



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.

26th January 2025

3rd Sunday of Epiphany

**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 26th

8:30am Holy Communion
 10.00am Holy Communion

Thursday 30th

9:30am Morning prayer

Our Lady & St Nicholas:

Sunday 26th

6pm BCP Evensong

What else is happening this week

Sunday 26th

2-4pm Visiting Bell Ringers practice
 St James

Tuesday 28th

12:30-4:30pm Welcome Space St James
 7pm Save the Parish meeting
 St James the Greater, London Rd

Wednesday 29th

2pm-4:30pm Welcome Space St James
 7pm PCC Meeting St James

Thursday 30th

10am Funeral for Raymond Gell St James
 7:30pm David Newman talk on prayers
 for same-sex couples St James

Saturday 1st

10am-12noon Open Church St James

What's happening next week

Sunday 2nd

8:30am Morning Prayer St James
 10am All Together Service St James
 6pm Holy Communion Our Lady & St Nicholas

Tuesday 4th

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

Wednesday 5th

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

Thursday 6th

9:30am Holy Communion 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

Notices for Information Sheets 9th & 16th February

If you require any notices to be included in the information sheets for the above dates, can you please let me have them before I am on **Thursday 30th January** as I will be out of the office from then until Thursday 20th February. Thanks. Sheryl

Notices for Sunday morning

If anyone wants me to give a notice on Sunday mornings, please let me have it before service, preferably written down (!) - just to stop the slot being too long. Thank you, *manda*

APCM Reports

Please can you let us have your reports for the APCM by the end of February for 2024 (ie January to December 2024). We need reports from the Churchwardens and the following groups: Monday Group, Mothers' Union, Sunday School, Coffee Shop, Deanery Synod (Rose), Welcome Space (Janet), WC4 (Debbie), Churches Together (Andrzej), Home Groups (Ladi, Christine Suffolk, Helen Tarry), Cedar Mews & Healing Team (Kerry). Thanks.

Rev David Newman talk about prayers for same-sex couples - 30th January

As you may know, the CofE is currently discussing prayers for same-sex couples and other issues around this. This does need to be discussed in the PCC and wider church. We have arranged for Rev'd David Newman to come and talk to us about this on Thursday 30th January 7:30pm for about an hour. He comes from a background of believing same-sex marriage is not right, but has changed his mind and we think it would be great to hear the story of his journey on this and how his understanding of scripture has changed over time. He is also happy to answer questions. Could you please make an effort to come along because your voices on this matter, and because David is taking time out to do this for us. *Amanda & Rachael*

Open Church & Private Prayer at Wanlip - 29th January

There will be no Open Church at Wanlip on Wednesday 29th of January.

Support the Campaign to Save the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme

The Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme (LPWGS) gives government funded grants to places of worship that cover the cost of VAT on repairs or alterations over £1000.

The future of the scheme beyond March 2025 is uncertain. If we were to lose this scheme, the impact on our church communities would be significant, increasing many repair costs by 20% and putting an additional unsustainable burden on many PCCs. Find out more on the National Churches Trust Website.

Please support the campaign to save the scheme.

Write to your local MP.

Write to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport: 1st Floor, 100 Parliament Street, London SW1A 2BQ enquiries@dcms.gov.uk

The Collect for the 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; 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 the 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

Almighty Father, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

BCP Evensong Collect for the 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities, and in all our dangers and necessities stretch forth thy right hand to help and defend us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Date for your diary

The 1st bring and share lunch in 2025 will be on Sunday March 30th at Birstall Village Hall. If you have any spare serving spoons or pie servers, could you please let Joan have them for use in the village hall Thank you. *Joan Folland*

Christmas stockings, chocolate decorations and mince pies.

We would like to thank everyone who supported us, also for donations received. Thanks to Cynthia for help with the knitting, £250 will go in the newly opened Disability access fund for the handrail from the Church gate to the Church door. *Brenda & Joan*

Messy Church

More helpers needed for Messy Monday at The Methodist Church, please. This is a Churches Together Project from 2:30-4:30pm (including setting up and packing away). You would need to have done our Safeguarding (Safe Recruiting process). You can be on a rota so you don't have to be there every week. Please speak to Rachael if interested.

12 Days of Christmas booklets

If you received a (or some) 12 Days of Christmas booklets from Amanda, please do let her have the money, if you haven't already. She told you they were £1 each, but forgot about p&p, which she will pay or you can give a further donation (15p will cover it!). If she receives more than she paid out, any extra will go into the church collection!

Monthly tip for a less-plastic life - January

Leave your reusable shopping bags at the front door so you don't forget them on the way out.

Save The Parish Meeting – 28th January

For those who were unable to attend the 'Save the Parish' meeting in Foxton on Thursday evening there is a further open meeting, which will be held at St. James the Greater church hall, London Road on Tuesday 28th January 2025. The meeting begins at 7pm. *Debbie*

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 & Theme Readings

Sun 26th 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

Reading 1: Psalm 41
Reading 2: Job 31:13-23
Gospel: Luke 6:27-36

Lectionary Readings *Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10*
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a, Luke 4:14-21, Psalm 19

Evensong Readings

Reading 1: Job 31:13-23
Reading 2: Luke 6:27-36
Psalm: 41

Mon 27th Theme: Luke 6:27-36

Psalm: 108
Reading 1: Hosea 2:18 - end of 3
Reading 2: 1 Corinthians 9:15-end

Tue 28th Theme: John 15:9-17

Psalm: 36
Reading 1: Hosea 4:1-16
Reading 2: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Wed 29th Theme: John 11:1-44

Psalm: 46
Reading 1: Hosea 5:1-7
Reading 2: 1 Corinthians 10:14 - 11:1

Thu 30th Theme: Luke 15:1-10

Psalm: 47
Reading 1: Hosea 5:8 - 6:6
Reading 2: 1 Corinthians 11:2-16

Holy Communion Readings

Reading 1: Hebrews 10:19-25
Gospel: Mark 4:21-25

Fri 31st Theme: Job 31:13-23

Psalm: 65
Reading 1: Hosea 6:7 - 7:2
Reading 2: 1 Corinthians 11:17-end

Sat 1st Theme: Luke 10:25-37

Psalm: 68
Reading 1: Hosea 8
Reading 2: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Sun 2nd Candlemas

Reading 1: Malachi 3:1-5
Reading 2: Hebrews 2:14-end
Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

Evensong Readings

Reading 1: Malachi 3:1-5 or Hebrews 2:14-end
Reading 2: Luke 2:22-40
Psalm: 24

Theme: Luke 11:1-44

For our Prayers

Theme for the week - Compassion

The world tells us that often Jesus was moved with compassion for the people with whom he came into contact. Our high-tech, fast-paced society forces us to pass hundreds of people each day without ever asking ourselves, much less God, if they could use a compassionate touch. Be sure to ask him this week if you could be more compassionate.

For the persecuted church - Somalia

Father God, give great courage & hope to Your people in Somalia who face such huge risks for following You. May their faith inspire the very people who are persecuting them. We pray for al-Shabaab to be pushed back & for peace to return to Somalia at last. Amen.

For our Churches, this week especially for:

Our Healing, Visiting & Pastoral Teams
Our Children: Hanife & Freya

What are we thankful for this week:

A project to do everyday

For our Community, this week especially for:

Our Shop workers and owners

For those in need or unwell:

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

Elaine Towlson, Raymond Gell, Roy White

For 1st anniversary of death this week:

Every day - 9pm (or another time!)

Praying for peace in Ukraine & Israel / Palestine.

Sun: For an end to the Afghan Conflict ongoing since 1978

Mon: For an end to the Somali Civil War ongoing since 1991

Tues: For an end to the Communal Conflicts in Nigeria ongoing since 1998

Wed: For an end to the insurgency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa ongoing since 2004

Thurs: For an end to the Congolese conflicts ongoing since 2004

Fri: For an end to the Mexican Drug War ongoing since 2006

Sat: For an end to the Sudanese Nomadic Conflicts ongoing since 2008