



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



7th January 2024

Epiphany

Welcome to you all



Large Print



St James



St James



St James



Our Services this week	What else is happening this week		
St James:			
Sunday 7th			
8:30am Holy Communion			
10:00am All Together Service			
Thursday 11th			
9:30am Holy Communion			
Our Lady & St Nicholas:			
Sunday 7th			
6pm Holy Communion			
	Monday 8th		
	12:30pm	Monday Group lunch	Wheatsheaf Thurcaston
	Tuesday 9th		
	12:30-4:30pm	Welcome Space	St James
	Wednesday 10th		
	12:30-4:30pm	Welcome Space	St James
	3-4pm	Open Church & Private Prayer	Our Lady & St Nicholas The Rectory
	7:30pm	F & S Meeting	
	Saturday 13th		
	10am-Noon	Open Church	St James

What's happening next week			
Sunday 14th	8:30am	Holy Communion	St James
	10am	Holy Communion	St James
	6pm	BCP Evensong	Our Lady & St Nicholas
Tuesday 16th	10am-Noon	Old Nicks Coffee Shop	Wanlip Hall
	12:30-4:30pm	Welcome Space	St James
Wednesday 17th	12:30-4:30pm	Welcome Space	St James
	3-4pm	Open Church & Private Prayer	Our Lady & St Nicholas
Thursday 18th	9:30am	Holy Communion	St James
	7pm	Week of Christian Unity - Opening Service	St Theresa's
Friday 19th	7pm	Quiz night	St Theresa's
Saturday 20th	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)

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Themes for the year

For this year, we are mainly going to focus our preaching on discipleship, based on a book called Disciples for the Inner Life by Bob Benson Sr. and Michael W Benson. In the notice sheet, under each set of lectionary readings, there will be an additional reading, to help you reflect on the theme introduced on the Sunday.

There will also be a short explanation of each theme in the notice sheet under "Theme for the Week" If there is a particular festival, that week, it will take precedence. *Amanda*

Church Flowers

I wish to thank everyone who gave flowers and donations towards the flowers for Wanlip church during the past years, much appreciated. The new flower rota is in for 2024. *Marjorie*

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.

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 - 8th January

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

Sales of Marmalade, Jam and Chutney

Thanks to you all for purchasing my home-made organic preserves. We have raised £200 for church funds since September. I still have some jam left and will be making marmalade as soon as the Seville oranges arrive from Spain next month! Janet 07962949942

Old Nick's Coffee Shop - 16th January

The 1st Old Nicks Coffee Shop of 2024 will be on Tuesday 16th January at 10am - 12 noon, in Wanlip Hall .

Recycling Boxes

Thank you to those who are using our recycling station (under a table in the community area at St James) where you can dispose of your used pens, blister packs, toothpaste & brushes, printer ink cartridges, Babybel left overs (you can put the wax outers in; the outer wrappers; and the net bags) Please note: Only Babybel net bags can be put in the Babybel recycling box." Also some types of beauty products packets, (please only put in things you can't recycle elsewhere - in particular, shampoo, bottles etc - they can go in your green bin, so please put them there instead. There is a picture on the side of the box to help you. We do raise funds from the ink cartridges but the others do not gain us money - they do, however, help us to protect God's beautiful creation! You can also recycle phones & stamps for Mothers Union funds. Thank you so much.

A Collect for Epiphany

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; 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 Epiphany

Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek: may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, 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.

Week of prayer for Christian Unity - 18th-24th January

This years Week of prayer for Christian Unity will be Thursday 18th January - Wednesday 24th January inc. Churches Together will be marking the Week of Prayer for Christian unit with an opening service on the Thursday evening at St. Theresa's at 7pm followed by a Pulpit Swap on Sunday 21st, Manda, Fr Jenson and Revd Paula Hunt will be preaching in each others churches. These are wonderful opportunities for us to worship together with other Christians so please support the events if you possibly can. We will also be having a 'Frugal' Lunch on Monday 22nd at St. Theresa's at midday. There will be a guest speaker from Christian Aid, there will be a collection for Christian Aid at the end of the meal. There is a 'sign up' sheet at the back of both churches. Again I would urge you to join us for the lunch, they are always good fun and interesting. *Debbie*

St Theresa's Quiz night - 19th January

St Theresa's is holding a quiz night on Friday 19th January at 7pm entrance £3.

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 (Birstall) and Marjorie Bonshor on 2207964 (Wanlip)

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.

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 7th

Epiphany

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

Mon 8th

Baptism of Christ

Psalm: 89:19-29
Reading 1: 1 Samuel 16:1-3, 13
Reading 2: John 1:29-34
Theme: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Tue 9th

Psalm: 9
Reading 1: Genesis 1:20 - 2:3
Reading 2: Matthew 21:18-32
Theme: Genesis 32:22-31

Wed 10th

Psalm: 20
Reading 1: Genesis 2:4-end
Reading 2: Matthew 21:33-end
Theme: Philippians 3:7-12

Thu 11th

Psalm: 21
Reading 1: Genesis 3
Reading 2: Matthew 22:1-14

Holy Communion Readings

Reading 1: 1 Samuel 4:1-11
Gospel: Mark 1:40 10-15, 24-25
Theme: John 4:1-26

Fri 12th

Psalm: 67
Reading 1: Genesis 4:1-16, 25-26
Reading 2: Matthew 22:15-33
Theme: 1 Corinthians 2:6-16

Sat 13th

Psalm: 33
Reading 1: Genesis 6:1-10
Reading 2: Matthew 22:34-end
Theme: Jeremiah 17:5-10

Sun 14th 2nd Sunday of Epiphany

Reading 1: 1 Samuel 3:1-10
Reading 2: Revelation 5:1-10
Gospel: John 1:43-end
Psalm: 139:1-5, 12-18
Theme: Job 42:1-6

For our Prayers

Theme for the week - Authentic Experiences

Let your praying this week be for a true sense of being heard. Do not particularly pray for healing or for specific answers. Rather pray for the quiet confidence that you are in conversation with your Heavenly Father

For the persecuted church - India

Lord Jesus, help our persecuted brothers & sisters in India to stand strong in their faith & show Your love & character to their local communities. We pray against the division & hate of Hindutva – may India live up to its ideal as a place of freedom & peace instead. Guard the pastors & their families who risk their lives to serve You, & replace lies & discrimination with truth & justice. **Amen.**

For our Churches, this week especially for:

Our Pastoral Assistants: Gill & Doreen
Our Church Congregations
Our Children: Arthur

For our Community, this week especially for:

Recreational Clubs & Areas
People with Special Needs

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:

Ellen Cleaver

For 1st anniversary of death this week:

Gwen Johnson

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

Praying for peace in Ukraine

And a different area each day

Sun: And for an end to the Mexican Drug War

Mon: And for an end to the Sudanese nomadic conflicts

Tues: And for an end to Boko Haram Insurgency in Nigeria, Cameroon, Niger, Chad,

Wed: And for an end to the Syrian Civil War.

Thurs: And for an end to the Nigerian Bandit Conflict.

Fri: And for an end to the Mali War.

Sat: And for an end to the Yemeni Civil War. (Yemen, Saudi Arabia)