

Readings for this week

Sun 18th 4th Sunday of Advent

Reading 1: Isaiah 7:10-16
 Reading 2: Romans 1:1-7
 Gospel: Matthew 1:18-end
 Psalm: 80:1-8, 18-20

Mon 19th

Psalm: 146
 Reading 1: Isaiah 52:13 - end of 53
 Reading 2: 2 Peter 1:1-15

Tue 20th

Psalm: 46
 Reading 1: Isaiah 54
 Reading 2: 2 Peter 1:16 - 2:3

Wed 21st

Psalm: 121
 Reading 1: Isaiah 55
 Reading 2: 2 Peter 2:4-end

Thu 22nd

Psalm: 124
 Reading 1: Isaiah 56:1-8
 Reading 2: 2 Peter 3

Holy Communion Readings

Reading 1: 1 Samuel 1:24-end
 Gospel: Luke 1:46-56

Fri 23rd

Psalm: 130
 Reading 1: Isaiah 63:1-6
 Reading 2: 2 John

Sat 24th Christmas Eve

Psalm: 45
 Reading 1: Isaiah 58
 Reading 2: 3 John

Midnight Mass

Reading 1: Isaiah 62:6-end
 Reading 2: Titus 3:4-7
 Gospel: Luke 2:8-20

Sun 25th Christmas Day

Reading 1: Isaiah 52:7-10
 Reading 2: Hebrews 1:1-4
 Gospel: John 1:1-14
 Psalm: 98

For our Prayers

For the persecuted church - Yeman

Heavenly Father, we pray for our sisters & brothers in Yemen, secretly living for You in one of the most dangerous countries on earth. We pray for Your protection, for an outpouring of Your love & for the hope that only You can give. We pray for peace in Yemen, that leaders of different groups would seek reconciliation & be given a powerful sense of Your love. We ask for secret church leaders & for all efforts around the Arabian Peninsula to strengthen the secret church. We ask these things in Jesus' name, **Amen.**

For our Churches, this week especially for:

Our Organists
 Our Flower Arrangers
For our Community, this week especially for:
 The Food Hub
 City of Sanctuary

For those in need or unwell:

Nicky Hardy, David Bark, Dorothy Barsby, Barbara Rhodes, John Walton, Michael Webb, Vi Rawlings, Tricia Emmett, Gwen Johnson & all who care for them.

For those who have Holy Communion at home:

For those who have recently died:

Paul Mayoh & John Forryan

For 1st anniversary of death this week:

Eric Orton & Lynn Mason

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

Praying for peace in Ukraine 40,000-54,000+ deaths since 2014; 29,800 - 156,182+ this year so far.

And a different area each day:

Sun: And for an end to the Jamaican Political Conflict ongoing since 1943, over 1081+ deaths to date. 6 this year.

Mon: And for an end to the Korean Conflict ongoing since 1950. 3,000,000 deaths to date; 29 this year.

Tues: And for an end to Insurgency in Northeast India ongoing since 1954. 40,000 deaths to date; 19-225 this year.

Wed: And for an end to Katanga insurgency in DR Congo ongoing since 1963. 3,400+ deaths to date; 4 this year.

Thurs: And for an end to the Western Sahara conflict in Morocco and the Saharawi Republic ongoing since 1973. 14 -21,000 deaths to date; 45 this year.

Fri: And for an end to the Cabinda War in Angola ☐☐ ongoing since 1975. 30,000 deaths to date; 86 this year.

Sat: And for an end to Insurgency in Laos ongoing since 1975. 100,000 deaths to date.



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



18th December 2022

4th Sunday of Advent

Welcome to you all



St James

St James

St James

Our Services this week

St James:

Sunday 18th
 8:30am Holy Communion
 10:00am Crib Service

Wednesday 21st
 7:30pm Carols for All

Thursday 22nd
 9:30am Holy Communion

Saturday 24th
 4pm Christingle
 11:30pm Midnight Mass

Our Lady & St Nicholas:

Sunday 18th
 6pm Lessons & Carols
Saturday 24th
 4pm Christingle

What else is happening this week

Monday 19th
 10am Mothers Union St James

Tuesday 20th
 10am-Noon Old Nick's Christmas Coffee Shop Wanlip Hall

Wednesday 21st
 3-4pm Open Church & Private Prayer Our Lady & St Nicholas

Saturday 24th
 10am-Noon Open Church St James

What's happening next week

Sunday 25th
 9am Christmas Holy Communion Our Lady & St Nicholas
 10am Christmas Holy Communion St James

Wednesday 28th
 3-4pm Open Church & Private Prayer Our Lady & St Nicholas

Thursday 29th
 9:30am Holy Communion St James

Friday 30th
 3pm Sing Christmas Concert St James

Saturday 31st
 10am-Noon Open Church St James

Check out our Church Website: www.Birstall.org

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
John Borrajo	8 Hallam Avenue	2209289
Corinne Aldis	15 The Oaks, Acorn Close	3482984
Doreen Wilson	13 Poplar Avenue	2674680

Amanda's Day Off

Amanda is off Friday this week. After Christmas, Amanda will be off from the rest of Christmas Day until the end of Saturday 31st December.

Morning & Evening Prayer

There will be no morning or evening prayer now until after Christmas. Please keep an eye here for more information.

Warm Space:

Monday - Wednesday 12:30-6:30pm (will close at 5:30pm if no-one is there by then)

The idea is not only to have a space available for those who are struggling with heating costs, but actually to have a space for anyone to meet new people and turn our home heating down for a while to protect the environment and join in the campaign to support Ukraine. The main church will be open and heated for those who need to work / do homework quietly; and the community area for those who want to socialise. WiFi, power, light refreshments (biscuits, tea, coffee, squash) available. You can also bring ready meals to heat in the microwave. Please spread the word and please contact Janet Waters (janetmwaters@btopenworld.com) if you are able to support by donating biscuits / cake or by turning up - we need people who can do random dates (ie you don't have to do a set time every week), and people who can be phoned and may be available at short notice. Thank you. Janet will ensure 1 person on each shift has Safeguarding Training and a DBS.

Old Nick's Christmas Coffee Shop - 20th December

The next Old Nicks Coffee Shop will be on Tuesday 20th December at 10am - 12 noon, in Wanlip Hall.

Christmas Day

If anyone is going to be alone on Christmas Day, is anyone able to invite anyone over, please? Please let Sheryl know. If we have any offers, we will ask if anyone would like to be invited.

Coffee Morning - 14th January

A date for your 2023 diary - please support a coffee morning at St James on Saturday 14th January with music by 663 Ensemble & friends. Donations for the Roof Fund will be gratefully received.

Cynthia Coltman

Carol singing at The White Horse

Some of us are going to go and join in with the carol singing at The White Horse on Monday evening, from 7pm. Please come and join us if you'd like to - the more the merrier!

Did you know:

It takes an average of 30 personal invites for someone to finally agree to come to something! Please keep inviting your friends to our events and services. Please let as many people as possible know about our warm space and the other warm spaces. Every morning, Monday to Friday at the Methodist Church; Monday to Wednesday afternoons at St James' and Thursday and Friday afternoon and all day Sunday at the Football Club.

A Collect for the 4th Sunday of 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 of 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**

Wanlip Christmas Fair

A huge thank you to everyone who manned stalls, supplied the stalls and generally supported us. We had another lovely day socialising and meeting old friends and into the bargain raised a magnificent sum of £1370.85, which is to be divided between Wanlip Church Roof and Wanlip Hall Floor. Well done everyone and thank you. See you at the Christmas services. *Julie Ward*

Cedar Mews

Normally every fortnight we hold services at Cedar Mews on Wednesdays at 2.30pm. These short services last about 25 minutes and have a reasonable congregation. I have a small number of people who help me with the services. This group has shrunk for a variety of reasons and I would like to add to my pool of helpers. Not everybody helps every time. That's the reason for the pool. If you are interested in helping or want to know more, please contact me.

Thank you. *Kerry*

Sing Christmas Concert - 30th December

The Cantamici Choir will be holding a Concert of Christmas music on Friday 30th December at 3pm in St James'. Free entry - bucket collection for charity. They would like to serve tea coffee and mince pies afterwards, if you would be able to help with this can you let Amanda, a Churchwarden or me know please. Thanks. *Sheryl*

Christmas Services at St James.

Wednesday 21st December: Carols for All at 7:30pm

Christmas Eve

Christingle at 4pm

Midnight Mass 11:30pm

Christmas Morning:

Christmas Holy Communion at 10am

Christmas Services at Our Lady & St Nicholas

Christmas Eve:

Christingle at 6pm

Christmas Morning:

Christmas Holy Communion at 9am

When I am in the office over Christmas

I will be in the office on both the Tuesday & Thursday of the week before Christmas and will then be off until Tuesday 3rd January. The Information sheets for the 1st January will be produced on 22nd December so I will need any notices before I am on that date. *Sheryl*

Loros Quiz

The latest Loros Quiz is now available at back of church. £1 each.

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*