



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



**31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas**

**Welcome  
to you all**



Large  
Print



St James



St James



St James



## Our Services this week

### St James:

#### Sunday 31<sup>st</sup>

8:30am Holy Communion

10:00am Holy Communion

#### Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>

9:30am Holy Communion

### Our Lady & St Nicholas:

#### Sunday 31<sup>st</sup>

6pm BCP Communion

## What else is happening this week

#### Sunday 31<sup>st</sup>

12 Noon Bring & Share Lunch  
Birstall Village Hall

#### Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup>

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

#### Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup>

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

#### Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>

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

## What's happening next week

#### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>

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

#### Monday 8<sup>th</sup>

12:30pm Monday Group Lunch Wheatsheaf, Thurstaston

#### Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>

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

#### Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>

12:30-4:30pm Welcome Space St James  
3-4pm Open Church & Private Prayer Our Lady & St Nicholas  
7:30pm F & S Meeting The Rectory

#### Thursday 11<sup>th</sup>

9:30am Holy Communion St James

#### Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>

10am-Noon Open Church St James

# Notices

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

Rev Amanda Digman	251 Birstall Road	07803 625049
(Day off usually Friday)		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

## **Bring & Share lunch - 31<sup>st</sup> December**

Bring and share lunch in the village hall is today. Please come if you can and bring your Christmas leftovers! Even if you didn't realise, and have no food to bring, please come anyway!

## **Amanda's time off**

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

## **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 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024. Tuesday opening will continue as usual next year with our last meeting for this year on 19<sup>th</sup> December and starting up again on January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2024. Please come and join us for a hot drink and friendship and bring a friend. Thank you, Janet 07962949942

## **Monthly tip for a less-plastic life - December**

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

## **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.

## **Monday Group - 8<sup>th</sup> January**

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

## **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

## **This weeks information sheet**

This weeks information sheet was produced on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December, if you have sent any notices since then, they will not appear until next week. Sheryl

## **A Collect for the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas**

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; 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 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas**

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home: help your Church to live as one family, united in love and obedience, and bring us all at last to our home in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.

## **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*

## **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*

## **Trench Candles**

Some candles from Birstall and Wanlip have started on a journey to support the troops in Ukraine. The Trench Candles are made by rolling corrugated cardboard into old tins, placing a splint into the middle of the tin and melting the candle wax to fill them so if you have any old candle bits please place them in the box by the votive candle stand in St James and they will be sent to the Ukraine every month.

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:stjames.birstall@btconnect.com), or [sheryljupp@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sheryljupp@hotmail.co.uk), or contact Amanda or a Churchwarden. I will need to have received it **before 11am** on the Thursday to get your items included in that week's news sheet. Thanks. *Sheryl*

## Readings for this week

### **Sun 31<sup>st</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas**

Reading 1: Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3  
Reading 2: Galatians 4:4-7  
Gospel: Luke 2:15-21  
Psalm: 148

### **Mon 1<sup>st</sup> Naming & Circumcision of Jesus**

Psalm: 103  
Reading 1: Genesis 17:1-13  
Reading 2: Romans 2:17-end

### **Tue 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Psalm: 18:1-30  
Reading 1: Ruth 1  
Reading 2: Colossians 2:8-end

### **Wed 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Psalm: 127  
Reading 1: Ruth 2  
Reading 2: Colossians 3:1-11

### **Thu 4<sup>th</sup>**

Psalm: 89:1-37  
Reading 1: Ruth 3  
Reading 2: Colossians 3:12 - 4:1

### Holy Communion Readings

Reading 1: 1 John 3:7-10  
Gospel: John 1:35-42

### **Fri 5<sup>th</sup>**

Psalm: 48  
Reading 1: Ruth 4:1-17  
Reading 2: Colossians 4:2-end

### **Sat 6<sup>th</sup>**

Psalm: 99  
Reading 1: Jeremiah 23:1-8  
Reading 2: Matthew 20:1-16

### **Sun 7<sup>th</sup>**

### **Epiphany**

Reading 1: Isaiah 60:1-6  
Reading 2: Ephesians 3:1-12  
Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12  
Psalm: 72:10-15

## For our Prayers

### **For the persecuted church - Sudan**

Father God, we lift up Sudan and pray for stability in the region. Establish a government that respects equality & religious freedom. Heal those affected by violence & persecution. Build a resilient church in Sudan that stands strong in the face of persecution. Protect & bless Open Doors partners who strive to make this happen. Intervene to reinstate progress towards a fairer, safer society in Sudan. **Amen.**

### **For our Churches, this week especially for:**

Our Clergy: Amanda, Kerry, Anne, Michael & Robin  
Our Readers: Lesley & Sheila

### **For our Community, this week especially for:**

Funeral Directors  
Social Workers

### **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 1<sup>st</sup> 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:** And for an end to the Somali Civil War (with Kenya) ongoing since 1991. 513,000 - 1,000,000 deaths to date.

**Mon:** And for an end to Allied Democratic Forces insurgency in Africa (DR Congo and Uganda) ongoing since 1996. 9,000+ deaths to date.

**Tues:** And for an end to the communal conflicts in Nigeria ongoing since 1998. 19,000+ deaths to date.

**Wed:** And for an end to Ituri Conflict in DR Congo ongoing since 1999. 65,000+ deaths to date.

**Thurs:** And for an end to insurgency in the Maghreb (Algeria, Burkina Faso, Chad, Libya, Mali, Niger, Tunisia, Togo, Benin, Ivory Coast) ongoing since 2002. 35,000+ deaths to date.

**Fri:** And for an end to Islamic State conflict in Iraq ongoing since 2003. 332,000 - 1,215,000+ deaths to date.

**Sat:** And for an end to the Kivu conflict (DR Congo, Rwanda, Burundi) ongoing since 2004. 25,000+ deaths to date.