



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



24th December 2023 4th Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve

**Welcome
to you all**



Large
Print



St James

St James

St James

Our Services this week

St James:

Sunday 24th Christmas Eve

8:30am Holy Communion
10:00am Holy Communion
4:30pm Christingle
11:30pm Midnight Mass

Monday 25th Christmas Day

10am Christmas Communion

Thursday 28th

9:30am Holy Communion

Our Lady & St Nicholas:

Sunday 24th Christmas Eve

6pm Christingle Communion

Monday 25th Christmas Day

9am Christmas Communion

What else is happening this week

Wednesday 27th

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

Saturday 30th

10am-Noon Open Church St James

What's happening next week

Sunday 31st

8:30am	Holy Communion	St James
10am	Holy Communion	St James
12 Noon	Bring & Share Lunch	Birstall Village hall
6pm	BCP Communion	Our Lady & St Nicholas

Tuesday 2nd

Wednesday 3rd

12:30-4:30pm	Welcome Space	St James
12:30-4:30pm	Welcome Space	St James
3-4pm	Open Church & Private Prayer	Our Lady & St Nicholas

Thursday 4th

Saturday 6th

9:30am	Holy Communion	St James
10am-Noon	Open Church	St James
10:30am-noon	Visiting Bell Ringers	Our Lady & St Nicholas
2:30-4:30pm	Visiting Bell Ringers	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

24 th December at 4:30pm	Christingle
24 th December at 11:30pm	Midnight Mass
25 th December at 10am	Christmas Communion

Christmas at Our Lady & St Nicholas

24 th December at 6pm	Christingle & Communion
25 th December at 9am	Christmas Communion

Amanda's time off

Amanda is off after the Christmas services until the 2nd January. (She will be at Anne's leaving service on 31st at Wanlip at 6pm.) She is also off on the 5th & 6th January. Please could you try to remember not to contact her on days off unless it's an emergency? Thank you.

Monday Group - 8th January

The Monday Group will be having lunch at the Wheatsheaf, Thurstaston at 12:30pm.

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

APCM reports

If you write a report for the APCM (Annual meeting) now is the time, please? Remember it's for the whole of 2023. Even though the meeting is in April, the report is for January to December. It helps us to get the ASAP so we can get the report book ready. Thank you so much. Please send to Sheryl.

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

A Collect for the 4th Sunday in 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**

A Post Communion Prayer for the 4th Sunday in 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**

A Collect for Midnight Mass

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**

A Post Communion Prayer for Midnight Mass

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**

A 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**

A 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**

Bring & Share lunch - 31st December

The bring and share lunch on Sunday 31st December will go ahead. Please come if you can - and bring your Christmas leftovers!

Next Weeks Information Sheets

The information sheet for 31st December have already been produced, if you have any notices they will not appear until the following week. *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*

Monthly tip for a less-plastic life - December

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

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 am** on the Thursday to get your items included in that week's news sheet. Thanks. *Sheryl*

Readings for this week

Sun 24th **4th Sunday of Advent**

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

Sun 24th **Midnight Mass**

Reading 1: Isaiah 62:6-end

Reading 2: Titus 3:4-7

Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

Psalm: 97

Mon 25th **Christmas Day**

Reading 1: Isaiah 52:7-10

Reading 2: Hebrews 1:1-4

Gospel: John 1:1-14

Psalm: 98

Tue 26th *Stephen, deacon, first martyr*

Psalm: 13

Reading 1: Jeremiah 26:12-15

Reading 2: Acts 6

Wed 27th *John Apostle & Evangelist*

Psalm: 21

Reading 1: Exodus 33:12-end

Reading 2: 1 John 2:1-11

Thu 28th *The Holy Innocents*

Psalm: 36

Reading 1: Genesis 37:13-20

Reading 2: Matthew 18:1-10

Holy Communion Readings

Reading 1: Jeremiah 31:15-17

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-18

Fri 29th

Psalm: 19

Reading 1: Jonah 1

Reading 2: Colossians 1:1-14

Sat 30th

Psalm: 113

Reading 1: Jonah 2

Reading 2: Colossians 1:15-23

Sun 31st **1st Sunday of Christmas**

Reading 1: Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3

Reading 2: Galatians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 2:15-21

Psalm: 148

For our Prayers

For the persecuted church - Afghanistan

Heavenly Father, we cannot imagine what it must be like to be a Christian in Afghanistan, but You know what they are experiencing. We ask that each of our Afghan brothers & sisters – whether in or outside the country – will know the depths of Your sustaining & strengthening presence. Protect them from harm, provide opportunities for believers to gather secretly, & meet all physical, emotional & spiritual needs. Soften the hearts of the Taliban towards women & religious minorities; may they see the value they bring to Afghan life. We boldly pray that Taliban leaders will have encounters with You that will transform not only their lives but the lives of people across Afghanistan. May Your kingdom break out in Afghanistan. **Amen.**

For our Churches, this week especially for:

Our Gardeners

Our Healing, Visiting & Pastoral Teams

For our Community, this week especially for:

The homeless & the unemployed

Old Peoples Homes, St James' Day Centre

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:

Paula Kazaz & Ellen Cleaver

For 1st anniversary of death this week:

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: For an end to the armed conflict for control of the favelas in Greater Rio de Janeiro in Brazil, ongoing since 2006. 800+ deaths to date.

Mon: For an end to the Insurgency in Egypt ongoing since 2013. 5,800+ deaths to date.

Tues: For an end to the ISIL insurgency in the North Caucasus ongoing since 2017. 200+ deaths to date.

Wed: For an end to the Internal Conflict in Myanmar (Kachin, Karen, Rohingya, Rakhine, protests & insurgency) ongoing since 1948. 180,000-210,00 deaths to date.

Thurs: For an end to the Ethiopian Civil Conflict (Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan) ongoing since 2018. 395,00-800,000 deaths to date.

Fri: For an end to Colombian Conflict in Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador ongoing since 1964. 453,000+ deaths to date.

Sat: For an end to the Afghanistan conflict (IS - Taliban) ongoing since 1978. 1.45-2.58 million + deaths to date.