DEC 2019-FEB 2020



Dear Neighbour

Many people like traditions at Christmas. There are familiar things that give us comfort and assurance ('The Queen', carols, mince pies...). Perhaps they remind us of childhood and more innocent times. But we also quickly adopt 'new traditions': Supermarket TV Ads, Strictly Celebrity Special, Gingerbread Latte...

St James offers familiar ways to celebrate Christmas: the beauty of the candlelit carol service on Sun 22 Dec or the children's carols on Christmas Eve (with its unique atmosphere of excitement). But there are fresh things to add in: 'The Longest Night' on Sat 21 Dec, a Christmas service for those who are coping with loss and sadness, or the Christmas Concert with Alistair Griffin and his band on Sat 14 Dec.

We hope that you can add an element for Christmas at St James's within your 2019 traditions!

Grace and peace Derek Winterburn **Vicar**

#Folow The Star

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Our free Spire magazine is published nine times a year and can be found in local shops as well as church. We deliver locally and post further afield. It can also be read and downloaded from our website. To receive it by email contact the Church Office (details above).



CINEMA - MUSIC - EVENTS SERVICES



SERVICES SEASONAL

Sat 1 December Christingle

10am This Children-friendly service is a great way to prepare for the coming of Christmas. Everyone will make and take home a Christingle candle, complete with sweets!

Choral Evensong

4pm Our choir mark Advent Sunday. Followed by tea and cakes.

Sat 21 December The Longest Night

6pm A guieter, reflective service, particularly aimed at those who might be finding Christmas emotionally overwhelming, perhaps because of bereavement.

Sun 22 December Carols by Candlelight

6pm A traditional favourite is our service of readings. carols and music sung by our choir. Stay for mulled wine and mince pies.

Tue 24 December Children's Carol Services

3pm and 4:30pm The Christmas story is told in a relaxed setting that is perfect for children of all ages. The service includes songs and activities to get them involved. Children may come dressed as a character from the Nativity. Both services are the same, choose which is best for you.

Tue 24 December Christmas Night 11pm This Holy Communion service culminates at midnight, the start of Christmas.

Wed 25 December Christmas Day

8am Holy Communion (said) 9:30am A warm welcome awaits you on Christmas morning at this Family Communion service. REGULAR

Sundavs

8am Holy Communion (said)

9:30am Parish Communion (children's groups running during the service, except during school holidays) 11am Together at Eleven (except 1, 29 Dec, 5 Jan) A shorter service, particularly for children and parents, with lively songs and hands-on activities.

EVENTS **Ark Playgroup**

Mondays (during school terms)

10:15am-12:15pm Our playgroup for carers and unders 5s meets for arts and crafts, worship, singing and play. It costs £2 per family, including drinks! Their Christmas Party is on 9 December.

Connections at Christmas Monday 2 December 12:15-3:15pm

Open to everyone who would like some company over a coffee, to play a board game or to try their hand at a new craft. At this seasonal special you can make a Christmas Wreath and enjoy a lunch of hot soup. There is no cost and no membership expectations - it is great to see anybody who would like to drop in. There is also a free drop-in NHS Hearing Aid Clinic for battery supplies and basic maintenance. The next session will be in its usual time and place on Tuesday 7 January from 10:30am-12:30pm.

Alistair's Christmas Concert

Saturday 14 December 7:30pm

Alistair Griffin, a talented singer-songwriter from York, brings his Christmas celebration for all the family to London for the first time. With support from the Games Makers Choir (of London 2012 Olympics fame) and a full band. Alistair will take you on a musical journey from acoustic versions of traditional carols through to Slade. Shakin' Stevens and The Pogues. Sing along as you sip mulled wine. This is the perfect night out to get you in the Christmas spirit. **BOOK VIA CHURCH OFFICE OR ONLINE**

londonchristmas.eventbrite.co.uk Tickets £20 (£10 children under 16). There are a limited number of £35 VIP tickets that include early entry and an exclusive pre-show chance to meet Alistair, a seat in the first two rows, and complimentary mulled wine. Fans know that his sell-out Christmas concerts are legendary!

CINEMA The Secret Life of Pets 2 (2019)

Saturday 11 January 3:30pm

In this highly-anticipated sequel, Max, the terrier, encounters cows, hostile foxes and a scary turkey when he heads for the countryside. And with the help of a gruff farm dog, he faces his fears. Featuring the voices of Jenny Slate, Kevin Hart, and Harrison Ford.

Don't laugh.

'Enough wit and invention to please the whole family' Daily Mail

FREE ENTRY - NO NEED TO BOOK DOORS OPEN 30 MINS BEFORE FILM STARTS

EVENTS The Burwood Quartet

Saturday 15 February 7:30pm The local string quartet return to St James's for a Spring concert.

Music include: **Mozart Quartet in D major K575** Frank Bridge Three Idylls **Purcell arr. Britten Chacony Ravel String Ouartet**

Tickets £10 (Under 18s free) on the door

COMING SOON



Messy Church is coming to St James's in 2020! Look out for news of our launch date in the next issue of You're Invited.

