



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.

2nd February 2025 **Candlemas**

Welcome to you all



Large Print



St James

St James

St James

Our Services this week
 Service type is subject to change due to illness or other unforeseen circumstances

St James:

Sunday 2nd
 8:30am Morning Prayer
 10.00am All Together Service

Thursday 6th
 9:30am Holy Communion

Our Lady & St Nicholas:

Sunday 2nd
 6pm Holy Communion

What else is happening this week

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
 10:30am Bible Book Club St James

Saturday 8th
 10-12:30 Visiting Bell Ringers St James

What's happening next week

Sunday 9th	8:30am	Morning Prayer	St James
	10am	Holy Communion with Healing	St James
	6pm	BCP Evensong	Our Lady & St Nicholas
Monday 10th	2:30-4:30pm	Monday Group	St James
Tuesday 11th	12:30-4:30pm	Welcome Space	St James
Wednesday 12th	2-4:30pm	Welcome Space	St James
Thursday 13th	9:30am	Morning Prayer	St James
Saturday 15th	10am-12noon	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
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

Amanda is off on the 8th as well as the 7th February.

Notices for Information Sheets 9th & 16th February

The Information Sheets for next week (9th) and the week after (16th) were produced on Thursday 30th January. If you have sent any notices since then, they will not appear until the 23rd February edition.

Bible Book Club - 6th February

The next Bible Book Club will be on Thursday 6th February starting at about 10:30am following the Holy Communion Service. The book we will be studying is Philippians. All welcome. *Amanda*

Monday Group - 10th February

We meet at 2:30pm in the community area. are you a quizzer? If so do join us for a picture quiz. Visitors most welcome.

Open Church & Private Prayer at Wanlip - 12th February

Our Lady & St Nicholas will not be open on Wednesday 12th February, for Open Church & private Prayer.

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 still need reports from the Churchwardens and the following groups: Monday Group, Mothers' Union, Coffee Shop, Deanery Synod (Rose), WC4 (Debbie), Churches Together (Andrzej), Home Groups (Ladi). Thanks.

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

Keys

A bunch of 5 keys were found outside of 17 Church Road, Wanlip after the last coffee shop. If anyone knows who they belong to please see Julie Ward.

The Collect for Candlemas

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ 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 Candlemas

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna, who lived to welcome the Messiah: may we, who have received these gifts beyond words, prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us to eternal life; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **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*

Monthly tip for a less-plastic life - February

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

Trench Candles for Ukraine

I delivered candles to Michael Bolton who is my contact at St Mary's Arnold for transit to the Ukrainian Centre in Nottingham on Tuesday 21st. Below is an article he wrote informing your congregations of how they are used.

'Over the last two years there has been an appeal for the collection of old and unused candles so that Trench Candles could be made to send to the soldiers on Ukraine's front line against the invading Russian forces. They are used both for low level lighting and to keep their hands warm in the bitter winter there. Another huge thank you to all those from St James and Our Lady & St Nicholas. who have responded with several loads of candles over this second year. These have been collected together with donations from others and taken to St Mary's Church in Arnold near Nottingham. On Tuesday 21st January another 20kg of wax was delivered to the Ukrainian Centre in Nottingham, making a total of well over 250kg – over 3,000 Trench Candles have been sent so far.

Teams of volunteers at the Centre create the candles by rolling corrugated cardboard into old baked bean tins, placing a splint into the middle, and melting the candle wax to fill the tin. This means that every few weeks, hundreds of candles are being sent by lorry to Ukraine.

Very many thanks to all those who have been collecting their unburnt candle bits for this cause. We all pray that this most unusual way to spread the Light of Christ to those in need of His love and care will not have to continue for too much longer. If nothing changes for Ukraine, then the Trench Candles will still be needed until this May. Until then, if you have any old candle bits, please continue to bring them for collection at St James and Our Lady & St Nicholas. Your ongoing gifts of candles are very welcomed and so very much appreciated by the Ukrainians. Thankyou.' *Josephine*

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.

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 and/or sheryljupp@hotmail.co.uk before 11am on Thursday. Thanks. *Sheryl*

Lectionary & Theme Readings

Sun 2nd	Candlemas
Reading 1:	Malachi 3:1-5
Reading 2:	Hebrews 2:14-end
Gospel :	Luke 2:22-40
Mon 3rd	Theme: Deut. 5:1-32
Psalm:	1
Reading 1:	Malachi 1:1, 6-end
Reading 2:	John 13:1-11
Tue 4th	Theme: Galatians 6:1-10
Psalm:	5
Reading 1:	Malachi 2:1-16
Reading 2:	John 13:12-20
Wed 5th	Theme: Matthew 25:1-13
Psalm:	119:1-32
Reading 1:	Malachi 2:17 - 3:12
Reading 2:	John 13:21-30
Thu 6th	Theme: Romans 13:1-14
Psalm:	15
Reading 1:	Malachi 3:13 - end of 4
Reading 2:	John 13:31-end
<u>Holy Communion Readings</u>	
Reading 1:	Hebrews 12:18-19, 21-24
Gospel:	Mark 6:7-13
Fri 7th	Theme: John 15:1-17
Psalm:	19
Reading 1:	Nahum 1
Reading 2:	John 14:1-14
Sat 8th	Theme: Mark 12:28-34
Psalm:	23
Reading 1:	Obadiah
Reading 2:	John 14:15-end
Sun 9th	4th Sunday before Lent
Readings used:	
Reading 1:	Daniel 2:20-23
Reading 2:	2 Corinthians 4: 7-18
Gospel :	Mark 8: 27-30
<i>Lectionary Readings : Isaiah 6:1-8, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Luke 5:1-11, Psalm 138</i>	
<u>Evensong Readings</u>	
Reading 1:	Wisdom 6:1-3, 11-20
Reading 2:	John 4:4-42
Psalm:	13
	Theme: Luke 11:33-36

For our Prayers

Theme for the week - Lifestyle

When Jesus said that he was the Way he meant more than the Way to the Father. He was also telling us about a way to think, a way to act, a way to react, a way for all of life. This week pray and that you will truly be in the Way.

For the persecuted church - Yemen

Father God, thank You for Your very brave followers in Yemen who risk death every day. Give them courage, joy, perseverance and peace. Continue to bless the work they are doing online to reach fellow believers and Yeminites who are searching for You. We pray for an end to the endless conflict and crisis in Yemen – may ordinary life resume for all the people struggling to live their lives there. In Jesus's name, Amen.

For our Churches, this week especially for:

Our Clergy: Amanda, Rachael & Kerry
Our Children: Harry, Emily & Melissa

What are we thankful for this week:

Our children have a right to free education

For our Community, this week especially for:

Birstall and Leicester media

For those in need or unwell:

Nicky Hardy, David Bark, Dorothy Barsby, John Walton, Michael Webb, Tricia Emmett, Ray Folland, 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 Syrian Civil War ongoing since 2011

Mon: For an end to the Yemeni Civil War ongoing since 2014

Tues: For an end to the Anglophone Crisis ongoing since 2017

Wed: For an end to the Gang War in Haiti ongoing since 2020

Thurs: For an end to the Kurdish Separatism in Iran ongoing since 1918

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

Sat: For an end to the Indo-Pakistani Wars ongoing since 1947