 or email: sylviasimes66@gmail.com (Birstall) and Marjorie Bonshor on 2207964 (Wanlip)

Notices for the information sheets & when I'm in the Church Office

I will be in the office on Tuesdays & Thursdays between 9am and 1pm.

If you have a notice you would like putting in the Information sheet, can you please email it to either stjames.birstall@btconnect.com, or sheryljupp@hotmail.co.uk, or contact Amanda or a Churchwarden. I will need to have received it **before I I am** on the Thursday to get your items included in that week's news sheet. Thanks. *Sheryl*

Readings for this week

Sun 17th 3rd Sunday of Advent

Reading 1: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-end
Reading 2: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28
Psalm: 126

Mon 18th

Psalm: 40
Reading 1: Isaiah 38:1-8, 21-22
Reading 2: Matthew 16:13-end

Tue 19th

Psalm: 146
Reading 1: Isaiah 38:9-20
Reading 2: Matthew 17:1-13

Wed 20th

Psalm: 46
Reading 1: Isaiah 39
Reading 2: Matthew 17:14-21

Thu 21st

Psalm: 121
Reading 1: Zephaniah 1:1 - 2:3
Reading 2: Matthew 17:22-end

Holy Communion Readings

Reading 1: Zephaniah 3:14-18
Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

Fri 22nd

Psalm: 124
Reading 1: Zephaniah 3:1-13
Reading 2: Matthew 18:1-20

Sat 23rd

Psalm: 130
Reading 1: Zephaniah 3:14-end
Reading 2: Matthew 18:21-end

Sun 24th

Christmas Eve

Reading 1: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Reading 2: Romans 16:25-end
Gospel: Luke 1:26-38
Psalm: 89:1-4, 19-26

For our Prayers

For the persecuted church - Iran

Father God, thank You that Your church keeps growing in Iran despite extreme attempts to suppress it. Continue setting hearts free through the gospel. Please protect our brothers & sisters 7 their rights, so that they do not have to flee the country, but can stay & build a strong, mature Iranian church. We ask that communities & families will come to see Iranian Christians as genuine, not a product of the Western world, & be moved by their faith, courage and love. **Amen.**

For our Churches, this week especially for:

Our Keep in Touch Editor, Team & Deliverers
Our Cleaners

For our Community, this week especially for:

St Theresa's & the Methodist Church
Our Councillors, Parish, Charnwood, County

For those in need or unwell:

Nicky Hardy, David Bark, Dorothy Barsby, John Walton, Michael Webb, Tricia Emmett, Ray Folland & all who care for them.

For those who have Holy Communion at home:

Sheila Skidmore, Monica Lucas, Freda Sowards & Margery Orton

For those who have recently died:

Ray Merry, Thomas Ward & Paula Kazaz

For 1st anniversary of death this week:

Barbara Rhodes

Every day - 9pm (or another time!) wherever you are

Praying for peace in Ukraine 100,00-350,000+ deaths since 2014. And a different area each day

Sun: And for an end to internal conflict in Peru ongoing since 1980. 70,000 deaths to date.

Mon: And for an end to the Casamance conflict in Senegal ongoing since 1982. 5,000+ deaths to date.

Tues: And for an end to the Lord's Resistance Army insurgency in Democratic Republic of Congo and Central African Republic ongoing since 1987. 100,000+ deaths to date.

Wed: And for an end to internal conflict in Bangladesh. 1,500+ deaths to date.

Thurs: And for an end to conflict in the Niger Delta in Nigeria and Cameroon ongoing since 2003. 2,500 deaths to date.

Fri: And for an end to the South Thailand insurgency ongoing since 2004. 7,294 deaths to date.

Sat: And for an end to the insurgency in Paraguay ongoing since 2005. 145+ deaths to date.