

Readings for this week

Sun 4th 2nd Sunday of Advent

Reading 1: Isaiah 11:1-10
 Reading 2: Romans 15:4-13
 Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12
 Psalm: 72:1-7, 18-19

Readings for St Nicholas

Reading 1: Isaiah 40:1-11
 Reading 2: Psalm 96:1,10-end
 Gospel: Matthew 18:12-14

Mon 5th

Psalm: 44
 Reading 1: Isaiah 45:14-end
 Reading 2: 1 Thessalonians 1

Tue 6th

St Nicholas
 Psalm: 56
 Reading 1: Isaiah 46
 Reading 2: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-2

Wed 7th

Psalm: 62
 Reading 1: Isaiah 47
 Reading 2: 1 Thessalonians 2:13-end

Thu 8th

Psalm: 54
 Reading 1: Isaiah 48:1-11
 Reading 2: 1 Thessalonians 3

Holy Communion Readings

Reading 1: Isaiah 41:13-20
 Gospel: Matthew 11:11-15

Fri 9th

Psalm: 86
 Reading 1: Isaiah 48:12-end
 Reading 2: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Sat 10th

Psalm: 145
 Reading 1: Isaiah 49:1-13
 Reading 2: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-end

Sun 11th 3rd Sunday of Advent

Reading 1: Isaiah 35:1-10
 Reading 2: James 5:7-10
 Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11
 Psalm: 146:4-10

For our Prayers

For the persecuted church - Somalia

Lord, we come to You in prayer for our brothers & sisters in Somalia. You know they are constantly in danger because they follow You; we ask they would feel Your Holy Spirit working in and through them, that they would be able to persevere & build Your Church. We pray especially for the secret Christians who feel alone – give them a supernatural sense of belonging to the worldwide Body of Christ. We pray all these things in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, **Amen**.

For our Churches, this week especially for:

Our PCC members
 Our PCC Treasurer & Secretary

For our Community, this week especially for:

Funeral Directors
 Social Workers

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:

Joan Barnett, Josephine Garner, Paul Mayoh & John Forryan

For 1st anniversary of death this week:

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 Moro Conflict in The Philippines ongoing since 1969. 120,00-150,000 deaths to date; 245 this year.

Mon: For an end to communist rebellion in the Philippines, ongoing since 1969. 45-63,973 deaths to date; 247+ this year.

Tues: And for an end to Kurdish-Turkish Conflict in Turkey, Iraq & Syria ongoing since 1984. 55,000-60,000 deaths to date; 217 this year.

Wed: And for an end to conflict in the Niger Delta in Nigeria & Cameroon ongoing since 2017. 2,500 deaths to date; 90 this year.

Thurs: For an end to insurgency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in Pakistan ongoing since 2004. 45,369+ deaths to date; 705+ this year.

Fri: And for an end to The Libyan Crisis ongoing since 2011. 30,000-43,000+ deaths to date; 141 this year.

Sat: And for an end to the Sudanese Conflict ongoing since 2011. 7,166 deaths to date; 141 this year.



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



4th December 2022

2nd Sunday of Advent/St Nicholas Patronal

Welcome to you all



St James

St James

St James

Our Services this week

St James:

Sunday 4th

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

Our Lady & St Nicholas:

Sunday 4th

6pm St Nicholas Patronal Holy Communion

Thursday 8th

9:30am Holy Communion

What else is happening this week

Sunday 4th

2:30pm 663 Ensemble Practice St James

Wednesday 7th

3-4pm Open Church & Private Prayer
 Our Lady & St Nicholas
 6pm Franciscan Communion Service St James

Thursday 8th

AM Riverside School visit St James
 2pm Theodora Salusbury plaque unveiling St James

Saturday 9th

10am-Noon Open Church St James
 10am-2pm Christmas Bazaar St Theresa's

What's happening next week

Sunday 11th

8:30am Holy Communion St James
 10am Healing Service St James
 4pm Blue Christmas service St James
 6pm Blue Christmas service Our Lady & St Nicholas

Monday 12th

10:30am Funeral for John Forryan Gilroes Crem
 1pm Funeral for Paul Mayoh Our Lady & St Nicholas
 2:30pm Monday group St James

Wednesday 14th

1:45-3:30pm Highcliffe Carol Service St James
 3-4pm Open Church & Private Prayer Our Lady & St Nicholas
 6pm Churches Together Carol Singing Meet at Greengate Surgery

Thursday 15th

9:30am Holy Communion Our Lady & St Nicholas
 7:30pm Hand Bell Ringers practice St James

Saturday 17th

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
<i>(Day off usually Friday)</i>		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.

Morning and Evening Prayer this week

Morning Prayer: (9am) Monday, Tuesday, Friday

Evening Prayer (5pm): Monday, Wednesday & Thursday.

Thursday Communion Service – 8th December

Thursday communion will be at Wanlip this week, due to a school visit at Birstall.

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.

Blue Sunday – 11th December

Blue Sunday at Birstall 4pm and Wanlip at 6pm. This is a service for those who find Christmas difficult / sad for any reason. It might be because of bereavement / fear / the state of the world / struggling with physical or mental health / loss (job, home, hope, health, relationships, financial security, unrealised dreams...) / something else. It's a service of reflection and acknowledging and giving our sadness to God and asking God to help us.

Piano wanted

Has anyone got a piano or knows someone who has that they would be willing to donate to Cedar Mews Care Home? It needs to be in good condition and playable. At the moment the home has one playable piano and they really need two - one in the bar for our fortnightly services etc and one upstairs for three ladies who are good pianists. Please let me know if you can help. Kerry

Keep in Touch Magazine

The Winter edition of the magazine is now available at the back of church. Please take a copy. Large print copies are also available. Would visitors please collect their envelopes and return them with any list amendments to the box in the church office, or let me know. Thanks. Sheryl

Shoebox Appeal 2022

Thank you to all those who have donated towards the carriage for the shoeboxes – we have almost covered the cost! We will let you know more details when link to Hope give us the information on this year's appeal. Sylvia & Doreen

A Collect for the 1st Sunday of Advent

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen**

A Post Communion Prayer for the 1st Sunday of Advent

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

A collect for St Nicholas

Almighty Father, lover of souls, who chose your servant Nicholas to be a bishop in the Church that he might give freely out of the treasures of your grace: make us mindful of the needs of others and, as we have received, so teach us also to give; 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 St Nicholas

God, shepherd of your people, whose servant Nicholas revealed the loving service of Christ in his ministry as a pastor of your people; by this Eucharist in which we share awaken within us the love of Christ and keep us faithful to our Christian calling; through him who laid down his life for us, but is alive and reigns with you, now and for ever. **Amen**

Carol Singing - 14th December

On the 14th December at 6p.m. we are joining up with St. Theresa's and Birstall Methodist Church to spread a bit of Christmas joy around the village with a few well chosen and much loved carols. We are gathering on the corner of Greengate Lane by the surgery and will disperse from there, in three groups, into the 'Gates', to the south of Greengate Lane and over towards Colindale and the 'Trees' area. Please come and join if you can, either just turn up or, better still, to give us some idea of numbers, let Manda or Debbie know you are coming.

Save the Children

Thanks to some great support from the White Horse, numerous donations, raffle and a good attendance from far and wide I was able to bank £625 after the lunch last week. *Josephine*

St. James Church Roof Repairs update

Sale of Christmas decorations final total £300.00. We are now making decorations for the Monday Group charities, St. James Church Roof and Communities of Birstall & Wanlip. *Brenda & Joan.*

Bring your own duster

We still need another 2 person team. Please contact Tony Luxton or a Churchwarden.

St Theresa's Christmas Bazaar - 10th December

St Theresa's are having s Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 10th December at 10am-2pm. Raffle; tombola; cake stall etc. Everyone welcome.

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.