



St James the Great • Birstall
Our Lady and St Nicholas • Wanlip



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

22nd December 2024 **4th Sunday of Advent**

**Welcome
to you all**



Large
Print



St James

St James

St James

Our Services this week
 Service type is subject to change due to illness or other unforeseen circumstances

St James:
Sunday 22nd
 8:30am Morning Prayer
 10.00am Nativity Service with Holy Communion
Tuesday 24th (Christmas Eve)
 4:30pm Christingle
 11:30pm Midnight Mass

Our Lady & St Nicholas:
Sunday 22nd
 6pm Carols by Candlelight
Wednesday 25th (Christmas Day)
 9:30am Holy Communion - Joint Service

What else is happening this week

Saturday 28th
 10am-12noon Open Church St James

Please note:
Welcome Space
There not be any Welcome Space over Christmas and the New Year at St James - Starts again on 7th and 8th of January.
Open Church at Our Lady & St Nicholas
Our Lady & St Nicholas will not be open on Wednesdays for private prayer over Christmas and the New Year - Starts again on 8th January.

What's happening next week

Sunday 29th	8:30am	Morning Prayer	St James
	10am	Holy Communion	St James
	6pm	5 th Sunday Special	Our Lady & St Nicholas
Thursday 2nd	9:30am	Morning Prayer	St James
Saturday 4th	10am-12noon	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
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

12 Days of Christmas Meditations

The Church of England have produced a booklet for post Christmas reflections for the 12 days of Christmas. They cost £1 each with a small profit to the church if we buy in bulk. If you would like one can you let Amanda know.

Boxing Day

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

Items for Information Sheets 29th December

The information sheets for the next Sunday have already been produced. If you have any other notices for announcement in church on 29th December, please give them to a member of the clergy or a churchwarden on the day. Thanks. *Sheryl*

Bible Book Club - 9th January

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

Open Church

Effective from 1st January 2025, Saturday Open Church will only be on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month. *Ladi*

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*

Thank you

I wish to thank everyone who gave and arranged the flowers and also gave donation towards the flowers at Our Lady and St Nicholas Church at Wanlip during 2024, the next flower Rota will be in church for New Year 2025. A Merry Christmas and A happy New Year. *love Marjorie*

Money!

Sorry we have to mention this, but a reminder that the most helpful way for you to give is regularly through the Parish Giving scheme. This scheme is run by the National Church and means we don't have to claim gift - they sort that for us and we receive it monthly, which is less work for the treasurer; no one in the church knows how much you give (currently the treasurer and helper do); it's secure and you can cancel at anytime. We can set up a standing order but this causes a bit more work for the treasurer. You can of course, also give on the plate on Sundays or even use the machine (though this costs us money and we can't claim any gift aid on gifts over £30). You can also use the QR code on the pews and we don't pay for this. (But we can't claim gift aid on this.) *manda*

Monthly tip for a less-plastic life - December

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

The Collect for the 4th Sunday of Advent

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; 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 4th Sunday of Advent

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Collect for Christmas Eve

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, 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 Christmas Eve

God our Father, in this night you have made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts. To him be glory both now and for ever. **Amen**

The Collect for Christmas Morning

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, 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 Christmas Morning

God our Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ the Lord. **Amen**

Warm Welcome Space

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*

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. There is a basket at the back of church for any raffle prizes you would like to donate.

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*

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 leave a message on the office answer machine (0116 2671797) or contact Amanda or a Churchwarden. I will need to have received it **before I am** on the Thursday to get your items included in that week's news sheet. Thanks. *Sheryl*

Lectionary Readings

Sun 22nd 4th Sunday of Advent

St James

Nativity drama

Lectionary Readings: Micah 5:2-5a, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-45, Psalm 80:1-8

Our Lady & St Nicholas

Carols by candlelight

Mon 23rd

Psalm: 130

Reading 1: Isaiah 52:13 - end of 53

Reading 2: 2 Peter 1:1-15

Tue 24th Christmas Eve

Psalm: 45

Reading 1: Isaiah 54

Reading 2: 2 Peter 1:16 - 2:3

Midnight Mass readings

Reading 1: Isaiah 9:2-7

Reading 2: Titus 2:11-14

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

Wed 25th Christmas Day

Psalm: 110

Reading 1: Isaiah 62:1-5

Reading 2: Matthew 1:18-end

Holy Communion Readings

Reading 1: Isaiah 52:7-10

Reading 2: Hebrews 1:1-4

Gospel: John 1:1-14

Thu 26th *Stephen, deacon, first martyr*

Psalm: 13

Reading 1: Jeremiah 26:12-15

Reading 2: Acts 6

Fri 27th *John, Apostle & Evangelist*

Psalm: 21

Reading 1: Exodus 33:12-end

Reading 2: 1 John 2:1-11

Sat 28th *The Holy Innocents*

Psalm: 36

Reading 1: Genesis 37:13-20

Reading 2: Matthew 18:1-10

Sun 29th 1st Sunday of Christmas

Readings used

Reading 1: Isaiah 61:1-7

Reading 2: Romans 6: 15-23

Gospel: John 8:31-38

Lectionary Readings: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-end Psalm 148

Readings used at Wanlip

5th Sunday Special

For our Prayers

For the persecuted church - Mexico

Heavenly Father, thank You for the incredible courage of our family in Mexico who speak out against violence & promote peace. Protect them, we pray, & continue to embolden them in their ministries. May their words & lives touch the hearts of criminal leaders, so they turn from violence & hatred to follow You. Strengthen the faith of those living in indigenous communities; encourage them with your love & show them how You are powerfully at work in their neighbourhoods. May our sisters & brothers in Mexico not be despondent as opposition increases, but may they be empowered to grow in their faith & witness. Bring peace, justice & wise governance to all areas of Mexico. Amen.

For our Churches, this week especially for:

Our Home Groups

Our Children

What are we thankful for this week:

A card to cheer from a friend

For our Community, this week especially for:

Watermead Wardens

For those in need or unwell:

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

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 Kurdish separatism in Iran ongoing since 1918.

Mon: For an end to Insurgency in Kashmir (India & Pakistan) ongoing since 1947..

Tues: For an end to Israeli-Palestinian Conflict ongoing since 1948.

Wed: For an end to insurgency in Bolochistan (Pakistan, Iran) ongoing since 1948.

Thurs: For an end to Insurgency in Northeast India ongoing since 1954.

Fri: For an end to the Naxalite-Maoist insurgency in India ongoing since 1967.

Sat: For an end to the Moro Conflict in The Philippines ongoing since 1968