



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



4th February 2024

2nd Sunday before Lent

**Welcome
to you all**



**Large
Print**



St James



St James



St James



Our Services this week

St James:

Sunday 4th

8:30am Holy Communion
10:00am All Together Service

Thursday 8th

9:30am Holy Communion

Our Lady & St Nicholas:

Sunday 4th

6pm Holy Communion

What else is happening this week

Tuesday 6th

2:30-4:30pm Welcome Space St James
3pm Messy Church meeting
The Methodist Church

Wednesday 7th

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

Saturday 10th

10am-Noon Open Church St James

What's happening next week

Sunday 11th

8:30am Holy Communion St James
10am Holy Communion St James
4:15pm Pancake Party Hallam, Fields Hall
6pm BCP Evensong Our Lady & St Nicholas

Monday 12th

2:30pm Monday Group St James

Tuesday 13th

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

Wednesday 14th

9:30am Ash Wednesday Service Our Lady & St Nicholas
12:30-4:30pm Welcome Space St James
3-4pm Open Church & Private Prayer Our Lady & St Nicholas
7:30pm Ash Wednesday Service St James

Thursday 15th

9:30am Holy Communion St James
3:30-4:30pm Visiting Bell Ringers St James

Saturday 17th

10am-Noon 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

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

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.

What are you thankful for?

We would like to have a 'What are we thankful for?' item in the Information sheets every week. Please can you email me with things you are thankful for. We are thinking about things in general and not something personal. For example: When having a shower, I am thankful to God for hot water and think of people in Ukraine. If we get enough, I will make a list and put one in a week anonymously. *Sheryl & Josephine*

Sales of Marmalade & Jam

Thanks to you all for purchasing my home-made organic preserves. Marmalade (£2:50) and a new supply of Jam (£2) are now available at the back of St James, the cost goes to Church funds. *Janet 07962949942*

First Aiders

We still need people to train as first aiders, so we have one or two in each service. Training costs will be covered by the PCC. Please let Sheryl know if you are interested.

Pancake Service - 11th February

You are invited to a Pancake Service on Sunday 11th February at 4:15pm in Hallam Fields Hall. A family friendly informal service... and pancakes.

Stop Press: Stop bringing drug blister packs to the church until further notice

Superdrug has now stopped its recycling scheme and we need to find an alternative. The box has been removed to stop any piling up. Bottle Tops; we are continuing to collect these and have put the box in between pens & toothpaste to ensure these aren't mixed up with other products. *Rose*

Bible Chat Group - 22nd February

The next Bible Chat Group will be on 22nd February at 10:30am on 1 Peter.

Trench Candles

So far, over 180kg of candles have been delivered from St Mary's in Arnold, which is where they are taken from Birstall and Wanlip, on the way to the Ukrainian Centre in Nottingham – enough for well over 1500 candles. *Josephine*

Forgetful women!

- 1) Who lent Doreen a book called 'Jesus'? She wants to return it, having enjoyed it!
- 2) Who offered Amanda a 7' Christmas tree for church? Yes, please!

A Collect for the 2nd Sunday before Lent

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever. **Amen**

A Post Communion Prayer for the 2nd Sunday before Lent

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church: may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross and enjoy the delights of eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

World Day of Prayer - 1st March

This year's Day Of Prayer has been prepared by the Christian ladies of Palestine and will be held at St. James the Great on Friday 1st March. There will be a light lunch at 12 midday, free but contributions to costs welcome, followed by a short slide presentation about Palestine at 1pm. The service will start at 2pm and a collection for the work of the World day Of Prayer will be taken during the service. We hope that you will come and support us in this global wave of prayer. *Jackie Bryan*

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.

Messy Church Meeting - 6th February

The Messy Church will be on Mondays after school starting at half term. There will be a meeting on Tuesday 6th February at 3pm at the Methodist Church. Please contact Sheryl if interested.

Knitters and crocheters – Help please

We have received this message from Karen Gutteridge who works at the 3 Birstall Primary schools as a family support with 4- to 11-year-olds.

'I was given some medium size blankets last year. They were made from knitted or crocheted squares. I passed them onto displaced families of mine for their children's beds, who were unfortunately put into temporary accommodation. These were amazing as often the bedrooms won't have heating. They were medium sized to use as a wraparound downstairs too. Anything small and cuddly toy wise. These are used for our counselled children or for well-being when needing extra support which could be for bereavement or separation etc... We would be very grateful for anything that could be provided, with no time frame. Any donations will be accepted with appreciation.'

I have put a box in the old church to receive your donations which we will deliver to the schools. Thanks. *Janet 07962949942*

Monthly tip for a less-plastic life - February

Carry wet flannels in a box instead of wet wipes for babies and toddlers

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 11am** on the Thursday to get your items included in that week's news sheet. Thanks. *Sheryl*

Readings for this week

Sun 4th **2nd Sunday before Lent**

Reading 1: Proverbs 8:1, 22-31

Reading 2: Colossians 1:15-20

Gospel: John 1:1-14

Psalm: 104:26-end

Theme: **1 Thessalonians 4:1-12**

Mon 5th

Psalm: 2

Reading 1: Genesis 29:31 - 30:24

Reading 2: 2 Timothy 4:1-8

Theme: **Philippians 3:7-11**

Tue 6th

Psalm: 5

Reading 1: Genesis 31:1-24

Reading 2: 2 Timothy 4:9-end

Theme: **Psalm 63:1-8**

Wed 7th

Psalm: 119:1-32

Reading 1: Genesis 31:25 - 32:2

Reading 2: Titus 1

Theme: **Luke 9:46-50**

Thu 8th

Psalm: 15

Reading 1: Genesis 32:3-30

Reading 2: Titus 2

Holy Communion Readings

Reading 1: 1 Kings 11:4-13

Gospel: Mark 7:24-30

Theme: **John 12:1-8**

Fri 9th

Psalm: 19

Reading 1: Genesis 33:1-17

Reading 2: Titus 3

Theme: **1 Peter 2:1-10**

Sat 10th

Psalm: 23

Reading 1: Genesis 35

Reading 2: Philemon

Theme: **Romans 8:18-25**

Sun 11th

Sunday before Lent

Reading 1: 2 Kings 2:1-12

Reading 2: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Gospel: Mark 9:2-9

Psalm: 50:1-6

Evensong Readings

Reading 1: 1 Kings 19:1-16

Reading 2: 2 Peter 1:16-end

Psalm: 2

Theme: **John 7:37-44**

For our Prayers

Theme for the week - Desire

Use your prayers this week to affirm that your deepest desire is to know him & to serve him. Seek him first & believe that all the other things that you need will be added to you.

For the persecuted church - Algeria

Dear Lord, we ask that You would be near to our brothers & sisters in Algeria. We pray for all converts. As they grow in the ways of Christ, keep them safe from harm & encourage them even as they endure pressure & discrimination. We pray especially for church leaders, God, as they see how many churches are closed, & may risk imprisonment just to continue to meet together. Give Your church in Algeria grace & comfort. Finally, we pray for the country's leaders, that You would soften their hearts & that they would allow Your people to worship freely & openly, without threat of arrest or harassment.

For our Churches, this week especially for:

Visitors to our Churches & those who maintain them.
Our Children: Emily & Melissa

What are we thankful for this week:

A warm cosy safe bed to sleep in.

For our Community, this week especially for:

Riverside, Highcliffe & Hallam Fields schools & The Cedars Academy

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 & Pat Wilby

For those who have recently died:

For 1st anniversary of death this week:

Every day - 9pm (or another time!) wherever you are

Praying for peace in Ukraine

And a different area each day

Sun: For an end to the Salvadoran gang crackdown ongoing since 2022

Mon: For an end to the Las Anod conflict in Somaliland ongoing since 2023

Tues: For an end to the Jamaican Political Conflict ongoing since 1943

Wed: For an end to the Korean Conflict ongoing since 1950

Thurs: For an end to the Papua Conflict in Indonesia ongoing since 1962

Fri: For an end to Katanga insurgency in DR Congo ongoing since 1963

Sat: For an end to the Western Sahara conflict in Morocco & the Saharawi Republic ongoing since 1973