



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



1st December 2024

1st Sunday of Advent

Welcome to you all



Large Print



St James



Crèche

St James



St James



Our Services this week

Service type is subject to change due to illness or other unforeseen circumstances

St James:

Sunday 1st

8:30am Morning Prayer
10.00am All Together Service

Thursday 5th

9:30am Holy Communion

Our Lady & St Nicholas:

Sunday 1st

6pm Holy Communion

What else is happening this week

Sunday 1st

12:30pm Bring & Share Lunch
Birstall Village Hall

Tuesday 3rd

12:30-4:30pm Welcome Space St James
4:30-5:30pm Advent Book Club St James

Wednesday 4th

2.00-4:30pm Welcome Space St James
3-4pm Open Church & Private Prayer
Our Lady & St Nicholas

Thursday 5th

10:30am Bible Book Club St James

Saturday 7th

10am-12noon Open Church St James
2-4pm Wanlip Christmas Fair
Wanlip Hall & Church

What's happening next week

Sunday 8th

8:30am Morning Prayer St James
10am Holy Communion with Healing St James
2-4:30pm Visiting Bell Ringers St James
4pm Faith, Friendship & Fun - Christingle Service Hallam Fields Hall
6pm Holy Communion - St Nicholas Patronal with visiting bell ringers Our Lady & St Nicholas

Monday 9th

12noon Monday Group Christmas meeting St James

Tuesday 10th

12:30-4:30pm Welcome Space St James
4:30-5:30pm Advent Book Club St James

Wednesday 11th

2-4:30pm Welcome Space St James
3-4pm Open Church & Private Prayer Our Lady & St Nicholas

Thursday 12th

9:30am Morning Prayer St James

Saturday 14th

11:30-3pm Highcliffe school Nativity rehearsal & performance St James
10am-12noon Open Church St James
2-4pm Children's Christmas Party Wanlip Hall

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
Rev Rachael Brind-Surch (Day off usually Friday)		07538034729 rachael@brind-surch.co.uk
Debbie Shephard	41 Roman Road	2673262
Ladi Akinla	14 Palmer Square	07718 738154
Julie Ward	28 Walker Road	2677600
Matthew Harvey	56 Lambourne Road	07957 170920

Bring and Share Lunch - Today (1st December)

The Bring and shared lunch is today. Please feel free to bring your own drinks. Please be at Birstall Village Hall by 12:30pm. *Joan Folland*

Information Sheets for 8th December

If you require any notices to be included in the information sheets for the 8th December, can you please let me have them **before I am on Tuesday 3rd December** as I will be out of the office from then until Tuesday 10th. Thanks. *Sheryl*

Advent Book Club - starts on 3rd December

Our Advent book club is taking place at 4:30 until 5:30 on Tuesdays in St James. After welcome space. We have now ordered the book but if people are happy to source it themselves, they are welcome to join! *Rachael*

Bible Book Club - 5th December

The next Bible Book Club will be on Thursday 5th December starting at about 10:30am following the Holy Communion Service. The book we will be studying is 2 Timothy. The next one will be on 9th January. All are welcome.

Wanlip Christmas Fayre - 7th December

This happy social event will take place on Saturday 7th December in Wanlip Church and Hall. There will be a variety of stalls and a chance to visit Santa. Any offers of bottles, raffle prizes, cakes for refreshments, (No bric a brac or books thank you) etc. would be gratefully appreciated. Monies raised will help to finish refurbishing the Hall and works on the Church. Thank you. Please feel free to contact Julie Ward.

Warm Welcome Space Update and Invitation

We have now been in continuous operation for just over two years and are planning to celebrate! Please drop in and join us on December 17th open 12.30 until 16.30 or Wednesday 18th open 14.00 until 16.30. There will be food to share and some musical entertainment on Tuesday. We will then be closed for two weeks over Christmas and New Year but open for business as usual on 7th and 8th of January. *Janet*

Welcomers, Sidespeople & Readers needed for Christmas services

Welcomers, Sidespeople and readers are needed to cover the following services:

Sunday	15/12/24	4pm	Birstall	Light in the Darkness
Wednesday	18/12/24	7pm	Birstall	Carols for All
Tuesday	24/12/24 (Christmas Eve)	4.30pm	Birstall	Christingle.

If you can help please let Amanda, Rachael or a churchwarden know

Monthly tip for a less-plastic life - December

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

The Collect for the 1st Sunday of Advent

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

The Post Communion Prayer for the 1st Sunday of Advent

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Monday Group - 9th December

Monday Group's Christmas meeting will be on Monday 9th December. Please note earlier start time of 12 noon, with bring and share lunch. Games. Don't forget your £4.00 wrapped present for Santa's sack.

The Big Quiz Night in aid of Tearfund

Thank you to Vic and team for organising this year's Tearfund Big Quiz Night and thank you to those who took part, raising £150 for the work of Tearfund in the world's poorest countries.

Amanda

Churches Together - Christmas Carol Singing – 14th December

Churches Together in Birstall & Wanlip will be Christmas Carol Singing on Saturday 14th December 2024 10-11am outside the co-op. Please come and join in.

Boxing Day

There will not be a Thursday morning service on Boxing Day.

Comedy Night with Andy Kind – 24th January

There will be a comedy night with Andy Kind at St James on Friday 24th January, starting at 7pm. Tickets £8 per person or £15 for 2 tickets.

Shoe Box Appeal 2024

This year we sent 87 boxes! A wonderful result. Many, many thanks to all those who contributed with boxes, goods and donations. A special thank you to Wendy and the Queniborough ladies who are so generous, not only with goods, but also with the beautiful gifts that they make. It was great that we had so many large boxes this year, so keep buying trainers! If you could put empty shoe/trainer boxes under the pew in the old church, we will take them away to store until next year. We will let you know the grand total sent by Link to Hope when we receive the information after Christmas. Thank you again. *Sylvia Simes & Doreen Wilson*

Volunteer vacancies!

We have removed the list of volunteer vacancies but had no volunteers, so please do keep considering what you could help with. *Amanda*

Emmaus Course - Starts 13th January

Please keep praying that people wanting to do the course will come forward. Posters are now displayed around the village. There are also some fliers at the back of church, so if you know of any people who might be interested, please take some and hand them out. *Clive Garner*

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.

Lectionary & Theme Readings

Sun 1st **1st Sunday of Advent**

Readings used

Reading 1: Psalm 82

Reading 2: I Corinthians 13:1-13

Gospel: John 13: 1-17

Lectionary readings: Jeremiah 33:14-16, I Thess. 3:9-end, Luke 21:25-36, Psalm 25:1-9

Mon 2nd **Theme: I Cor. 13:1-13**

Psalm: 50

Reading 1: Isaiah 42:18-end

Reading 2: Revelation 19

Tue 3rd **Theme: Matthew 5:38-48**

Psalm: 80

Reading 1: Isaiah 43:1-13

Reading 2: Revelation 20

Wed 4th **Theme: I John 3:11-18**

Psalm: 7

Reading 1: Isaiah 43:14-end

Reading 2: Revelation 21:1-8

Thu 5th **Theme: John 13:1-17**

Psalm: 42

Reading 1: Isaiah 44:1-8

Reading 2: Revelation 21:9-21

Holy Communion Readings

Reading 1: Isaiah 26:1-6

Gospel: Matthew 7:21, 24-27

Fri 6th **Theme: Romans 5:1-8**

Psalm: 25

Reading 1: Isaiah 44:9-23

Reading 2: Revelation 21:22 - 22:5

Sat 7th **Theme: I John 4:7-19**

Psalm: 9

Reading 1: Isaiah 44:24 - 45:13

Reading 2: Revelation 22:6-end

Sun 8th **2nd Sunday of Advent/Wanlip
Patronal for St Nicholas**

Readings used

Reading 1: Psalm 15

Reading 2: I Corinthians 12: 12-31

Gospel: Matthew 5: 13-16

Lectionary readings: Malachi 3:1-4, Philippians 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-6.

Readings used at Wanlip

Reading 1: Isaiah 61:1-3

Reading 2: I Peter 4:7-11

Gospel: Mark 10:35-45

Theme: Luke 6:37-42

For our Prayers

Theme for the week - Charity

Love comes in many ways and many forms. God will teach us how to truly love others if that is our desire. Is it?

For the persecuted church -

Father God, we pray for Your peace and justice to reign in Colombia, instead of violence and crime. Thank You for the bravery of Your followers, who speak out against the violence of the criminal gangs all around them. Thank You also for those who remain faithful to You despite the rejection of their own communities. We pray for strength, courage and joy for each of them. Amen.

For our Churches, this week especially for:

Our Organist

Our Children; Alivia

What are we thankful for this week:

Being able to get out in nature

For our Community, this week especially for:

Finance & Legal Workers

For those in need or unwell:

Nicky Hardy, David Bark, Dorothy Barsby, John Walton, Michael Webb, Tricia Emmett, Ray Folland, Sheila Alcock, Lesley Walton & 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

Colin Holgate

For 1st anniversary of death this week:

Paula Kazaz

Every day - 9pm (or another time!)

Praying for peace in Ukraine & Israel / Palestine. And a different area each day.

Sun: For an end to the Insurgency in Egypt ongoing since 2013.

Mon: For an end to the ISIL insurgency in the North Caucasus ongoing since 2017.

Tues: For an end to the Internal Conflict in Myanmar (Kachin, Karen, Rohingya, Rakhine, protests & insurgency) ongoing since 1948.

Wed: For or an end to the Ethiopian Civil Conflict (Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan) ongoing since 2018.

Thurs: For an end to Colombian Conflict in Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador ongoing since 1964.

Fri: For an end to the Afghanistan conflict (IS - Taliban) ongoing since 1978.

Sat: For an end to the Somali Civil War (with Kenya) ongoing since 1991.